



THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB
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LOCATION

ETSU Campus
George L. Carter
Railroad Museum

HOURS

Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 PM in:

Brown Hall, Room 223,
ETSU Campus,
Johnson City, TN.,
Open House for viewing every Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Work Nights are held each Thursday from 4:00 pm until ??

SPECIAL FOCUS THIS ISSUE

CATCHING UP WITH SPECIAL PAINT UNITS

PART 3 - AMTRAK'S UNITS



WHO SAID AMTRAK WAS BORING... TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THE COLOR 40+ YEARS HAS BROUGHT US

AMTRAK'S PAINT



AMTRAK'S HERITAGE UNITS ARE LINES UP FOR A FAMILIAR PORTRAIT (lt-rt) PHASE I, PHASE II, PHASE III, PHASE IV, PHASE V



ONE OF A KIND - #4316 MARKS AN EARLY TRANSITION POINT



#156 CELEBRATES 40 YEARS WEARING PHASE I PAINT



#374 IS DECKED OUT IN PHASE IV STYLE



SURLINER IN OPERATION LIFESAVER PAINT



#2007 IN YELLOW/BLACK OPERATION LIFESAVER



#2007 CERTAINLY PACKS A PUNCH WITH ITS MESSAGE



#457 OPERATION LIFESAVER TWO-TONE BLUE/WHITE



#457' THEME IS "BE TRACK SMART"



#90250 GIT DECKED OUT IN SEATTLE SEAHAWKS COLORS



#90350 RAN ON AMTRAK'S CASCADE ROUTE



#42 HONORS VETERANS WITH A SPLASH OF PATRIOTIC COLOR



#90208 ALSO GOT THE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT



KING TUT GETS A RIDE ON #470



#458 PROMOTES NATIONAL TRAIN DAY



AMTRAK AT SPEED WITH A TURBOTRAIN – A HISTORIC SIGHT



A ROHER EMPIRESTATE EXPRESS IN PHASE II PAINT



A SIEMENS UNIT RUNNING A CASCADES CONSIST



A MORE COMMON CASCADES CONSIST



AMTRAK CALIFORNIA #2012 TRIES ON A NEW COAT OF PAINT



#517 IN THE "PEPSI CAN" PAINT SCHEME



#586 – A YARD WORK HORSE – GETS NO GLORY PAINT



#509 – ANOTHER YARD ENGINE GOT PHASE IV PAINT



#406 WEARS PHASE II PAINT



#110 IS DECKED OUT IN PHASE IV DRESS



#91 WEARS PHASE III IN THIS PIC



#161 SMILES NICELY FOR THE CAMERA IN PHASE V PAINT

MAKING PROGRESS

LOGAN HEATON'S MODULE IMPROVEMETS

So over the past month or so, I got a lot more done with the module. For now showing what I tried experimenting with in terms of foliage which is using grass mats. Cutting it to size first then after applying glue to the area it is going then put in place to set. It is a bit different from the ballast process and takes a little bit of doing to make sure it holds but it does good for giving some variety as it is added to the hills and again in the small area between the roads with a little rock work around it.



The last bit of the work done was done at the area where the music hall and store sit just past the tunnel. To start I worked on a dirt alley between the two

buildings where deliver trucks can enter which from where the material was so fine it had to be applied like the grass where glue has to be applied first before laying the dirt then soak it in water before applying the water, alcohol and glue mix to help hold in place. Afterwards it was just going behind the music hall and putting down grass and experimenting with bushes. Originally was just going to leave it there with gravel between the town before linking up with the ballast for the railroad but afterwards decided to added a grass mix to break up the gravel some from the ballast and like how this looks compared to before.





Dirt and a bit of grass added at the engine house and machine shop



Sprinkling the grass ever so carefully.



After applying the dirt around the small signalman hut then add a couple grass patches



Another scoop



Apply water, glue and alcohol mix to help keep in place



After all the grass is over the glue then squirt water to soak it



After the glue is down applying the grass over the glue



The end results looks pretty neat, Logan!

MUSKRAT MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

THOUGHTS ABOUT MODEL RAILROADING WHILE SNOW-BIRDING IN FLORIDA

A BIT OF TENNESSEE HISTORY
TENNESSEE COAL & IRON Co. "SEWANEE"

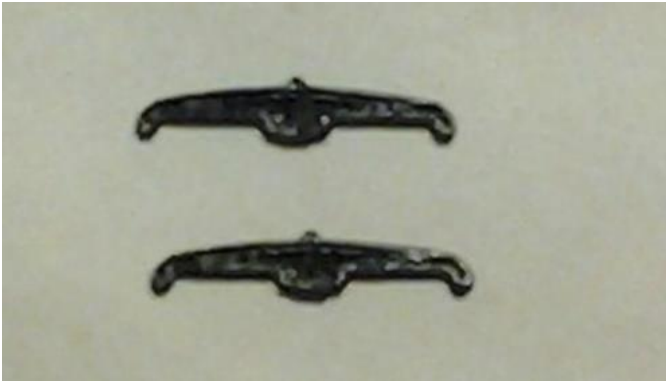


This is purported to be a photo of Tennessee Coal Iron and Railroad locomotive "Sewanee" in Tracy City Tennessee. The TCI&RR was the predecessor of the NC&STL Tracy City Branch. The Sewanee was involved in several wrecks (Arbuckle, The Mountain Goat) and was highly modified over its service career. The photo here is assumed to be later in her career and you can compare it to the photo in Sulzer's Ghost Railroads of Tennessee. Locomotive built by Danforth Cooke in 1855 per Richard Prince.

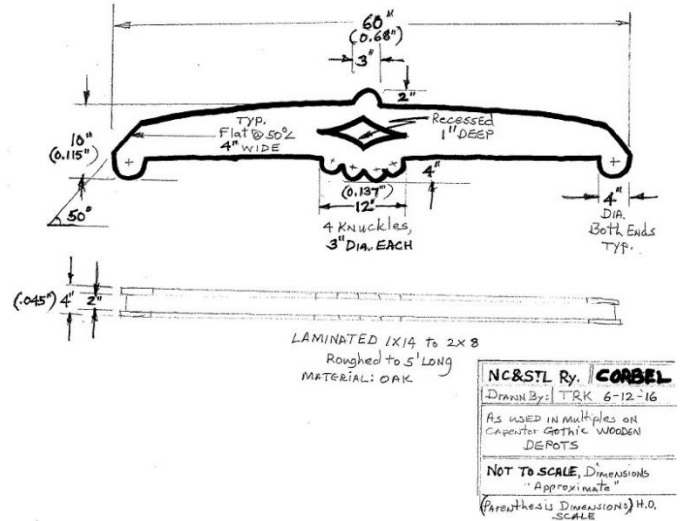
CORBELLS FOR NC&StL RY STATIONS PLAN BY DAVID IBATTA



6



David Ibatta, long timemember of the NC&StL RY Preservation Society has come up with the photo and drawing of the eave corbels used by the Dixie Line on its stations.... Now wif someone would only pull them into a CAD file and upload the design to Shapeways .



MODELING FROM A NOT SO SUNNY FLORIDA
COMBINING THREE KITS FROM BAR MILLS

I've kept busy on the modeling end of the hobby as the following photos will attest. Three kits from Bar Mills have been gathering dust n my storage shelves for some time. I decided to kit-mingle them to make a sma

also a great way to brush up on some dormant modeling skills.



The three kits included two from the company's "Back-to-Basics" series, and a standard pack of fencing. The two B2B kits were "Revella's Shipping and Storage" and "Zak's Shed". The Back-to-Basics series is designed to introduce new modelers to the hobby to basic construction techniques. The kits are mixec media consisting of laser cut wood parts, several pot metal castings, paper, and molded plastic windows, doors, and detail castings.

My diorama is 6" by 4" on a pad foam insulation. I did not vary from from the instructions when building the kits. I wanted to work with them as directed. I did hoever, use some Campell Scale corrugated sheets to enclose the opn air shed.

The kits contain detailed instructions that don't overwhelm the novice, while at the same time, providing nifty ideas on weathering, detailing, and creating eye-catching models for the experienced modeler. The kits are inexpensive and come with most everything you see in the photos. They are also a great way to introduce the modeler to Bar Mills own master craftsmen kits as well as FINE SCALE MINIATURES, FOS MODELS and other challenging kit manufactures. They are



The kits offer a number variations including rolled tar paper roofing, as well as canvas tarp roofing. The canvas material appears to be two squares of toilet paper (smile and just keep on reading).

Castings included were: a cyclone dust collector, random pile of small crates, a stack of pannels ready for shipping (Revella's Shipping), two bins of junk, a pile of assorted junk (Zak's Shack). Both kits provided several pallets. To add still more clutter I added several large ccrates from Tichey and a couple off castings from Rusty Rails. Finally an outhouse of unknown origin.



I decided to incorporate lighting. I glued a Model Power interior pea lamp with base inside the bulding. At s fence corner I placed a Woodland Scenics short wooden pole lamp. And finally over the doorway I fashioned aa crooked neck lamp fixture with a grin of wheat bulb.



Additional highlights inculded adding the ground cover. Anyone who has built a Woodland Scenics mini-scene will have leftovere grounfd cover and leaf material. I certainly did and used it along with some Tennessee dirt I've stocked for these sorts of projects. I also had some fine granite ballast which I used for the driveway. I painted the foam board, spread Elmers white glue over the paint sprinkled the ground cover materials while the glue was still tacky. I allowed the glue to set overnight and patched any bare or thin spots with additional ground cover. I then used a pipette to spread a mixture of 40% Elmers, 20% isopropel (70%) alcohol and 40% distilled water over the diorama to fix the materials in place.

I enjoyed the project which took week of evenings to complete. It proved to be a fun reminder of the fun model making cab be.

OOPS!



Jeffrey Varney posted on Facebook: A slight correction to the beginning of the story...I was not the operator on duty when this incident happened. It happened in the early morning hours and I came on duty at 7am. All of the necessary workers were on scene cleaning up spilled grain and making necessary preparations for moving these cars approximately 3500 feet down to Rondout to get them off of the main track. All of that work took the greater part of

the day. The Sturtevant Patrol came down and pulled the cars from just west of Atkinson Road down to Rondout. They came down at walking speed with the covered hopper wedged on top of the gondola. There was only a couple of inches ground clearance between the bottom of the covered hopper and the road crossing at Rockland Road and the top of the rails at the EJ&E diamonds. With all of the preparations, the move took a couple of hours to complete and was done without further incident.



This photo is just begging to be replicated in miniature

**January's Johnson City 150th Railroad Celebration
Concludes on January 26 at Carter Railroad Museum with annual Tri-Cities
Rails Remembrance Heritage Day**

**LOCALLY-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES WILL BE PART OF THE MUSEUM'S RAILROADING
EXTRAVAGANZA**



Model trains of all sizes will again be on the move at the Carter Railroad Museum. Located on the campus of East Tennessee State University on January 26ths Tri-Cities Rails Remembrance Heritage Day. There has been an annual Heritage Day for local railroading scheduled at the facility for a number of years, but this is the first time it highlights the January weekend, a result of working with the city of Johnson City's 150th Anniversary organizers. This will conclude the series of events co-host by the museum and the city honoring its railroad heritage this month.

The focus will be on mainline railroading on the museum 24x44 foot model railroad layout, where vintage trains of the Southern and Clinchfield lines will be operating for the benefit of guests. This model is a representation of the Southern Appalachian region, featuring mining scenes, small town and city areas, a working switching yard and soaring scenic highlights.

"On January 26, this annual Tri-Cities Rails Remembrance Heritage Day is shaping up as another great Johnson City focuses event," says Heritage Days coordinator Geoff Stunkard. "We have this truly beautiful layout to display local trains on, and operators will have some special trains running. I think visitors will truly enjoy the opportunity to visit."

This same hall also features an N-scale model layout that features some structures reminiscent of Knoxville, and a G-gauge logging exhibit with interactive button for children to operate various functions. The display cases along the wall relate a number of items of local interest as well, included a note-worthy collection of original railroad china and several original artifacts from the Clinchfield line.

Of course, the museum's national-noted ET&WNC, or Tweestie display will also be in operation in the 1300-foot Ken C March Exhibit Hall. Believed to be the largest replication of this line to ever be attempted in HO_n3, ongoing progress has resulted in a number of finely-detailed hand-constructed locations from this region, examples of which do not exist anywhere else in the world. This narrow-gauge railroad originally terminated in Johnson City and had its headquarters here.

There is one other item of local interest in this exhibit area, a very accurate model of the long-gone Carnegie Iron Works steel operation that once resided north of Broadway Ave. in Johnson City. Custom-built as well but in a larger Sn3 scale, this unique module accurately depicts this type of industry.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS
MINUTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING
15 JANUARY 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The MEMRR business meeting for the month of January at was called to order by Club President Fred Alsop at 6:35 PM. 7 Members were present. There were no visitors or new members present.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the December Business Meeting were printed in the January Issue of *The Signal Bridge*. Motion to accept as published; passed.

Newsletter Editor's Report:
Ted is in Florida and absent.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was absent due to medical issues.

Web-Masters' Report: Webmaster Ben Merritt was absent from the meeting

Vice-President's Report: The Vice-President reported that the evening program would be a video. He requested volunteers to present in the coming year. February and March's programs are determined and will be presented by Gregg Mundkowsky. December will be the Holiday Party, January will be yearly calendar building.

President's Report: Fred reported we are running out of the 2018 *HO₃ Annual*. We originally ordered 50 copies and we are now down the 9. So if you don't have one, and you're planning on purchasing a copy you should do it soon. If it looks like, we need some more Fred may order a small quantity, maybe another dozen, so that we have sufficient numbers to meet demand for them. A lot of them have been sold to visitors. We've had over 500 visitors in the last three weeks. We've been emphasizing Tweetsie, in connection with the hundred fiftieth anniversary of Johnson City last week and into this coming week,. So we've had some people that have never been in before and they bought some of the magazines.

OLD BUSINESS: Operating Session for January was canceled due too few members showing up. The next session will be February 4th with operations featuring a dispatcher's timetable to guide operations. The layout with the recent additions of crossovers is becoming more operations friendly.

Train Show Committee: It was reported that the committee continues to prepare for the 2019 show registering vendors and distributing promotional flyers to regional shows.

NEW BUSINESS:

Railroad Heritage Days: The theme for January 26th Heritage Day was announced as "Johnson City Railroads". Members were asked to run equipment representative of all railroads running through Johnson City.

The in Carter NRHS Chapter will try to set up three excursions for 2019 and probably the Knoxville excursion with a ride on the river boat for lunch after the train ride as they've been doing it May or June. For the Labor Day weekend they are going to shoot for Chattanooga. The October fall color rail excursion may be on the Smoky

Mountain Railway out of Bryson City, NC.

\$1200.00 has been set aside for maintenance and upgrades on the MEMRR HO layout. One item needing to be upgraded is the turntable.

Social Events: It was brought up to do the Spring Fling, but not on a Friday or Saturday because those are big eating out nights for a lot of people. But if Thursday, the 28th of March is not objectionable, will go ahead and make reservations at the Longhorn Steak House.

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP: A call for volunteers to staff the Saturday RR Museum public sessions was made. It is helpful for those not in attendance at the business meeting to let the club know their plans on participating. Members are reminded that it is a membership responsibility to volunteer to participate for whole or two half-day sessions on one Saturday each month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Coordinators' Meeting will be held 14 February, 2019 6:00 PM Campus Center Building, Room 235.

PROGRAM: Program for February is static Grass presented by Gregg Mundkowsky. He will demonstrate how to put static grass patches on a cookie sheet which can be removed and be placed on the layout later. This will also be a hands-on program for members who attend.

FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING: Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30 PM in Brown Hall, Room 223, on the ETSU Campus.

*Minutes recorded by MEMRR Secretary,
Gregg Mundkowsky.*

VIEW FROM THE ENGINEER'S SIDE OF THE CAB **THE MEMRR PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY COLUMN**

February seems to be a month that cannot make up its mind weather wise with the sub-zero wind chills of an Arctic Vortex in the week after the famous Pennsylvania groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, failed to see his shadow and predicted an early spring to 75+ degree weather the following week! A good time to stay indoors and work on our hobby of model railroading. However, the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders are actively engaged in improving the Club's HO-Scale layout and the museum has been enjoying the appearance of some ailing members who have made it back to the Carter RR Museum in recent weeks. We got a brief cameo appearance from **Mike Buster** and **Gary Emmert's** broken ankle has mended enough that it does not require surgery and he is now able to drive once more and to walk on it. **John Edwards** (the original John Edwards) is down with severe back pain and we all hope to

see him back with us soon. **Charlotte Pahrts** continues to recover from her broken ankle and Jim continues to be in absent as he cares for her. If I missed anyone who is ailing, please get well and come on back to share our hobby with us. We miss you.

Help me welcome new member, retired physician **Aubrey McElroy**.

Johnson City's Sesquicentennial: The G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS, the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum gave a big boost to the City of Johnson City in early January as they helped the city celebrate the first month of a year of celebrations commemorating the City's 150th Anniversary. Johnson City began as a water stop for the railroad when Henry Johnson

established a water tank and depot for the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad. We had two Heritage Day Events in January; one for the ET&WNC RR that originated in the town and one for the other railroads that passed through it including George L. Carter's Clinchfield Railroad. Additionally, we invited folks to come see our museum on two additional Saturdays as part of festivities the city was sponsoring. Visitation the last Saturday of December and the first 3 Saturdays of 2019 exceeded 740 visitors and we averaged more than 20 volunteer members from our organizations over the same 4 weeks. Great Job Everyone!! The Carter RR Museum was really a sought after destination for the city's festive events and one Saturday's attendance may have broken a one-day record for attendance at the museum with 233 visitors in the 5-hour period we were open. Everyone who gave of their time on those Saturday's deserves a big pat on the back. Your dedication to your hobby and to sharing it with the public is more than commendable!



PHOTO OF THE CABIN SCENE ON THE MOUNTAIN ABOVE CRABTREE

Museum Building: I have no additional news on the Ashe Street building as a possible future site for our museum. The university will wait to see if its proposal for a new humanities building that will have its footprint on the site our Campus Center Building home for the past 11 years rests on makes it onto Governor Bill Lee's budget. The date for the governor's State of the State speech is set for March 4th, later than most such speeches by his predecessors. When ETSU knows if the building has been approved, or not, we will have a better sense of when decisions will be made on the CCB and our train museum. However, I do have a meeting scheduled near the end of the month with Vice-President Ross to discuss the train museum and the Ashe Street Building tour we took in early January. I will keep everyone posted as I learn any new information.

Web-Master: **Bob Jones**, our Web-Master for many years, is working with **Bill Smith** who will take over many of those responsibilities as they make the necessary transition so

that Bill will be the go-to person for much of the information that goes on the MEMRR website. Bob will slip into Web-Master "retirement" but will still be available for consultations on past practices as Bill becomes more familiar with our system. **Ben Merritt** will continue to handle most of the announcements for our membership as he has been doing. The web site remains in very good hands. Bill will also assist **Gary Emmert** some with the library, but most of the cataloging of the books will still get soon doings by others.

Social Events & Rail Excursions: Plans are underway for our **Annual Spring Fling** to be held for the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS, and members' spouses and/or significant others around Thursday, March 28th at the Longhorn Steak House in Johnson City off of North Roan Street. Details will be forthcoming to all members and we hope you will plan to join us for dinner and socializing. Everyone orders from the restaurant's menu with some offerings for the group at reduced prices. Dutch-Treat as you are on your own when it comes to paying the bill.



The forestation of the mountain between Roan Mt. and Crabtree. This first shot is the "before the trees were planted" shot. The next two will show forested mountain sides.

Alsop Gallery: A dedicated group of MEMRR members continue to improve the operations of the Club HO-Scale layout with the addition of turnouts and crossovers to enhance movements of our trains during public operations on Saturdays and on the first Monday of the month when we have Club Operations Night moving trains on a time table schedule and with predetermined starts/stops/jobs. If you have not made it to one of the Operation Sessions you really need to attend and participate. It will provide you with a couple of hours of train operation fun and give you a whole new perspective on what a group of model railroaders can do running a half dozen or more trains on our small layout all at the same time emulating what the prototype railroads do every day. Work to improve the scenery and the structures along the club portions of the layout continues with several members working on designs for interesting

industries to be served by the trains and their consists. All of this made possible by the electrical skills of **Frank Fezzie**, our electrical guru. Several members, including **Jonathon** and **Gary Gilliam**, and **Logan Heaton** continue to improve their personal modules along the line.



Marsh Gallery: Along the narrow-gauge ET&WNC railway the footprints for the 4 structures that will make up the little settlement of Crabtree (formerly Crab Orchard) are in place. The scale drawings of the two houses, Methodist church and the freight building have been completed and will be cut out on the laser knife when **John Edwards** can get his severely aching back pain under enough control to allow him to come back to his little cubical that houses the instrument and begin his magic to provide the wooden parts so Fred assemble them. Meanwhile, a lot of the neat little trees that **Ken Harmon** has created have been planted on the mountain sides from just behind the western corner of the Roan Mountain Inn to the curve just west of Crabtree. Several hundred trees now create a miniature forest on that long mountain slope that will be the backdrop for the trains traveling from Crabtree to the town of Roan Mountain. The lone log cabin on the mountain top now has been leveled, had its walls and roof dry-brushed to highlight the structure, and an outhouse has been provided for the comfort of the rather rotund gentleman seated on his front porch smoking a pipe. Two important critters round out this little corner of the world with a hound dog trotting towards the porch and a milk cow that doubles as a weed eater in the open grassy area below the cabin. One small quarter bridge has been added to the town of Roan Mt.

Heritage Day: The Heritage Day for February 23rd will be **Industrial Shortlines**, those little important rail lines that connected resources with industrial areas and with major

railroads. Those coal haulers, timber haulers, mineral haulers, cattle haulers, grain haulers, etc., etc. that ran slow and often not on a daily basis and sometimes with mixed consists of freight and passenger cars; but were so important to the growth and commerce of the regions they served. So, bring you little shortline locomotives and their consists. Some of the geared locomotives will take a long time to circle the layouts but they will be most interesting to view.

February Business Meeting: The meeting will be convened at 6:30 p.m. in Brown Hall 223, on the ETSU Campus. Program is a hands-on static grass workshop by **Gregg Mundkowsky**. Those wishing to join in fellowship for dinner at 5:00 p.m. will meet at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger Shopping Center off State of Franklin Road just west of the university.

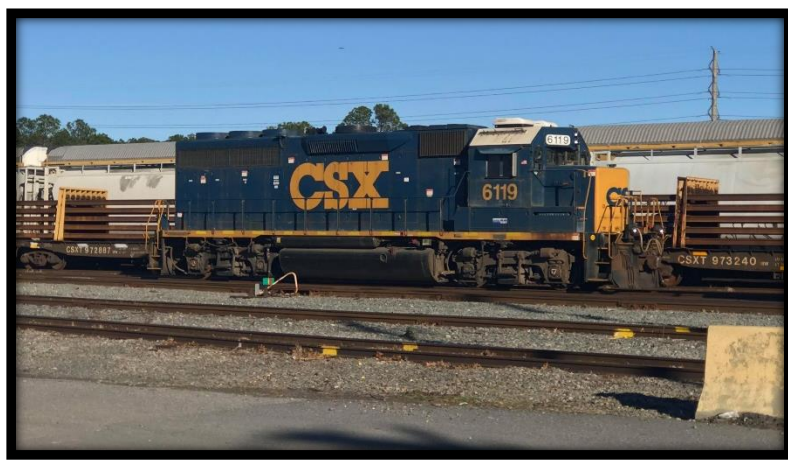


We are into the second month of 2019. The Carter Railroad Museum has been a very busy place with a record number of average visitors on every Saturday since December 29, 2018. We have become a destination for many folks so far this year and we have continued to demonstrate all the good, positive qualities of the hobby of model railroading and the importance of railroads to our region and our nation. It looks to be a year of continued growth and challenges for our clubs and for the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. I know we will be up to the task and will continue to improve our layouts, exhibits and our outreach to our community. Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

Fred J. Alsop III
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

PAUL'S PICK PICS PAGES
FROM DWARF SIGNAL PRODUCTIONS
PHOTOS FROM PAUL HAYNES

The CSX rail yard near the I-10 and SR 301 West of Jacksonville



TRACKSIDE HUMOR

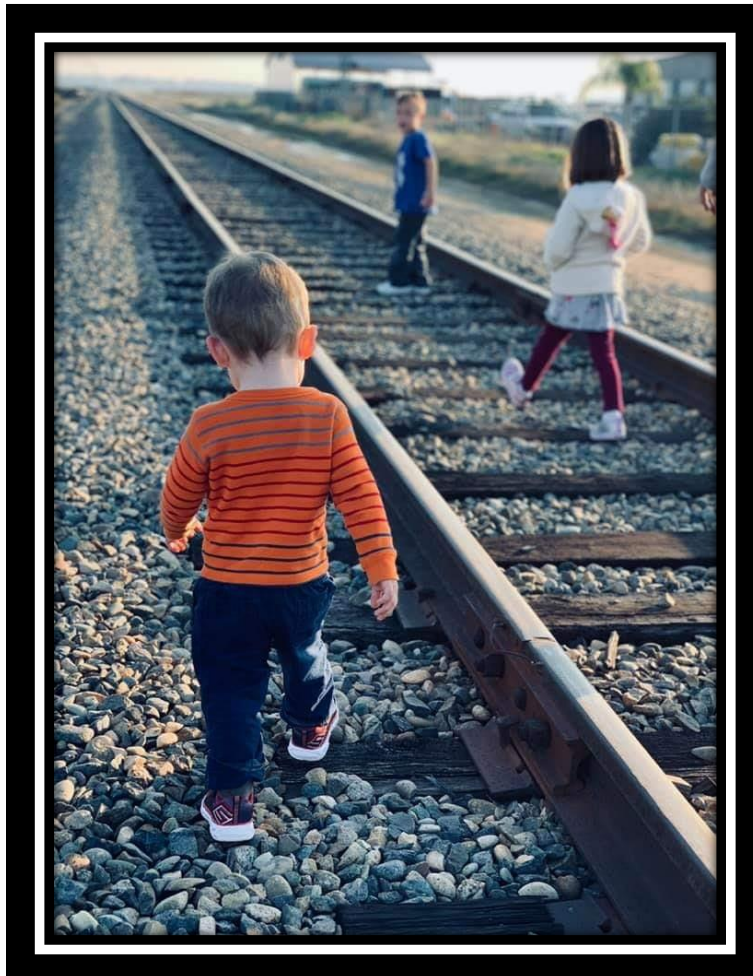
IS IT REAL... NAW. THE TRACK CREW IS SWINGING A LONG SECTIO OF PRELAD TRACK INTO PLACE



RED FLAG THIS AD

FEBRUARY'S SAFETY REMINDDEER

WPULD YUOU ENCOURAGE YOU CHILD OR GRANDCHILD TO DO THIS?



Monthly Thursday Clinics

I have spoken with some of the MEMRR members about having a clinic once a month on a Thursday night instead of the program after the monthly business meeting. This clinic would be between 30-60 minutes long and start at either 5:30 or 6. we have a larger group at the Thursday work groups than we do at the meetings so this way more people would be involved. I have added a questionnaire to this that you can return with your input and what topics you would like to see covered, and if you are willing to demonstrate something please also add that.

Below are some of the things that we could cover,

1. Installing a DCC Decoder in a locomotive
2. Maintaining a locomotive
3. Setting up rolling stock to run smoothly
4. Weathering locomotives and rolling stock
5. Kit-bashing & scratch-building structures
6. Designing a layout (both with pen and paper and on the computer)
7. Layout building
8. Track laying to include weather and ballasting

Using the above list you get the idea of what I am proposing, so let me know what your ideas are and if you think this is a good or bad idea.

Thanks Gregg Mundkowsky

Monthly Thursday Clinics Questionnaire

Time I would like the clinics to be conducted _____

What I would like to see covered at the clinics

I would be willing to do demonstrations at a clinic _____

Topic _____

Members Name _____