

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB
MARCH 2019 - MEMBERS EDITION
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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 4 - KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN



THIS MONTH WE LOOK AT KCS's PAINT SCHEMES... NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPECIAL PAINT BUT A COLORFUL PAST AND PRESENT FOR THE 7TH OF THE BIG RAILROADS TODAY



KSC #4064 AN EMD F7A IN ADITY WHITE WITH LARGE RED KCS LETTERING



KCS #UNKWN IN GREY PAINT WITH YELLOW SAFETY STRIPES ON ITS NOSE



KCS #629 AN EX-SCL EMD SD40-3 IN THE LEAD



A BRACE OF KCS UNITS WAITING IN WHITE AND RED SCHEME





FP9-3 EX KCS 2, EX2 VIA 6504, EX3 CN 6504, NAMED: SHREVEPORT



FP9-3 EX KCS 1, EX2 VIA 6512, EX3 CN 6612, NAMED: MERIDIAN



FP9A EX VIA 6507, EX2 CN 7507, WAS NAMED: VICKSBURG (Given to the Kansas City Union Station for display renumbered to KCS 34)



#3937 EMD SD60



FP9-3 EX KCS 2, EX2 VIA 6504, EX3 CN 6504, NAMED: SHREVEPORT



A lashup of 1 KCS EMD Switcher and 2 new FEC units



#4026 - EMD SD70Ace Honoring Veterans



Voted first place in the Ugly Paint Scheme Competition

WEATHERING A SIGNALTOWER TOWARDS A MORE REALISTIC APPEARANACH MODELING PHOTOSAND TEXT BY LOGAN HEATON



So finally time to work on the interlocking tower for the module trying to take the plastic look of the model.



This did take some of the plastic look off the model but still needs a little bit of work



I remember using this technique to start near when I first started working on the module so did need some reminding sense that was almost a year ago.



Another view of the weathering effects on the tower's end wall.



Pretty much it is called black wash with a mix of black ink in this case and alcohol then with downward brush strokes gives the look of dirt and of course soot and ash from the steam engines being streamed down the building from rain while also giving some more depth to the building.



Did a bit more on the signal box after the black wash dried this time following it up with a flat finish to take off the last of the plastic look and some areas where the glue came through to give it a more realistic look.



To further dull the plastic sheen a coat of flat finish was applied.



Another work day at the museum was spent to finish off a bit more of the module. To start I used the dry brush technique with a bit of white paint to finish off the weathering of the signal box highlighting some of the darker surfaces while giving the building a bit more of a worn look.



As the signal box dried I then went to finish the last little corner of my module placing glue down for the dirt and grass.



By then the signal box was dry so was able to put it in place and work it into the scenery starting with the dirt then following it up with a couple grass patches then going through the steps I did previously.



First soaking the area and then dripping the glue and water mix over it to keep the scenery in place.



Finish it off with placing some bushes along the edge and that finished off the area for now. After over a year of work the module is almost finished just a couple little things I want to add before calling it done for now.



I finished off my work session with something I wasn't expecting to find in one of the old junk drawers which was some HO scale people for the town.



I placed the people around the town and at the facilities making the place look a bit more active apart from the rail activity. All in all I feel I got a great amount of progress done over the past few days.



Cars added to create an impression of lively business



Looks like the shop crew has some work to do

DAVID FINGER'S LOCOMOTIVE COLLECTION SILENT AUCTION UNDER WAY

Donated HO Locomotives Silent Auction

There are a total of 18 Locomotives and 1 Trackmobile being offered to MEMRR Club members utilizing a silent auction format using e-mail. Pictures containing Locomotive and Starting Bid will be in Signal Bridge for your review.

A silent auction format is where you submit your best and final bid the highest bid will win the item. All e-mail bids are to be sent to the following E-Mail address smith010890@yahoo.com. I will inform the auction winners at the March MEMRR meeting. I will not be bidding on any item as my modeling scale in HO_n3 only.

Have fun bidding. All items not receiving the listed starting bid will be sold at the 2019 Big Train Show.



DC Locomotive Needs Work
Starting Bid \$20.00



UP DD40X DCC with Sound
Starting Bid \$180.00



3 Dummy Engines
Starting Bid \$15.00 Each



2 DC with Sound Locomotives
Starting bid \$45.00 Each



2 DC Locomotives
Starting Bid \$35.00 Each



Milw Trackmobile DCC No Sound
Starting bid \$50.00



2 DC Locomotives
Starting Bid \$35.00 Each



2 IC&E SD40 Dash2 DCC with Sound
Non Labeled Locomotive needs cleaning
Starting bid \$170.00 Each



ATSF FP45 DCC with Sound Sanumi motor
Starting Bid \$180.00



BNSF Locomotive DCC with Sound
Starting bid \$180.00



BNSF Locomotive DCC with Sound
Starting bid \$180.00



CP 6000 Locomotive DCC with Sound
Starting bid \$180.00



NP SD45 DCC with Sound
Starting Bid \$180.00

GEORGE L CARTER MUSEUM'S HERITAGE DAY THEME FOR FEBRUARY SMALL INDUSTRIAL AND SHORTLINE RAILROADING



The epoch age of American industry will be remembered at the Heritage Day event at the George L Carter Railroad Museum. On Saturday, February 23, the free-entry multi-room facility located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University will showcase several unique industrial-oriented railroad operations on exhibit.

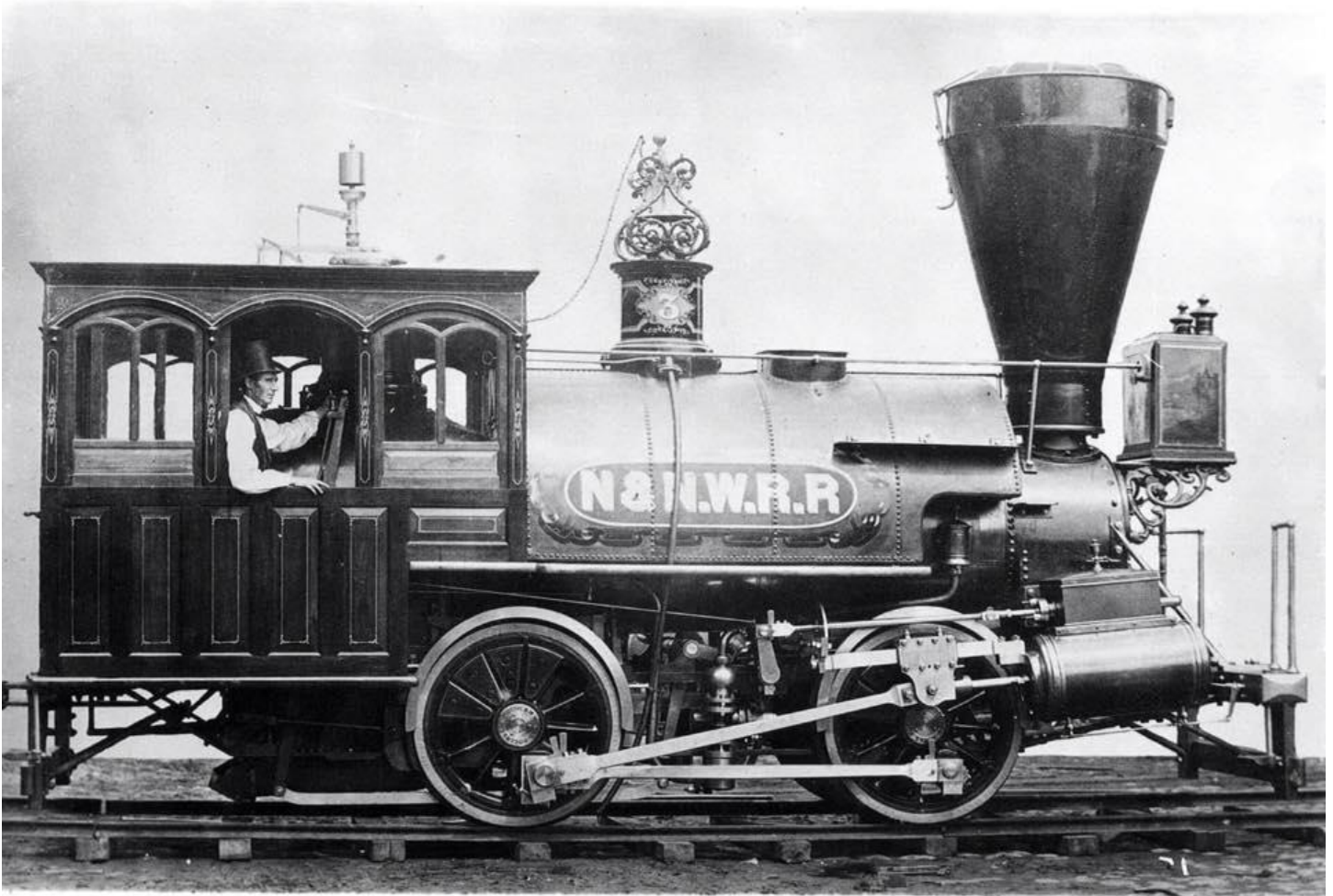
Short lines were just what the name implies, railroad companies that normally operated less than 200 miles. Foremost in this area was the narrow-gauge East

Tennessee & Western North Carolina (Tweetsie) line. Built to service ore movements from Cranberry, North Carolina to a steel mill in Johnson City. It's smaller 36"-width size cars could not be sent forward on standard-gauged 54" track sizes, a feature which is modeled extensively at the museum in the Ken Marsh display hall. The museum's extensive model of this operation has been featured in nationally-distributed magazines and is considered the largest example in existence of it in this scale.

"This is a special event for us for a number of reasons," explains Geoff Stunkard, the coordinator of the museum's Heritage Days program. "We have committed a lot of time and development resources to our ET&WNC layout and have created a number of important industrial scenes on our other displays as well. We now have a true-scale model of the original Johnson City steel mill, and our G-gauge layout focuses on timber operations, another facet of our regional industries. The short-line idea fits this museum quite well."

MUSKRAT MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

THOUGHTS ABOUT MODEL RAILROADING WHILE SNOW-BIRDING IN FLORIDA
SOME TENNESSEE HISTORY



"Nashville & Northwestern 5 foot gauge locomotive of 1862 built by Rogers. The N&NW is today's Bruceton Subdivision of CSX known to us as the "Windy". In 1862 it spanned from Nashville to Kingston Springs. It was extended by the Union Army during the war to Johnsonville, a supply depot on the Tennessee River."

UPDATE ON BUILDING A RAILROAD

Here's an update on my layout planning since the January issue of the SIGNAL BRIDGE.



When I left off discussing my track planning project I had talked about accessing the Tennessee State Comptrollers collection of Tax Valuation maps housed on the internet. They are recorded as .PDF files and can be printed to fit both 8.5x11, or 8.5x14 single sheets of paper or be printed full size on multiple sheets of paper. By cutting and pasting these sheets a final map measures approximately 3'x5' and can reveal significant detail. The tax maps are from the 1930's and have been marked up with the changes of property ownership, abandonments and the like.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are also useful. The Library of Congress has created a digital collection of

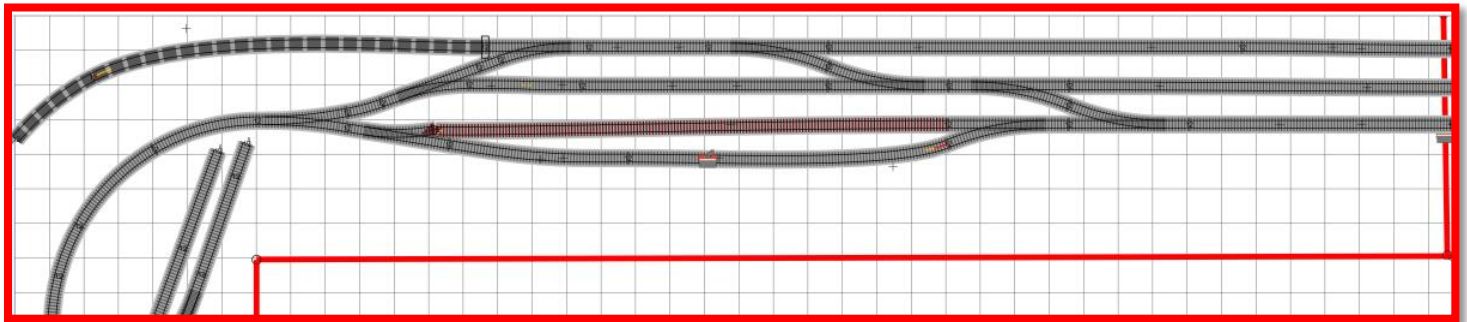


these maps and the data base can be search easily to find maps depicting many of Tennessee's communities (the maps for Washington County are fairly extensive and date from the 1890's). The Library of Conges files are in .GIF format and need to be run through a PhotoShop or PaintShop type program.

I searched many sites that had map repositories, including government web sites (State and County). Most of the "free" files I discovered were from the 1890's through the teens of the Twentieth Century. More current Sanborn Maps can be purchased but this can prove expensive.

Another source of information useful for track planning are Company track profile maps. Most railroad companies created profile map books. Each book would cover the right-of-way for a Division or sub-Division. These books contained a list of stations indexed to the mileposts along the track. The also show the track plan in 4 mile increments. Details shown include: elevation, % of grade, placement of curves, degree of curvature drainage and culverts, placement of company owned structures, bridges, and grade crossings. They also showed track layouts for yards and sidings (though these depictions were not always accurate).

RAWING UP A TRACKLAN



A trial trackplan using "ANY RAIL 6" rail CAD program



A first attempt to try out the second trackplan with the rail sections I had at hand led to some changes in the receiving yard on the Tracy City branch. Now more resembling that track plan for the Bon Aire branch.



After laying out the track sections I had on hand I discovered I could enlarge the yard. I then close-fitted the track sections and transferred the track on to rolled out contractors' paper. I then outlined the track marking frogs and switch points and labeled the various tracks



I purchased several display racks from SEARS. They were used for over-range microwave displays. I had an inspirational moment in the store when I saw them.... "these can be repurposed for a moveable shelf layout!"



My three-shelf book cases fit comfortably under the all-steel constructed racks

CARTER RR MUSEUM COORDINATORS' MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Fred Alsop at 6:10 p.m. in room 235 of the Campus Center Building, ETSU. Attending were: Gary Gilliam, Geoff Stunkard, David Doughty, John Carter, Robert Sullivan, and Fred Alsop.

Coordinators' Reports:

- **N-Scale; Gary Gilliam:** We continue to need parts, the Atlas trucks that have been out of stock seeming across the county for many months now. 50 pairs are needed. Some track work is needed on the layout and Gary will order what he needs from Bob Barrett at HobbyTown USA .
- **Locomotive Repair; Gary Gilliam:** All locomotives are in good repair and are operational.
- **Heritage Day Event; Geoff Stunkard:** The planned Heritage Day for February will be "Short lines and Industrial Railroads".
- **Tweetsle Layout; David Doughty:** The layout is operating well. We have not been "short-handed" for operators on Saturdays. Fred has added more scenery on the layout between Crabtree and Roan Mountain. A new HO-Scale Southern Steam locomotive has been purchased for the layout and a diamond-stack HO_{n3} 2-8-0 has been added to the roster.
- **HO-Layout; John Carter:** The new Walters turntable has been delivered and Frank Fezzie will be installing the electronics and the new bridge very soon that will greatly improve the performance of the turntable. The old turntable pit will not have to be replaced saving a lot of work. New Lexan shields have been cut and put in place to protect the layout from the public. The sub-

roadbed on the former Ramey modules has been constructed behind the column and several members have painted many of the rails and ties in the yard.

- **Membership Coordinator; Rogert Sullivan:** Robert has agreed to start a new effort to recognize our members by selecting a "Member of the Month" and writing a small column about that person and their interest in model railroading for inclusion in each issue of *The Signal Bridge*. Robert will make his selection with the suggestions of other club members.
- **Carter RR Museum Director; Fred Alsop:** Fred made the following announcements:
 - Discussions regarding the Ashe Street former US Post Office as a potential home for the G.L. Carter Railroad museum continue with the city, county and ETSU.
 - The Annual Spring Fling is scheduled for March 28, 6:00 p.m. at the Longhorn Steakhouse and Restaurant in Johnson City for members and spouses/significant others.
 - The Carter Chapter's first rail excursion for 2019 will be on May 25th aboard the 3-Rivers Rambler followed by a luncheon cruise aboard *The Star of Knoxville* in Knoxville, TN.
 - The MEMRR holds monthly operations sessions on the HO layout the first Monday of each month.
 - Business meeting items were solicited.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by Fred Alsop

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS

MINUTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

19 FEBRUARY 2019

CALL TO ORDER The MEMRR Business meeting for the month of Jan at called to order by Club President Fred Alsop at 6:35 PM. 13 Members were present. There were no visitors and 1 new member present.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the January Business Meeting was printed in the February Issue of the Signal Bridge. Motion to accept at published; Passed.

Newsletter Editor's Report,

Ted is in Florida. He's talking about being back sometime in May. He is producing the newsletters from there as you've seen. There is a deadline around the 8th of the month. So if you have things you want to go into the newsletter such as announcements, things for sale, an article that you've written, photos ... submit them before the 8th of each month. We are happy that even though he's moved for the winter that he still fully engaged.

Treasurer's Report,

Gary reported figures for income and expenditures were accurate for the past month.

Webmasters' Report

Webmasters Bill Smith and Ben Merritt were absent from the meeting

Vice-President's Report,

John Carter reported that February's and March's program will be using the Static Grass applicator. We need to think about April and if anybody has ideas for workshops, or you have a particular film that you want to share with us? A video we can do that.

President's Report

Fred reported

The past five Saturdays we've had over 900 visitors during the 25 hours that we're open in those five Saturday. So a lot of people have been finding us. We had a big crowd of the last Saturday of December and has continued most Saturdays. We're getting more than a hundred people and twice we had over 200 people. We're getting good response and some of it was due to the publicity that went out in January when we helped Johnson City kick off their hundred fiftieth anniversary. Doing something special in the museum each time and that was being advertised in several places. So I'm sure that helped to turn out a lot of the people who have been coming to see us.

The industry building update. We talked a little bit last night at the Carter HRS chapter meeting, I don't have any more

information other than it's still on the president's mind because I attended the meeting a week ago last Friday with a committee that meets with him once a month of he was updating this group on things are happening around the University. I've had emails from Jenny Brock. Who's the Mayor Johnson City last week trying to set up a meeting with me and the subject line is relocation of the Carter Railroad Museum. I know that she and President Nolan have met at least once before they came out and whether they talked about the ash tree building or not. I don't know.

I have an appointment with vice-president Jeremy Ross. His dad is an architect in town. Jeremy has been a vice president here for reviewers and one of the hats that he wears is Chief Operating Officer, which means that under his purview are all the spaces on campus. Jeremy walked through the building with the president and I as well as several other people. We did go and take a look at the proposed off campus building. Jerry and the president went over and give me a heads up re: his present thinking President stated that all we need to do now is find the money. So to me, everything is positive at this point.

After this will be what happens in the Governor's address to the state on March 4th, the building that will replace will be where the Campus Center building is now where our museum is. If it's still on that on his budget and this feels from the top it's still there, a whole lot of gears will start turning. When I meet with vice president Ross discussion will be about that particular building. So as I get more information, I'll give you the information.

If you haven't been by the Ash Street building is easy to find just go down State of Franklin until you get to the old Tupelo Honey, then make a right and the next street is Ash street. The big building standing there on Left all by itself that says United States post office across the top of it is the ash tree building. It's about 6,000 square feet upstairs a little over 7,000 square feet on the first floor. And there's a full basement. So there's a there's a lot of possibilities in that Building and it looks like a museum. I think get the go-ahead. It take between three and four million dollars to seal the deal right now cost. It is estimated that it will that much for rough remodeling and to bring it up to code for ADA compliance (which includes an elevator on all three floors).

We have the discussion back before Christmas about not taking food into the galleries. A lot of folks who are sitting here right now are the regulars that are there every Saturday and you've been really great about moving the lunches and snacks into the workroom. It's made it a lot better for everybody. And I appreciate when you see somebody who's forgotten that you remind them.

OLD BUSINESS**Operating Session**

We have an operating session the first Monday of every month. One of the central figures organizing this was Ted, but he is out of town. We need a minimum of 6 people to operate. We operate the layout as a prototype layout with time schedules for each train and with destinations for each. Trains have specific consists of cars for each. Club equipment is used... So you might not want to bring your own locomotive to test it out or run it. And the sessions get fairly intense if you your train is not where it's supposed to be. The session starts at about 5:30 pm. By 6 the sheets have been handed out. You've got your duties for the night and it usually takes about two hours to get through the whole schedule that has been laid out. So, the first Monday of the next first month is March 4th.

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. We need to get several people tasked with trying to get the tables we need and check where we got them in previous years and see if we can find other places as well. The National Model Railroad Association is having a meet in Chattanooga, the same weekend as us and some of the layouts we have had in the past will be at that event. So right now we've got two possibly three layout while in the past we have had five or six. Anyone who may have suggestions about club that you think we ought to contact in order to try to get additional layouts here.

Marketing what things that we've been doing, right but things can we improve on the in order to get more people through the door, having 400 youngsters that are coming in free which is not the problem because often they're coming with parents that will help them buy things but we're getting about a Thousand Eleven Hundred adults through Days, we've got vendors who like the venue they want to continue to come back but we have to try to do the best we can to generate as much publicity. So we get people coming through the doors down there. The vendors and we've got some marketing of expertise this year including the gentleman that was here last time named John Keats. Is a retired Professor who did marketing so he talked to some of the club members lifestyle. We're going to have another

meeting with him to see what we can do to improve things.

NEW BUSINESS**Railroad Heritage Days**

The theme for February's Heritage Day is "Industrial and Short Line Railroads" so bring out those logging trains and railroads of less than 200 miles.

Social calendar of events

Our annual Spring Fling is going to be a Longhorn Steakhouse as it has been in past years the 28th of March 2019 so it'll be the last Thursday in March. We will try to get their group menu again, which basically is the lunch menu so that we're not paying the dinner prices. They will try and arranged for us to sit as close together as possible. What we need to know if you're planning on coming. Let Jim Paris know. He and John Dodge will double check the numbers that they have so we can give the restaurant some kind of discount. There's no program for the night; we simply go and enjoy a good meal and each other's company.

The first rail Excursion for 2019 by the Carter chapter-NHRS is planned. It's going to be on the 25th of May. That's Memorial Day weekend, but it's only the Saturday. We're contracting for three buses with enough people to fill the train. We'll ride the Three Rivers Rambler from their new Depot which gives us several more miles. The train will return back down on the train to the Tennessee River boat landing and board boat the Star of Knoxville Paddle Wheel Excursion boat, and we'll ride about an hour and a half to two hours on the river and have lunch on board while we're going so. It's a nice day trip that doesn't have to start too early in the morning and gets back. Not too late in the day and we're on Daylight Saving Time beginning next week

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Coordinators' Meeting will be held 14 March 2019 6:00PM Campus Center Bldg Room 235

PROGRAM for March

"Static Grass" given by Gregg Mundkowsky, This will be a live demonstration /

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING will be held Tuesday March 19th at 6:30 PM in Brown Hall Room 223 ETSU Campus

THE VIEW FROM THE ENGINEER'S SIDE OF THE CAB

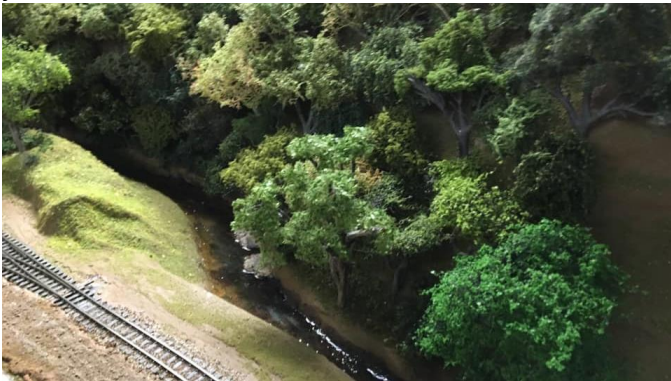
THE MEMRR PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY COLUMN

The record rains of February have finally ended and we are into March and the coming of Spring will be only weeks away. There is a sense of renewing with this season as the temperate zone landscape begins to green and to become an artist's pallet with the spray of colors of newly budding flowers. Our model railroad club and the Carter Railroad Museum have begun the year by helping the city of Johnson City kick off the celebration of their 150th anniversary from

its birth as a railroad town to one that still has major railroads running through it, and very near to our little museum. Not only did we have special events in the early months of the year at the museum we had record numbers of visitors during those first two months with more than 1,000 folks coming to the museum to see our displays



Welcome back! Several of our members who have had personal health issues, or have been care-givers for a family member who has been ailing have returned to us and we have missed their company and their talents. Among these are **Gary Emmert, Mike Buster, John Edwards, Jim Pahr**is and **Ruth Berry**. Good to have you back! We have missed you.



Ashe Street Building and Gov. Bill Lee's budget: The governor's budget for ETSU did not include our proposed humanities building, the structure that would have replaced the Campus Center Building the Carter RR Museum is housed in. Therefore, we have more time in our present surroundings. However, I plan to keep talking to county, city, university and private citizens to see if the little momentum we now seem to have for a new museum building further downtown can be pursued further. I plan to meet with these folks in the near future to see what may be possible to keep us going down this track and will keep you all informed of the outcomes of these discussions.



Big Train Show: **Roger Teinert**, the Chairman of our Big Train Show Committee, and many of our members, continue to travel to regional train shows to recruit vendors for our Big Train Show May 31-June 1, 2019. They are getting good response from many of our previous vendors and have some new ones coming. It is too early to know how many we will have, but Roger says that many wait until mid-April after filing their income taxes to commit to coming. We have a new vendor newsletter being printed that will be distributed at the train shows we visit and sent out electronically as well. We also have the help of a professional marketing director, **John Keyt**, who is consulting with us to suggest ways of getting more people to come to our show. We still have a big need for layouts as 3 of the clubs who have been with us in the past are going to the NMRA show in Chattanooga that is being held the same weekend as our show (a most unfortunate circumstance). So, if you know any clubs within a couple of hundred miles who we might invite to come to display their layouts at our show please let Roger or me know about them.



Annual Carter RR Museum Spring Fling, a wonderful social event of dining out with our members and them spouses or significant others, is scheduled for **Thursday, March 28, at the Longhorn Steakhouse and Restaurant** off North Roan Street in Johnson City. The meal will begin shortly after **6:00 p.m.** and we will be ordering from their menu with everyone taking care of their own bill. The food is good and it is a very relaxed evening to chat with our fellow railroaders and to catch up on things that are going on in our lives that are not necessarily related to our hobby. Please let John Dodge (Carter Chapter NRHS) or Jim Pahris (MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS) know that you are coming and if you are alone or a couple so the restaurant can get a headcount for meals and seating arrangements. See you at the Spring Fling.

May Rail Excursion: The Carter Chapter NRHS is planning their first rail excursion of the year as a very popular repeat destination for **Saturday, May 25th**. You may have already seen their flyers for the Knoxville trip with a steam locomotive pulling the 3 Rivers Rambler along the Tennessee River to its origin at the confluence of the French Broad and Holston rivers. Following the 90+ minute train ride we will board the Knoxville Steamboat Company's paddleboat, *The Star of Knoxville* for a cruise on the Tennessee River while enjoying a great buffet luncheon and

hearing some of the history of Knoxville along that part of the river. This is a wonderful day-trip from the ETSU campus aboard luxury motor coaches provided by Premier Transportation, Inc. Please plan to join us to enjoy a fun-filled day with your friends and family and a host of new friends you will share the experiences with. The Carter Chapter NRHS uses some of the funds generated by these rail excursions to send a high school student to the National Railway Historical Society's annual RailCamp in Delaware each summer paying their tuition and their roundtrip airfare from Tri-Cities Airport. They have been able to send two of our student MEMRR members to this camp and are planning to send a 3rd MEMRR student member there in June 2019. Some of the profits from the rail excursions are also shared with the Carter RR Museum to support its public education activities. So, help us continue to support these important activities by becoming a participant on one or more rail excursions this year.



New Recognitions: I have asked **Robert Sullivan** (and he has accepted my request) to begin to submit to the newsletter editor each month a brief profile of a new member. We will highlight this person so that those who may not be regular attendees at the Carter Railroad Museum may get to "know" them a little even if they may not meet them for some time, and to let new members feel another form of welcoming into our organization by being recognized in our newsletter. I have asked Robert to interview them about their hobby interests, some of their background, how they found the club and the museum, etc. and to have a photo of them to accompany the article. I have also asked Robert to pick a **Member of the Month** to also be highlighted in

SPRING FLING ANNOUNCES FOR MARCH 28TH

LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE, JOHNSON CITY
Spring Fling is fast approaching. We are meeting at the Longhorn Steak and Restaurant on North Roan Street at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28th for a good meal and social hour. We are ordering from the menu and everyone pays for their own meal. The restaurant needs to know how many of us to expect so they can prepare for us. Please contact Jim Pahrjs and let him know that you are planning to attend. Jim's email address is ispahrjs@comcast.net

each issue of *The Signal Bridge* as a way of giving some of our members who volunteer at the museum a little extra recognition as a way of saying thank you for all the special things you do for the MEMRR and for the Carter Railroad Museum. If you want to make suggestions to help Robert make his selections I am sure he will welcome them. Their photo and some personal information will also be published on a regular basis so we get to see some of their work if they have a module or learn of their special contributions to our organizations. Thank you, Robert, for agreeing to pilot this little project and we look forward to this addition to our knowledge of our members and to seeing and reading about them in the newsletter.



Operating Sessions: Don't forget that the MEMRR has operating sessions that mimic the prototype railroads the first Monday night of each month with the next one being April 1, April Fool's Day. These re great fun and the club/museum furnishes all the locomotives and rolling stock. Come to the Carter Railroad Museum on April 1 around 5:30 and get involved in an evening of hobby fun. Spring is just about to arrive and we will be in daylight savings time by the time you read this. Longer days, warmer weather, more time to engage in activities and in our hobby that is so strongly connected to railroading and railroads. 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

SAFETY FIRST LAST AND ONLY





NEW MEMBER
DR. MARK McELROY



Mark is a physician having retired from medical practice. He has 6 children and several grandchildren. The favorite aspect of the hobby is animation in scenery design.



Tough missing her drive rods NC&StL “Yellow Stripe” 576 still looks darn good as she heads out for a full renovation

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 _____