

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club Newsletter

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 26— Issue 9 September 2019

Club News *contributed by Ben Merritt*

MEMRR Layout Update on the renovations on the steam engine facility. The next track has been installed which will run coal hoppers up to be loaded into the tower that will be installed and also a work in progress on an area for a sand pit



where hoppers carrying sand will empty below for the engines



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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab



There is already a touch of fall in the air and the summer green of the trees is beginning to fade. We have had a busy summer at the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club and at the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. We have had another successful Big Train Show, the largest and best attended yet. We have received lots of visitors at the museum and gained some new members. Several children celebrated their birthdays with us in the Little Engineers Room and our members have attended a

few train shows bringing some of their new found treasures back to run on the MEMRR layout. ETSU began fall classes the 3rd week of August and our student workers are back in the museum helping with our little visitors and much more. With everyone's help the railroad museum continues to operate on a normal schedule and continues to add new exhibits and plan for our future.

On a personal note, I spent a lot of time remodeling my house and helping Catherine move from Baton Rouge back to her home state of Tennessee (we are not quite finished with that task yet, but getting much, much closer). We honeymooned in Hawaii and had a wonderful time. Thanks to everyone for your congratulations and for keeping the Carter RR Museum on an even keel in my absence. I have managed to spend enough time on computer keyboards in the past few years to develop carpal tunnel syndrome in my right hand that is severely limiting my typing ability (which was never great). Corrective surgery is scheduled for Friday December 13th.

Annual Museum Picnic: Tom and Kim McKee are once again hosting the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS at their lakeside home for our annual picnic. This is wonderful yearly social event that is much anticipated and well attended by our members and their spouses/significant others (no children please). The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon September 22. The McKee's are going to furnish the meat and our attending members are to bring a picnic dish to compliment the meal. The club is furnishing the plates, cups and plastic ware. We need an accurate headcount and we need to know what you are bringing to share. Webmaster **Ben Merritt** has set up a very easy spread sheet on the MEMRR website (memrr.org) you need to use to tell us you are coming, who is coming with you, and what you are bringing. It is really easy to use and if you change your mind on the dish you are bringing or how many are in your party you can easily go back in and edit it. **This is a fun-filled social event and you are especially encouraged to attend and, most importantly, fill out the attendance sheet on line.** Tom will have his garden G-Scale railroad up and operating and will be letting visiting "engineers" take a hand on the throttle. *Put the date on your social calendar and come join us!!!*

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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

Continued from page 2

New Museum Exhibit: The Carter RR Museum just received a great new piece of railroad art to exhibit in the large Alsop Gallery. Member **James Sandhi Kozsuch** just donated a 3-D headend model of a Clinchfield Railroad F7 unit #800. The gray model with its yellow nose has working head and marker lights and is very eye-catching. It now has dedicated wall space above the Southern RR baggage cart among the other George L. Carter/Clinchfield RR articles and photos on display just inside the gallery entrance. Thank you Sandhi!!

Special Guest Speaker in September: At our September 16/17 business meetings for both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS we will have a presentation by **Joey Klugewicz**. Joey was the recipient of the tuition-paid trip to the NRHS East Rail Camp in Delaware this summer. He will be relating some of his memories about that educational experience and the highlights of attending this railroad-oriented camp with other high school youngsters from across the United States. The annual camp is co-sponsored by the NRHS and Amtrak and Joey is the third young man interested in railroads that the G.L. Carter Chapter has sent to this wonderful camp over the past 4 years. Come support Joey and listen to his personal tales of the rails.

September Heritage Day: *Appalachian Heritage* on September 28th will celebrate those railroads, large and small, standard and narrow gauge, that penetrated these ancient mountains to bring out their mineral and timber resources. Local railroads such as the ET&WNC, Clinchfield, Southern, L&N, C&O and others brought their crews to lay track, carve tunnels and build bridges in the difficult terrain that was, and is, the Southern Appalachians. Bring you trains and their consists and operate for our visitors on the next Heritage Day Event. Our MEMRR layout has an Appalachian theme; the N-Scale is set in the Appalachian city of Knoxville; and few railroads could be more Appalachian than our HOn3 model layout of the Tweetsie in our local mountains. This should be a fun day to operate a lot of familiar trains representing local railroads.

Special Visitors: On Monday, September 9th we had the pleasure of a museum visit by Cat Williams and her family. Cat is the daughter of Howard and Mariam Bankus and the family lives in Texas. The Bankus family made the major donation of Howard's N-Scale Knoxville-themed layout to the Carter RR Museum two years prior to the museum's dedication in 2008. Mrs. Bankus, who made this gift to the university recently passed away in late August. Her children and their families came to let everyone see the work Mr. Bankus had done in his Knoxville home's basement and we were proud to display his working layout and the rest of the museum to them. Thanks to everyone who came to help us with this special visit.

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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

November Rail Excursion: The Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum are co-hosting the last train ride of the season on November 2, 2019. We will be going by charter bus to Bryson City, NC to ride the Smoky Mountain Railroad and visit the Lionel Train Museum there. This is a day trip and the proceeds help send a local youngster to the NRHS East Rail Camp and some of the funds go to our museum home. Details for making your reservations are on the MEMRR and Carter Chapter website and the deadline for doing so is October 2. Come join us and ride the train through some spectacular scenery while viewing some fall colors. Seating is limited so hurry and get on board.

Around the RR Museum: *Frank Fizzie* and others continue to work on the MEMRR club layout's electrical grid. *John Carter*, *Gary Gilliam* and others are still making improvements on it as well with some planning for the former Don Ramey modules being a current area of focus. Member *Bob Dunn* has developed a major interest in building a circus train, something we have not been able to display since *Duane Swank* stopped running his on the HO layout some time ago. These two gentlemen have been talking "circus trains" together recently and perhaps the circus will come to town again soon on the club layout. New member *Mike Tarter* has been working hard on the Bankus N-Scale layout since joining the MEMRR a few months ago and it is breathing new life under his talented efforts. *Mike Buster* and *Dave Doughty* have continued to spend several days a week adding scenery to the "Tweetsie" layout and have been able to cover more acreage with trees through their dedication to this, perhaps the largest layout in its scale, of the ET&WNC Railroad. Our student workers, *Kennedy* and *Nichole* are back in the Little Engineers Room helping our Station Master, *Amy Merritt*, following their summer break. Their work with our visiting youngsters is very much appreciated and we all missed them this summer. *John Edwards #1* is busy using the laser knife to cut out the pieces of the Johnson City ET&WNC depot from my drawings and I am working to assemble that station for the layout. *Roger Teinert* and his Big Train Show Committee are busy planning for the June 2020 event and we should have the new flyers and banners to advertise it by the middle of September.

As always, the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum are busy places never lacking of activity. If you have not been to a meeting, or to an Operating Session, or to the museum lately put us back on your calendar and come join us. There is a lot of model railroading going on and we could use your help while enjoying your company.

Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

Fred J. Alsop III

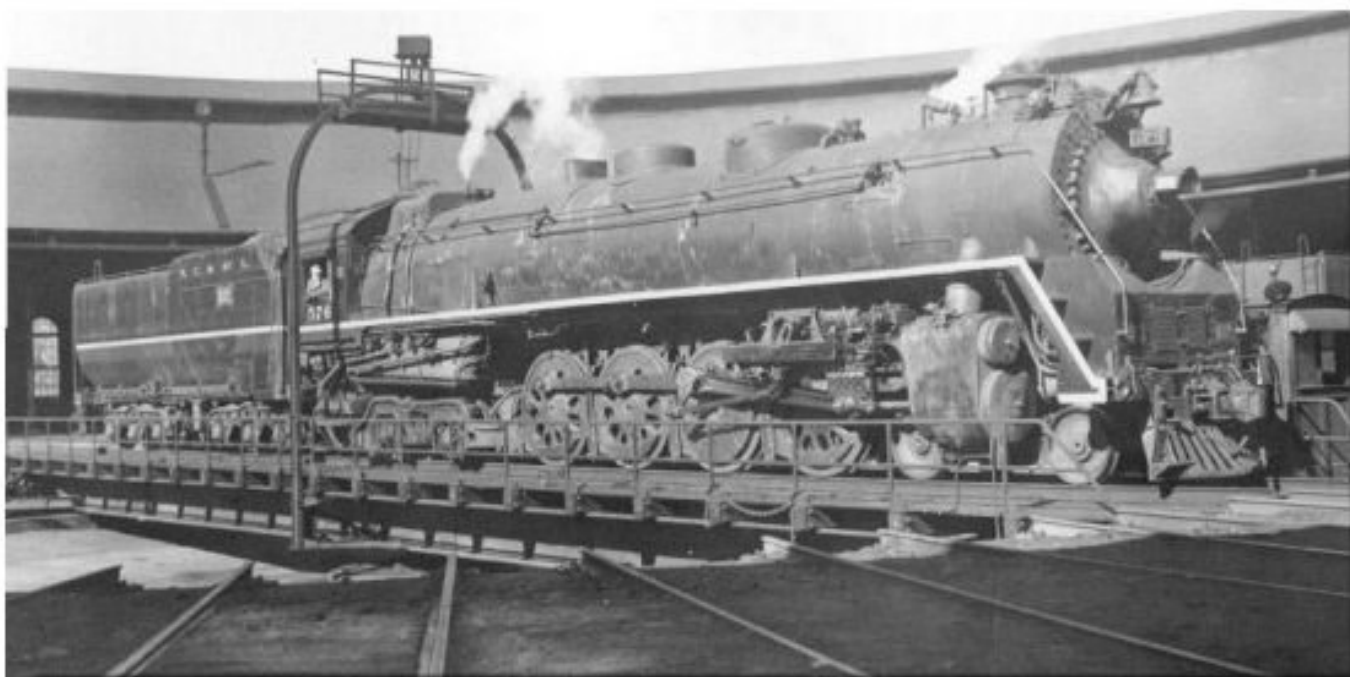
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

NASHVILLE STEAM PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

Brief History Of # 576

Engine # 576 was built by the American Locomotive Company in August 1942, a class J-3, builder #69786. Designed by C.M. Darden, the NC's Chief Mechanical Officer, The J3's were a technological marvel of their day. The one piece cast frame and sealed roller bearings on the engine were revolutionary in reducing maintenance costs for the road. And the lateral motion devices on the lead driver set allowed a much larger, and more powerful, engine to be used on the NC's tight curves.



#576 on the turn table, Nashville shops of the NC&StL 1949. Dain Schult Collection.

The Whyte system classification for steam engines calls #576 a 4-8-4. Four wheels on the leading trucks, eight drivers, and four wheels on the trailing truck. Most railroads called their 4-8-4s "Northerns" after the Northern Pacific Railroad, who first adopted the design. However, the NC&StL went to and from Dixieland, so no "Northerns" would be welcome on the line. Instead, the 4-8-4s were called "Dixies." In practice, the crews called the engines "Yellow Jackets" or "Stripes."

NC&StL PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

A Brief History Of # 576 continued from page 5

The Whyte system classification for steam engines calls #576 a 4-8-4. Four wheels on the leading trucks, eight drivers, and four wheels on the trailing truck. Most railroads called their 4-8-4s "Northern" after the Northern Pacific Railroad, who first adopted the design. However, the NC&StL went to and from Dixieland, so no "Northern" would be welcome on the line. Instead, the 4-8-4s were called "Dixies." In practice, the crews called the engines "Yellow Jackets" or "Stripes."

As delivered, the 576 had a streamlined nose and wide skirts. However, during the Second World War, shop crews cut off the streamlining to make servicing the engine faster and easier

When the engines were streamlined, the crews called them "Yellow Jackets" for the broad yellow stripe on their sides. When the wide stripe was removed after the skirts were gone, they were called "Stripes" for the thin line of paint that replaced the wide stripe.

After the traffic surge died down from the Second World War, and traffic died down, the J3's were bumped from prime service spots to lesser passenger and freight trains. Eventually, by September 2 1952, all of the J3's were withdrawn from service. All of them except #576 were scrapped. The only surviving example of mainline NC&StL steam, J3-57 class locomotive #576 has been on static display in Centennial Park.



#576 today in Centennial Park, Nashville.

Coordinators' Meeting

August 15, 2019

The G.L. Carter Railroad Museum's Coordinators' Meeting was called to order by Fred Alsop at 6:05 p.m. in room 235 of the ETSU Campus Center Building. The reports of the Coordinators present follow:

Geoff Stunkard-Heritage Day: The manuscript and illustrations for the 2019 *HOn3 Annual* have been submitted to White River Productions. Text for approximately 8-10 pages. No response as yet from the publisher. Photo of Logan Heaton's Daylight Special train will be used for the 2020 Big Train Show banner and flyers. Heritage Day August 31 will feature western railroads.

Gary Gilliam-Locomotive Repair: The 2-axle N-Scale trolley is up and running. Three N-Scale locomotives have been serviced and lubricated and are running in good order.

Gary Emmert-Librarian: 33 new books at Valley brook to catalog. The museum library is being cleaned. Gary has been helping folks in the ETSU library set up a 150th Johnson City Anniversary display in the Archives of Appalachia. 12 books on engineering have been placed in the library.

Mike Buster-ET&WNC Layout: There is a pressing need for more volunteers to operate the HOn3-Scale layout on Saturdays. Please see Mike if you are interested.

Mike Tarter-N-Scale Layout: the museum layout is a continuous loop run. Plans to re-scenic it after the museum moves to its new location. The scenery, especially the lichens, are getting to show their age and need replacement. Will continue to clean up the layout; especially the track rails. Plans to touch up the rocks and perhaps ballast some of the track.

Fred Alsop-Director: Mike Harden and his father visited the museum recently. Mike lives in Atlanta and has an extensive personal collection of ET&WNC RR artifacts. He is considering placing this collection at Milligan College where his grandfather worked, but may consider the Carter RR Museum for some items. Fred had a one-on-one conversation with ETSU President Noland with the major topic being the forthcoming move of the Carter RR Museum. The old post office building on Ashe Street is still the primary building being considered. We need to know what time line we would have for securing the building for the museum and the president will check with Washington County mayor Joe Grandy as the county now controls the structure.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Next Coordinator's meeting will be on September 12, 2019.

Minutes taken and prepared by Fred Alsop

MEMRR Meeting Minutes August 2019

Meeting called to order on August 20, 2019 at 635p.m. in Room 223 Brown Hall, ETSU.

Meeting attendees 10 Members and 1 President.

Greg Mundkowsky- Secretary: Absent noting reported.

Cathy Smith-Newsletter Editor : Not Present reported she sent out second edition newsletter

Gary Emmert-Treasurer: Reported information was given to Fred Alsop, President

Ben Merritt-Webmaster: Absent information to date it is up and running

John Carter-Vice President: Present September presentation by Joey? Rail camp will be the topic.

Fred Alsop-President:

Labor Day Weekend Rail excursion was canceled due to lack of registration. Will try again next year.

November 2 Rail Excursion to Bryson City is currently being coordinated details will be released at a later time.

Alsop's meeting with ETSU President Noland On August 8, 2019. Continue discussion on Old Post Office as a new location. Details as soon as something had been determined.

ETSU Classes begin August 26 on campus. New parking pass is available. Parking lot situation is in discussion due to future building project.

Old Business:

Gary Gilliam: Operating sessions schedule change due to holiday schedule. Rescheduled to Sept 9 at 5:30.

Roger Teinert- Big Train Show Committee Chairman: Will be following up with Hands-On and will get them returned to the Museum.

On August 8th, Jonesborough Seniors came for a tour and it went well.

Fred Alsop: August Coordinator meeting will be reported in September Newsletter/ Mike Tarter in the new N-Scale Coordinator. He is currently doing some housekeeping on layout.

Other Old Business: Latest CCR paperwork was archived at Museum of Appalachia

New Business:

Geoff Stunkard: Absent was Noted August 31st will be Western Rails

Fred Alsop: Changing of the Guard with Our Newsletter is off to a good beginning with a new format and new editor.

Gary Emmert: New or Reorder of shirts see Gary. There will be a price increase of \$2.00.

Parking Permits are requested and currently being issued. Detail soon.

Other new business. Sept 22 @4 pm is the organizations picnic. Location: Tom McKee

Club will supply paper and Tom and Kim providing meat. Please go refer to the email for what to bring in addition. Roger nominated Tom and Kim for Honorary Membership. Voting was unanimous.

John Cater Program was u tube video of detailed model RR Layouts.

September meeting set for September 17@ 6:30 pm ETSU Brown Hall room 223

Coordinators meeting on September 12 @6:00 campus center BLD building 225.

Club News

Stoddard's LTD Company Clinchfield Donation

contributed by Ben Merritt

We had a great donation added to the museum with a piece three dimensional artwork of the front of Clinchfield F7 #800 from Stoddard's LTD Company featuring working headlights and classification lights which can be seen now near the entrance of the main hall over the baggage cart making another great addition to the museum's collection. If interested in the other amazing artwork made by Stoddard's such as other locomotives and railroad logos feel free to see more at <http://www.stoddartsltd.com> or check out their Facebook page for more that may not be seen currently on their website. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon.

Welcome to MEMRR New Members for the month of August!!!

- 1.) Danielle Doughty
- 2.) Charles Sims
- 3.) Mike Tarter
- 4.) Bob Dunn
- 5.) Michael Ballard
- 6.) Michael Warren
- 7.) Larry Mallett
- 8.) Joseph Meyers





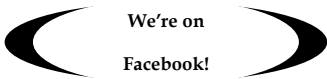
**Mountain Empire Model
Railroaders Club**

Location:



George L. Carter Railroad Museum
East Tennessee State University
Brown Hall, Rm 223
Johnson City, TN

<http://www.etsu.edu/railroad>



Business Meetings

Held monthly on the
3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm.
*

Weekly Work Nights

Thursdays from 4pm until ?

Club Officers

- **Club President & Director of George L Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU:** Fred Alsop
alsopf@mail.etsu.edu
- **Vice President:** John Carter
carterjohn92@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Gary Emmert
jbox1015@comcast.net
- **Secretary:** Greg Mundkowsky
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- **Webmasters:**
Logan Heaton
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Cathy Smith
cathysmithmemrr@yahoo.com

George L Carter Railroad Museum and MEMMR

The many colorful multiple railroads of the Midwest are featured at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum, located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University. The region encompassing Chicago, Detroit, Louisville, Milwaukee and St. Louis was the true epicenter of American commerce between east and west during the 20th century. Literally dozens of railroads large and small provided service throughout Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and the upper midwestern states, all service as links to the chain.

Between passenger and freight operations, the railroad were crucially important in the era before widespread air travel and interstate highways. This was especially true during the 1st & 2nd World Wars. Whether it was perishables like produce and livestock or raw commodities such as coal and ore, everything from store goods to Studebakers came from this region. Since so many models of these trains remain popular, icons of streamlining and strength, it is planned to have excellent Midwestern representations in operation by volunteers on the museum's 24x44 foot HO scale layout. The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes model railroad layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for display, including the newest addition dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered 'Tweetsie' line, the East

In addition to the displays, there is also a growing research library, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum's programs. Info can be found online at 'http://etsu.edu/railroad/' or 'http://johnsonspot.com/' or 'http://www.stateoffranklin.net/johnsons/glcarter/cartermuseum.htm'

Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) club coordinate the exhibits. Visit 'www.memrr.org/' to learn more about MEMRR, or visit 'http://glcarternrhs.com/' to learn more about Carter Chapter, which helps demonstrate and maintain the model layouts, museum exhibits and other projects.

Membership opportunities are available to adults, and include special benefits and model railroading enjoyment.

The museum can be identified by a flashing railroad crossing signal at the back entrance to the Campus Center Building. Visitors should enter ETSU's campus from State of Franklin Road (at green light) onto Jack Vest Drive and continue east to North Dossett Drive (then left) to John Roberts Bell Drive at end, then right then left on Ross Drive(176) to end, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

- *For more information about Heritage Day, contact Fred Alsop at 423-439-6858 or asopf@mail.etsu.edu.*
- *For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346*

