

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

Volume 26 – Issue 10 October 2019

CLUB NEWS

contributed by Ben Merritt

Tweetsie Layout Update: new additions to the ET&WNC rolling stock roster was on display the Sept 21st weekend as six of our ET&WNC hoppers/ore cars were being taken around the layout on test runs to see of any issues before making the final adjustments. The tests were successful so now for the final pieces to come together such as the grab irons and brake poles along with a bit more weathering and even removable loads. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon.



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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab



Finally, the long hot summer seems to be ended with some much-needed rain and temperatures well below the 90s we have experienced for weeks. However, no matter the temperature and the weather our mostly indoor hobby with trains seems to keep moving down the tracks. Lots of work continues on scenery, track laying, testing new locomotives, improving wiring, hosting visitors, welcoming new members and planning for the future. Model railroading at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum is as active as ever. **All aboard!!!**

Despite the record-setting heat wave in the southeast, and including our region, we continued to have lots of guests on Saturdays visiting the museum and its operating layout with more than 160 on one Saturday and more than 130 on another. Football games have not negatively impacted our operations and university parking near the museum and security has been cooperative in letting our members and our visitors get onto campus and to the museum without any hitches. Our Heritage Days, planned by our coordinator, *Geoff Stunkard*, have been handily executed by our members and well attended by the public.

Sick Bay: Our best wishes go out to Dan McLeod who is recovering from heart surgery and to and of our members who have family members who are working through various debilitating medical problems. It's always good to have you back in our company and we miss you when you are away.

Big Train Show 2020: We have new Big Train Show flyers printed featuring a locomotive and consist owned and operated by member *Logan Heaton* with the image also being used on the new roll-up banners on display in the museum and being taken to regional train show for distribution by Big Train Show coordinator, *Roger Teinert*, and many of our members. We are already getting good responses from potential vendors for the 2020 Big Train Show scheduled for June 5-6th. Many of us will continue to visit other train shows, talk to vendors and advertise our event in the 8 months leading up to our own 5th annual show in the ETSU Mini-Dome. If you are planning to attend a train show anywhere in the East please take some of our train show flyers with you to distribute and be sure to talk to vendors letting them know about our June show and ask them to come be a part of it.

2019 HOn3 Annual: This week *Geoff Stunkard* and I got the galley proofs for our illustrated article on our ET&WNC HOn3 layout from *George Riley*, Associate Editor, of the *HOn3 Annual, 2019 Edition*, published by White River Productions. The proofs lay out a nicely illustrated 9-page article on our layout titled, "Tweetsie Between Town" and focuses on the section of the layout just east of Blevins and Hopson where the Lacey store/post office and the depot are located and stretching to the section just west of the town of Roan Mountain. The article discusses what you might do to make a layout more interesting and, in our case, more historically accurate, between the more major landmarks that are often enhanced on model railroads. Thus, we see the rockwork and scenery along Big Nance and Little Nance cuts, the little sidings that were commercially important, the remnants of a logging operation that reminds us of the importance of timber as a commodity transported by the narrow-gauge railroad, and the three homes and small country Methodist Church that comprised the small community along the tracks that was alternately called Crabtree or Crab Orchard.

(continued on age 3)

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

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There is excitement in carefully reading the galley proofs looking for errors and tweaking the text in a few places. The excitement comes from seeing, before the magazine goes on sale to model railroaders around the world, the words and photos that stem from the layout we have been creating for more than 7 years to pay homage to that long-gone little 3-foot narrow gauge railroad that began in Johnson City and penetrated the mountains into North Carolina bringing much of the outside world to the isolated people living in these forested hills and growing towns, industries and livelihoods along its route. There is great pride in knowing we have created, and continue to create, a miniature version of a little railroad that meant so much to the region we now call home, that none of us got to see in operation, and that a well-respected national/international magazine will publish a part of for the 6th consecutive year. My thanks to all who have worked on the layout, operated it for the public, told its story intertwined with that of the prototype, taken and posted photos and videos on social media, created the scenery and the structures, and talked and written about it. You have all helped to bring the memories of the "Railroad with a heart" back to 3-dimensional life to the sounds of little locomotives pulling their short consists through stream-cut mountains covered by thousands of trees. You have helped to bring Tweetsie back to the world of railroaders in a way that is a tribute to your skills, your energy, your imagination and your hobby. Thank you.

The 2019 issue should be printed and on sale soon and, once more, the museum will order 50 copies with discounts to our members. Be sure to get your copy to go with the others you already have in your personal collection. Be sure to show you family and your friends the kind of work we are doing in our little railroad museum.

November Rail Excursion: The rail excursion on the Smoky Mountain Railroad, Bryson City, NC, co-hosted by the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum was limited to 71 seats by the railroad company as they were selling tickets fast and would not hold more seats for us past October 2nd (a full month prior to our scheduled excursion). All of our allotted seats are taken and we thank any of you who are participating with us and supporting these educational public outreach events. Your participation is always sought and welcomed and we want you to join us on as many of these rail adventures as you can. Riding on the limited number of prototype trains that are available to us in a day's drive is always fun and we have a great time with the folks who join us, some for their first train ride ever. These events are also a terrific way to promote the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS, our railroad museum and we have recruited members from people we first met on these excursions. We will be planning 3 for next year in January when we establish our annual calendar of events. When we have the dates and locations set, please mark one or more on your calendar as a "must do" occasion and plan to come along with us.

2020 Museum Calendar: We really enjoyed publishing our very own calendar for the first time in 2019 with all the MEMRR, Carter Chapter NRHS and Carter RR Museum events on it as a great reminder of many of the things we plan to do for the year. We sold many of them and provided many to vendors and potential vendors for our annual Big Train Show. They were very well received and were great promotional pieces for our organizations, as well as just being useful. *Geoff Stunkard* has been collecting photographs from our layouts, in addition of prototype photos, to represent the hobby of model railroading, the real deal railroads, and our clubs and museum for the 2020 calendar. He has put the calendar together and in the first week of October we delivered it all to the ETSU University Relations office and on to the university print shop. We should have new calendars delivered for sale at the museum (discounted once more to members) by the end of this month. Be sure to get your copies and remember they make great gifts for friends, including stocking stuffers for the coming holidays. They provide another avenue of publicity for the museum and for our clubs.

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

Operating Sessions: We are still holding operating sessions on the MEMRR HO-scale layout the first Monday of each month and we can't be successful without 6-8 members being present to build and run the trains. Action begins around 5:30 p.m. and generally lasts a couple of hours. The layout has been much improved by the club over the past year to make operations more efficient and more prototypical with additional turnouts and crossovers. We have a big yard for building trains and switching cars. No experience is necessary; just an interest to participate and have fun. All locomotives and cars are furnished by the club for operations and we have a limited number of DCC throttles available for your use (bring your own DCC throttle if you have one or download the "throttle" app on your smart phone and use it to operate your assigned locomotive(s). This is the one scheduled time during the month when you can work with other club members to operate trains with time schedules and particular jobs to do while on the clock. Come join the fun with other members at the **next Operations Session on Monday, November 4th**. I hope to see you there.

Another month has gone by since you received your last club newsletter. Lots of things are happening at the museum and with our supporting clubs. Come be an active part of it and join in the fun and in the work of creating better and better layouts for our use and the public's pleasure. 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

Notice!!

New officers will be elected in November

- A nominating committee was formed at the meeting on Tuesday, October 15th.
- Nominations for Member of the Year and Officer of the Year will be solicited from the general membership.

Details to follow in your email inbox!!!

Lose Track of Time!

contributed by Bill Smith

Norfolk and Southern Maintenance of Way Track Vehicles.

Photos taken at the Jonesborough, TN siding.



Lose Track of Time!

contributed by Paul Haynes

Norfolk Southern heritage locomotive Savannah & Atlanta rolled through Johnson City late in the morning of October 11th with a mixed consist, with two NS thoroughbreds trailing and two DPU's midtrain.



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Lose Track of Time!

contributed by Paul Haynes

4014 in North Platte, NE., on August sixth for "open house". Had a great day taking lots of photos of the Union Pacific 4014, nicknamed the "Big Boy", which is currently the largest operating steam locomotive in the world.



CLUB NEWS

contributed by Bill Smith

Another great fall picnic was hosted by Tom and Kim McKee, where both they and Bill and Myra Hensley were awarded lifetime Emeritus Status for their dedicated contributions to MEMRR and the George L Carter Railroad Museum!



Tom & Kim McKee receiving MEMRR Club Emeritus Status Award



Bill & Myra Hensley receiving MEMRR Club Emeritus Status Award

MEMRR Meeting Minutes September 2019

Call to Order and Recognition of Visitors and new Members

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Alsop. There were 15 members present, 1 visitor, and 0 new members.

Officers Reports:

Secretary's Report:

The secretary Gregg Mundkowsky was not present. John Carter took notes. See August **Signal Bridge** for secretary's report.

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Newsletter editor Cathy Smith reported that the September newsletter was complete and sent to the club officers, and Web Master Ben Merritt transmitted to members. Cathy requested that members submit articles and pictures for future newsletters.

Treasures Report:

An oral report on the status of accounts was provided by Gary Emmert indicating that all bills have been paid and the club has maintained a positive balance. A printed copy of the report is on file with the President.

Web-Master Report:

Web Master Ben Merritt was not present. It was noted that Ben has sent out Fall Picnic e-mail with automated RSVP link. Ben has all current club updates and messages to members e-mails.

Vice President's Report:

John Carter reported the program for tonight's meeting was Joey Klugewicz's 2019 Rail Camp Adventure presentation.

President's Report:

Fred Alsop reported that the Club is planning a November 2, **FALL EXCURSION** to the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad through the beautiful Nantahala Gorge in Western North Carolina. The excursion will start that the ETSU and travel by bus to Bryson City, NC. See MEMRR Web site for details and ticket order forms. Fred next reported on the gift Sandhi Kozsuch presented to the GL Carter Museum. Sandhi gave a 3d wall art of the Clinchfield 800 F7 unit with operating head lights. The wall art is hanging above the Southern baggage cart. Fred next reported on the meeting he had with ETSU President Noland plus ETSU's V. P. for advancement and the future and commitment to the GLC museum. Fred noted that it's ETSU football season so let parking attendants know you are going to the GLC museum on Saturday home games. Fred will be out of town attending a family reunion in Kentucky.

Old Business:

Operating Sessions: Geoff Stunkard reported that the last operating session was modified a little to improve operations. Geoff plans to develop several operating scenarios for both freight and passenger train operations to be used during future operation sessions.

Train Show Report:

Roger Teinert reported that meeting was held September 16, the new Big Train Show fliers are made up. The 2020 Train Show will be held on the 1st Friday / Saturday of June. (June 5th and 6th) Also, tables ordered after May 15 will be \$ 40 a table. New Big Train Show posters are being made. Roger stated that members will be attending 2 train shows in October and the club will have a table at the Ashville show.

Annual RR Museum Picnic:

It is that time of year again as we prepare for our annual fall picnic. This year's picnic will be held at the McKee's home (159 Will Lane Rd, Johnson City, TN 37650) on Sept. 22nd at 4:00. This year, the museum will be furnishing the drinks, plates, utensils, and ice; and the McKee's will furnish the meat. Ben Merritt sent an e-mail out with a RSVP link for attendance and covered dish. Roger Teinert, Annual Picnic chairman, reported that at the picnic the MEMRR Club will present Emeritus status to Tom and Kim McKee. A motion was made to grant Emeritus status to Bill and Myra Hensley. Motion was seconded and passed by show of hands.

The Septembers Coordinators' meeting will be reported in the October newsletter.

Fred thanked the members that opened and helped at the museum on Monday for the Pat Bankis family who donated the N Scale layout. The family came to the museum to view the layout that Howard built and donated.

New Business:

Railroad Heritage Day September 28 "Appalachian Mt. Railroading-Pre-1975 Before Mergers"

Fred reported that Whiter River Productions working on HOn3 Annual with 8 to 10 pages on ET&WNC article. The club has extra 2017 HOn3 Annuals that will be offered at reduced cost to clear them out.

Johnny Graybeal will have a book signing at the Carter RR Museum on October 26.

Jim Paris brought in 2 oil paintings and on original pencil drawing that the oil painting was painted from. Motion made to have the drawing matted and framed to protect the art.

Gary Gillian made a request that 2 new large Digitrax throttles to replace the 2 worn out ones. Motion was made and seconded and passed with a show of hands. Fred noted that at next years calendar deadline is coming up, Geoff Stunkard will use the same format for next years heritage days.

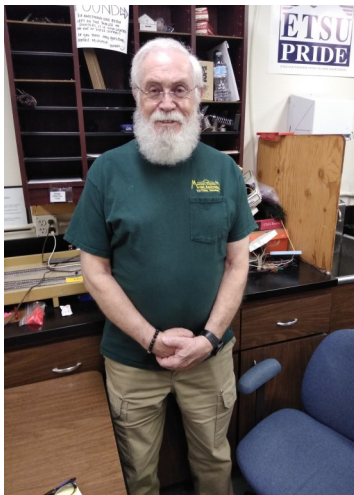
Joey Klugewicz gave a presentation on his 2019 Rail camp Adventure.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Club News

Contributed by Robert Sullivan

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



Bob Dunn is a former member of the club and has decided to come back. Bob Dunn enjoys H.O. gauge trains. Circus trains are his favorite. He lives in Jonesborough, TN. Bob has a history based knowledge of the

Durham and Southern railway (now defunct). His passion for model railroads is stronger than ever. He also enjoys traveling on Amtrak.



Mike Tarter enjoys N scale trains. He recently moved from Florida to Jonesborough TN. His wife's family worked for the B and O railroad. Bob has a modular test layout at his house. His interest

in trains began at age 8, with a Lionel set under the Christmas tree. DCC has been another great interest for him. Cars, especially sports cars, are another great hobby

Michael Ballard is a Kingsport TN native currently attending ETSU. Michael is interested in circus trains along with football and other sports, and knows people from Ringling Brothers circus. Michael started with a Tyco train set, many years ago.

The ETSU cafeteria has reopened and it's all brand new, including the plates and environment. The quality has also improved. If you want to avoid the crowds of students, go on Saturday morning, before the train museum opens up. Have an omelets and coffee, maybe even some fresh fruit. For under \$6.00 (breakfast with honorary staff discount), it's worth it !



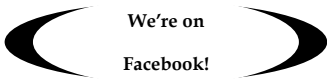
**Mountain Empire Model
Railroaders Club**

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
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- **Newsletter Editor:**
Cathy Smith
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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*

