



**Mountain Empire
Model Railroaders
Club Newsletter**

**THE SIGNAL
BRIDGE**

Volume 26 – Issue 12 December 2019

CLUB NEWS

contributed by Ben Merritt

Tweetsie Layout Update: while Dr. Fred Alsop continues working on the Johnson City station for the ET&WNC we have two new unique additions to the ET&WNC rolling stock roster with ET&WNC excursion passenger cars #11 and #12 are out on the layout and after a couple test laps around the layout and the various sidings the new additions were a great success. Like the ore cars they do need some slight touch ups but other than that these will be a regular sight on the main line. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!

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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab



For the very first time with the retirement of our Coal Road editor, **Bill Beagen**, from his editorship after 5+ years of great service, we are trying something new; a combined newsletter for the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS. **Bill** and **Cathy Smith** will work together to try to give each organization particular parts of the newsletter

while melting the entire edition into one big monthly publication to serve all of us. Let us know what you think after you have seen a copy or two.

We have had snow on the ground covering all the leaves that have fallen and the chill of early winter is in the air. We have all been very, very good so Santa should be leaving lots of trains and railroad things that we have wished for under the decorated tree. The days are much shorter giving some more time to read that next railroad book, build that model kit, or come to the Carter Railroad Museum and run a train or two. ETSU's last exams were given on Thursday, December 12th and the university graduation exercises are on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Squeezed in between these two days will be our annual Museum Christmas Party at the Jonesborough Presbyterian Church. Lots of food and drink, great socializing as we get together to celebrate and the anticipation of the appearance of Dirty Santa and his elf helper. Toys and goodies for everyone. What a wonderful time it will be! For the first time ever I will have to miss out on this most happy of events as I am scheduled for carpal tunnel surgery on the morning of the 13th. This will be the last typing on the computer keyboard for me for several weeks as the right hand that has been partially numb since June will have to heal enough for me to have the manual dexterity needed to work the keys that are a big reason I have the physical problem in my hand to begin with. I will miss the modeling, but plan to catch up on a lot of the reading I have not had time to do and to get back to the museum and my friends there as soon as possible. I know, in my absence, all of you will continue to be active and supportive at the Carter Railroad Museum and that the venue is in very good hands providing our visitors the best model railroad experiences. Thank you all for what you do for your hobby and for our organizations.

Sick Bay: **Charlotte Pahr** is recovering from surgery that occurred unexpectedly just before Thanksgiving while visiting her daughter and family in Virginia. Welcome home Charlotte and Jim. **Gary Gilliam** had to undergo appendectomy surgery to take care of that 'soreness in his side'. We wish you both a speedy and complete recovery and look forward to your company at the museum very soon.

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

Continued from page 2

Last month we congratulated all of our officers on their election and/or re-election and extended our appreciation to them for their willingness to serve our organizations for one more year. We often forget the extra work and responsibilities they assume to keep our clubs running as smoothly as they do and from time-to-time a pat on the back, or a "thank you for all you do" will serve nicely to let them know you are happy they are committed to make the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS, and the Carter Railroad Museum the best it can be for our members and our visitors.

This month I am pleased to announce your selections for Member of the Year to be **Geoff Stunkard** and our Officer of the Year is **Roger Teinert**. Congratulations to both of you gentlemen.

Member of the Year 2019. Geoff's supporters gave many comments on the excellent photography and writing skills he has. The cited his work on the 2019 and 2020 museum calendars, the monthly press releases for our Heritage Day Events that he coordinates and, especially, the wonderful articles he has written about our ET&WNC RR HOn3 layout that have been published for 6 consecutive years in the *HOn3 Annual*, a publication with national and international distribution.

Officer of the Year 2019. Voters for Roger cited his ever-happy presence that brings cheer to all in the room, but more than that for his willingness to do all the little things that seem to need to be taken care of that take time, but make things better for everyone. Perhaps his most important contribution has been as the Chairman of the Big Train Show Committee, a body that meets monthly to work out the plans and the details that continue to make this annual event bigger and better every year. He spends countless hours contacting vendors and potential vendors, often visiting them at regional train shows, and all the while promoting our own Big Train Show.

Heritage Day Event for December 28th arranged by **Geoff Stunkard**, our Heritage Day Coordinator, is "Fallen Flags" providing all of us the opportunity to get out our favorite locomotives and consists of railroads no longer around in the 2nd decade of the 21st century; but that live on in our hearts and memories. So, bring out the local "ghosts"; the L&N, Clinchfield, Southern, Interstate, NC&StL, B&O, and all the others you will bring to run one more Saturday in all their glory. Our narrow gauge ET&WNC railroad will be on display once more as it has been every Saturday for more than 7 years now.

Library: Our library holdings continue to grow and our Librarian, **Gary Emmert**, with help from **Bob Jones, Bill Smith** and others, are busy indexing books and DVDs to make the holdings available to our members. Come in and brose the more than 1,200 hardbacks, magazines and 100s of DVDs and read them in the comfort of the library or check out a favorite and take it home with you for a while. We have one of the finest railroad library collections in the region, and perhaps in the state, and there are great reference materials there that will support some of your modeling ideas.

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab

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December Operations Session: Save the date, January 6, 2020. That will be our next operations session beginning around 5 PM. Students won't be back on campus for several weeks and parking should be easy. Those of us who have participated in the November and December sessions have been delighted with the new operating schedules that *Geoff Stunkard* has created for us. They are much improved from the original ones that our, now Florida member, *Ted Bleck-Doran*, had created for us. Ted's work gave us lots of hours of fun operating our trains like prototype railroads operate, and they have been the most important basis for making some changes that could not have happened without Ted's pioneering efforts. We did not have to reinvent the wheel, only to strive to make it better; more fun and more challenging. That is what this second installment is providing. We need 10-12 members on an operations night (no prior experience necessary) to move all the trains that have to be moved with strict time schedules on shared single track mains and with specific consists to be built in the yard and dropped at particular spots on the layout and while often picking up other cars that had been spotted at businesses along the tracks. Don't miss the next session; we need your help at the throttle of a locomotive. Come join the fun.

Our January 2020 meetings will feature calendar planning for the events for the coming year. Plan to attend your meeting in 223 Brown Hall, ETSU, and bring some ideas with you for social events, rail excursions, meeting programs and other club/chapter-oriented things for us to consider.

Have a joyous Holiday Season, a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!! 2020 is filled with great potential for the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders, the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. Pay your dues, renew your membership and be an active part of the hobby of model railroading and the lure of the big prototype trains that still run in Johnson City as they have for 150 years. 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

Notice:

**If a Member does not want His/Her name, phone # and e-mail listed,
please contact Fred so it can be removed.**

Club News

Minutes of MEMRR Monthly Meeting - 11/19/19

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by President Fred Alsop.

After welcoming remarks, Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: John Carter reported for Gregg Mundkowsky because John took notes prior meeting: John reports that he misplaced the Oct. minutes but will rewrite from memory when he gets time.

Newsletter editor: Cathy Smith is not in attendance, Bill Smith reports the Nov. Signal Bridge is being worked on and articles and photos from members are always welcomed.

Treasurers' report: Gary Emmert reports we have money. He notifies all present that dues for next year (\$30) are now payable, and must be paid before Jan. 31st, 2020.

Webmaster report: Ben Merritt reports the website is up to date. He mentions that he does the online newsletter circulation and if anyone knows of members not receiving by email, please let him know. He informs us the Annual Picnic (Christmas Party) invites have been sent out also. Fred reminds us that this will be held on Dec. 13th at the Jonesborough Presbyterian Church at 6 PM. He invites anyone who would be willing to help with setup and decoration to arrive as early as 4 PM. He will put info regarding a optional gift exchange (Dirty Santa??) in his President's Letter.

V.P. report: John Carter says the 2020 schedule is pretty much complete except for possible group excursions. The schedule as known is noted in the 2020 calendars (yay!). John suggested we have 'hands-on' training sessions/ programs on Thursday evenings, and invited suggested topics.

Presidents report: Fred describes that 71 people went on the Bryson City train excursion in November. The number was a sell-out, limited by available seating on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad tour in the Nantahala Gorge in NC. Fred said because of the attendance there was a financial surplus, a portion of which will be donated to the museum. Fred reports that he has had several meeting with people and groups interested in having the Ashe Street building retained and renovated. A coalition has been established seeking historic status for the structure, and a \$300K grant to perform roof repairs as a start. Fred reminded us there are 2020 calendars available.

Old Business: Fred reminded us the next operating session at 5 PM on December 2nd. Geoff Stunkard has drafted up a new timetable/ operating plan. Since staging is need for the session, using Club equipment, all private equipment must be cleared from the staging, sidings and freight yards. Discussion ensued - John Carter suggested we could start pre-staging for operations the Saturday before. Fred reminded all that personal cars should be marked with a unique paint color dot, according to a list kept by John Hoit.

Club News

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Train show committee; Roger Teinert is sending out calendars and flyers with the display invite, to prospective vendors and media.

Old Business, Continued:

Coordinators meetings: minutes of the Oct. and Nov.7th meetings will be in the newsletter.

Gary Gilliam adds to old business mentioning that throttles are still on backorder.

New Business: Fred reminds us that Heritage Day is on Nov. 30th and that public attendance is usually heavy. This is also the Clinchfield display day; let's be sure to run Clinchfield equipment.

Considerable discussion of safety/ security/ control of underage visitors. Amy Merritt reminds us the 'little engineers room' is not a daycare center, that parents need to supervise their offspring.

We get about 2,000+ kids per year as visitors. Roger, Amy and Robert discussed control and head counts.

Election of 2020 Officers: Fred invited any nominations from the floor - there were none. Robert Sullivan (membership chairperson) read the slate of nominees. Since there were no contested positions, after discussion, Bill Smith made a motion to accept the slate as proposed, this was seconded by Paul Haynes. Fred called for a vote - the motion was passed unanimously by acclamation, the officers are elected. 2020 Officers are: President Fred Alsop; Vice-President John Carter; Treasurer Gary Emmert; Secretary Mike Tarter, Editor Cathy Smith, Webmaster Bill Smith, Associate Webmaster Ben Merritt.

Fred accepted nominations from the floor (on paper) for Officer and Member of the Year nominations. These will be added to those received by Robert Sullivan, tallied, and the winners will be revealed at the Annual Picnic / Christmas Party.

John Carter brought up a previous issue, that of 'fallen flag' members. There was considerable discussion, suggestions of labeling a commemorative boxcar or passenger car, or of a plaque. Much thoughtful discussion of the possible nomenclature to be on a plaque. Fred requests we all give this some thought to share next meeting.

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Club News

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Bill Smith brings up an issue with our bylaws and definition of a youth member. That a parent has to be present with the youth. Several present mentions that some youth are mature enough to be granted full membership privileges. There is wide discussion of possible bylaws verbiage change, of having a 'mentor' help develop and evaluate youthful members. This discussion to be continued.

Someone asked if copies of the Club membership list with contact information is made available. Fred reassures us that the access to this info is controlled, restricted to circulation as needed. Gary Emmert reminds us that any change in contact info should be directed to him, and he will disseminate as appropriate. Fred says he will mention this topic in his Presidents column.

Fred calls for volunteers for the Saturday Open House; Ben Merritt volunteers as Train Dispatcher.

Gary Emmert brings up that the Club has acquired 25 wood craftsman HOn3 "Tweetsie" kits to be assembled. These are available for members to take home for assembly.

Fred mentions that there are conversion kits available to make the C19 locos ore closely resemble the Tweetsie locos #s 4m, 5, and 6..

New Business, continued:

John Carter says that since the meeting has run long, there will be no 'program', and suggests we peruse the YouTube video "Helpful hints for operating a model railroad"

Bill Hensley took the floor to express his deepest appreciation for having been given Emeritus Membership by the Club. There was applause.

At 8:26 pm the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, scribe and Secretary Elect

Lose Track of Time!

contributed by Geoff Stunkard

TRUE VINTAGE: Hot Out of Englewood, 1944-46

The four shots here are from a negative collection recently purchased by Geoff Stunkard showing the work of the late Jack Ryan. These were shot in what was an oft-restricted wartime era and are truly rare images for this location as a result. Englewood was on the southwest side of Chicago and quite unfortunately is now considered one of the most dangerous location. Back then, the NY-to-Chicago mainlines of the New York Central and the Pennsylvania Railroad joined from their respective depots downtown to make a side-by-side into northern Indiana. Meanwhile, the Rock Island came in from the south, while passenger trains of the Nickel Plate, Monon, Wabash, Erie, C&O and other lines also made stops or passed through using their own tracks or those of the Chicago & Western Indiana. Of over 100 negatives in the collection, these images of fabulous name trains are special. Prints are 8.00 each.



The legendary Broadway Limited is behind two K4-class Pacifics getting underway in the late afternoon for New York City. Note the 20th Century Limited has already begun its departure in the background.

The Rock Island's legendary TA-series engine were built by EMD before the war began and are easily identified by the body design and the low-slung trucks. The Rockets operated here on a regular basis, coming in from the south to join the NYC/NKP line into the city and crossing the PRR and C&WI on a viaduct. Gary Emmitt knows this location well.



Lose Track of Time!

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This is the first-ever Niagara, 6000, waiting at the curved part of the Englewood platform to go east. It is a little later than the test era, as the elephant ear-like smoke deflectors are on it, but could well have been among the first revenue trips of the engine. Based on the baggage car, this might be the Fast Mail or it could be the Century with heavy front-end business.

A Nickel Plate Hudson pants in the smoky environs heading north as it makes one last stop before terminating downtown. This is one of the only images existent showing the Buy War Bonds tender which was painted on this single NKP locomotive for several months at the height of WWII.



CLUB NEWS

Contributed by Gary Emmert

**Your Membership to the
Mountain Empire Model Railroaders
Is About to Expire!!**



Don't be the last car on the train...Renew Today!

Make checks payable to:

MEMRR

P.O. Box 70697

East Tennessee State University

Johnson City, TN 37614

\$30.00 Full Membership and \$6 for each additional family member

\$18 Student

\$12 Youth

\$12 Distant Remote

Annual Dues are Required by January 31st 2020

Lose Track of Time!

contributed by Paul Haynes



Recently the Norfolk Southern Virginia heritage loco was in charge of a mixed revenue freight made its way through Johnson City.



Dear Friends,

There are no words that seem adequate enough to say thank you to everyone for your kindness and support during our time of loss. Your kind words and prayers have been a great comfort to us as we try to come to terms with the loss of our daughter Beverly.

Pam and Mike Buster

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an Angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
The Angel said I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love,
But when I walked through Heaven's gates,
I feel so much at home,
For God looked down,
Smiled at me and said "Welcome Home."
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.*

Author: Unknown

contributed by: Dave Doughty



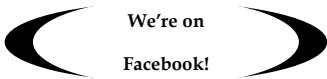
**Mountain Empire Model
Railroaders Club**

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
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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*

