

**Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club &
George L Carter Chapter of NRHS Newsletter**

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

AND

THE COAL ROAD

Volume 28 – Issue 1 January 2021

Cover photograph of Norfolk & Western 611 – by Paul Haynes

Club News

Sandy Laws, ETSU Faculty Member of the Archives of Appalachia, has been working with our very own Gary Emmert for the better part of a year now to capture his 43-years of experiences and stories from the railroad and turn them into a digital project.

This is based on Gary's career with the railroads and how they operate. Countless hours of interviews, transcribing, editing, scanning photographs, editing, and (in case I didn't say it yet) editing has resulted in this project and we wanted to share it with you! Below are two links, the first is the final result of the project/interview and the second is a public announcement about the project made on the ETSU Archives of Appalachia Facebook page.

A Day in the Life: The Railroad

<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/dayinlife/index>

We announced the project January 14th on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/etsuarchivesofapp>

This is such an interesting project and we hope you are able to take the time to listen to the stories shared with us from Gary! We've always been told that we will learn something new every day if we listen, and guarantee you will learn multiple new things every day when you listen to all the experiences Gary has to share.

We hope all of you are well and look forward to seeing you soon!

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The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar



December 2020 ended with a white Christmas for everyone in our part of the world and with the darkness of the positive cases from COVID-19 increasing everywhere. The New Year has brought with it hope that we can begin to get the upper hand on this virus as vaccines are being distributed and shots are getting into peoples' arms. Several of our members and their families have had this virus over the past few months, but all of them have been successful in combatting it and have regained their health. Acting for the safety of our members, I closed

the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum to the public the last week of December, and we are remaining closed through the month of January 2021. However, the museum has remained open to our members and we have continued to work on the layout exhibits and to operate trains over the layouts. MEMRR and Carter Chapter members have been coming in at their convenience to enjoy the museum's facilities and we have continued to have Thursday afternoon/evening worknights. Saturdays have seen many members, especially our younger ones, running their trains on the club and museum layouts. It has been very gratifying to be able to continue to exercise our hobby of model railroading while wearing our masks and practicing social distancing. Our objective is to enjoy our hobby while staying safe and staying well.

Memberships are Expiring: This is a reminder that if you have not already renewed your memberships in the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and/or the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS, time is fast running out. **All dues for 2021 are due by January 31, 2021.** The level of dues in all categories has not changed for several years, and that remains true for 2021. You have a lot of benefits as a member for only a few dollars (often less than you would spend for a good meal at a local restaurant) and you will miss them if you don't rejoin our fine organizations. I know this pandemic has been a hardship for us all, but the museum remains open and the clubs are still functioning, albeit under the health safety restrictions imposed for our mutual wellbeing. Please contact the MEMRR Treasurer, *Gary Emmert*, or the Carter Chapter NRHS Treasurer, *John Dodge*, right away to renew your membership if you have not already done so. We want you to remain a member with us and continue to share your talents and experiences in the hobby of model and/or prototype railroading. **The entrance lockbox code to the museum will be changed on January 31, and only current members will be given the new code allowing entry as we have done each year at the end of our membership renewal period.**

G.L. Carter Railroad Museum Reopening to the Public: East Tennessee State University is beginning its Spring 2021 Semester on Tuesday, January 19th with approximately 80% of its classes to be delivered to students online. **I currently plan to reopen the Carter RR Museum to the public beginning Saturday, February 6.** We will continue to take the temperature of all who enter the museum and to practice university and state guidelines for everyone's safety. That will include wearing a mask, social distancing, and limiting the number of folks in any one room in the museum to approximately 10 at any one time. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to help us operate the layouts and greet our visitors. We welcome two new student workers to the museum, *Grace Chintalekra* and *Gabrielle Thacker*. They will be assisting Station Master *Amy Merritt* in the Little Engineer's Room and with other duties on Saturdays.

(continued on page 3)

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

(continued from page 2)

Member Information: New ETSU Parking Passes are available at the operator's console of the MEMRR HO layout. Please provide the number for the single pass you pick up and your contact information. Remember to park only in legal spaces on campus (yellow spaces or blue spaces, or a handicapped space if you have proper handicapped insignia displayed on your vehicle). You must place the parking pass on the front driver's side of your dashboard when you are parked on campus. You are responsible for any citation you may receive if you are not parked legally; so be aware to park only in designated places and display your parking pass.

Calendars and Magazines: Our new beautiful *All Aboard 2021* calendars remain available. Get yours soon so that your discounted price gets its full benefit of all 12 months of events and reminders. Remember too, that we have a limited supply of the recent *2020 Hon3 Annual* published by White River Productions. This issue bears a color-illustrated 8-page feature of our ET&WNC RR layout. This marks the 7th consecutive year our Tweetsie layout has been featured in this collector's magazine; an outstanding accomplishment and a tribute to the quality of work to be found throughout our railroad museum. Be sure to get your souvenir copy while we still have some in stock. A few editions for the previous year's *Hon3 Annual* remain available at our sales table.

NRHS RailCamp: The National Railway Historical Society has announced they plan to hold their East and West RailCamps this summer after they had to be cancelled in the summer of 2020. The G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS had made arrangements to send Jordon Cathelyn as our student representative to the East RailCamp last June, but it was canceled like so many other events because of covid virus. I have asked Jordon if he would like to be our student ambassador to the camp this year and he has happily accepted our offer. We will submit his name as a candidate to NRHS this month with the hope he will be accepted and get to make it to the event in Delaware this summer. The Chapter pays this roundtrip transportation and the tuition for the week's stay and events that are co-hosted by Amtrac and the NRHS. Congratulations Jordon! You know you will well represent us and we all wish we could join you on this great rail adventure.

ET&WNC RR Historical Society: The ET&WNC RR Historical Society held a telephone conference meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2021 to discuss plans for their 2021 Annual Convention. I am a member of their Board of Directors and was present on the telephone call. After considerable discussion it was decided that holding a large public meeting indoors in June was still too risky because of health concerns, and that they would not convene an annual convention in 2021. Plans are for the current officers to remain in place and to plan their next annual convention for some time in 2022. In recent years, the convention has been held the same weekend as our Annual Big Train Show the first Friday and Saturday of June. Their data shows only a few of their members attended the train show, while most of them did visit the Carter Railroad Museum. This coupling of events has prevented many of our members who were volunteering at the museum and the train show, from attending the ET&WNC convention. It has been decided that the Historical Society convention will not be held the same week as our train show in the future so those conflicts for our members will not exist, therefore, allowing all of us to participate in all of their convention's activities. A win-win for everyone!

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

(continued from page 3)

National Narrow-Gauge Convention: *Johnny Graybeal*, the author of many articles and books on the "Tweetsie RR", is making plans to host the National Narrow- Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC on September 1-4, 2021. I will distribute information about this important gathering of expert modelers from around the country as it becomes available. I can tell you that Johnny plans to recommend that attendees registering on Wednesday, September 1st, travel to Johnson City that day to visit our museum's narrow-gauge layout that many have read about in the *Hon3 Annuals*. Additionally, he plans bus tours for Saturday, September 4th to sites along the old ET&WNC railroad right-of-way that will include a stop at our Carter RR Museum on that day. This is an event that many of you may want to attend in Hickory as it will feature modeling clinics, a modeling contest, speakers and much more.

Spring Meeting of the NRHS: The Carter Chapter NRHS had planned to host the Spring Meeting of the NRHS in Johnson City, TN headquartered at the Carnegie Hotel in late March or early April. After much thought and deliberation, I have decided to withdraw our invitation to do so and have notified National NRHS that we shall be unable to do so because of the uncertainty that the continuing pandemic has created regarding public gatherings indoors. Additionally, many of the vendors that we would have used for field trips cannot guarantee their services at this time and any losses for hosting the event would have had to have been borne by our Chapter. All of this just seemed not to be in our best interest, therefore, I have cancelled our Chapter's potential role in this event.

Zoom Meetings: Because of the current safety precautions, we have not been holding in-person monthly business meetings, but instead, have been conducting them via Zoom. For the present and near-future, we will have to continue to meet this way. When most of us have had the opportunity to get vaccinated for this virus, we will try to get back to more normal proceeding with our meetings and social events. **We hold these meetings a 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month** (combining the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS into a single meeting because of the join membership many of us hold). One of our Web-Masters, *Ben Merritt*, issues invitations electronically that allow us to meet via Zoom by personal computers so equipped, or by smart phone, or I-Pad. Please plan to join us for these business meetings so your voice can be heard (and you mug seen) as we discuss, and vote, on topics important to our organizations. We also have short presentations and programs at many of our meetings.

News Around the Museum:

- **Operating Sessions** have not been held since we shut down the museum in mid-March. If there are enough members who wish to start them again, please talk it over among yourselves and decide when you might like to resume these Monday night, once-a-month operations.
- **Library Work** continues with *Gary Emmert, Wallace Shealy and Mike Tarter* organizing the hundreds of books stored at Valleybrook and beginning to bring them to the museum library for cataloging and integration into the current collection. This will take quite some time and our library probably will not be large enough to hold the entire collection. Duplicates will be offered for sale to our members at a fair discounted price for their personal libraries. The museum purchased a new computer to assist the group in this important effort. If they need help transporting books between the two locations, they may ask you to assist them.

The View from the Engineer's Side of the Cab & The Drawbar

News Around the Museum: (continued from page 4)

- **HO Layout** continues to be worked on in various places. *Frank Fezzie* is still stringing and testing wiring on the layout and assisting members with electrical problems they may be having with their locomotives. Construction continues on the club modules just west of the lift bridge with *Ben Messimer* laying out streets and working on the highway overpass. *Jonathan Gilliam* has spread some brown paint over the white plaster cloth on his dad's module. Plans are still evolving on the mountain and logging scenes that will greet visitors as they step into the gallery and see the module nearest our entrance.
- **N-Scale** under the leadership of *Mike Tarter*, and new member, *Roger Miller*, continues to be improved. Emphasis is being directed in 2021 with the upgrade of a lot of the vegetation-type scenery. The original layout boasts lots of lichen as the base scenery representing shrubbery and bushes. Much of that will be replaced with fresher ground foam to make the hillsides "alive" and fresh again.
- **Tweetsie Layout** has *Mike Buster* and *Greg Mundkowsky* starting some landscaping on the three-tunnel area of the yard on the Rabetoy portion of the layout. *Fred Alsop* is still working on the model of the Coal Chute that was on the east side of Elizabethton. *Frank Fezzie* has replaced a faulty ceiling camera over the layout.
- **Laser Knife** has a newly expanded crew. In addition to *John Edwards*, *Bill Smith*, *Ben Merritt* and *Roger Miller* have formed a working group to take *Fred's* scale drawings of the buildings that comprised the engine and carshop facilities in Johnson City and convert them to software the laser knife can use to cut out the pieces for the structures. With this group working they will soon have a lot of new pieces for me to construct into the models to represent these important railroad structures. I plan to begin drawing the plans for the buildings in the town of Elk Park, NC as the next series of historic structures, in miniature 1:87 scale, for the ET&WNC layout.

Even with all the restrictions to our "normal" lives that COVID-19 has imposed upon us, a lot of activity continues at the Carter RR Museum, in our clubs and our daily lives. We have promise of a better New Year in 2021 and I know you will continue to make our railroad hobby a part of yours. Please come to the museum when you can and continue your membership in our clubs. We need you, your many talents, your experience and your friendship. 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

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

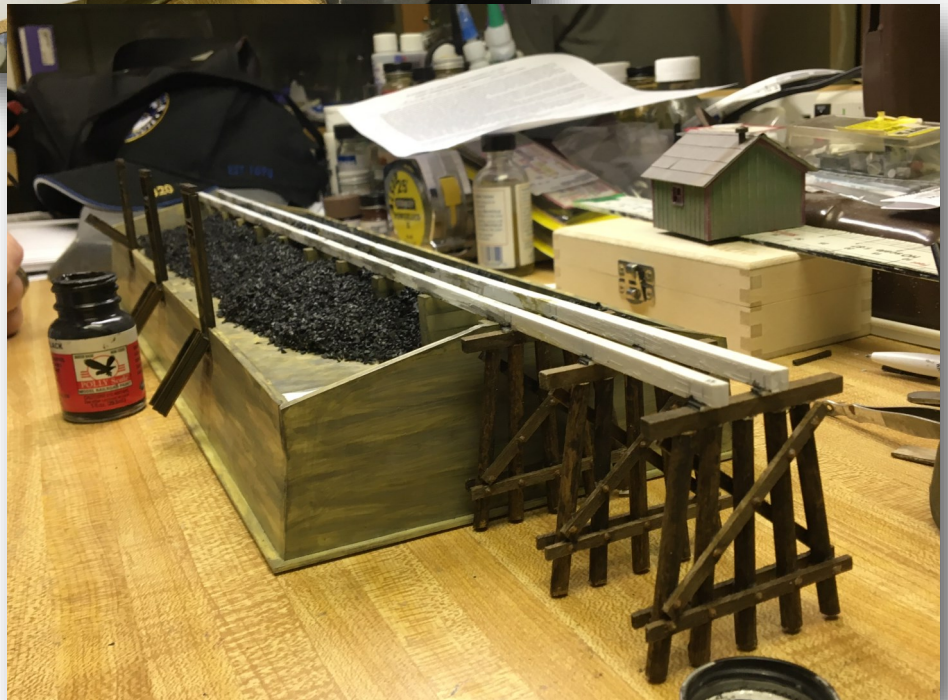
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and Photographs by Logan Heaton

Spectacular progress has been made on the coal chute for Elizabethton done by Dr. Fred Alsop as this piece of the layout nears completion. Start with the overall structure which has now been fully painted including the supports that holds the tracks over the chutes which speaking of even the chutes have been painted up and currently being detailed. The wooden supports at the entrance have also been installed after being detailed. Top that all off with a very large coal load put in and it is all really coming together. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Club News

New Members for 2021!

During 2020 we were fortunate to have people from all over our area join the club. In 2021 we will provide monthly updates and stories on new members as they occur.

No new Members for this month!

We would love to know more about you!

If you would like to share your story with fellow club members in a future newsletter, please send via email to our editor at cathysmithmemrr@yahoo.com.



Club News

MEMRR Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Work continues on the Johnson City side of the layout as the start of an access road takes shape starting at the main road going to the grade crossing at Rogersville it follows trackside to the signal box before crossing the track running along the passenger station sidings before linking back up with the main road. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Mountain Empire Model Railroaders & Geo L Carter Chapter of NRHS

Renew Your Membership by Jan 31st!



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

Annual Dues are Required by January 31st, 2021!

Please contact the MEMRR Treasurer, *Gary Emmert*, or the Carter Chapter NRHS Treasurer, *John Dodge*, right away to renew your membership if you have not already done so. We want you to remain a member with us and continue to share your talents and experiences in the hobby of model and/or prototype railroading!

The entrance lockbox code to the museum will be changed on January 31, and only current members will be given the new code allowing entry as we have done each year at the end of our membership renewal period.

Club News

Never Fallen Flags Heritage Day Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

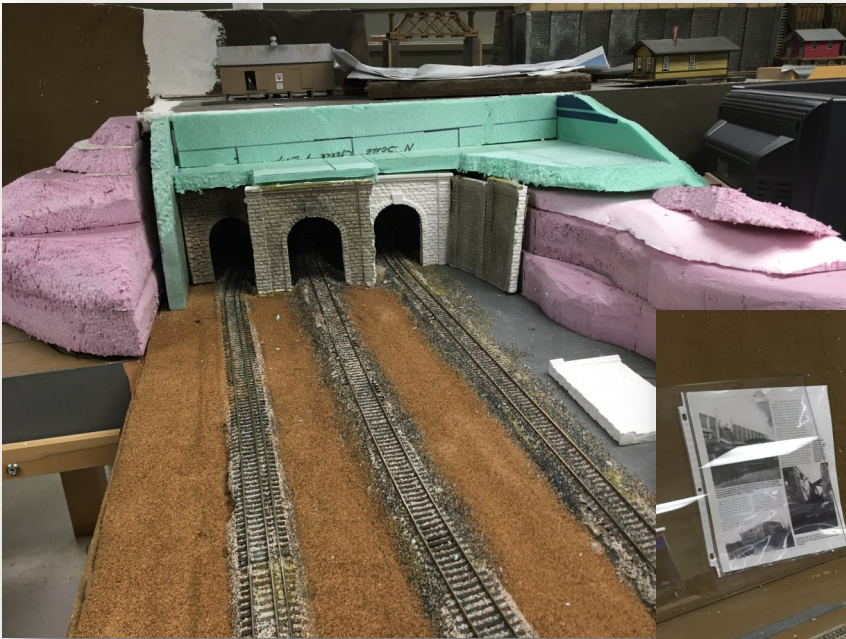
Although not a normal Heritage Day event we still appreciate those who tuned in for the livestream and saw the many trains during the event along with the videos throughout the week. Everyone's support has been amazing during these difficult times. As we begin our new journey into the year 2021 we hope to continue to bring new content here for all to enjoy while continuing to improve the museum for everyone's eventual return. In the mean time we hope everyone will enjoy these pictures of the various scenes that took place during the day.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

This is a bit different from our normal updates where instead of work being done on the narrow gauge portion this takes place on the small standard gauge section of the layout where the entire area is getting a massive area. Although not the exact track layout of Johnson City with the limited space we have currently the plan is to make new buildings and industries to represent the area. Work started with clearing the previous structures while redoing the area around the tunnels working our way out towards the town. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



Lose Track of Time!

Home Layout Update: Article and Photographs by Jim Holt

Well, here we are again, at home with nothing to do, "Oh wait" I can work on my home layout. As I mentioned last time the Big T.O.E. railroad began it's journey in Johnson City, TN. We will pick up again at what was Volunteer Natural Gas Co's "natural gas manufacturing plant" located on Tennessee Street, now University Pkwy. It was between Southern Railroad and what was Clinchfield Railroad, now State of Franklin Rd.



In picture 1, we see that a tanker of liquid propane gas has just been delivered by Southern Railroad No. 722, a 2-8-2 steam locomotive in which L.P. gas will be vaporized, mixed with compressed air and then mixed with natural gas and injected into the piping system to be used by the customers of Johnson City and Elizabethton. Also, the local painting crew is busy painting the storage tanks and where Roger has painted himself into a corner at the top of the tank. Notice that Joel and David are busy fabricating a new gas meter installation for Brown Hall on the campus of East Tenn. State University supervised by Jim.

Picture 2, on the other side of town, we see it's quitting time for East Tennessee Railway where switcher engine No. 214 is heading for the barn while the switchman descends the ladder from the switch house. Paul poses for the picture being taken and to the left at the work shed are Geoff and Mike who are playing a game of checkers before heading home for dinner.



As we move north in picture 3, to Defiance, Ohio we see a refrigerator car of frozen fish has just come in from Alaska via Chicago, IL where John and Gary are unloading the creates into the caboose which has been converted to a storage freezer, Greg the supervisor to the left is wondering where he will put it all before it gets picked up by local restaurants.

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Lose Track of Time!

Home Layout Update: Article and Photographs by Jim Holt (continued from page 12)



Moving East in picture 4 to Rockville, MD at the local lumber supply, a rail car of wood products is being delivered where Ben gives a customer the OK his truck has been loaded and he's ready to leave.

Picture 5, on the way south through the mountains to Charlotte, NC, Fred is inspecting the trestle crossing over Brush Creek and is greeted by a railfan passenger train on New Years Eve pulled by Tn. Ohio Eastern No. 4501, a 2-8-2 steam locomotive.



Stay safe and keep on modeling!

Jim Hoit

The 2020 Hon3 Annual **and** **2021 All Aboard Calendars** **are Complete!**

Our new beautiful *All Aboard 2021* calendars remain available. Get yours soon so that your discounted price gets its full benefit of all 12 months of events and reminders. Remember too, that we have a limited supply of the recent *2020 Hon3 Annual* published by White River Productions. This issue bears a color-illustrated 8-page feature of our ET&WNC RR layout. This marks the 7th consecutive year our Tweetsie layout has been featured in this collector's magazine; an outstanding accomplishment and a tribute to the quality of work to be found throughout our railroad museum. Be sure to get your souvenir copy while we still have some in stock. A few editions for the previous year's *Hon3 Annual* remain available at our sales table.



Meeting Minutes

MEMRR & George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 12/14/20

Note: Meeting was conducted via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by President Fred Alsop.

Members Present (on call): Fred Alsop, Bill Smith, Wallace Shealy, Logan Heaton, Rick Mulholland, Ben Merritt, Bob Jones, John Dodge, Mike Tarter, "Dean", "Bob iPhone".

President Fred Alsop reminded the group that this is a joint meeting of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. After initial remarks, Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: Club Secretary, Mike Tarter, noted that the October meeting minutes were included in the November Signal Bridge and Coal Road, and the November meeting minutes were published in the December newsletter. Fred invited a motion to accept the October and November minutes as published. Bill Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, this motion was seconded by Ben Merritt. The motion was passed unanimously. Any corrections or additions to the meeting notes are always invited - please discuss any during our next business meeting.

Treasurers' report MEMRR: Gary Emmert was not on the Zoom call - as of last report we have money and are solvent. Fred reminded us that annual dues are due - the payment timeframe extends until the end of January.

Treasurer' report NRHS: John Dodge reports for the Carter Chapter of NRHS Treasury; there is no change since last month - this group also has a sound financial position. Dues for this chapter are also payable until January, and are coming in.

Newsletter editor: Cathy Smith was not present on the call. Bill Smith reports the December edition of the Signal Bridge and Coal Road is in circulation. Fred reminds us that articles and photos from members are always welcomed. Also, the newsletter is also for the Carter Chapter of NRHS members.

Webmaster reports: Ben Merritt; he informs us that election ballots (electronic) for both MEMRR and the Carter Chapter have been tabulated and reported to Fred. Ben says email communications are going out just fine, and he continues to update email addresses. Ben is printing address labels to the prospective Big Train Show vendors, to inform them of the 2021 show cancellation. A 2021 calendar will be included with the notice mailing. The ETSU.edu website has been updated.

Bill Smith reports that he is awaiting an updated flyer for 2022 (Roger Teinert has updated this), to send to the vendors. He raised a question of who has control of the Carter Chapter website. He will investigate and keep us informed.

Membership report: Robert Sullivan; he was not logged into the Zoom meeting.

V.P. report: John Carter; was not on the Zoom meeting. He is recovering from surgery on his arm. We wish him a swift and full recovery.

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Meeting Minutes

MEMRR & George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 12/14/20

(continued from page 15)

Presidents report: Fred was pleased to report the museum has been open to the public in a safe way – by taking temperatures as people enter, wearing masks, maintaining distancing and directing visitor traffic. And that we have been successful in meeting via Zoom to carry on Club business. We will continue these for the foreseeable future. The usual Heritage Day, December 26th, we planned to be open to the public, but in view of the increasing Covid-19 infections, the museum is closed to non members.

Fred announced that he is retiring from teaching at ETSU as of the end of December. [Fred- we know yer not gonna just duff off – ya just won't have to prepare for classes, trudge to ETSU, and grade papers, etc. Welcome to retirement – you certainly earned it !!]

Ahem, Fred will not be changing his functions with the Club, Carter museum, or Carter NRHS, and will retain his office. [Thank you, for all you do, sir.] He notes the ETSU President supports keeping the Carter museum open.

This brought up the future relocation of the club and museum. Fred says the new Humanities building (replacing this one) might get funding approval this coming March. Once funded, the soonest demolition and construction would start would be about 18 months away.

However, the renovation of Lamb Hall WILL start this summer, affecting parking and thus likely our public attendance. (And us.)

Fred reported a very nice and thoughtful financial donation from the Joanie Allyson estate, to the Foundation account. We are grateful for this kind remembrance.

November is also our annual election of officers. Fred had asked all existing officers if they would continue in their present roles for continuity in 2021, all agreed and all were re-elected. Fred thanks all officers for standing up through a difficult year.

Also, he announced the nomination and voting for Member of the Year and Officer of the Year awards. After a suitable drum roll; Gary Emmert is Officer of the Year, and a tie for Member of the Year – Ben Merritt and Dave Doughty. Gentlemen- congratulations! Although we won't be able to present these awards at the traditional Christmas party, we will recognize the winners with a plaque in the Carter Museum- these are in process.

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Meeting Minutes

MEMRR & George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 11/17/20

(continued from page 16)

Old Business:

There will be no 'Rail camp' this summer.

John Dodge brings up that the NHRS is, or was, planning to hold it's annual meeting in Johnson City this coming spring (April). If this meeting comes to fruition we will be invited to assist in planning and reservations.

Coordinators meeting: no meeting was held in December. Fred suggested again that we let him know of any Club or museum needs.

New Business: The December 26th Fallen Flags Heritage Day is scrubbed by the museum closure as noted earlier.

Logan is working on a Facebook page to advertise and promote our events. Discussion ensued. Ben mentions that Facebook takes paid promotion ads, giving us an option to the future.

Fred brought up a suggestion from Wallace Shealy - putting virtual workshops / tutorials on Facebook. Logan says that Ben had livestreamed our Clinchfield Heritage Day, which Brought in a number of new visitors. Fred suggested that virtual events might get students viewing.

We are reminded that we have 2021 Calendars and Hon3 Annual editions available for sale.

Face masks embroidered with the Carter R.R. Museum are on order, and will be given to members soon. Ben shares a photo of the mask and snazzy artwork.

Bob (of iPhone fame) asks about parking passes. Fred answered that they will be available soon, in the main train room.

Fred shared with us (on screen) a PowerPoint presentation he has given of the Club - it's layout, of scenery, and information about the group.

Upon suggestion, Ben makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; it is seconded by Bill Smith and carried by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34.

Respectfully submitted;

Mike Tarter, Secretary

**Mountain Empire Model
Railroaders Club**

Location:



George L. Carter Railroad Museum
East Tennessee State University

Business Meetings

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

*

Weekly Work Nights

Thursdays from 4pm until ?

MEMRR 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:** Mike Tarter
miketarter06@gmail.com
- **Webmasters:**
Logan Heaton
Ben Merritt
Bill Smith
memrrwebmaster@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Editor:**
Cathy Smith

**George L. Carter
Chapter NRHS Officers:**

- **President:** Dr. Fred J. Alsop
- **Vice Pres:** Roger Teinert
- **Secretary:** Carl Hacker
- **Treasurer:** John W. Dodge
- **Historian:** Carolyn Gregg
- **National Representative to the NRHS:** Charlotte Pahriss

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://johnsonsdspot.com/>' or '<http://www.stateoffranklin.net/johnsons/glcarter/cartermuseum.html>'

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*