

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

**THE SIGNAL BRIDGE**

**AND**

**THE COAL ROAD**

Volume 28 – Issue 8 August 2021

Cover photograph of Norfolk & Western 611 by Paul Haynes

**Lose Track of Time!**

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20 years ago on 9/11, 2977 lives were lost and many more were altered by the events of one of the worst days in American history. So many hugged or spoke with their loved ones on what seemed like a normal morning on their way to catch an early morning flight or on their way to work including first responders who were preparing for their shifts only to never see past 10:00 AM on that infamous day. Today we honor and remember those that were lost and their families. We have not forgotten and we never will.

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



We learned recently that Tennessee is #1; number one that is in the number of covid cases per capita in the country and East Tennessee has become a hotbed for the virus with more than 60% of our friends and neighbors remaining unvaccinated. The university that is the home to the George L. Carter Railroad Museum, our museum, is now facing growing pressures to update its policies designed to protect students, faculty, staff, and our visitors from COVID-19. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please get the free and readily available shots to protect yourself, your family, and your friends. **Please do your part to help us all through this pandemic; get vaccinated, wear your mask, and practice social distancing.**

**Sick Bay:** My list may be incomplete but please keep these members who have been having some rough times due to personal illnesses, or medical problems in their families, in your thoughts: *Mike Buster, Gregg Mundkowsky, Dean Small, Catherine Shealy, Lisa Lyons, Cathy Smith, and Ruth Berry.* We wish the best for you and yours, and we hope to see you back in the museum with us very soon.

**In the News:** The train exhibit including the interviews with folks who actually worked on the railroads that has been produced by *Sandra Laws*, library faculty, at ETSU's Sherrod Library continues to get more wide-spread attention. The link to it and the interviews, including the one by former railroad engineer, *Gary Emmert*, was recently published in the *Jitterbug*, the quarterly publication of the Carolina Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society in their September 2021 issue, Volume 25, Number 3. Congratulations Gary!

**Club Meetings for September:** We will have both in-person and zoom meetings again this month. I will ask *Ben Merritt* to send out the zoom invitations for the Carter Chapter NRHS and the MEMRR meetings so you may decide to either join us at the university, or from your computer or smart phone.

The **Carter Chapter NRHS** will meet at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 20, in room 131 Brown Hall (Science Building). *Please note this is a different meeting room from the one we had in the past in this building. The location is changed because our former meeting room is booked for a college class on Mondays this semester.*

The *Mountain Empire Model Railroaders* will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, September 21, in room 223 Brown Hall. This is the room we have been using on the second floor of the Science Building for several years now.

*Due to COVID-19 we will not meet either night for a pre-meeting dining experience as we were accustomed to doing prior to March 2020.*

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

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**October Train-Boat Excursion:** This trip, co-hosted by the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum, is still a go to take place on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are still available for purchase and information, ticket requests and waiver of liability forms can all be obtained at the Carter RR Museum or downloaded online at [memrr.org](http://memrr.org) and clicking on "Excursions", or from the ETSU homepage by going to **Railroad Museum** and scrolling down to "Events". This event includes round-trip from ETSU via modern air-conditioned, toilet-equipped buses, a train ride along the Tennessee River on the 3-Rivers Rambler RR, and a luncheon cruise on the *Star of Knoxville* paddle wheel boat on the Tennessee River. All of this for \$95 adults, \$85 for children 2-12 years of age. This is a great one-day trip, and we invite all of our members to join us for this fun adventure. We really would like for our members to help us fill the buses, the train and enjoy a delicious meal on the boat. Ticket sales end soon and spots on this trip are limited. **Don't miss out. Get your ticket requests in today!**

**41<sup>st</sup> National Narrow-Gauge Convention:** Several of us attended this national 5-day convention of model railroaders in Hickory, NC the first week of September. The G.L. Carter Railroad Museum had a table at the vendors' arena in the Hickory Convention Center where Catherine and I passed out brochures for our clubs, the 2022 Big Train Show, and the museum and we talked to all of the vendors as well as many of the participants. Members **Ben Merritt** and **Michael Sager** shared a table where Mike gave great clinics showing folks how to make great trees, especially conifers, and Ben made sales of several of his 3-D printed cabooses. There were outstanding clinics to attend daily and vendors from all over the country. I submitted the ET&WNC models of the Coal Chut and the Johnson City depot in the "structures" division of the modeling contest. The Coal Chut took 3<sup>rd</sup> place based on the votes of the registered conventioners and it also garnered a special prize "Southern Flavor" for the outstanding model picked by the directors of the modeling event. When our certificates and ribbons arrive, they will be displayed at the Carter Railroad Museum.

The day before the events began in Hickory for the convention, a tour of the old "Tweetsie" railroad line right-of-way was offered. Two busloads of participants followed the line westward from Boone, NC with stops at Newland, NC to see the refurbished Linville depot and the 505 ET&WNC caboose. They then traveled on to the Doe River Gorge where they had lunch and road the rails behind the rebuilt steam locomotive, "Crown" and transferred to smaller cars pulled by little locomotives all the way to Pardee Point, mile marker 17. The group ended their trip at the Carter Railroad Museum with 77 people arriving by bus and another 14 coming by private vehicles for a total of 91 visitors. As narrow-gaugers they were particularly interested in our HOn3 "Tweetsie" layout, but we got many compliments from them as they toured out entire museum. I wish to thank all of our members who came that Tuesday afternoon to open up the museum, operate our layouts, and greet our visitors from across the country. Our book sale of duplicate editions from the museum library was also a hit and we sold the group many volumes that we no longer needed.

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

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**Big Book Sale:** Our library book sale continues with many duplicate books still available for your personal library. You can come by the museum during Saturday open hours (10 AM to 3 PM) and choose from what is still available, or on a Thursday afternoon/evening workday to fine those books that you really want to read and own. **Members are getting discounted prices** and these books represent railroads and railroad history from across the nation as well as railroads in other countries. May a date to come by while the selection is still good. We have had a great response to these sale offerings since it began in late August. All of the proceeds, less TN sales taxes, go into the Carter Railroad Museum's foundation account to be used for the museum's specific needs.

**2022 Big Annual Train Show:** We have been sending out promotional materials and flyers for the June 2022 Annual Big Train Show for many months now. Additionally, members have been going to train shows and talking to vendors there and providing them with our train show flyers as well. A number of vendors have already booked their tables for this event. Our train show coordinator, *Roger Teinert*, will soon be scheduling monthly planning meetings for this show, one of the largest in the southeast. If you would like to be on the planning committee, or just attend its meetings, please let Roger know. This is a big event, and it requires the labor of a lot of our members to put it on, so your input and assistance are most welcome.

**Marketing and Management Department at ETSU:** Three MBA graduate students in this department in the ETSU College of Business have taken on a two-semester project as part of their graduate degree requirement to work with me (FJA) to create a business plan and a marketing plan for the "new" Carter Railroad Museum prior to our move to a new, larger location sometime in the coming 18 months. This is great news as it will lay a firm foundation for decision making by the university and other city and business entities as we plan our move from our present location into our new one. I'll keep you all posted as this project proceeds.

**Coordinator's Meeting:** A Coordinator's Meeting was held in room 235 of the Campus Center Building (a floor just above the museum floor) on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. A report of that meeting is to be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

## **Happenings Around the Railroad Museum:**

**MEMRR HO Layout.** *Frank Fezzie* has agreed to take on the role of Interim Coordinator for the MEMRR Layout. This is to relieve our long-time coordinator in that position, *John Carter*, of these duties he has done so well for many years in order to allow him some additional "free-time" to concentrate on some other pressing issues. Thank you, John, for passing the torch to Frank for the next year. Frank will be the overall coordinator but plans to have various sections of the club-own portions of the layout worked on by volunteer member groups, each with a "foreman" to help oversee each of these modular section projects. Owners of individual modules will be asked to talk with Frank before making any significant changes to their modules, but don't require group guidance as do the club modules. The two largest projects on current club-owned modules are those near the entrance of the gallery, the "depot" section to the left of the lift bridge, and the "logging" section to the right of the lift bridge. *Rick Mulholland* has agreed to be the "foreman" working with *John Carter* and others on the "logging" modules. *Geoff Stunkard* has agreed to act as the "foreman" working with *Gary Gilliam*, *Logan Heaton* and others on the "depot" modules and the "city scape" that is adjacent to the diesel transfer station. Anyone interested in helping these small groups should only just make your desires known to either "foreman" or to the Layout Coordinator. We welcome your ideas, your interests and modeling skills, and your participation in this club effort. (continued on page 5)

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

(continued from page 4)

**N-Scale Layout.** Layout Coordinator, *Mike Tarter*, with help from *Jim Gorney*, *Ken Harmon* and others have continued to upgrade the scenery on this 22 x 11 foot layout. They are busy “defoliating” some of the hillsides removing very worn and dusty lichen shrubbery and poorly manufactured trees and replacing them with new, fresh, bright vegetation and with trees made inhouse. Some of the hillsides look like mudslides hit by the torrential rains that have been happening in the southeast, or by the fires in the west, but when they are “reseeded” they are going to be eye-popping in their new green foliage. In addition, new rock landscaping is being installed, complete with rock climbers, and other sections are being refurbished and upgraded as well. This, too, is a big project that will take many months to complete, and anyone interested in lending a hand is most welcome. Come any Thursday workday and join in the project.

**G-Scale.** Coordinator *Mike Baker* has had little to do to keep this layout up and running for the public other than minor maintenance on locomotives and rolling stock and keeping the tracks clean.

**Hon3 Tweetsie Layout.** Out “Electrical Guru”, *Frank Fezzie*, has repaired some of the problems with a few of the turnouts and he has installed a miniature camera and 15-inch TV at the Elk Park section of the layout that allows viewers to see the front sides of the buildings in the business district and the train as it comes into the station. This is a great improvement to Elk Park as the view from trackside in the gallery is only from the back of these buildings.

New buildings continue to be added to Elk Park and the town is growing as the cardstock mock-up buildings that have occupied the town landscape for so long are being replaced by models representing the structures that were present in 1925 (some are still there in modified form). The team producing them has specific roles as follows: *Fred* produces the scale drawings of each structure based on historic photographs. Next, *Bill Smith* takes Fred’s structure drawing and converts it into CAD software for the computer connected to the museum’s laser knife. Then *Ben Merritt* uses the CAD software and with the laser knife cuts out the basic structures for walls, floors, and roof pieces from wood or plastic. The pieces are then returned to Fred who assembles them, paints them, and details each structure for final placement on the layout. Thus, Elk Park continues to grow. This is the same process that has been used to create all the structures that have been assembled on the layout with the exception of the few structures that were commercially available kits, and Shell Creek, that Fred cut out using an Exacto Knife before we purchased the laser knife from Micro-Mark.

**Little Engineer’s Playroom.** Our Station Master, *Amy Merritt*, did yeoman’s work for us in the beginning weeks of the ETSU fall semester when she interviewed numerous potential student workers for employment in our railroad museum. This in addition to manning our sales table, working with children in the playroom and greeting visitors at the door with thermometer in hand. She selected 7 student workers, the most we have ever had by far, and has integrated them into our museum family. Each will be outfitted with a yellow museum shirt with their name on it by the time you are reading this column. Please introduce yourself to them and make them feel at home. If you have a task they might help you with please ask Amy, their direct supervisor first, for permission to have them for a while.

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

(continued from page 5)

**Carter Railroad Museum Library.** Librarian, *Dean Small*, with a lot of help from colleague, **Wallace Shealy**, have spend many hours working in our library to integrate all of our newer holding into an orderly arrangement on our library shelves. Their work produced a number of duplicate books that they have been selling with the able assistance of *Gary Emmert* who has been willing to spend hours at the sales table in the hallway. Emeritus member, *Duane Swank*, has taken materials the museum purchased and converted the raw lumber into 3 beautiful additional, and much needed, shelves that he and I installed one recent Sunday morning. These shelves will provide the extra space needed for the reception of even more new books in our library that now boasts more than 2,400 volumes. These books, with few exceptions of reference and/or rare volumes, are available to members of both clubs for checkout when the librarian is present. Great Job Fellows!!!

There are a lot of exciting things happening at the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum and with the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club and the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS. Come be a part of these many activities and lend us your time, your expertise, 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 – Elk Park: Article and Photographs by Logan Heaton

We are happy to report not just one but two buildings have been completed for Elk Park. Earlier the previous week we saw where the new storefront was being completed but now the Royal Cafe has also been quickly built and detailed and placed on the layout next to what is left of the burnt out building. These two new additions also come after most of the area has now been painted with primer to get ready for scenery helping this come that much closer to completion. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



## Club News

### New Members for 2021!

Please make our new members feel welcome!

*No new members 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](mailto:cathysmithmemrr@yahoo.com).





## Club News

### Tweetsie Layout Update Hampton: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

While work continues over in Elk Park things in Hampton are also shaping up nicely. The insert for the natural spring water tank has now been molded in with the rest of the scenery on the layout blending in seamlessly with the mountain. Some additional rock work has also been put in along with primer to get the area ready for additional scenery. The spout and hose for the tank has also been installed ready to service the locomotives coming through on their way towards Doe River Gorge or heading back towards Elizabethton. Stay tuned for more updates!



# Club News

## Wreck It Wednesday: Photo credit to John Gilliam

What happens when your pusher gets a little too excited and tries to push the load and front units both.



## Club News

### Tweetsie Layout Update Elk Park Viewing Area: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

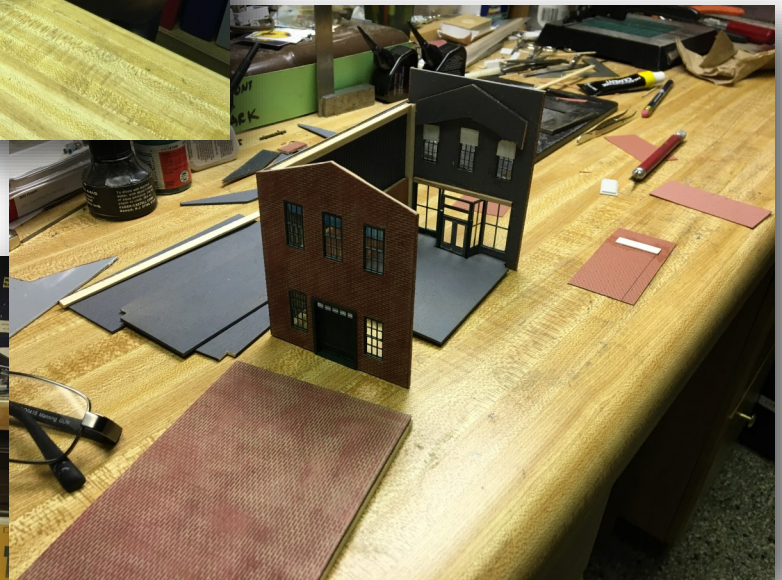
The new viewing area is in. After hooking up the first camera and testing out the monitor the new viewing area is ready for our visitors to give a different view of Elk Park and the railroad. Eventually a second camera will be installed to give another view from the other direction and also will be playing with ideas to blend the cameras in with the rest of the scenery but for now we hope everyone will enjoy this new addition. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



## Club News

### Tweetsie Layout Update Elk Park Store Front: Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Work is progressing nicely on Elk Park with the next store front building nearing completion. Museum director Dr. Fred Alsop is in the process of assembling the building together with all four walls going up. Once the walls are done the roof pieces will be fitted next for the metal roof the building had at the time we are modeling which will help finish up the building. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



## Club News

### Nation Narrow Gauge Convention Visit 09/01/21 – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

On Tuesday 08/31/2021 we had a visit from the National Narrow Gauge Convention who came out to see the museum. Our layouts were in action on full display in the Main Hall but the highlight many would agree was seeing our progress on the ET&WNC Exhibit Hall especially our layout. We are happy and greatly honored so many came out to see our exhibit and hope with plans in the future there will be much more to see whenever they drop in next time. Stay tuned for more updates and videos coming soon!!



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# Club News

## Nation Narrow Gauge Convention Visit 09/01/21 – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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## Heritage Days!

### Wild West Big Power Past & Present : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Wild West Big Power event was a great success with many guests and trains in attendance showcasing the western superpowers of both past and present day. We captured a few scenes during the event that we all hope you enjoy!!



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# Heritage Days!

## Wild West Big Power Past & Present : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

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## Heritage Days!

### Wild West Big Power Past & Present : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

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## Heritage Days!

### Wild West Big Power Past & Present : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

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# **The 2020 Hon3 Annual** **and** **2021 All Aboard Calendars** **are Available Now!**

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

## George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 9/20/21

The George L. Carter Chapter NRHS met on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 6:30 in Room 131 of Brown Hall on the ETSU Campus. Attending the meeting were members Fred Alsop, John Dodge, Carolyn Gregg, and Roger Teinert and guests Ben and Amy Merritt. The meeting was called to order by President Fred Alsop, and the guests were welcomed.

### Reports

- President Fred Alsop reported that three MBA students will be working out a business plan for the New Museum.
- 41 National Narrow-Gauge RR visitors went to Doe River Gorge to ride the train during their time in the East Tennessee area. Their convention was in Hickory, NC. Ninety-one visitors in all were in the Museum or involved in the field trip from Hickory by bus or car.
- The Beagans are moving from Jonesborough to Oregon, and Roger has been helping him clean out his garage. They located a box of Train Excursion materials that were given to Carolyn Gregg. There were also other materials that can be used at the Museum.
- Cathy Smith has been in Maryland recovering from some hip restoration surgery.
- Jim and Charlotte Pahriss have been ill.
- Vice President Roger Teinert reported that he had traveled to the Simpsonville, SC train show and talked with the vendors who usually attend our show. He is getting the fliers out when possible.
- Treasurer John Dodge reported that the treasury was in good shape.
- Historian Carolyn Gregg reported that people who visit the museum like to brag about what they and their family remember/know about the railroads, but when asked to do an interview or bring photos, they suddenly don't know anything or have any photos. Fred delivered the green material to Carolyn to use for the "skirts" in the Tweetsie Room.

### Old Business

Annual Train Show – Roger said that he already had 9 vendors with 17 tables paid for by one group. Fred has scheduled the Venue for the 2022 Show. Roger will plan to have a meeting next month at 5:30 in Room 131 before the Chapter meeting. Fred said that he hoped Geoff could get the calendars made in October so that the Train Show would be listed there. Then they can be sent out to the Vendors.

October 30 Rail/Boat Excursion – Carolyn reported only 21 people have registered and paid for the Excursion. The Train costs \$1800, and we have to pay half by September 30th. We need 51 to break even. All the material is on the website. Fred will be on TV two days before the deadline. That was the earliest that he could get. Carolyn will contact John and Fred on September 29<sup>th</sup> with the number of people who have registered at that time. Ben suggested putting it on Facebook. When Fred asked Ben if he could do it, he recommended Logan Heaton. It seems that people may be concerned about the safety of a bus/boat trip.

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# Meeting Minutes

## George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 9/20/2021

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### New Business

#### • **Chapter Status – George L. Carter Chapter**

- People have not been attending the Zoom or regular meetings. It seems that we have only 10 or 11 members left after several have moved from the area or aged out. People seem to only show up to run their trains--MEMRR.
- Covid and surgeries have made a difference in some of the attendance.
- We must have 10 members to have a George L. Carter Chapter, and Fred is searching for recruiting ideas to attract more members to the Chapter which is responsible for the Excursions and Rail Camp.
- Discussions with the members of the MEMRR group might encourage them to join this chapter.
- Ben Merritt suggested that they might get a discount on the two memberships if they joined both.
- It was decided to try to hang on to the Chapter until the new museum is in operation. Maybe that will attract more people.

#### **Carter RR Museum Update**

Fred reported that the Advisory Committee composed of 2 from the RR group, 2 from ETSU, and a former mayor had met with the Developer Scott Andrew. He wants the committee to meet with the MBA students to get the activity started. We have about 18 months before the move begins.

Ben Merritt stated that the Crown #15 had two runs in September at Doe River Gorge. It was a 440 American engine. It was converted to a coal burner but will eventually be converted back to oil. There are YouTube videos of the runs. Rachel ran in earlier days on the original roadbed.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Room 131 of Brown Hall ETSU (Hybrid Meeting)  
The Train Show meeting will be at 5:30 in the same room. Food can be brought in if desired.

Carolyn Gregg

## Meeting Minutes

### **G.L. Carter Railroad Museum Coordinator's Meeting 9/16/21**

**Meeting brought torder at 6:00 PM, Room 235 Campus Center Building, ETSU**

Coordinators Present: Frank FeFranzzie, Gary Emmert, and Fred Alsop

**N-Scale Layout – Mike Tarter** (in abstentia): Mike reported prior to the meeting that scenery work was continuing on the N-Scale Layout with focus on upgrading the rock formations and replacing the worn lichen scenery with newer foam materials for shrubbery and trees.

**RIP Rolling Stock – Jim Hoit** (in abstentia): Jim reported prior to the meeting that he continues to upgrade donated rollingstock with metal wheel sets and Kaydee-style couplers as well as bring the cars to proper weight. He needs no additional materials for his workbench at this time.

**Carter Museum Inventory/Donations – Gary Emmert:** Gary reported sales of donated cars and track over the past month. He also reported that the BIG BOOK SALE that is still underway to members and visitors is going very well. These are donated books that are duplicates of the ones already catalogued and on our library shelves. Sandra Laws, ETSU library faculty, reported the railroad interviews with Gary Emmert and others, are getting wider and wider circulation. The link to them was just published for members of the Carolina Clinchfield Society's *Jitterbug* edition Volume 8, Number 23.

**HO-Scale MEMRR Layout – Frank Fezzie** (museum electrical coordinator and interim HO coordinator): Frank made an extensive report with goals for the future and a new plan for member work organization for the club modules on the layout. (See his full report printed separately in this issue of the newsletter.)

**G.L. Carter Museum – Fred Alsop:** Three new additional shelves built by Duane Swank (emeritus member) where installed in the library by Fred and Duane to provide the requested additional book storage space required by the museum librarian. We had 91 visitors from the 41<sup>st</sup> National Narrow-Gauge Convention visit the Carter RR Museum on August 31. Several large donated display cabinets are going to be picked up by ETSU Facilities Management and transported to the museum storage areas in Valleybrook under the guidance of Gary Emmert. There being on other reports the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

## Meeting Minutes

### **G.L. Carter Railroad Museum & MEMRR Electrical Coordinator Report 9/16/21**

**Submitted by Frank Fezzie**

Sold 3 type UT4 throttles for \$140. These are the single knob small throttles and have not been used by anyone for a long time. Members clearly prefer the DT402 / DT500 type throttles with two knobs.

Proceeds were used to;

- Repair two DT402D throttles that have been out of service for some time.

- Install new encoders in five DT402 throttles.

- Install large knobs on 10 DT402 throttles and 4 DT500 throttles.

Currently MEMRR has one DT402R throttle, four DT402D throttles, and four DT500D throttles, for a total of nine throttles in service.

ET&WNC has five DT402D throttles in service.

Microsoft is preparing to release Windows 11. I do not expect either of the two computers on layouts to qualify for the upgrade due to performance or hardware issues. Windows 10 support is expected to continue for several years at least.

I am investigating possible use of a Raspberry Pie computer for layout operations. These are cheap (about \$100), small (about the size of two decks of cards), run Linux instead of Windows, and start up more quickly than our current units.

I am also evaluating the new Digitrax UT6D for museum use. This is a single knob throttle that replaced the UT4. It has the added abilities to operate turnouts and to MU engines into consists, both features that the UT4 could not do. The UT6D cannot be used for programming and has a simpler keyboard than the DT402D / DT500D throttles. This may help to prevent operators from getting into trouble. It has a larger display screen which should be a plus for our older eyes. The UT6D cord is completely removable which should eliminate issues with snagging the cord on the DT402D / DT500D throttles with various things including scenery.

## Meeting Minutes

### **G.L. Carter Railroad Museum ET&WNC Fezzie Projects Report 9/16/21**

**Submitted by Frank Fezzie**

The following projects on the ET&WNC are on my list for work.

1. Screen to block window at Elk Park
2. Repair track problem at turnouts 206 & 210 at Elk Park
3. Install 2<sup>nd</sup> camera at Elk Park and test positions for it
4. Install modified polycarbonate shield at Coal Dock to eliminate wood support in corner that is blocking view
5. Repair multiple stripped screws holding polycarbonate shields around layout
6. Install and test new modifications into brass 10-wheeler to improve operation and reliability
7. Repair vertical kink in track at base of grade down into Cranberry tail track so that engines do not hang up and slip.



# Meeting Minutes

## MEMRR Interim HO Coordinator Report 9/16/21

Submitted by Frank Fezzie

The following projects are underway on the MEMRR HO layout. Note that each project must have a Foreman in charge of that project.

All workers coordinate with the Foreman on a given project.

All Foremen on projects coordinate with me, the Interim HO Coordinator.

Individual owners of modules serve as the Foreman for work done on their modules. They should work with the HO coordinator to insure that the work done on their module is consistent with the needs of the club and the museum.

1. **Timber Corner** Foreman – Rick Mulholland

Status – work in progress

2. **Johnson City Passenger Station** Foreman – Geoff

Status – work in progress, needs a Foreman

3. **LTL Freight Building (at Dispatch station)** Foreman – Gary Emmert

Status – Yard tracks relocated and tested.

Polycarbonate shield needs to be cut and installed.

Building needs to be completed and installed.

4. **Track Bumpers** Foreman – Frank Fezzie

Staging Yard – 8 track bumpers

Johnson City – 4 track bumpers

Steam Service area – 2 track bumpers

5. **Ballast work on Roger's module** Foreman – Frank Fezzie

Install ballast on areas where track as reworked.

6. **Scenery in Steam Service area** Foreman -

Work on hold, needs a Foreman.

Completion of coaling tower

Installation of water towers and Sand House

Installation of penstocks for water and fuel oil

Installation of cinder pit

Scenery in material storage area

Ballast on all tracks

## Meeting Minutes

### **Minutes of MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting - 9/21/2021**

Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM by President Fred Alsop.

Members Present (or on Zoom call): Fred Alsop, Logan Heaton, Mike Tarter, Roger Teinert, Robert Sullivan, Ben Merritt, Rick Mulholland, Wallace Shealy, Lanny Norris, John Carter, Ted Bleck-Doran, & Paul Haynes

After initial remarks, Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: The club Secretary, Mike Tarter, noted that the August meeting minutes were included in the September Signal Bridge and Coal Road. Paul Haynes motioned to accept the August minutes as published; this was seconded by Wallace Shealy, and approved unanimously. Any corrections or additions to the meeting notes are always invited - please discuss any during our next business meeting.

Treasurers' report: Mike Tarter (assistant to the Treasurer, Gary Emmert) gave us an update on some recent deposits and payments, and provided a interim financial report for September to Fred Alsop. The MEMRR has money and is financially solvent.

Webmaster reports, Ben Merritt reports the website is up and current, including the upcoming excursion. Mike provided Ben with an updated membership list to maintain the newsletter circulation list. Ben invited comments and suggestions. Roger Teinert had one - he suggested the 2022 Train Show info be added to the website.

V.P. report, John Carter: John informs us that Frank Fezzie and Logan are assisting him with oversight of the club HO layout, due to John swamped with other matters. He inquired about the registrations for the train and riverboat excursion. Fred had the answer; about ½ booked so far. Fred also told us of the excursion being promoted on campus E bulletin boards and local newspaper.

Membership report, Robert Sullivan: Robert told us of a new member William Sims.

RR Museum Librarian, Gary Emmert has transitioned the Librarian role to Dean Small. He reports the project of new (donated) books that were in temporary storage at ValleyBrook have being cataloged and integrated into the library by Gary, Dean and Wallace. A barcode catalog system is being implemented and the items in the museum library will be visible on the ETSU library website. As before, duplicates are being separated for sale. Wallace and Dean are organizing a sale open to Club members first, on Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Presidents report:

Fred thanked the members for continuing to keep the Carter Railroad Museum open to the public on Saturdays.

Regarding the future relocation of the museum and Club; nothing new to report, no concrete decision as of yet.

Fred noted that Gary Emmert's interview on his railroading experience has been listed in the Jitterbug - the newsletter of the Carolina Clinchfield club, and other rail clubs.

Some new bookshelves for the library were built and installed by Duane Swank - Thank You, Sir!

*(continued on page 27)*

## Meeting Minutes

### **G.L. Carter Railroad Museum Coordinator's Meeting 9/16/21**

#### Old Business:

Fred reminded us of the upcoming excursion on October 30<sup>th</sup> to Knoxville to ride the 3-Rivers Rambler and luncheon cruise on The Star of Knoxville. This excursion is cohosted and sponsored by the Carter NRHS Chapter and the Carter RR Museum. The Carter Chapter has been very active in the past, for example it sponsored young students to the annual Rail Camp. But it's membership has been declining, and Fred invited everyone interested to join the group, for it's newsletters and annual meetings. Dues are a very reasonable \$50 national and \$10 local chapter. There was some discussion of links to their website from the MEMRR website and within our E newsletter.

Fred told us the National HOn3 convention was well attended, with lots of informative seminars, vendors and model competitions. 91 convention participants came to visit the Carter train museum on August 31<sup>st</sup>, and some others on other days. There was lots of attention and praise for the Tweetsie. Fred thanked the members that came in to welcome the visitors. Ben Merritt and Mike Sagar also attended; Ben brought 3D printed rail cars to display and sell. Also attending was White River Productions, who will be including the Tweetsie in future print, and possibly other related magazines.

Planning for The Big Train Show for June 2022 is ongoing, per Roger. We are staying in contact with various vendors, some are reserving tables, and people who have expressed interest. We have distributed many flyers at recent train shows, Roger was at the HON3 convention. Speaking of train shows, Roger informed us that there is a planning meeting set for October 18<sup>th</sup> in room 131 of Brown Hall at 5:30.

#### New Business:

As previously noted, Frank Fezzie is temporarily helping as the HO layout coordinator. With assistance also from Logan. Progress is reported on the depot, by Rick and Gary.

Geoff Stunkard and Fred are working on an article for the 2021 HOn3 Annual edition. It will focus on coal and water, with the recently added coal chute and Hampton water tower featured.

We are reminded that there are still some (lots of) great books for sale from library duplicates. These are also available to the public, and Club members receive a discounted price.

Coordinators meeting: a meeting was held on Thursday Sept . 16<sup>th</sup>. Fred has notes from this and will include in his monthly Presidents Letter. The next meeting is set for October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6 PM, in Room 235 of the Campus Center building. Fred reminded again that we should let him know of any Club or museum needs.

The weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> is Heritage Day - this days emphasis is on Appalachian trains.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30, and turned over to Logan for a prepared program.

Respectfully submitted; Mike Tarter, Secretary

Next Meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> in ETSU Brown Hall room 223.

**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  
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- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter  
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Logan Heaton  
Ben Merritt  
Bill Smith  
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- **Newsletter Editor:**  
Cathy Smith

**George L. Carter**

**Chapter NRHS Officers:**

- **President:** Dr. Fred J. Alsop
- **Vice Pres:** Roger Teinert
- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter
- **Treasurer:** John W. Dodge,  
econguy2000@hotmail.com
- **Historian:** Carolyn Greg
- **National Representative to the NRHS:** Charlotte Pahr

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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://johnsonsddepot.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](http://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 alsopf@mail.etsu.edu.*

*\*For disability accommodations, call the  
ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346*