

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

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

AND

THE COAL ROAD

Volume 28 – Issue 12 December 2021

Cover photograph of Norfolk & Western 611 by Paul Haynes

Lose Track of Time!

Members! Please share any and all updates or information regarding your personal layout with us to be featured in a future newsletter. Your shared experiences with model building, track layout, scenery building, etc. will provide invaluable information to help your fellow members with their projects.

We are all interested in what's happening with you!!!

Send your photos and text to cathysmithmemrr@yahoo.com

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!! It's mid-December and the weather outside is anything but "frightful". Not a trace of snow in sight and fewer than 10 days until Christmas! I know every member has not been naughty, but only nice, and I hope you get all the toys you expect to get during the holiday season.

Because Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Saturday in 2021 and the beginning of 2022, the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum will be closed to the public. Feel free to bring any new locomotives and/or rolling stock and try them out on the layout if you want to, but the public will not be back for a Saturday opening until Saturday, January 8, 2022.

Welcome all of our new members and their families. We hope to see you at club meetings and at the Carter RR Museum on a regular basis. We have a lot to plan for and accomplish in 2022 and we will need your help, your experience, and your talents. Welcome aboard!!

- **Membership Dues and Renewals:** Our annual drive for membership renewals began in November and ends on 31 January 2022. If you have not already renewed your membership for the coming year, be sure to get your dues to the MEMRR treasurer, Mike Tarter, or the Carter Chapter NRHS treasurer, John Dodge, as soon as you can. The dues have changed for several years now, so even though we see inflation all around us, your dues remain low and an excellent bargain as they give you a vote at club meetings, allow you to hold an office, provide you with 24/7 access to the Carter RR Museum and all of its model railroad layouts, a great monthly newsletter (in which you are reading this column), and many other privileges. On February 1, 2022, we will change the access code in the lock box on the museum's entrance door and only paid-up members will have the new code to get in. So, please remember to renew your membership soon.
- **Heritage Day:** Our last Heritage Day Event of the 2021 year is on December 18 and celebrates "Fallen Flags", those railroads that now exist only as a memory. That includes my favorite railroad, the L&N and the ET&WNC RR, the "Tweetsie" that is being modeled in the Ken Marsh Gallery. This Heritage Day allows all of us to bring models of our favorite railroads that are "fallen flags" and to bring them to life again on our layouts. Any railroad of any era that in longer is earning a livelihood under its former name is a candidate for display on the 18th. Please bring them and let's relive some of the memories these favorite lines bring to us.
- **Train in ETSU's Dossett Hall:** In mid-November the museum got a request from the ETSU Provost to provide a train to run beneath the Christmas Tree that would decorate the central foyer in the ETSU Administration Building during the Christmas Holidays. Several of our members sprung to the task including Ron Green, Mike Tarter, Gary Emmert and yours truly, to get this done. In short order we had a G-Gauge Christmas train complete with Santa, sleigh, and a few reindeer, making a circle beneath the decorated tree. It has been running daily during university business hours, Monday-Friday, and drawing a lot of attention. It will be chugging along until January 4, 2022, when all the decorations come down. We also put up one of our large roll-up banners advertising the Carter RR Museum near this holiday display. If you have not seen the outdoor holiday decorations at ETSU, please take family and friends on a nighttime drive across the campus and I think you will enjoy what you see. Go Bucs!!

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

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- **Annual Christmas Party:** For the second time in as many years we decided not to hold one of our favorite social events of the year. COVID-19 was the reason. As you are aware the pandemic is still on and is hitting our region of upper East Tennessee especially hard. We have the Delta variant in our midst as the major driver, and all too soon to be joined by the new Omicron variant, in a population that is way under vaccinated. We had difficulty trying to find a good, safe place to hold our annual museum Christmas party, and decided that it was better to err on the side of safety for everyone and not to have this social gathering this year. Stay as safe as you can. Get vaccinated if you have not already done so and get fully vaccinated if you are still missing that second shot, or the booster, and we will try to have regular social events beginning with as spring fling in the New Year.
- **Business Meetings:** Covid kept us from having the in-person monthly business meetings for the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the G. L. Carter Chapter NRHS during the beginning of 2021. As the year progressed and more of us got vaccinated, we decided to continue the Zoom meetings, but to add in-person meetings at the university as well. Both systems showed a dramatic drop in attendance of our members, either by zoom or attending in-person at Brown Hall on the ETSU campus. Please try to attend your club's business meetings. This is the forum that is used to introduce new actions by the club through group discussions and motions that are taken to a vote. The more voices the more democratic the process can be. When only a few are attending meetings too much pressure is placed on your officers to carry the meeting agendas and to enact the business of the organizations. Everyone with a computer that is attached to the web, or with a smart phone, can attend the meetings via zoom from the comfort of your home, or on the road. I was able to attend the November meeting via zoom from the Atlantic Coast. It is important to exercise your voice and your vote at your club meetings. Please make an effort to attend the meetings scheduled for January 14/15, 2022. Reminder notices will be sent out after the first of the year. We use the January business meetings to establish much of the planned activities for the coming calendar year including social events, rail excursions and other special activities. See you at the meetings!

[*The following officers have been elected to serve you in 2022*](#)

[Please extend your congratulations to them for their willingness to serve our organization:](#)

- **MEMRR Election of Officers for 2022:** Thanks to all of our members who voted for the slate of officers as presented to you via our ad hoc nominating committee.

President Fred Alsop, Vice-President John Carter, Secretary Mike Tarter, Treasurer Mike Tarter, Heritage Day Coordinator Geoff Stunkard, RIP Track Foreman Jim Hoit, Librarian Dean Small, Newsletter Editor Cathy Smith, Webmasters Ben Merritt and Bill Smith.

- **George L. Carter Chapter NRHS Election of Officers for 2022:** I wish to thank the members of our Chapter who voted for the slate of officers as presented by our ad hoc nominating committee. The following officers have been elected to serve you in 2022. Please extend your congratulations to them for their willingness to serve our organization:

President Fred Alsop, Vice-President Roger Teinert, Secretary Mike Tarter, Treasurer John Dodge, Advisory Council Representative Charlotte Pahrns, Directors-at-Large Paul Haynes and Ben Merritt, Historian Carolyn Gregg.

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

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I thank the officers who are stepping down for their outstanding service in the preceding year and look forward to working with the newly elected officers as they assume their roles in both organizations for 2022. Some of the positions in the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS are appointed positions, as are some of the Carter RR Museum positions, and don't require a nomination or vote. An example of the latter in the MEMRR is Membership Chairman for instance.

- **Member of the Year:** The member of the year is selected by popular vote of the membership and is so honored by their peers for their outstanding work in the preceding year as well as in past years. For his work in improving his personal and some of our club modules, for his regular contributions to the organization's newsletter, and his videos on YouTube, plus many other contributions, the selected member of the year for 2021 is **LOGAN HEATON!** Congratulations Logan!! Thank you for all the excellent work you continue to do for the MEMRR and the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. Logan's name will be engraved on a name plate and placed on the large plaque displayed on the large museum gallery wall and he will receive a special plaque commemorating this award.
- **Officer of the Year:** This year we had a dead-heat tie for this award. By popular vote of the members for outstanding work for the clubs and for the railroad museum this honor will be shared by our newsletter editor, **CATHY SMITH** and our man of many hats (treasurer, secretary, N-Scale layout coordinator, etc.) **MIKE TARTER!** Both awards are so well deserved. Cathy creates a great monthly newsletter for both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS with lots of great information that we all look forward to receiving. Mike has taken on several administrative tasks for both clubs and the museum since his joining our ranks just a few years ago. It is wonderful that both will share these well-earned honors awarded to them by their peers. Both will have their names engraved on name plates and displayed on the appropriate plaque in the Alsop Gallery, and both will receive a special personal plaque commemorating their achievement.
- **Big Book Sale:** Our librarian at the railroad museum still has many duplicate library books, all about railroads, that need to find a new home. Please drop by the library any Thursday evening or Saturday and look over the big selection. Sales to members are at discounted prices. We will be offering all the volumes that remain for sale at the 2022 Annual Big Train Show. Please see Dean Small or Gary Emmert to make your selections and purchase.
- **HOn3 Annual 2020:** I have spoken with the Editor of the *HOn3 Annual, 2020 Edition*, enquiring about the status of our order that was placed in early October. The magazine containing 8 pages of our ET&WNC layout has been printed for some time now, but there are major difficulties in getting requested copies out of their warehouse in MO. He promises they will be on their way ASAP. We have 50 copies ordered and will let everyone know by email when they arrive. This makes the 7th consecutive year this layout of ours has been featured in this annual, collector's magazine, and I am sure you will want a copy for yourself, and perhaps one for a special railroading friend. What a great representation of some of what we do in our small railroad museum!

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

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- **Museum Calendar for 2021:** Remember, we still have copies of our 2022 Carter RR Museum railroad calendar for sale. The calendar features information reminders for all our 2022 meetings and the dates for the Annual Big Train Show, plus all the Heritage Day dates for the year. The MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS foci are represented with photos of the club layouts and of special prototype locomotives, in addition to photos for the museum owned layouts. Something for everyone. At the low discounted price for members, they also make good holiday gifts for your friends. We send copies to all of our Big Train Show vendors as way of promoting our clubs and the Carter Railroad Museum. Please get one or more while we have a good supply and get the new year started with your personal calendar that represents your railroad club and museum.
- **University Holiday Closing:** ETSU will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 22 until January 4, 2022, for the holiday season. The Carter Railroad Museum will be closed Saturday, December 25th-Christmas Day, and Saturday, January 1st-New Years Day. Members in good standing will continue to have access to the Carter RR Museum throughout this holiday period to operate the layouts, test new locomotives, and to work on layouts and exhibits. Have fun and enjoy the holiday break!

Here is wishing you and yours the best of the holiday season! Stay safe and enjoy family and friends. Be of good cheer, hope for good health and a much better 2022. Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Fred J. Absop III

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS



Club News

MEMRR Layout Update: Article and Photographs by Logan Heaton

We now have a complete circuit!! The track for the logging loop has now been completely connected finishing the main trackwork that needed to be done. Some of the spur lines have also been started such as the small track meant for a shed in the future and also the area where the main logging camp will be is currently being mapped out for where the sidings will be moving this area that much closer to being completed for the main loop. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!!



**Your Membership to the
MEMRR and/or George L Carter Chapter of NRHS
Is About to Expire!!**



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

MEMRR member dues:

\$30 00 Full Membership + \$6 for each additional family member

\$18 Student; \$12 Youth; \$12 Distant Remote

***Dues Need to be paid to Mike Tarter, Treasurer**

or mailed to

Make checks payable to **MEMRR**, and mail to

MEMRR, P.O. Box 70697, ETSU , Johnson City, TN 37614

Carter Chapter of NRHS member dues:

\$60 - Individual (\$50 national + \$10 chapter)

\$69 – Family (\$57 national + \$12 chapter)

***Dues Need to be paid to John Dodge, Treasurer**

Make checks payable to **George L Carter Chapter/NRHS**, and mail to John at:

121 Main Street

Bristol TN 37620.

Annual dues are required by January 31st, 2022

Club News

New Members for December 2021!

Please make our new members feel welcome!

Sean Dunn – Let's all welcome him back!
His interest's are the Tweetsie layout and Steam trains.

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

Just in time for the Holidays, the new 2022 calendars have arrived!!

These beautiful calendars will make the perfect stocking stuffer for the railroad buff in your family or maybe even an early gift to yourself featuring pictures of our layouts along with pictures of the actual railroads in action from fallen flags to modern railroads seen today. The calendars also feature meeting dates and special event dates for the year from Heritage Days to our Big Train Show. These amazing calendars can be picked up at our gift table for \$8.00 each or two for \$15.00 or if you decide to become a member of the museum we have a special deal of \$6.00 each or two for \$10.00 for members. Be sure to stop on by and grab a copy during your next visit!

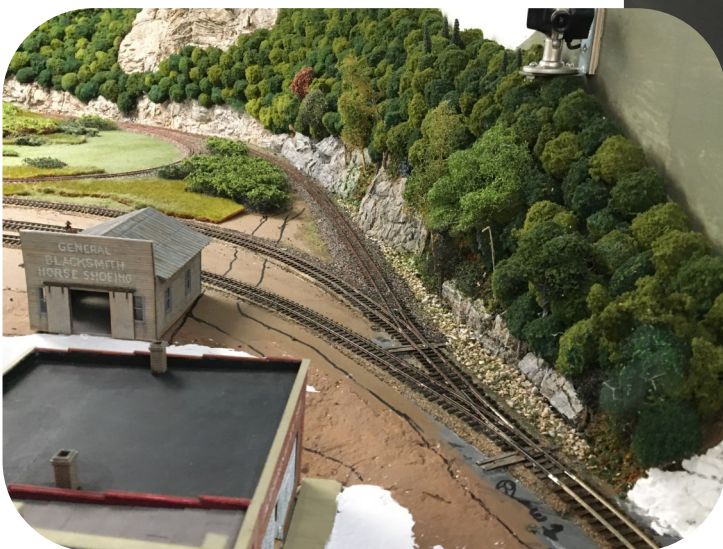


Club News

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



Starting out this first weekend in December Elk Park already looks like it had a visit from old man winter leaving snow laying over the area. What has really happened though is the land has gotten a major overhaul to both better represent the terrain of how it looked for the time while also fixing up the area for the buildings to sit and prepare for the roads. This has also allowed where the metal storage building and the bridge connecting it to the double store can now be positioned to sit evenly with the shop.



Heritage Days!

The Last of Appalachia's Main Lines – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

So many examples showing the different generations of Clinchfield power and the different trains that the railroad serviced were seen this past Saturday and we would like to thank everyone who came out to see these trains run up and down the tracks of our layouts. We were able to capture a few scenes of these trains in action across the MEMRR that we hope you all enjoy!!



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Heritage Days!

The Last of Appalachia's Main Lines – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Heritage Days!

The Last of Appalachia's Main Lines – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Heritage Days!

The Last of Appalachia's Main Lines – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Club News

Little Engineer's Room – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Fun times can be had by all in the Little Engineer's Room with many little visitors coming out to join us for our Heritage Day celebration!



Club News!

Holidays at the Museum! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Seems some helpful elves snuck into the museum and decorated the halls from the Little Engineer's Room to the Main Hall making quite a festive sight for all to see!



Club News

Wreck It Wednesday Clinchfield Style! - Photos by Logan Heaton



Club News

MEMRR And George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting-11/16/21

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM by President Fred Alsop (via ZOOM)

Members Present (or on Zoom call): Fred Alsop, Logan Heaton, Mike Tarter, Roger Teinert, Robert Sullivan, Rick Mulholland, Gary Emmert, Ron Green, Paul Haynes, Ben Merritt, Bill Smith, Greg Williams, Dean Small

After initial remarks, Fred called for *Officer Reports*.

Secretary's report: The club Secretary, Mike Tarter, noted that the October 19th meeting minutes will be included in the November Signal Bridge and Coal Road. 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) Executive summary - The MEMRR has money and is financially solvent. The final financial report for October and interim financial report for November will be given to the club President. Some members have paid dues for 2022 membership, and all members are encouraged to do so soon.

V.P. report, John Carter: John is unable to join the meeting

Presidents report:

Fred was pleased to tell the club about the G Scale train layout set up by Club members around a Christmas tree outside the offices of the ETSU Provost. There were some operational challenges to overcome, and the Admin office workers were happily watching it run

Old Business:

Roger Teinert reported the Oct. 30th 'Rail and Sail' excursion was sold out, and was a success despite being dampened by rain that day. He noted this was the first excursion sponsored by the Carter NHRS since Covid hit, and that possibly 3 excursions may be planned for 2022.

The Carter Museum recently received a sizeable donation of scenery material from a retired physician in Asheville. This train aficionado had a home train layout, but is now disabled and is downsizing.

New Business:

Roger Teinert reports planning for The Big Train Show for June 2022 is ongoing, with flyers, forms and calendars going out to prospective vendors. Fred assures us the Mini Dome venue is reserved. Gary is rounding up tables – the planned pickup will be June 1st. Ads are being posted in various magazines and newsletters. Any surplus of revenue over expenses will be donated to the Carter museum.

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Club News

MEMRR And George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting-11/16/21

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Annual Election- John invites members to volunteer for the 2022 Nominating Committee.

Annual Christmas party- Roger is checking on availability of the venue. If held, it will be a potluck dinner as before. Tentative date is Dec. 17th, but discussion concurred that we all can be flexible on that. (NOTE: The Christmas Party has been CANCELLED)

Fred brings up that it is time for our annual Election of Club officers for 2022. He relates that all existing officers (except Gary) have indicated they are willing to serve in the same roles as 2021. Fred presents the following slate of candidates, but with an open invitation for any club member to volunteer their name for a position:

Proposed slate / nominations:

President: Fred Alsop

Vice-president: John Carter

Secretary: Mike Tarter

Treasurer; Mike Tarter

Heritage Day Coordinator: Geoff Stunkard

Roger Teinert makes a motion to accept this slate, this was seconded by Ron Green and accepted by all present. As noted, the floor is open for additional nominations for all these offices. [Especially Secretary – hint, hint]

A ballot will be circulated in November to all MEMRR members for an official vote on the candidates for office.

Heritage Day- The weekend of the 27th is Heritage Day – this days emphasis is on the Clinchfield railroad

Little Engineers Room- Amy is looking at Trick or Treat stations and Halloween costumes on the 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25, and turned over to Logan for a prepared program on a innovative but unsuccessful steam turbine electric locomotive developed by the C&O – the M-1.

Next Meeting is To Be Announced since it will be December with so many schedule conflicts.

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@etsu.edu
- **Vice President:** John Carter
carterjohn92@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter
miketarter06@gmail.com
- **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:** 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 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://johnsonsdetpot.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 423-439-6838 or alsopf@etsu.edu*

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