

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

**THE SIGNAL BRIDGE**

AND

**THE COAL ROAD**

Volume 29—Issue 1 January 2022

Cover photograph by Paul Haynes

**Lose Track of Time!**

**Inside this issue:**

Club News	6—16, 23-24
President's Msg	2—5
Lose Track of Time	1, 25
Meeting Minutes	26—27
Heritage Days	17—22
Club Information	28



"And here we have my helix.  
It connects my basement layout with my attic layout."

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



The first big snow of the 2022 New Year in blanketing the ground as I sit down to write this, my first newsletter column of 2022. This should be an exciting year for our members and for the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. Sometime in the next few months I should have the information we need regarding the new location for our railroad museum as I continue to work towards that end with ETSU university administrators, city leaders, and private investors. We are busily planning our Annual Big Train Show after a two-year hiatus because of

Covid in 2020 and major remodeling by the university of the Mini-Dome in 2021 that is our show venue. We are hopefully getting a grip on this global pandemic that will allow all of us to resume more closely what was our "normal" lives before we had to begin wearing masks, social distancing, and protecting ourselves and others with new vaccines. Our memberships in our clubs have remained strong, most have renewed their memberships, we have elected officers for the year, and we still have good attendance each Saturday at the Carter RR Museum of visitors and members, and our student workers are back. This should be a very good year for model railroading!

I wish to send a special "Thank you" to all of you who participated in my surprise birthday party at the Carter Railroad Museum on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and to those who sent their congratulations (or sympathies) to me commemorating the personal milestone of my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your remembrance, assisted by my wife, *Catherine, Amy Merritt*, and others was a wonderful event and one I shall not soon forget. We have some of the best guys and gals in our railroad clubs one could ever hope to work and socialize with, and I always look forward to your company. Thank you for the party and for all you do for the hobby, our clubs, and the railroad museum.

**Membership Renewals:** We continue to gain new members in our railroad clubs, and we welcome them as they bring new ideas, expertise, and energy to our organizations and the railroad museum. We have sent out numerous reminders to the membership since November 2021 that this is the window of time to renew your membership for the coming year in the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders or the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS, or both clubs. On January 31 that window closes and if you have not renewed your membership, you will lose all your former club privileges, i.e., no access to the Carter RR Museum club layouts, no monthly newsletters, no voting privileges at club meetings, etc. etc. **We don't want to lose you. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! JANUARY 31, 2022 IS THE DEADLINE!. Contact the MEMRR treasurer, *Mike Tarter*, or the G.L. Carter NRHS treasurer, *John Dodge*, and renew your membership for 2022. The code on the exterior door lockbox will be changed on January 31 and the new code will only be provided to paid-up members as is our policy.**

**ETSU and COVID Policy:** Tennessee State Law prevents the university from protecting students, faculty, and staff from covid through the mandating of mask wearing. The university begins its Spring 2022 Semester with in-person classes issuing guidelines for everyone's safety hoping we can control exposure to the virus in all of its variants by asking its population to practice safe social contact without being able to mandate any of these safeguards. The University President, *Brian Noland*, has sent public notices to everyone on the ETSU campus asking us to practice social distancing, asking us to continue to wear **masks**

*(continued on page 3)*

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

(continued from page 2)

masks in indoor settings, and asking everyone to get the free vaccines and the booster when you are qualified to do so. By law, we cannot mandate any of these safeguards, nor can we ask anyone if they are, indeed, vaccinated. Please be safe and try to safeguard the health of others as well as yourself, by continuing to practice these CDC guidelines. We will continue to take everyone's temperature at the museum door, and we will have a supply of masks available if you desire one. **Stay safe, please!**

**Club Meetings in 2022:** As long as COVID-19 continues to be a problem for us I will continue to have hybrid business meetings, zoom so you can attend from wherever you have a Wi-Fi or internet connection, and in-person for those of you who want to attend and interact in that fashion. Meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Monday of the month for the Carter Chapter NRHS and on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for the MEMRR. **Both clubs will continue to meet at 6:30 p.m. with the Carter Chapter meetings in room 131 Brown Hall (a new designated meeting place because of university class scheduling) and the MEMRR will continue to meet in room 223 Brown Hall on the ETSU campus.**

**Joint Newsletter:** Our newsletter Editor, *Cathy Smith*, will continue to edit and publish our joint newsletter combining information from both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS into one excellent publication. We will continue to provide it to all members with email connections via the internet as an electronic copy and post it on the MEMRR website. We will continue to send it to members without computer/smartphone capabilities as a mailed hardcopy if they pay the postage fees. The newsletter always contains a lot of great current information including progress and changes made on the museum layouts, updates on organizational news, rail excursions and social gatherings, minutes from our monthly business meets, how-to-do-it articles and modeling tips, and many other interesting topics. Our editor does a terrific job for all of us with the publication of this monthly newsletter. Please help your editor by submitting photos of models and the prototype railroad with informative captions, articles about your home layout, modeling tips, railroad trips you have taken, and any other modeling or prototype information. Every editor depends on gris for their publications and your contributions are always welcomed.

**Railroad Book Sales:** As we continue to reorganize our museum library with the placement of new books on the shelves and a major cataloging activity in progress by our Librarian, *Dean Small*, and major assistant, *Wallace Shealy*, we will continue the sales of our duplicate railroad books. Please see Dean if you are interested in browsing the "for sale" collection and see if there are one or more volumes you want to add to your personal library. When we have our Annual Big Train Show in early June, we will place any unsold books on our sales table for the general public to purchase. Members are getting discounted pricing.

**Museum 2022 Calendar and The HOn3 Annual Available:** Drop by the Carter Railroad Museum soon and purchase your copy (copies) of the 2022 Carter RR Museum Calendar. *Geoff Stunkard* has once again put together a beautiful calendar, our 4<sup>th</sup> edition, depicting our layouts, our hobby, and some prototype railroads. *Geoff* and *Logan Heaton* have provided the illustrations with some excellent photographs making this the best calendar ever! Calendar purchases are discounted to members, and you may want to give several to your railroading friends as well as family members to advertise the clubs you belong to. We send our calendars out to all our past and potential vendors for the Annual Big Train Show as a way of advertising our museum.

(continued on page 4)

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

(continued from page 3)

The 2021 Edition of *The HOn3 Annual* arrived just before Christmas, and we have copies for sale at the museum's sales table. The ET&WNC "Tweetsie" layout is featured for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in this collector's edition with 8 color-illustrated pages. This edition features the "feeding of the Tweetsie's iron horses" with text and illustrations of the coal, water, and sand facilities provided along the line to keep the little narrow-gauge locomotives running under steam power. It is a strong tribute to the quality of workmanship demonstrated in our little railroad museum to have this layout published annually for many years now in a publication that has national and international distribution and readership. This is the kind of publicity that brought more than 90 participants in the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Narrow Gauge Convention meeting in Hickory, NC to our museum in late August 2021. These visitors represented model railroaders from across North America who had read about the ET&WNC Railroad and wanted to see our layout representing it in our museum in Johnson City where the "little railroad with a heart" originated. We have plenty of copies on hand now, so get your copy at a 20% discount from the retail price. It is packed with many excellent articles and modeling tips in addition to our 8-page article. I know you will enjoy it and please show it to your friends and encourage them to come to the Carter Railroad Museum to see the entire layout for themselves, as well as all our excellent model railroad layouts and exhibits.

**ET&WNC RR Historical Society 2022 Convention:** This historical society dedicated to preserving the memory of the ET&WNC Railroad will hold its annual convention based at the **Carnegie Hotel, Johnson City, TN over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, 2022.** Like many other organizations, COVID-19 prevented the society from holding its conventions for the past two years, but plans are well underway for this year. This society is affiliated with the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum and in past years they have scheduled their convention to coincide with our Annual Big Train Show but have decided this year to meet one week earlier. This is a win-win for us as many of us tried to divide our time on a very busy schedule between our train show, having the railroad museum open for extra hours, and attending some of the varied events at the ET&WNC HS convention. The convention events include several small operating sessions on our Tweetsie layout as part of the activities for their attendees. We will work with them to provide operating instructions with the able assistance of the coordinators for our HOn3/HO-scale layout. I would encourage any of you who may be interested in attending their convention to check out their website and become members. The cost is \$30 annual membership and includes quarterly magazines about the railroad and regular newsletters to members. Their convention includes several meals, rides on the Tweetsie Railroad in Blowing Rock, NC behind ET&WNC locomotive #12 after hours with the convention attendees only on board, and a ride up the Doe River Gorge on some of the original railbed during the 3-day convention. I'll provide more information and their convention program and plans come together later this spring.

**2022 Annual Big Train Show:** *Roger Teinert*, coordinator for the Annual Big Train Show, has his planning committee meeting on a regular basis as we enter the new year. The venue at the ETSU Mini-Dome has been contracted for, initial information and application forms have been sent out to former and potential vendors, and some have already responded with checks reserving tables for the event. Following a 2-year absence because of Covid and lack of access to the venue, we are planning for the largest show ever. **The current meetings are being held in ETSU's Brown Hall room 131 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.** Please plan to attend these open meetings if you are interested to learn what is being planned. Membership on the committee is welcomed and we will once again be calling on a lot of our members in both clubs to help us with the production and logistics of this big annual event that is hosted by the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. More detailed information and requests for assistance will be forthcoming.

(continued on page 5)

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

(continued from page 4)

**2022 Rail Excursions and Social Events:** We will use the January club business meetings to plan the proposed rail excursions and social events for the MEMRR, Carter Chapter NRHS and the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum as we have traditionally done. Look for a possibility of 3 rail excursions in 2022, one of them being over the Labor Day Weekend as a 3-day event. If the current pandemic allows we will resume our annual social events of a Spring Fling, Late Summer Picnic, and Christmas Party.

**National NRHS RailCamp:** The NRHS cancelled its annual East and West RailCamps again in 2021 because of COVID-19, and we don't yet know if they will resume in 2022. If we get the green light that the camps will be conducted the Carter Chapter NRHS will once again sponsor a teenager to attend the East RailCamp in Delaware. If you have youngsters who are interested in being nominated for this great week-long adventure, please let me know so they may be considered. The chapter pays the attendee's roundtrip airfare from Tri-Cities airport and the entire tuition costs for the camp. We will need applications very soon, probably in a few weeks in order to have our applicant considered. We give priority to youth members in the MEMRR, but we can support non-club members.

**News Around the Railroad Museum:** All of our coordinators report progress on all of the layout exhibits in the Alsop and Marsh Galleries and well as in the museum library.

- N-Scale layout is seeing new vegetation replacing the old and deteriorating lichen trees, bushes and ground cover as well as new rock formations to upgrade the scenery on this big N-Scale layout.  
G-Scale is reported to be operating in good order without problems.
- HO-Scale MEMRR layout has some work being done on personal modules, but the major improvements are focused on the mountain logging scenes on the corner modules near the gallery entrance. Work seems to have slowed on the club modules that involve the depot and highway overpass areas.
- ET&WNC HOn3/HO-Scale layout work has been focused on the little railroad mountain town of Elk Park, NC. All but one of the scratch-built buildings have been completed on that part of the layout, with landscaping almost completed with roads, ground cover, trees, and with details being added to the buildings. It is now 85% completed.
- The museum library will soon reestablish cooperative work with the ETSU Library to bar-code and better catalog/index the library holdings. This will allow better service to those who wish to check out library holdings.

The New Year of 2022 is here, and it is filled with potential and new opportunities for the MEMRR, the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS, and the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. We will strive to take full advantage of these as we move forward. Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come. Happy New Year!!!

*Fred J. Alsop III*

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

## MEMRR and/or George L Carter Chapter of NRHS

**Your 2021 Membership Will Expire Jan 31st!**

**The code on the exterior door lockbox will be changed on January 31st and the new code will only be provided to current paid up members as is our policy**



### 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)

***I plan to mail payment to national by January 31st.***

***Please help me do my job, mail payment to me sooner instead of later. Thank you!!!!***

**\*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

### MEMRR Layout Update: Article and Photographs by Logan Heaton

A behind the scenes look at the progress for the logging loop where our hardworking members have come together to make the trees for the logging area. Taking wooden dinner stakes the sticks are cut giving a rougher texture similar to tree bark then painted to match the trunk. Some will be cut for stacks in the camp and flatbed loads while some will be made into full trees to place around the mountains.



# Club News

## Fred's 80th Birthday Bash! - photos by Logan Heaton





## Club News

I want to send A **BIG THANK YOU** to John Carter and Frank Fezzie for safekeeping a box of utility poles for the HO scale layout that went missing for the past month!

Jim Hoit, RIP Track Coordinator.



**We would love to know more about you, your layout, or your travels!**

\*\*\*\*\*

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 : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

The J.M. Deamin Coal and Ice Company is now complete and out on the layout. Dr. Alsop finished the last bit of work on the building completing the final assembly then finishing the terrain before putting the building out on the layout. This is another great addition to Elk Park bringing it that much closer to completion with only a few things left to do before the area is finished. Stay tuned for more updates!!



## Club News

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

With the ice and coal company finished, focus is changed back to the blacksmith shop for the time being with the arrival of the new detailed pieces for the interior. Currently Dr. Alsop has finished smoothing out the rough edges of the pieces including an anvil, water barrel, horseshoes and other assorted tools that will be placed in the shop once they are done.



## Club News

**Tweetsie Layout Update:** Article by Logan Heaton, photos by Ben Merritt

We had some great new additions to the layout with new water towers to the different stops along the main lines for both the narrow gauge and standard gauge. Now yes, we do have other water towers that were modified to get them to match as close as possible to the original towers that were on the ET&WNC but these models that were 3D printed by one of our members, Benjamin Merritt, to match the photos and designs of the original towers adding that much more detail to our layout. The best part is that for anyone that is interested you can purchase your own ET&WNC water tower for your layouts or displays. Anyone interested in ordering can visit <https://merritt3d.com/> to place an order.



## Club News

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

Over the holiday break Dr. Alsop made some great progress on Elk Park completing a couple different projects during our time away. One of the projects was the completion of the T.R. Burgie Store. He fully assembled the building along with painting and weathering the outside making another great addition to the layout. Though that is not all that was done during the break. The area around the store to the Coal and Ice company was also developed adding grass, trees and other foliage along with roads, paths and even a small garage/shed between the two buildings. There is still more to show but that is all for now!



## Club News

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

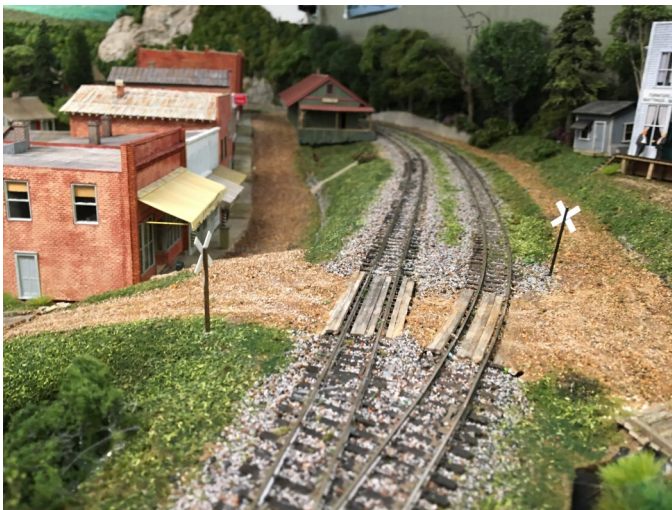
A closer look at the blacksmith shop in Elk Park we get a good look at some of the detailed pieces being added to the build to help bring the scene to life including a rain barrel, horseshoes and other little pieces. This is just a start on the overall scene that will take place at the shop as there are still a few pieces to be added to complete it which we will keep you all up to date as the area develops.



## Club News

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

Now this is the big one that Dr. Alsop has been working on over the holiday break. Not only were the final structures finished up but all of Elk Park received a major change with grass and other foliage being put in along with the roads and paths. Many scenes have also popped up around the area making this quite a lively section of the layout such as a horse being shoed over at the blacksmith and a bicyclist passing by locals having a conversation on the back porch of the Royal Cafe along with many others. Now the area still has a few final details left such as additional trees and foliage and water going down the rocks to pool at the bottom of the hill. This is an amazing sight to see when returning to view the layout after the break!

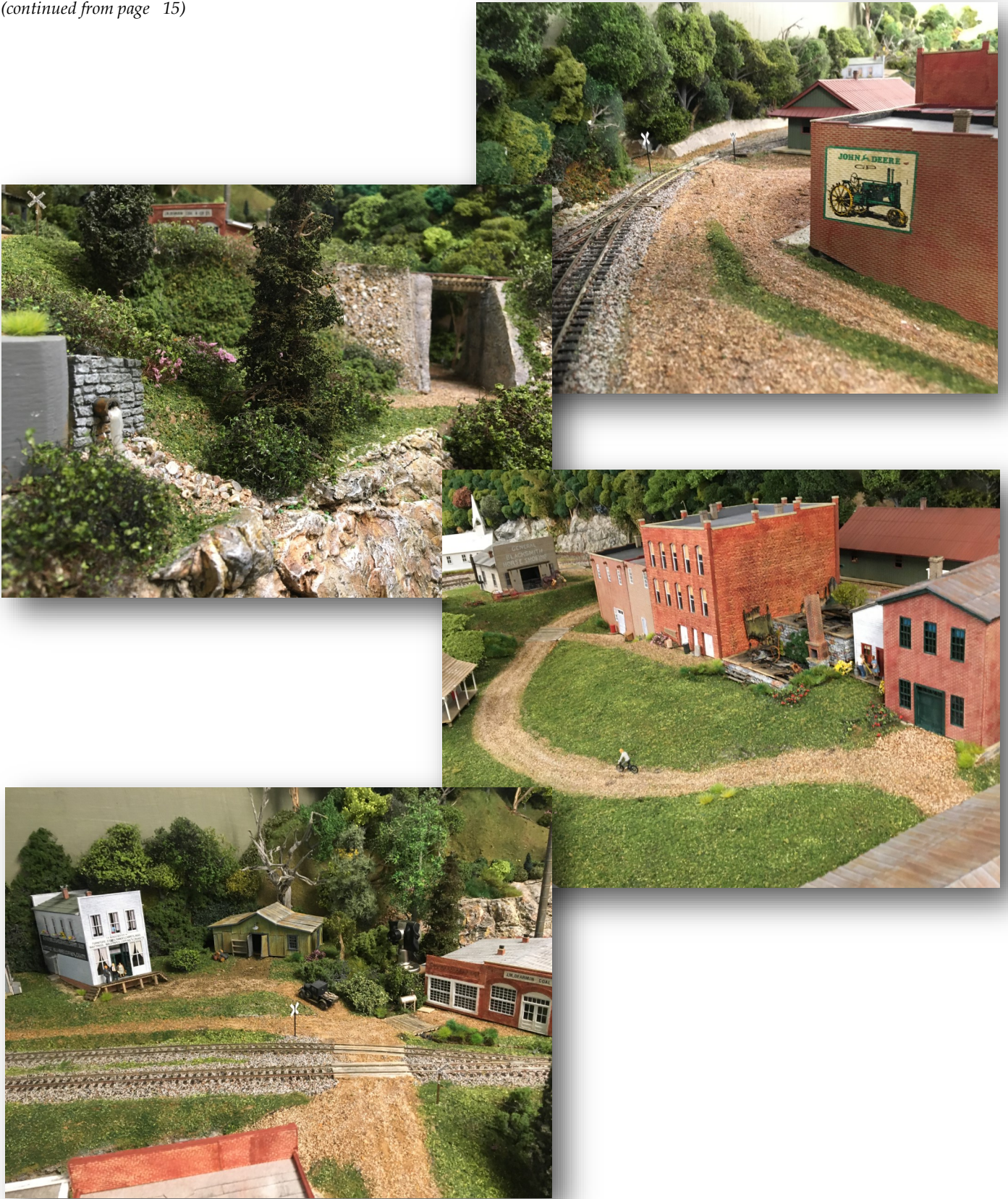


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# Club News

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

(continued from page 15)





# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Saturday, December 18th was definitely an exciting one with many trains running across our layouts and with many of you coming out to visit us one last time for this year. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and hope to see you all again in the new year. In the meantime, we hope everyone will enjoy these photos of many of the engines seen throughout the day. Enjoy!!



*(continued on page 18)*

# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

(continued from page 17)



(continued on page 19)

# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

*(continued from page 18)*



*(continued on page 20)*

# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

*(continued from page 19)*



*(continued on page 21)*

# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

*(continued from page 20)*



*(continued on page 22)*

# Heritage Days!

## Yesterday's Classic Trains – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton



(continued from page 21)



## Club News!

### N Scale Layout Update — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Jim Gorny continues work on the renovations on the N scale layout as the hillside that divides the main city from the neighboring towns has received some major rework. Most of the rock work was redone and repainted with new grass and foliage also being put in breathing in new life to this area of the layout.



## Club News

### The new 2022 calendars have arrived!!

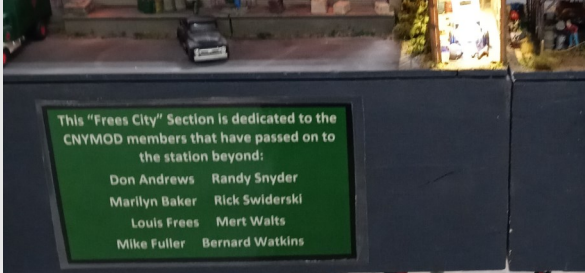
These beautiful calendars will make the perfect stocking stuffer for the railroad buff in your family or maybe even an early gift to yourself featuring pictures of our layouts along with pictures of the actual railroads in action from fallen flags to modern railroads seen today. The calendars also feature 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!





# Lose Track of Time!

Amherst Train Show, Springfield, Massachusetts – Photos submitted by Robert Sullivan



(continued on page 19)

## Club News

### George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes- 1/17/22

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by President Fred Alsop (via ZOOM)

Members Present (on Zoom call): Fred Alsop, Mike Tarter, Ben Merritt, John Dodge

Fred called for Officer Reports.

**V.P. report:** Roger Teinert: Roger is unable to join the meeting

**Secretary's report:** The interim Secretary, Mike Tarter, noted that he had no report since there was no December meeting. The November meeting minutes were included in the December Signal Bridge and Coal Road.

**Treasurers' report:** John Dodge: The Carter Chapter of NHRS has money and is financially solvent. Some members (5) have paid dues for 2022 membership, and all members are encouraged to do so soon. There was some discussion of membership costs, encouraging more members, and the Carter Chapter events open to the public. Based on the enthusiasm of the public at Chapter events we would hope to attract more members.

#### **Presidents report:**

Fred tells us he plans to continue with hybrid In-person and Zoom meetings for the near future. The next in person meeting will be in room 131 of Brown Hall, ETSU Biology building on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. The Train Show committee meeting will be at the same location and day. The train show meeting begins at 5:30 pm.

#### **Old Business:**

- Fred 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. Ads are being posted in various magazines and newsletters. Any surplus of revenue over expenses will be donated to the Carter Museum. Revenues from the joint Carter RR Museum and Carter Chapter NRHS's rail excursions are used for example to pay for young train enthusiasts (MEMRR members) to attend the annual Rail Camp.
- John Dodge asked whether the Rail Camp will be held this year (cancelled in 2021 due to Covid), Fred was not sure but said he would inquire.

#### **New Business:**

- The possible Event Calendar for 2022 was discussed, beginning with a possible Spring Fling social at a restaurant in March. We will be looking into a possible summer picnic.
- A usual Spring (April or May) Rail Excursion / field trip was discussed, possibly a repeat of the sold out trip last November. Other rail excursions were mentioned ; the Great Smokey Mountain RR in Bryson N.C., and the Cass Scenic in Virginia, or an overnight trip to Chattanooga. Possible dates being considered are May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. We will need to invite/ recruit/ draft an event registrar.
- Fred informs us that the Tweetsie Historical Society will be holding it's annual convention in Johnson City on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our museum is sure to have interested visitors.
- There was discussion of the interest in Ben's 3-D printed water tank, and that it was painted green.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted; Mike Tarter, Secretary

## Club News

### MEMRR And George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting- 1/18/22

Attendees welcomed and Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by President Fred Alsop (via ZOOM)

Members Present (on Zoom call): Fred Alsop, Logan Heaton, Mike Tarter, Rick Mulholland, Ben Merritt, Bill Smith

Fred called for Officer Reports.

**Secretary's report:** The club Secretary, Mike Tarter, was not initially on the call (computer sound problems). The November 19th meeting minutes were published in the December 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, Executive summary: The MEMRR has money and is financially solvent. The final financial report for December and interim financial report for January will be given to the club President. Many members have paid dues for 2022 membership, and all members are encouraged to do so by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**V.P. report:** John Carter: (apologies to John, no information is available)

#### **Presidents report:**

Fred tells us he plans to continue with hybrid In-person and Zoom meetings for the near future. The next in person meeting will be in room 223 of Brown Hall, ETSU Biology building on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

We have plenty of HOn3 annuals and 2022 Museum calendars available for sale.

#### **Old Business:**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Ads are being posted in various magazines and newsletters.
- There was no Coordinators meeting in January. The next will be on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Fred noted the progress in the yard area of the HO layout, and reminded us to let him know of any needs or plans. There was some discussion of interest in adding signaling on the main lines. This would be quite complex, but possible, and a major step up.
- Fred reports there has been no decision yet on relocation.

#### **New Business:**

- Please see the discussion of possible upcoming social events (Spring Fling in March, possible summer picnic) and rail excursions in the Carter NHRS Chapter meeting minutes.
- No other new business was brought forth.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:08, and turned over to Logan for a prepared program on the preservation of retired trains, particularly steam engines. This concluded 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@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 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 423-439-6838 or alsopf@etsu.edu*

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