

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

**THE SIGNAL BRIDGE**

AND

**THE COAL ROAD**

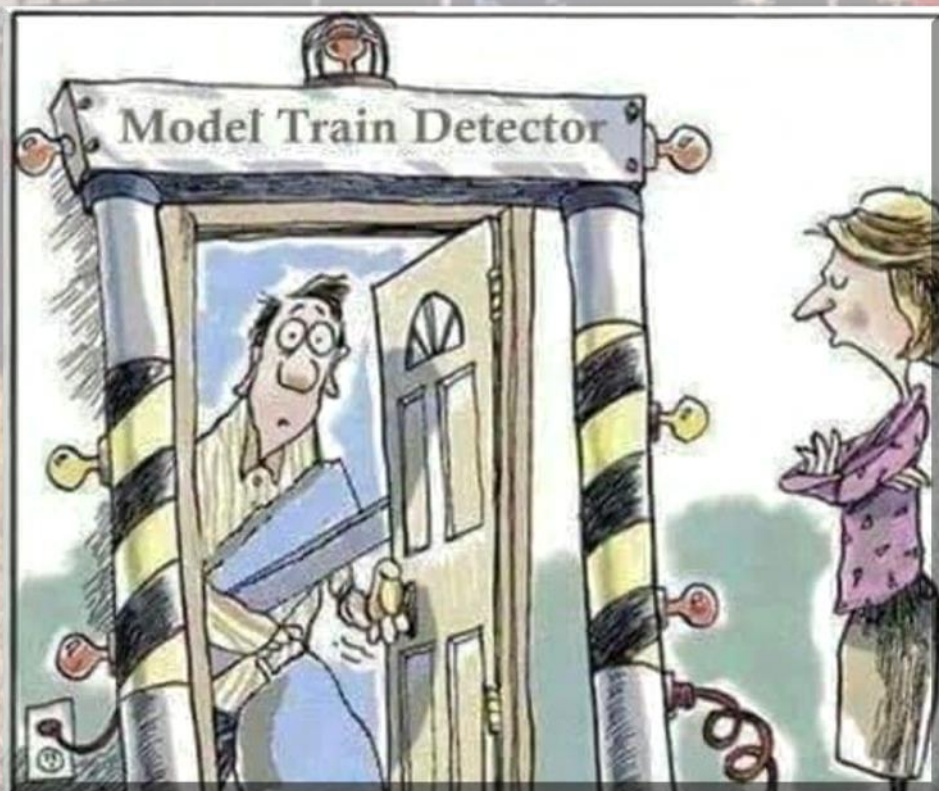
Volume 29 – Issue 8 August 2022

Cover photograph by Paul Haynes

**Lose Track of Time!**

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



The dog days of summer are here and across the region students are heading back to school. That includes the students at East Tennessee State University who have descended upon the campus and gobbled up all of the parking spaces, or so it would seem. The first football home game is on Thursday night, September 1<sup>st</sup>, so parking for our volunteers on our museum worknight may be a little more difficult than usual. Getting onto campus as early as possible on that night might be the best option for finding a parking spot.

We have several new members to welcome into the club and *Robert Sullivan* will be putting some information about them and their interest in our hobby of model railroading in this newsletter so you can get to know them better. Please get them integrated into our club and museum activities so they feel at home and we get to learn from them about their railroad experiences and talents. Welcome aboard!!

**New Display:** We have a new display in the Carter Railroad Museum that is not railroad oriented. Donors Dick and Ginger Curren of Morristown donated a wonderful collection of scale tractors, farm machinery, cars, trucks, and semi-trailer trucks to the museum a few weeks ago. These are collectors' pieces with many of them coming from the Franklin Mint. We are going to highlight this collection, now displayed in the "Tweetsie" Gallery, with September press releases and will have this as a temporary exhibit through the Christmas holidays. Please drop by and take a look at this impressive collection.

**Fall Museum Picnic:** *Kim* and *Tom McKee* were unable to host this annual picnic at their home this year as they did in many of the pre-COVID years of the past. **BUT**, we are going to have a picnic. Carter Chapter Vice-President, *Roger Teinert* has secured the covered pavilion at Winged Deer Park on Carrol Creek road (just north of the intersection with US 11E) for our annual museum picnic. Put **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** on your social calendar from 4 PM to 9PM for this outstanding get-together event. Spouses and significant-others are invited (no children please). We will be getting out details soon, but expect this to be a **bring-a-covered-dish event** with the clubs furnishing the meat(s). This is a wonderful place for a picnic with a great view of the river, a permanent grill facility and electrical outlets, a restroom nearby, and a wonderful area to stroll around in. Lots of parking is adjacent to the pavilion and it is handicapped accessible. We are going to have a great time!

**Fall Rail Excursion:** **Get on Board!! Tickets are Limited and Going Fast!!!** The Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter Railroad Museum have a public outreach rail excursion planned for Saturday, October 8, that will be on the trains of the Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City, NC. We are limited to 110 seats on this popular railway that will be experiencing heavier than normal visitor traffic at this time of the year because of the pending fall colors along the right-of-way. Our trip begins in Johnson City, TN on the campus of East Tennessee State University, where we will board Premier Transportation buses for the ride down to Bryson City. Once there we will have time to visit the large Lionel Train Museum (part of your ticket) before boarding the train for a 34-mile roundtrip along the Tuckasegee River where Harrison Ford starred in the movie, *The Fugitive*. An early scene in the movie had the "fugitive" being transported to prison on board the train which derailed into the river facilitating the actor's escape. The locomotive was left in the river and we will see it from the train as we pass the site. We will have a 75- minute layover in Dillsboro, NC to explore the town with its shops and restaurants before returning by rail to Bryson City. Departing the train, we will again have time to visit the Lionel Museum if you did not do so in the morning or to get a meal before we

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

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board our buses for the return to Johnson City. All the information about the trip, ticket applications and waiver of liability forms can be viewed and downloaded from the MEMRR website; go to memrr.org, then to "Events" and once that link is opened you will see all the information listed above. This is going to be a great trip and we hope that many of our members will be joining us on this rail excursion in North Carolina. Please don't delay in getting your tickets!

**Club Business Meetings:** We have continued to meet in-person for our monthly business meetings since late last spring. The meetings are held on the campus of East Tennessee State University in Brown Hall (science building) in room 223. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. The *Carter Chapter NRHS* meets on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Monday of the month (next meeting September 19) and the *Mountain Empire Model Railroaders* meet on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday of the month. Meetings include old and new business, announcements, and a short program. All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Big Train Show Committee:** Big Train Show Committee Chairman, *Roger Teinert*, holds a monthly meeting for any members who wish to attend (you don't have to be a committee member to come to the meetings, but you might be one before you leave) at Portobellos Restaurant, in the Kroger Shopping Center on west State of Franklin Road, on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday of the month. Meetings are dinner meetings that begin at 5:30 p.m. These meetings are important planning sessions for the next Big Train Show that will be held in early June of 2023.

**Big Train Show Flyers:** We now have in stock in the Carter Railroad Museum workroom 7,000 copies of the newly printed flyer announcing the Annual Big Train Show for June 2023. We send these flyers to former and potential vendors for our annual train show in the ETSU Mini-Dome and we distribute them in local hobby shops. **We also depend on any members traveling to any train shows prior to June 2023 to take some with you and distribute them at the train shows you visit.** This not only gets the word out about our show, but you are representing us to these vendors and are the perfect person for them to ask questions about regarding our event. If you go to a hobby shop in another town on your trips, please drop off some of our train show flyers with the proprietor of the shop. This is a great way for us to get a wider audience for our shows and you are perfect ambassadors for the train show, your club, and the Carter Railroad Museum.

**Museum Publicity:** We do our best to keep the people in our region aware of our railroad clubs and our railroad museum. We do press releases for our monthly Heritage Day Events, we place brochures for the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS, and the Carter Railroad Museums in rack cards at businesses and highway visitor centers over a wide region. We advertise our rail excursions on radio and television. Our Annual Big Train Show is also widely advertised with radio, television, billboards, flyers, and press releases. Currently, text and illustrations are being sent to White River Productions, the company that prints *The Hon3 Annual* and *The Narrow Gauge Gazette*. This national/international publisher is interested in seeing an article on the Elk Park, NC section of our "Tweetsie" layout, as well as an article on the "Tank in the Narrows", the water system near Hampton that the ET&WNC RR used as a water source for their locomotives. *Ben Merritt's* 3-D printed ET&WNC water tanks are also probably going to be published in their magazine as a new product with a story of how they were created by Ben. Your volunteer work with exhibits and working with our guests on Saturdays are the backbone of the operations of the museum that provides the interest that we can bring to the attention of the public both near and far. You all do a great job!

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

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**Carter Railroad Museum Future?** Nothing concrete yet as to where we will be a year from now, but we are getting more and more support for a possible location on the developing West Walnut Street. The Advisory Board for the Carter Railroad Museum met in August and we have some new prospects for a future location that would give us a lot more room to expand our current model railroad layouts, add additional ones in other gauges, and to provide some other spaces that our museum will need for meeting rooms, gift shop, larger library, etc. I will keep everyone informed of any progress we make with regard to a new museum and a time table for moving. The current expectations for the completion of the adjacent Lamb Hall remodeling is spring of 2023. For now, nothing new to report; but be aware that I am working hard to find us a new, larger, and better facility for our museum to occupy and to grow.

As always, a lot is happening at the Carter Railroad Museum and with our railroad clubs. Our volunteers keep everything up and running and work is going on to improve the MEMRR HO-Scale layout, the N-Scale layout, and the "Tweetsie" layout. If you are a "regular" at the museum on Thursday evenings and on Saturdays, keep up the good work. If you have not been in to visit or work at the museum in a while, come on down! We miss you and need for you to get involved once more. It's a great hobby and we have some wonderful members for you to interact with. 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

# Lose Track of Time!

Contributed by Logan Heaton



## Club News

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

Just before the events of last week's Heritage Day, Dr. Alsop put the finishing touches on the 1924 Half Ton Federal Dump Truck. After final assembly and paint the truck has now made it out to the layout where it calls Elk Park home delivering coal to the J.M. Dearmin Coal & Ice Company. Keep a watchful eye out for it on your next visit to the museum when looking around the ET&WNC exhibit hall!



## Club News

### N-Scale Layout Update : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Taking a break from the work on the hills and cliffs of the layout, focus is shifted to one of the neighborhoods where new grass and trees along with other foliage has been put in revitalizing the area. Museum members Mike and Greg are busy working on the area including working on a small rock wall coming out of the neighborhood.



## Club News

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

The 1925 Ford Model T stake truck has been completed and added to the layout in a very unique way. Like the last few vehicles, Dr. Alsop has completed another additional vehicle for our road roster but instead of parked or driving around town this one was given some added detail with the engine side hood opened while the owner is working on the broken down. The cows in the back are also interested to know what happened watching the repairs from the truck bed. This new addition can be found between Elk Park and State Line Hill so be sure to look around for it during your next visit.





## Club News

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



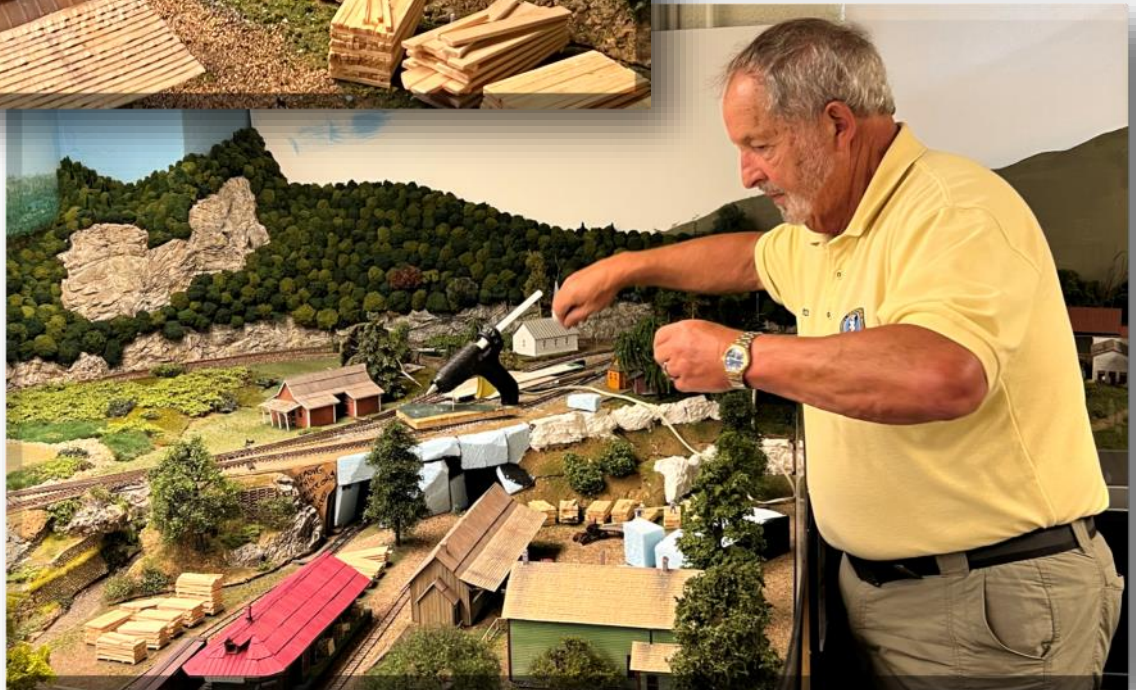
Dr. Alsop has now moved on to the next vehicles for the roadways along the ET&WNC. This time work has begun on a 1925 Model T Ford one ton stake truck with assembly starting on the cab and chassis. Dr. Alsop has also begun painting on some of the detailed pieces for the build before they are added on.



## Club News

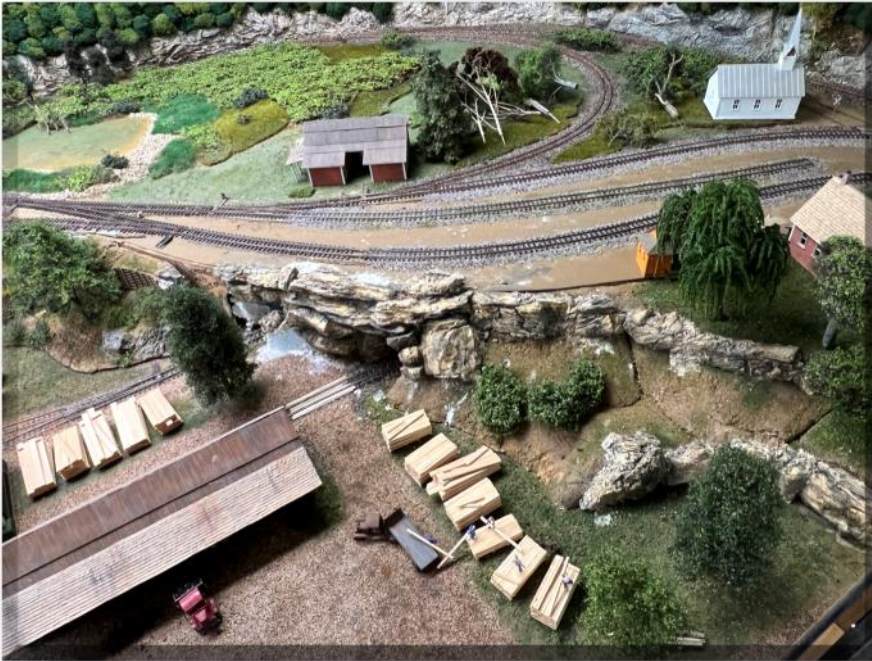
### Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Well, it has been a long time since work has been done up at Cranberry, other than general maintenance and touch up work, but we are back again doing some work near the station. For a while now a large opening has sat behind the station where the main line crosses over what would be additional storage tracks for the original railroad, but it was found to be a big break in the scenery plus exposes a lot of the inner workings for the layout in this area. The plan is now to build out the hill and new rock work to help blend this area in and hide the tracks as they disappear under the layout. Here we can see Dr. Alsoop already starting the foam work and putting in rock molds to help fill out the area while also making sure not to mess with the pull-out sections to access under the layout for maintenance purposes.



## Club News

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



A quick follow up on the work in Cranberry, where a lot of the rock work has been done along the hill and to hide the track going under the layout. Dr. Alsop finished a lot of the painting including a coat of watered down black paint to both darken the rocks and add a bit of shadow like many other formations on the layout to use this technique. Still a bit more work to do in this area to conceal the hole but still some great progress by the layout crew.



## Club News

Please welcome our new members for this Month !

Beth Barrett

Ron Barrett

James Kozsuch

Randel Rogers

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

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**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@gmail.com](mailto:cathysmithmemrr@gmail.com)**



# Heritage Days!

## Northeast Heavyweights — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

The Northeast Heavyweights sure came out in style with many different locomotives and trains of different eras roaming the rails to keep the MEMRR rolling. We grabbed a few snapshots of these trains in action across the layout and we hope everyone enjoys!!



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# Heritage Days!

## Northeast Heavyweights — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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# Heritage Days!

## Northeast Heavyweights — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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# Heritage Days!

## Northeast Heavyweights — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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## Club News

### The new 2022 calendars are still available!!

These beautiful calendars will make the perfect gift 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!



**George L. Carter Chapter of NRHS Monthly Business Meeting Minutes**

Check back next month!

## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting

Check back next month!

**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  
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- **Vice President:** John Carter  
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- **Newsletter Editor:**  
cathysmithmemrr@gmail.com

**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://johnsonspot.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*