

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

**THE SIGNAL BRIDGE**

AND

**THE COAL ROAD**

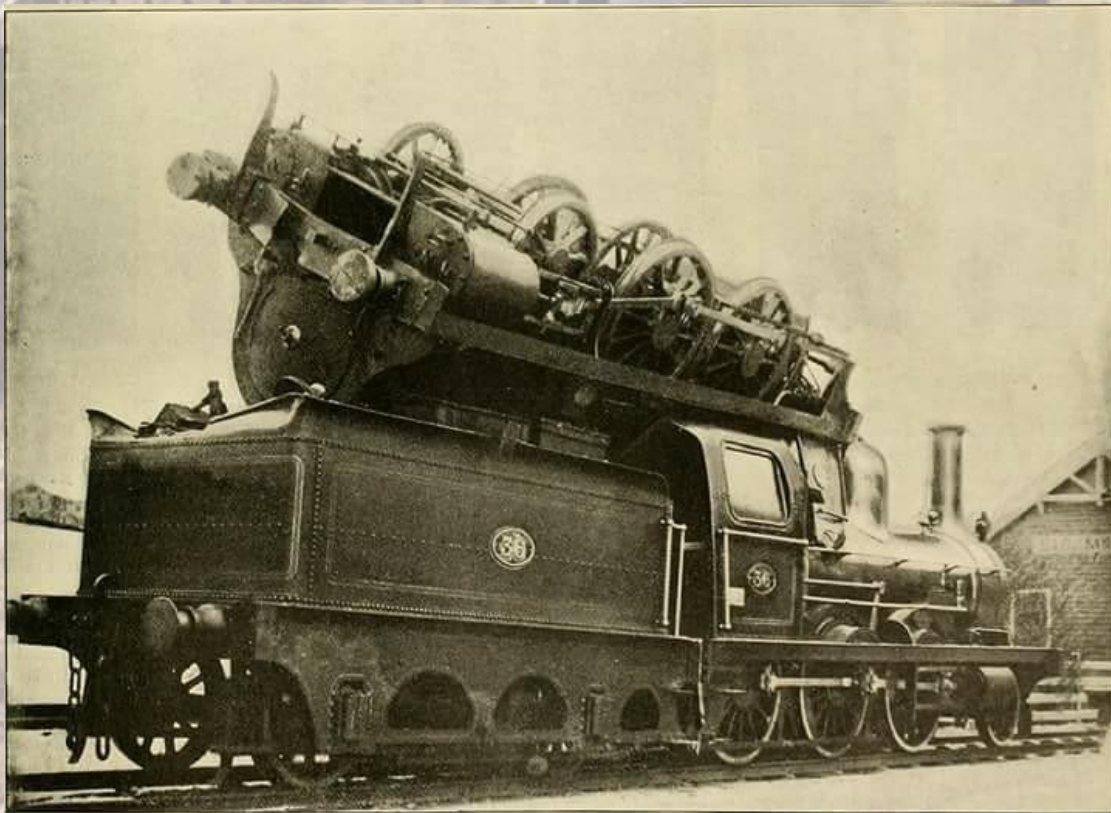
Volume 29 – Issue 9 September 2022

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 sun has now crossed the equator on its southward march across the Earth and we are officially into fall. The coming months are always a busy time for our railroad clubs and for the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. In the coming months we will hold our annual fall picnic, celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carter Railroad Museum, celebrate national model railroad month, and national take a toy train to work day, followed by Thanksgiving, and can the Christmas holidays be far behind? If you are not too exhausted already by these upcoming events

in our lives, please read on. We have a lot to look forward to.

**Members News:** We have had **several new members** join the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club during September. *Robert Sullivan*, Membership Chairman, will soon be posting some information in this newsletter about them so you can get to know them better. We are having lanyards with name tags in them created for everyone to wear while we are in the museum on Saturdays and these should be helpful to everyone who is trying to tie together a name with a face. Please reach out and make these folks welcome to the MEMRR and to the museum.

***Sick Bay:*** Please wish long-time members, *Jim Pahr*, and the *Mike Buster family*, our wishes for them to return to great health soon. Jim has had a couple of bad falls recently and Mike's wife, Pam, has also been ill. We miss seeing Jim and Mike at the museum and look forward to having the pleasure of their company in the near future. Several of our members have also recently contracted one of the COVID-19 strains, and while their bouts with the virus was not a major setback medically, we are glad they came out the other side of this illness in good shape. It serves to remind us the virus is still around and that we need to continue to strive to protect ourselves and our families from it. If we overlooked someone who has been under the weather, we wish you the best of health very soon.

## **Club News:**

**George L. Carter Chapter NRHS #242.** The club continues to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night of the month at 6:30 PM in Brown Hall room 223, ETSU. Our membership is at its lowest level since the chapter was founded with only 10 active members. We hope that once the Carter RR Museum is relocated in larger quarters there will be the opportunity for positive growth in this chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society. The chapter remains actively working in concert with the Carter RR Museum in co-hosting 2-3 rail excursions for the public annually as an important public outreach educational program and as a fund raiser for both the chapter and the museum. This chapter also often sponsors one of our high school members to the annual NRHS RailCamp in Delaware, paying all of the youth's travel and registration expenses. You are welcome to join us at the monthly meetings, and if you are not yet a member, please consider becoming one soon.

**Mountain Empire Model Railroaders.** This model railroad club was established almost 30 years ago and has seen a dramatic growth in its membership since it became affiliated with the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. For many years, pre-museum, its annual membership stood at around 35 members, but for the past decade

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

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or so it has averaged 130 paid members. The club meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in Brown Hall room 223, ETSU. (*note: the meeting room is subject to change with each new university semester as conflicts occur because of scheduled classes meeting in these rooms in the evening.*) The MEMRR volunteers act as major docents operating the Carter RR Museum on Saturdays, and during special museum visitation events. Most Saturdays more than 20 members are present at the museum operating the 4 model train layouts and interacting with our visitors. Work nights at the museum are on Thursday afternoons & evenings. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic we have been struggling to get a good quorum of members to our meeting. This is especially important now that we have resumed meeting in person. This is where the business of the club is conducted and it is important to have 20 or so members present to present motions for actions by the club to its officers, to discuss these motions, and to vote. **Please plan to attend these monthly meetings. Your voice and your vote are important!**

**Annual Fall Picnic:** The Carter Railroad Museum's Annual Fall Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4-9PM. We have reserved the Meredith Pavilion, a covered open-air structure, at Winged Deer Park off of Carrol Creek Road, just north (left turn if you are coming from Johnson City) at the traffic light off of the Bristol Highway, US 11E. The clubs are furnishing the meat (BBQ or fried chicken to be determined) and some of the drinks, as well as the paper plates and plastic cups and dinner ware. You are asked to bring a covered dish and join the fun. This is a social event with spouses and/or significant-others invited to attend (no children please). The pavilion is located in a great place with a nearby parking lot, adjacent bathrooms, and a great view of the river. There is a Bald Eagle nest just across the river from it. We have invited *Kim* and *Tom McKee*, who have been our hosts for this event at their home on the lake for so many years before COVID stopped this social event to come as our special guests. Tom McKee was the generous donor of the G-Scale western-themed layout to our museum that we enjoy today.

**You have been sent an email that will allow you to register for the picnic and to list what food dish you are bringing.** Both are important bits of needed information. We need to know how many folks to plan for so we can order a sufficient quantity of meat, and we all need to know what dishes are being brought to the feast so we don't duplicate the food groups. Remember the time we failed to do this question and we had 5 large bowls of baked beans? This is a fun social event and we look forward to enjoying your company at the picnic.

**Fall Rail Excursion:** Working together the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum are hosting a fall excursion on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, on the Smoky Mountain Railroad. The train will make a 34-mile round trip from Bryson City, NC to Dillsboro, NC, with a long stop-over in Dillsboro. We will travel by charter buses from ETSU to Bryson City and return on this day trip. Participants will also have tickets of admission to the large Lionel Train Museum in Bryson City as part of the excursion price. For information and ticket application forms go to [memrr.org](http://memrr.org), and click on *events* and then on *excursions*, or stop by the Carter Railroad Museum and pick up the packet of information and forms for the trip.

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

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**Annual Big Train Show Committee:** This committee, chaired by *Roger Teinert*, and open to all members, meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM as a dinner meeting. Currently we are meeting and eating at Portobellos Restaurant in the Kroger shopping plaza on West State of Franklin Road, Johnson City. These social meetings are used for planning of the June 2-3, 2023 Big Train Show. Actions that have already been taken include: printing of 7,000 flyers for the 2023 event (please take these to any train show you may be attending between now and next June, or to any hobby shop you may be visiting. We have a good supply available at the Carter Railroad Museum.), printing of a vendor's newsletter, reservation of the ETSU Mini-Dome for the event, and a block of room reservations at the Carnegie Hotel for next year's vendors. We learn from each train show we have and the committee has already made plans to create a better show for 2023 based on the results of the 2022 event. Once again, we thank all of our members who have worked so hard to make each of these fund-raising public events possible. It truly takes a village of volunteers to make it happen. You don't have to be a committee member to attend the meetings and the food at this restaurant is very good!

**Carter Railroad Museum News:** All of the information below also dovetails with the members of both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS, but this may be a better place to focus on it.

**Museum Library:** Many hundreds of man-hours of labor spear-headed by *Dean Small* and *Wallace Shealy* has resulted in the cataloging of almost all of the 2,500+ volumes of railroad books held in our collection. They are now working on some of the paperback pamphlets with an end almost in sight. This has been a terrific effort on their part and we owe them a debt of gratitude that will soon provide us the ability to more efficiently check out books to members for now, and to the general public at a later time. All of our holdings are now cataloged with the same Library of Congress system used by the other ETSU libraries and our collection can be posted on line for easy review.

**Museum Publications:** In addition to the Annual Train Show flyer listed above and the vendor's letters the following publications are either being put to press or are being worked on for publication:

A manuscript featuring the town of **Elk Park, NC** as constructed on our ET&WNC Railroad layout has been written by *Geoff Stunkard* and forwarded to the editors of the **2022 HOn3 Annual** for review along with photos of that section of the layout by *Geoff Stunkard*, *Logan Heaton*, and *Fred Alsop*. We expect to learn very soon if it has been accepted by White River Productions for publication in this year's edition.

A manuscript for the section of the ET&WNC layout of *The Tank in the Narrows*, the unusual water providing cistern of the "Tweetsie" railroad at Hampton, TN, and modeled by *Mike Sagers* and *Fred Alsop*, with scale drawings by *Mike Sagers*, and photographs by club members is being prepared by *Mike Sagers* and *Geoff Stunkard* for submission to *The Narrow-Gauge Gazette*.

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

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The excellent 3-D printed water tanks of the "Tweetsie" railroad created by *Ben Merritt* are also being put into publication form for submission to a model railroad magazine by *Ben* and *Geoff Stunkard*. Ben has these available to the club members and to the public and they are featured for sale on his website.

The 2023 Carter Railroad Museum Calendar is at the printshop. Should be available soon. Focus of this calendar is on local railroads, present and fallen flags. Significant contributions from *Geoff Stunkard*, *Logan Heaton*, and *Fred Alsop*.

**Highlighting Logo Shirts:** Each of our organizations, the Carter Railroad Museum staff, the MEMRR members, the Carter Chapter members, and the affiliated, ET&WNC Railroad Historical Society members, all have standard logo shirts in specific colors that identify each person as a member of their organization. In addition to the shirts that come in many styles from short-sleeved polo (with or without a pocket), long-sleeve dress shirt, tee shirt, and sweat shirt, caps, jackets and other identifying garments are all available. The museum director and the club/chapter treasurers can take your order and obtain any of these garments for you in short order.

Post-COVID fewer and fewer of our members are wearing their organization's shirts on Saturdays at the Carter Railroad Museum. We are beginning to look more like a rag-tag group of individuals to each other, and more importantly to the public visiting us, than like the cohesive clubs that we represent. Every organization meeting on campus for public events has a dress code that involves the wearing with pride the "uniform of the organization". I feel it is important that we display our pride in our club's identity by wearing our club's colors at least on Saturdays. It will not only identify you as a member of your organization to fellow members, but also, and more importantly you will look more like the professional organization you represent to all of our visitors. This topic is currently under discussion by the MEMRR and Carter Chapter members at the September business meetings, and it was first introduced and discussed at the Museum Coordinators Meeting on September 15 as a topic of concern for our organizations. Please discuss it among yourselves and let's move to reach a consensus on this action topic. **The shirts look great and speak volumes to all who see them and I feel strongly every member working at the museum on Saturdays should be in their organizations' colors.**

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**Train Running Time on the MEMRR HO Layout:** This has become a second recent topic of concern, so let me begin to address it here. All members in good standing have 24/7 access to the Carter Railroad Museum and to the MEMRR and other layouts. Most of our members model in HO-Scale, and therefore, the MEMRR layout gets most of the demand for space and time for members to operate personal, club, or museum locomotives and rolling stock on this large 44' x 24' layout with its twin mainlines, large freight yard, and staging yard. Saturdays, we have 5 hours to operate our trains on this layout and it is becoming more and more dominated by fewer and fewer members running their trains for longer periods of time. *Some of our older members are coming on Saturdays and not being given the opportunity to run trains because the layout is already crowded and no one is giving up their train space so others may have a turn.* We need to rethink what is the fair thing to do to allow more of our members to have a chance to operate on this layout on Saturdays when we are open to the public. We may need to create some policies for train operation for this weekly 5-hour period. We have talked about this before and I want to list some of what I remember regarding those pre-COVID discussions and suggestions below as recommendations for further thought. Once agreed to by our members, and the museum director, we will begin to implement them for the enjoyment of all.

**NEW POLICY ADOPTED BY A STRONG MAJORITY VOTE AT THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEMRR BUSINESS MEETING.** Following discussion by those members present on a motion made and seconded, the following policy was adopted to go into effect on Saturdays only during the hours from 10 AM to 3 PM (the public operating hours for the railroad museum), and only pertains to the MEMRR HO-Scale layout.

**This policy will be in effect beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, October 1, 2022.**

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

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## MEMRR Policy for Train Operation on the MEMRR HO-Scale Layout on Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM (Adopted September 20, 2022)

- The establishment of an “operations white board” that is erasable that **sets 1-hour limits on any individual's running time on the layout during Saturdays 10 AM to 3 PM.** The board is numbered in 1-hour increments beginning at 10:00 AM-11:00 AM and continuing on to Saturday museum closing at 3:00 PM. This creates 5, 1-hour blocks for individuals to sign up for. *First-come, first-served.* The board will be set up so that 4 (four) members can operate on the two mainlines (2 trains each track) simultaneously. Therefore, 4 (four) members maximum may sign in for the same 1-hour period. *No member may sign the board prior to when they arrive on Saturday morning. No member may sign-in another member who is not present in the museum.*
- *At the end of your 1-hour of operation, you must move your train to the staging yard, or remove it from the layout.* You cannot park your train on a mainline through run-around siding, or on any stub siding (Exception: You may park your train on your personal module siding, and only if it is a stub siding.)
- *Continued operation into an adjacent 1-hour block is allowed only if no one has signed in for that block; i.e., nobody is waiting a turn to operate on the mainlines.* If the block on the white board is open at the end of your hour of operation, you can sign in and operate for an additional hour. You cannot fill in more than one 1-hour block at a time. You have to operate your train first, and then if a block for another hour is open, you may sign into that block and operate your train again for that designated hour. You may repeat this step each additional hour if a block is available for you to do so.
- *The HO layout is large enough to accommodate 4 trains operating simultaneously (2 trains on each of the 2 mainlines at any one time).* Additionally, you may use the large freight yard to build and/or break down trains while 4 members are operating on the main line. *Working in the yard will not be counted as “mainline running time”,* but allows you to operate a train while others are occupying the mainlines.
- *No one person may operate two (2) individual trains on the mainlines at one time.* A train is one consist, no matter how many locomotives are lashed together.
- *The total length of a single train shall be limited to the length of the longest track in the staging yard, including the locomotive(s).*
- *An operator taking a “break” for personal reasons is allowed,* but in so doing your train has to be parked on a siding, or otherwise off of the mainline, and you have to have it back and operating on the main within a 5-minute break period. Exception: If someone will operate your train during your short “break period” you may leave it running under their care on the mainline until you return.

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

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*So, for now, we have adopted 7 "MEMRR Saturday Rules of the Road". We will begin with these and tinker with them as needed. Think as you discuss them and apply them about how to improve them, and think about what is fair for all concerned who wish to run a train on Saturdays! Thank you.*

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 Robert Sullivan:

As most of you know, I am an over the road truck driver. My hobbies include Model trains, matchbox cars, Legos, and movies. On my most recent trip through Chicago, I scrambled myself and my luggage down to the basement to catch the "L" train!

Contributed by Logan Heaton:



## Club News

### Museum Update – Tractor & Heavy Equipment Display: contributed by Logan Heaton

We have a great new exhibit at the museum just in time for the holidays!! An incredible donation from Dick and Ginger Curren brought together this incredible display of tractors and other heavy equipment which will be on display in our ET&WNC Exhibit Hall through the holiday season. This collection once belonged to the father of Ginger Curren and we are happy to have these amazing pieces on display including many collectibles from the Franklin Mint collection. Be sure to stop on by and see these models on your next visit to the museum!



## Club News

**Heritage Fair** : Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Our very own Roger Teinert was at the *Heritage Fair* teaching about railroad history and the museum. We were able to get a copy of the newspaper and saw he even got his picture in the paper at the museum booth. Thank you to Roger for representing the museum at the fair!



**Roger Teinert educates on railroad history.**

## Club News

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



Moving from Cranberry to Elk Park a new home is being built for residents in Elk Park. During our last running session Dr. Alsop began priming and painting the walls for this new little home along with some of the weathering process, slightly sanding the red paint for a worn look before starting on assembly of the walls for the house.



## Club News

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

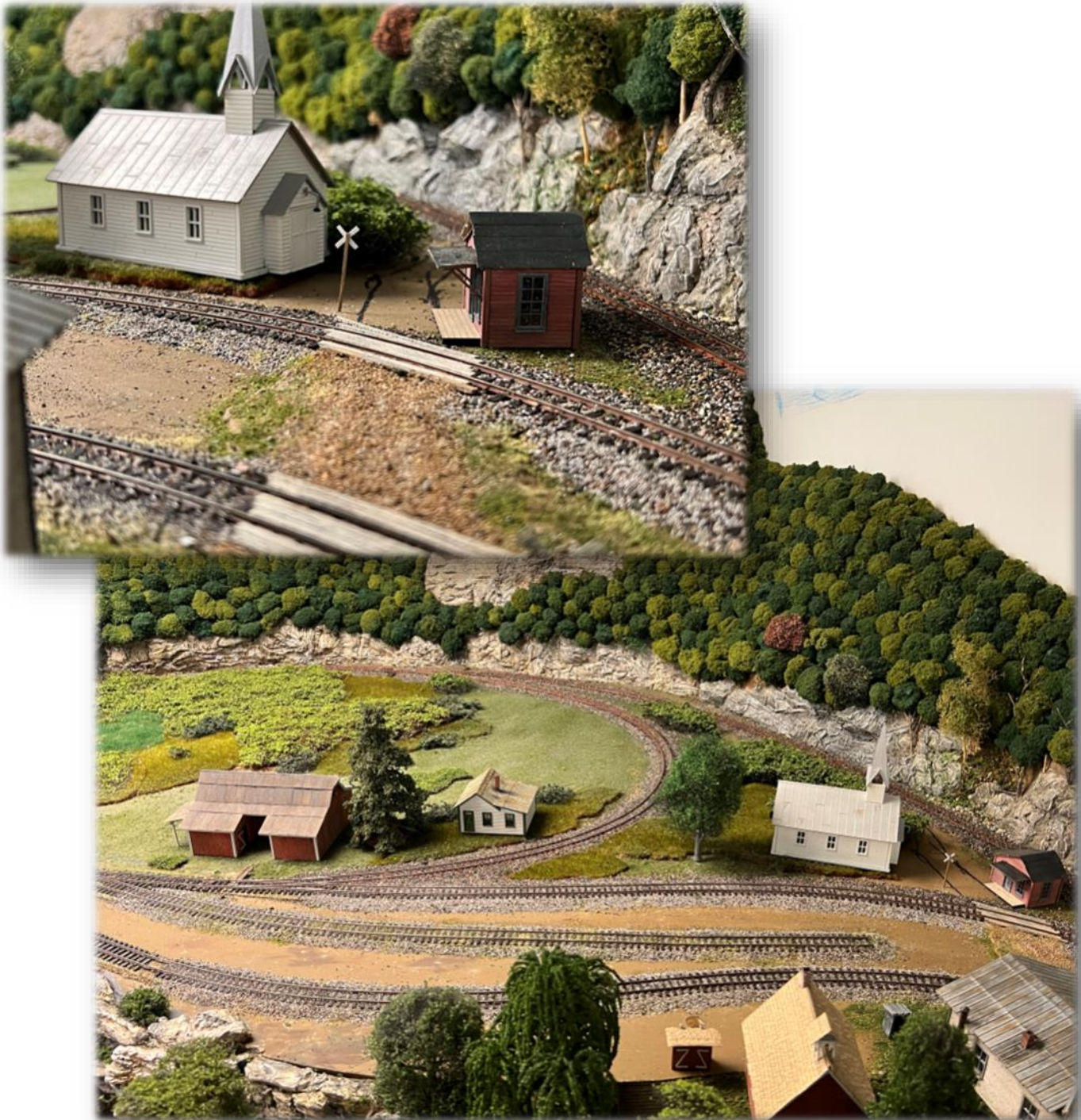
The little red house for Elk Park has been completed. The new addition has been fully assembled and put in place on the back road perfect for residents to move in. Originally a small shed once sat there but has been moved to the other side of the large metal building. All in all this adds another great addition to Elk Park adding just that much more to find in the town. Stay tuned for updates!



## Club News

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

Elk Park continues to grow. Outside of the main town past the blacksmith shop, the start of a road can be seen where a church has now popped up along with a small shed building. A farm is also starting to appear on the other side of the wye complete with a small farmhouse and barn near the fields on the approach towards Cranberry. Stay tuned for more updates!!



## Club News

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



Dr. Alsop continues on some great work on the back end of Cranberry with the trees and foliage being put in along the hill. Grass and bushes can also be seen growing up from between the rocks including along a retaining wall on the other side of the grade crossing. There is still a little bit left to do on the other side of the second track but still some great progress being made so far. Stay tuned for more updates!



## Club News

Please welcome our new members for this Month !

**Ed Krause**

**George Courtney**

**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!

### Way Out West! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton



The west ran wild over the rails during our Way Out West event with many western railroads out on the main line from the Union Pacific, Alaska Railroad, Rio Grande and many more running freight and passenger services across the layouts. Plenty of great photo opportunities as well which we hope everyone enjoys this collection of snapshots from the event.



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# Heritage Days!

## Way Out West! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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## Heritage Days!

### Way Out West! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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# Heritage Days!

## Way Out West! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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# Heritage Days!

## Way Out West! — 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 – 8/15/22

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM by President Fred Alsop

Members Present: Fred Alsop, Mike Tarter, John Dodge, Wallace Shealy

The meeting opened with discussion on NRHS chapter membership. We see a need to recruit members and assistance for activities. Ben Merritt is helping by maintaining the university website and Bill Smith is updating the MEMRR website. We hope to recruit a few new members on the upcoming excursion. As mentioned before, with the popularity of the excursions and the Train Show, we were a bit perplexed why the Carter Chapter does not have more members.

Which segues to – discussion of the October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion from Bryson City on the great Smokey Mountain Railroad. More on this in New Business...

Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that there were no formal minutes taken in July due to lack of quorum. The topics discussed informally were carried to this meeting.

Treasurers' report, John Dodge: The Carter Chapter of NHRS has money and is financially solvent. There was again some discussion of the Carter Chapter sponsoring a student to the Railcamp. If we cannot nominate an applicant, the chapter may donate to the NHRS, as it may be too late to nominate an attendee.

V.P. report, Roger Teinert: not present

Presidents report:

Fred tells us ETSU classes will be starting August 22 – parking will be the usual problem. New parking passes are available, please sign out only one pass, not one per vehicle owned.

Fred is happy to tell us that the George Carter Train Museum has a **5-STAR** rating on GoogleMaps, and over 1800 Facebook Likes!

Old Business:

Fred informs us the museum will soon have an ETSU email address; the library now has one; [RRMuseumLibrary@etsu.edu](mailto:RRMuseumLibrary@etsu.edu).

Wallace relates that the library catalog is in the testing process before going live. Future work will be to add to the catalog the DVDs, the video tapes, and the periodicals. Some of these are available on DVDs, copyright issues remain have to be worked through to stay within laws.

There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting for the 2023 event each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center. The planned date for 2023 is June 2-3, and flyers for the show are now available. The ETSU Mini-Dome reservation is on request.

There was discussion of the NRHS Carter Chapter website domain ownership. Fred will try to research who last paid the renewal so we can regain control of the website for updates.

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New Business:

The October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion, sponsored by the Carter Chapter of NRHS, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City NC is OPEN for registration. Advertising is up on websites, including ETSU electronic bulletin boards. The excursion will have 2 buses for transport (departing at 7:30) and 2 dedicated train coaches with capacity for 112 people. Fee is \$125 per person, and will include tour of the large Lionel O gauge museum. See the MEMRR website for details.

The Museum Board of Advisors will be meeting on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. The prime discussion topic is the future relocation of the museum. There was discussion of the relocation process.

The annual museum Christmas Party is planned for Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 PM at the Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton – y'all please reserve the date. We will order off the menu and we plan for a 'Dirty Santa' gift exchange again.

John Dodge, in his role as Treasurer, brings up the in future the group / museum will have a need to process payments via credit cards. Discussion followed, Mike Tarter may be of some assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted;

Mike Tarter, Secretary



## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 8/16/22

Attendees welcomed and Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM by President Fred Alsop

Members Present : Fred Alsop, Mike Baker, Roger Teinert, Mike Tarter, Wallace Shealy , Paul Haynes, Robert Sullivan, Ron Green

Fred called for Officer Reports.

**Secretary's report-** Mike Tarter: The July meeting minutes were published in the August *Signal Bridge and Coal Road*. There were no corrections mentioned and the minutes as published are deemed approved. Any corrections or additions to the meeting notes are always invited – please discuss any during our next business meeting. Mike Tarter informs the members that he has updated the membership list.

**Treasurers' report -** Mike Tarter: Executive summary; the MEMRR has money and is financially solvent. The final financial report for July was given to the club President. Fred reminds us that when we need materials to install or change the layout we will reimburse for purchases, or let him know of needs.

**V.P. report -** John Carter; not present

**Presidents report-** Fred Alsop:

ETSU classes will be starting August 22 – parking will be the usual problem. New parking passes are available, please sign out only one pass, not one per vehicle owned.

Go to GoogleMaps – look for attractions – museums – the George Carter Train Museum has a **5-STAR** rating, and over 1800 Facebook Likes! Keep up the Great Work Y'all !!!

Fred thanked the Club members who have been keeping the museum open and running well recently.

### Old Business:

There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting for the 2023 event on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center. Roger Teinert reports the planned date for 2023 is June 2-3, and flyers for the show are now available. The ETSU Mini-Dome reservation is on request.

Wallace and Fred report our library now has a website – [RRMuseumLibrary@etsu.edu](mailto:RRMuseumLibrary@etsu.edu) . Wallace reports that our library books are being labeled, cataloged and shelved, bit by bit, with some help from ETSU. Fred mentions that per suggestion, he will be conducting a short 'clinic' on staining rocks for scenery on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> (on the Tweetsie layout), and will be helping with some scenery on the MEMRR club layout in future.

Reminder - We have *HOn3 annuals* and 2022 Museum calendars available for sale.

### New Business:

The October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion, sponsored by the Carter Chapter of NRHS, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City NC is OPEN for registration. Advertising is up on websites, including ETSU electronic bulletin boards. The excursion will have 2 buses for transport and 2 dedicated train coaches with capacity for 122 people. Fee is. \$125 per person, and will include tour of the large Lionel O gauge museum . See the website for details.

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## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting

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The Museum Board of Advisors will be meeting on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. The prime discussion topic is the future relocation of the museum. The relocation may be getting close to a year away – somewhere.

After some discussion, a late summer picnic at Winged Deer Park in September is proposed . Paul made a motion to proceed, Ron seconded this, it was approved by acclamation. Details to follow....

The annual museum Christmas Party is planned for Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> , 6-9 PM at the Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton – y'all please reserve the date. We will order off the menu and we plan for a 'Dirty Santa' gift exchange again – veddy entertaining!

Fred restored a pre-Covid custom based on votes by both clubs July meetings – he invites the group to meet before next month's meeting at Portobello's restaurant at 5:30 prior to our business meetings.

Paul brought up that Norfolk Southern calendars will be available in November.

Wallace informs us that temporary access to the library materials is available now, by request.

Mike Tarter reminded all that we have a few MEMRR hats available for sale, and a XL shirt for Mike is ready for pickup.

No other new business was brought forth.

Next membership meeting is September 20, at 6:30 in room 223 in Brown Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43.

Respectfully submitted;

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## Carter Railroad Museum Coordinators Meeting – 9/15/22

Present: Roger Teinert, Frank Fezzie, Robert Sullivan, Randy Rogers, Jim Hoit, Ron Green, Mike Tarter, Fred Alsop presiding. Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

### **Topics of General Information:**

**Museum Picnic** – Sunday, October 2, 4-9 PM. Meredith Pavilion, Winged Deer Park. Covered Dish.

Sign-up sheet online to be created by Webmaster, Ben Merritt. Invite Kim and Tom McKee. Members and spouses or significant-others; no children.

**Club/Museum Logo Shirts** – Members feel logo shirts are important and all members should be encouraged to purchase and wear them, especially on Saturdays at the railroad museum. Suggestions: we put photos of shirts and other logo items on the MEMRR webpage. An order form could also be created for the webpage.

**Member Identification** – In addition to not wearing logo shirts, many members are not wearing the name tags in the lanyards that have been provided to them. Biggest problem here is centered around the MEMRR HO layout.

**Railroad Museum Relocation?** – No definitive news yet on a new site or a firm timetable for moving. Expectations for end of construction on the adjacent Lamb Hall spring 2023.

**2023 Museum Calendar** – Currently at the printshop and in press. Available soon.

**Heritage Day Events** – We will try to post them onto the ETSU building information monitors.

**Annual Big Train Show** – *Roger Teinert, Coordinator*. Date set for 2-3 June, 2023. 7,000 flyers printed and available. Encourages distribution to train shows, highway rest stops, hobby shops, etc., by members going to these kinds of places. Vendor and vendor “Thank you” letters prepared. Train Show Committee meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 5:30 PM, at Portobellos Restaurant. Everyone is welcome to come dine with us and join in the planning of the next show.

**HO-Scale & Electrical** – *Frank Fezzie, Coordinator*. A timely warning for future planning. The electronic side of our DCC system by Digitrax is old, including the command stations. We have one spare unit. There is no need to do any upgrading now as these units may last for several more years, and new technology will be coming out that will replace them. We will wait a few years and upgrade with next-generation equipment including throttles.

**Membership** – *Robert Sullivan, Coordinator*. Report that we have gained 26 or more new MEMRR members in the past few months. He is working with each one to get some personal information for member profiles. Some will be submitted to the newsletter editor. He was asked to get a “get well” card for Jim Pahr that could be signed by members on Saturday and mailed to Jim with our best wishes.

*(continued on page 28)*

## Carter Railroad Museum Coordinators Meeting – 9/15/22

(continued from page 27)

**Layout Lighting and Animation – Randy Rogers, Coordinator.** Working on his first project, the lighting and animation of the S-Scale Cranberry Furnace. He is gathering ideas to make this an automated display with lighting, action, and sound audio information. Special effects including “flame and smoke”, furnace glow, LED lighting, and up to 60 second audio information at selected stations are planned. Some of this will work the educational display at the touch of buttons. ET&WNC RRHS President, *Chris Ford*, has recently provided a wealth of written information about the operation of this blast furnace including detailed architectural drawings and photos of the details of many of the structures.

**Rip Track – Jim Hoit, Coordinator.** A rash of HO-Scale repair work has been coming to his desk lately with cars missing couplers and other parts indicating they are receiving rough handling. Reports of train operators not watching their trains and causing needless head-on collisions with other trains. Remind operators they need to be vigilant and watch the trains they are operating on the layouts to avoid this kind of unnecessary damage.

**G-Scale – Ron Green, Coordinator.** There are turnout problems with switches and frogs caused by long-time wear. Thinks he can repair them without replacing the turnouts. There is a lot of “junk” stored under the layout that needs to be sorted and removed if possible. He needs a 12-15 foot extension cord with at least 4 outlets to replace the longer extension cord now in use.

He would like one of the locomotives in use in the Little Engineers Room to be relettered. Perhaps we could ask Jaykob Stephens to do this job?

**N-Scale – Mike Tarter, Coordinator.** “Finicky as ever!” Working on scenery upgrades. Getting scenery help from Jim Gorny and some new members. Also improving details such as vehicles. Beginning to plan where the “cuts” may have to go to dismantle the layout when the time comes to move it to a new location.

Submitted by:

Fred Alsop

**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  
miketar06@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Mike Tarter  
miketar06@gmail.com
- **Webmasters:**  
Logan Heaton  
Ben Merritt  
Bill Smith  
memrrwebmaster@gmail.com
- **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://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*