

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

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

AND

THE COAL ROAD

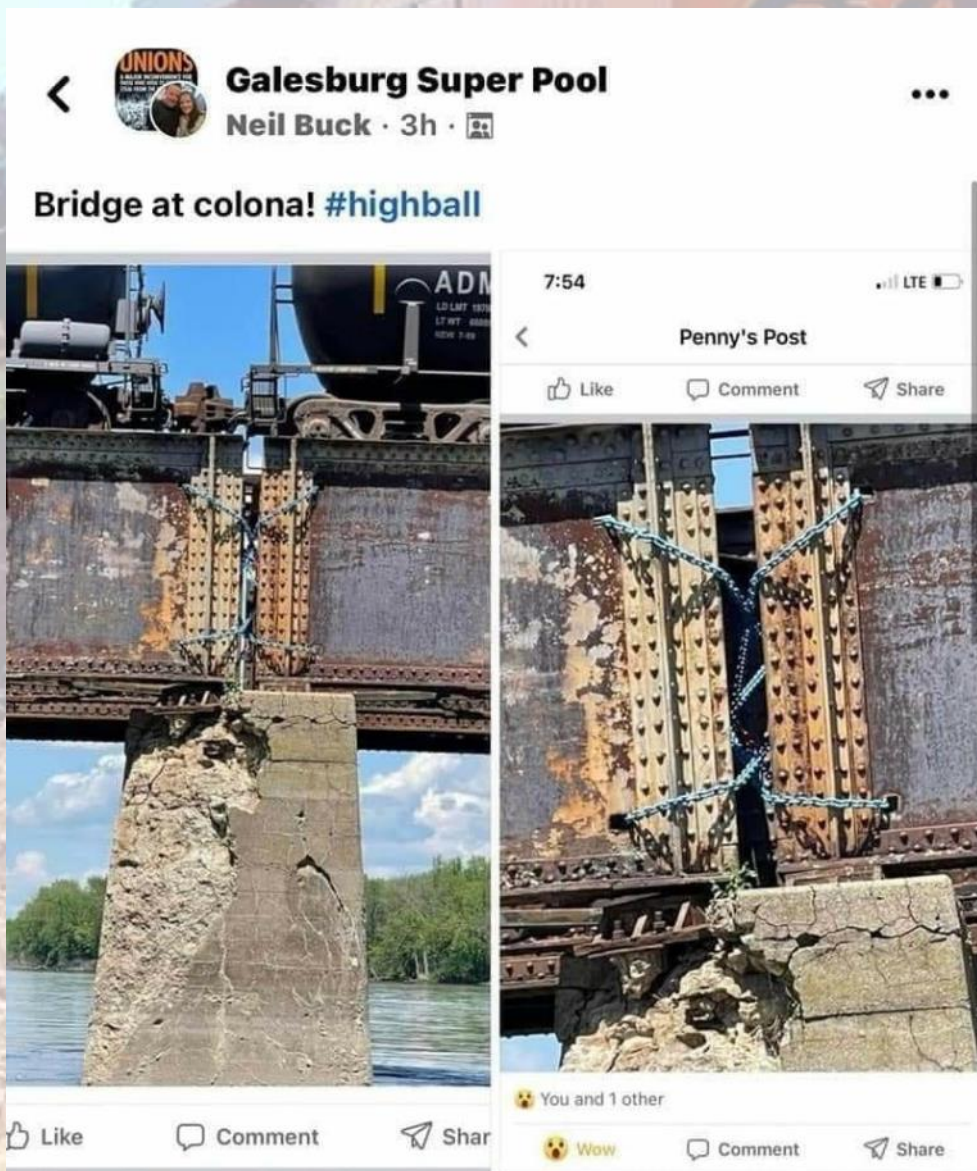
Volume 29 – Issue 10, 11, 12 October thru December 2022

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



October 2022 Column:

It has been a beautiful display of fall colors in our mountains and valleys this October, but the warm sunny days will soon come to an end, and we will turn to the outdoors task of raking up piles of brown leaves. Time to begin to think of indoor activities and none could be finer than working on our hobby of model railroading, reading books and magazines about railroads, both big and small, and joining with others who share our passion for trains. November will be a big month for railroad fans and for our clubs as we will celebrate the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum's 15th anniversary, National Model Railroad Week, and National "Take a Toy Train to Work" day on November 22nd. Watch for more detailed announcements in the form of emails about these focus events. Get ready for a fun November that also has the Thanksgiving holidays tucked in as well. November is also the beginning of the period when we renew our memberships in the Mountain Empire Model Railroad club and the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS, and the month when we elect our officers for these organizations for the coming year. It is time to think about who would like to run for these important offices and who would like to be nominated to serve. Please began to discuss this with other members so we can have a full slate of nominees ready at the November meetings.

Club and Museum Events: We had a great turnout of more than 40 members and their guests at the October 2nd *Annual Fall Picnic* held at the pavilion at Winged Deer Park. The weather was good for the event and in addition to all the food, including fried chicken, that we could eat, one of the local Bald Eagles flew over with nesting materials in its talons heading for the nest site on the hilltop across the lake. The Carter Chapter NRHS and Carter RR Museum's jointly hosted rail excursion on *the Smoky Mountain Railroad* out of Bryson City, NC was also a big success on October 8th. We had 53 passengers on board, including 8 of our club members, for a great day to ride the rails and tour the Lionel Train Museum. At our January 2023 business meetings, we will create a calendar that will establish club and museum social events and rail excursions for the coming year.

Heritage Day Event: The October Heritage Day Event planned by its coordinator, *Geoff Stunkard*, is focused on **Southeastern Railroads** and we expect to see a lot of eastern railroads represented at this popular event. In November we always celebrate our founding namesake's railroad, the **Clinchfield Railroad**. This one falls on Thanksgiving weekend so there should be a lot of visitors at the museum who are from out-of-town and visiting friends and relatives for this holiday weekend. Be prepared to bring a lot of Clinchfield locomotives and rolling stock to ply the rails of the HO-MEMRR layout to commemorate this important coal-hauling local railroad.

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

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Membership Renewals: Remember the club treasurers, (MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS) will be accepting renewals of your dues for the coming year beginning in November with a generous renewal period running until the end of January 2023. But please don't wait until the last possible to get your dues paid so the treasurers don't have to continue to ask you for them. Our dues structures have not changed due to inflation, or any other driving factor, and they remain the same modest fees you have come to enjoy for many years now. You really get a lot for so little money including 24/7 access to the Carter Railroad Museum, a terrific monthly newsletter, access to club and museum locomotives, rolling stock and DCC throttles, monthly business meetings and the privilege of introducing motions for votes and voting on such business items for our organizations, invitations to social events, and the fellowship of members who enjoy the same railroading hobbies that you are engaged in. It's a real bargain!! *Please renew your dues early in November!*

Autism Presentation: At a scheduled Thursday night meeting on October 6th, *Lisa Lyons*, a certified and licensed teacher in an autism program, presented a workshop for members and their families, on the mental disability termed autism. Lisa not only works with children and their families who are on some level of the autism spectrum, but she has a 22 year-old autistic son. Our museum membership currently includes several autistic youngsters of whom we are most proud, and we felt it was important for all of us to learn more about this disability and to be informed as to how to best interact with these youngsters and their families so everyone can continue to have the best model railroad hobby experiences possible. Lisa did an outstanding job relating information to us from a personal and a professional viewpoint and we are grateful for her providing her time and wisdom to the 22 members who attended the seminar. **Thank you Lisa!**

Museum Publications:

2023 Carter RR Museum Calendars: We have a limited edition of 250 of our newly printed 2023 Carter Railroad Museum calendars delivered and ready for sales. These make great holiday gifts, and we also use them for museum publicity purposes. The price to members is \$5.00 (\$8.00 to the general public). If you want us to mail one or more to you the price is \$7.00/calendar to cover handling and shipping cost. Mail orders make out a check payable to "G.L. Carter Railroad Museum". The mailing address is: G.L. Carter Railroad Museum, PO Box 70697, ETSU, Johnson City, TN 37614. This year's theme is "local railroad" and *Geoff Stunkard* and *Logan Heaton* have provided some great vintage photos as well as some from the museum layouts. Make plans to get one or more of these great calendars soon.

2022 HOn3 Annual is currently at the printers and should be available to us very soon. The museum will purchase 50 copies of this once-a-year collector's publication and make them available to our members and the general public (members get a 20% discount). Once again, our ET&WNC model railroad layout is highlighted with 8 pages of color photos and text with Elk Park, NC being the focus. This marks the 9th consecutive year our "Tweetsie" layout has been selected to grace the pages of this outstanding publication.

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

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MEMRR HO-Layout Operations: Based on discussions and motions at our September business meetings, the clubs decided to install an "Operations Board" for members to register to run their trains during museum hours on Saturdays. This in theory would allow up to 20 members to have a hour to operate their locomotives and consists on the HO club layout during the Saturday hours from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM when we are operating for the public. We installed the board, complete with members names on magnetic strips so they could be easily moved to the open operation slots, and begin this method of train operation on Saturday, October 1. Happily, we can report that the system seems to be working smoothly and everyone who wants to operate personal or club/museum locomotives and rolling stock has the opportunity to do so. Our appreciation to all of those members who are following the system and participating with fellow members in this system that promotes fair play for all.

Wearing Logo Shirts on Saturdays: It was unanimously voted in the same business meetings in September that members present at the Carter Railroad Museum during its open hours on Saturdays should be adorned with club logo regalia in the form of shirts, jackets, or caps representing the MEMRR, Carter Chapter NRHS, or the Carter Railroad Museum. MEMRR treasurer, *Mike Tarter*, or museum director, *Fred Alsop*, can be contacted to order these items for members with payment after the garment(s) are delivered. The shirts and jackets can be personalized with member's names for a few extra dollars. Since that decision was made and announced in this newsletter, and in-person to members, we have seen a great improvement in the number of members who are taking pride in their clubs by wearing club logo items on Saturdays. This is an important signal to our members and to our guests who visit the museum that this is a professional organization whose members take pride in representing their club(s) and the university. Thank you all for your participation and your support and, please, if you have not as yet ordered your club shirt, or other club logo wearing apparel, do so sooner rather than later. Please remember to wear them on Saturdays!

Around the Carter Railroad Museum:

Open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Open 24/7 to all active members via the lockbox code on the front door

Work afternoons/nights on Thursdays from approximately 3:30 until the last person goes home.

All Coordinators have made their reports for October (see this information in another section of this newsletter).

Scenery work continues on the N-Scale layout. See *Mike Tarter* if you want to help.

Scenery work continues on the HO-MEMRR layout. See *Frank Fezzie* if you want to help. (note: *Frank* will be relinquishing his coordinator ship of the MEMRR HO layout at the end of December 2022. Please contact *Fred Alsop* if you would like to be considered for this coordinator's position.) Thank you, Frank, for a job well done!!!

Turnouts on the G-Scale layout are being repaired. See *Ron Green* if you want to help.

Engine house white boards have been installed along with a new pond scene at Blevins on the HOn3 layout. See *Fred Alsop* if you want to help.

Library cataloging is almost completed. See *Dean Small* or *Wallace Shealy* if you want to help or check out materials.

The Cranberry Smelter at Johnson City model is being upgraded with lights, sounds, and action. See *Randy Rogers* if you would like to help.

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

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As you can see there are lots of activities and projects happening at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum every month. If you have not been to visit in a while, please make plans to do so soon. I think you will be impressed with all our progress. You are a part of this railroading hobby, and we would like to see you at the museum operating on the layouts, working on the displays, and interacting with your fellow members and our visitors as often as possible. Don't be a stranger! You have talents and experiences that we would like to share.

Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come!

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Fred J. Alsop III

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

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



November 2022 Column:

The recent blast of Arctic air, the gray skies, and the bare trees all have created a feeling that the fall season is hurriedly on its way out and that winter is just around the corner. The G.L. Carter Railroad Museum has already fulfilled the request from ETSU administration to put a train around the Christmas tree in the administration building and that was accomplished with the able help of *Ron Green and Mike Tarter* a few days prior to the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremonies for the university campus. This may be among the first trains to be traveling around the skirts of Christmas trees, but I am sure many of our members will be doing the same thing in the days or weeks to come. Let me wish all of you a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday event with friends, family, great food, and all the good times that normally come with this American tradition

New Members: Let me also extend a hardy welcome to our newest, new member, *Ed Krause*, of Erwin, TN who is modeling part of the Clinchfield Railroad in HO-Scale in a large building adjacent to his home. We look forward to getting to know him better and to benefit from his hobby experience and skills. Welcome Ed!

Get Well Greetings: For any of our members who are currently under-the-weather, or in sickbay, we wish you a most speedy and complete recovery. Some of our folks are still being stricken by COVID-19 and flu season is upon us. Please get your vaccines and boosters!

Birthday Party: The George L. Carter Railroad Museum celebrated its 15th Anniversary on Saturday, November 12th, with lots of finger foods and a big sheet cake with the emblem of a diesel locomotive decorating it to make the event a party. We had over 75 guests as well as more than two dozen members there to help us celebrate the event. It does not really feel like we have been in the present location with our expanding museum and exhibits for a decade and a half, but we also know that our building will soon be coming down and at this date I still don't have a firm commitment from the university or the city for a new brick-and-mortar location. I continue to have meetings with ETSU and Johnson City administrators discussing our needs and what possibilities exist to meet them.

Television Time: Knoxville PBS broadcasting over 3 television stations are currently airing more than 300 10-second spots with 4 images promoting the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum. This is part of a Holiday Greetings package and features our museum's big gallery interior, our rail excursions, and our Annual Big Train Show. Check us out on your favorite PBS channel and Happy Holidays!

Annual RR Museum Holiday Party: A reminder that our annual Holiday/Christmas Party is scheduled to be held at the Black Olive Restaurant, Elizabethton, TN, on Thursday night, December 15. The party starts at 6:00 PM in a reserved room for members and their spouses/significant others only! Dutch treat from their full menu. Dirty Santa will be making his appearance and we will get information out as to what it will take to get on his present distribution list. I may need some volunteer help to decorate the room with some Christmas cheer including a couple of his-and-her small Christmas trees. Look for as registration message

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

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set up by our Web-Master so we can get a headcount by December 13 to give to the restaurant and be sure to register with how many there are in your party so we don't surprise the cook and the waitresses. Happy Holidays Ditto!!

Big Train Show Committee: *Roger Teinert*, Big Train Show Committee Chairman, is holding monthly meetings the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM at Portobellos Restaurant in the Kroger Shopping Center on West State of Franklin Rd. These dinner meetings are open to all members (Dutch treat) as we continue the planning for the June 2-3, 2023 event. The most recent November meeting focused on advertising the show in model railroad and train magazines through free spots and purchased ads. The next meeting will be after the holidays on January 17th. Please attend and see what is happening and how you may be able to help.

November; WOW what a big month for Model Railroaders, Clubs, and the Carter RR Museum!!!:

National Model Railroad Month: The hobby of model railroading is celebrated all of November!

George L. Carter Railroad Museum Celebrates its 15th Anniversary

Annual Membership Dues are Due: The wide window to renew your memberships in the MEMRR and/or the Carter Chapter NRHS begins in November and extends through January 31, 2023; BUT DON'T DRAG YOUR RENEWAL PAYMENT OUT TO THE LAST MINUTE! Dues have not changed for 2023 (MEMRR = \$30 member + \$6 each for any additional member living in the same household. Carter Chapter NRHS = \$10 local member + \$2 for each additional household member + \$50 for national membership {required} + \$5 family member).

John Dodge is the Carter Chapter NRHS Treasurer and Mike Tarter is the MEMRR treasurer.

Officer Elections: Check your email and the web-sites to nominate fellow members to all of these open positions and please follow up by voting for them. Please note the deadlines for doing both your nomination and your voting.

George L. Carter Chapter NRHS: [All elected positions for all officers are open for election. The following members have been nominated, but others who wish to serve can be nominated for any of these offices:](#)

President: Fred Alsop

Vice-President: Roger Teinert

Secretary: Mike Tarter

Treasurer: John Dodge

Other Positions will be by appointment

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders: All elected positions for all officers are open for election. The following members have been nominated, but others who wish to serve can be nominated for any of these offices:

President: Fred Alsop

Vice-President: John Carter

Secretary: Mike Tarter

Treasurer: Mike Tarter

Other Position will be by appointment

Member of the Year 2022: The following member has been nominated, but others who you wish to be nominated should be. All members nominated need to have a brief statement of why they deserve the honor attached to the nomination. Having been previously selected for the honor does not disqualify any member from being nominated again.

Wallace Shealy. Nominated because of the tremendous amount of work he as put into getting the museum library's collection of more than 2,500 volumes of railroad-themed books catalogued and bar-coded using the Library of Congress cataloging system in collaboration with the ETSU library and librarians. (continued on page 8)

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

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Officer of the Year 2022: The following member has been nominated, but others who you wish to be nominated should be. All members nominated need to have a brief statement of why they deserve the honor attached to the nomination. Having been previously selected for the honor does not disqualify any member from being nominated again.

John Dodge. John has been the treasurer for the Carter Chapter NRHS for many years now faithfully executing this duty in every regard. He has collected local and national dues and deposited them. He has made the contacts and reservations with vendors for the multiple annual rail excursions and has participated in all but two of these events serving as a bus host with our guests. He has been a volunteer at all of our Big Train Shows often handling ticketing at the entrance doors.

November Heritage Day Event: In November we always celebrate the railroad created by the namesake of our railroad museum with George L. Carter's Clinchfield Railroad. Come with your CRR locomotives and rolling stock and help celebrate this event with us on Saturday, November 26th when we display the trains on the quickest route north to south through the Appalachian Mountains.

2023 Carter RR Museum Calendar: Our 5th annual museum calendar is published and read for you to purchase and hang on your wall or to give to friends and family as a great holiday gift. ***Geoff Stunkard*** and ***Logan Heaton*** did a great job of providing photographs for the calendar, and Geoff supplied the captions for it as well. The 2023 edition features local railroads both in prototype and scale model form and it is a wonderful way to support the museum and to advertise our clubs simultaneously. It is also a great promoter of our region's significant railroad history. Members get the discounted price of \$5.00/calendar, so hurry and pick up several copies while they last as supplies are limited.

National Publications and Beyond: Our little ET&WNC "Tweetsie" model railroad layout keeps getting shown to modelers across the nation and beyond with photos and text in national model railroad magazines. Here's the latest:

The HOn3 Annual, 2022 Edition. Galley drafts have been proofed and returned along with captions on the photos that were submitted to the publisher, White River Productions, for the magazine that will be published sometime in the next few weeks. This marks the 9th consecutive edition of this yearly collector's edition that our ET&WNC layout has graced the pages of this magazine. This year the Shell Creek, NC section of the railroad will have 8 color pages of information for its readers. ***Geoff Stunkard*** has once again, done most of the heavy-lifting on this article with text and photographs, with help from ***Logan Heaton*** and ***Fred Alsop***. Upon publication the museum will have copies for sale to members and the public.

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

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The Narrow Gauge Gazette. A article on “*The Tank in the Narrows*”, the modeling of the unique cistern created by the crews of the ET&WNC RR to supply water from a captured stream to supply to their thirsty locomotives near Hampton, TN, is the feature article that has been submitted to the editor of this bi-monthly publication for narrow-gauge model railroaders also published by White River Productions. A great deal of actual fieldwork at the site by *Michael Sagers* to sketch, photograph, and survey the remainders of this water feature has become an important modeled component of our “Tweetsie” layout. Collaborations between *Fred Alsop* and *Michael* on the modeling, and with *Geoff Stunkard* with the text, has resulted in an instructive illustrated article that may be published in this internationally distributed magazine.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! With the hobby of model railroading, prototype train watching, and the volunteer spirit of our members, our clubs and our museum remain active, productive, and fun-places to be with friends. Thank you all for all you do for our organizations and keep having a good time together promoting our common hobbies. *Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.*

Fred J. Alsop III

Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

Club News

N Scale Layout Update – contributed by Logan Heaton

Taking a break from the work on the Tweetsie Layout we head back over to the main hall to see the work being done on the N scale layout. Work has continued on the hillside outside of the city. Rocks have been made from molds using the same process as we seen on the other layouts made from plaster. The rocks are then soaked and made to fit to the hillside after glue is applied. This of course will add more detail to the hill once everything is set and to get it ready for paint.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

A quick follow up on some of the updates in our ET&WNC Exhibit Hall. First of which is that many may have noticed another building has gone missing from our exhibit on the Johnson City Smelter. This building like the last one has been taken up as part of our updating for a more animated exhibit on the smelter. We will continue to update on this project as it develops. The next is the completion of the new tractor flatcar load adding another unique piece of rolling stock that can be seen on the move across the layout. Be sure to keep an eye out for this flatcar load on your next visit rolling along the main line. We also have some new pieces for the mine up in Cranberry as a line of old mine carts can be seen behind the engine shed sitting out in the sun waiting for the next job. Finally is a follow up on some of the vehicles that were being assembled which includes another car rolling alongside the track through Roan Mountain passing the station and also a hearse that can be seen at the church in Crabtree stopped not far from the graveside service taking place behind the church.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

With most of the layout completed with our current setup it is really all coming down to the details for our layout on the ET&WNC so although not a big update there are a lot of little things going on to cover for today. First is the addition of many new vehicles for the railroad though some being used in some unexpected ways. Among the vehicles found to add to the layout was a milk truck which has been fully



assembled and can be found in Roan Mountain leaving a nearby farm with a fresh load. A wood cart was also found and assembled. It can now be seen over at the general store in Blevins Crossing with a load of wood to help keep the home warm on those cold nights. A couple others found was a fire truck and a hearse which both are at different levels of assembly. Two tractors were also found and will actually be used to make a unique flatcar load to move about the layout. Over at the newly

finished pond at Blevins Crossing some residents have already taken notice as we can see a couple of locals make their way to the pond for a bit of fishing. Going away from the layout some may have noticed our exhibit of the smelter that was once located in Johnson City is missing one of its buildings. This is actually part of a project to animate this exhibit and make it more active than the current static display it is now.

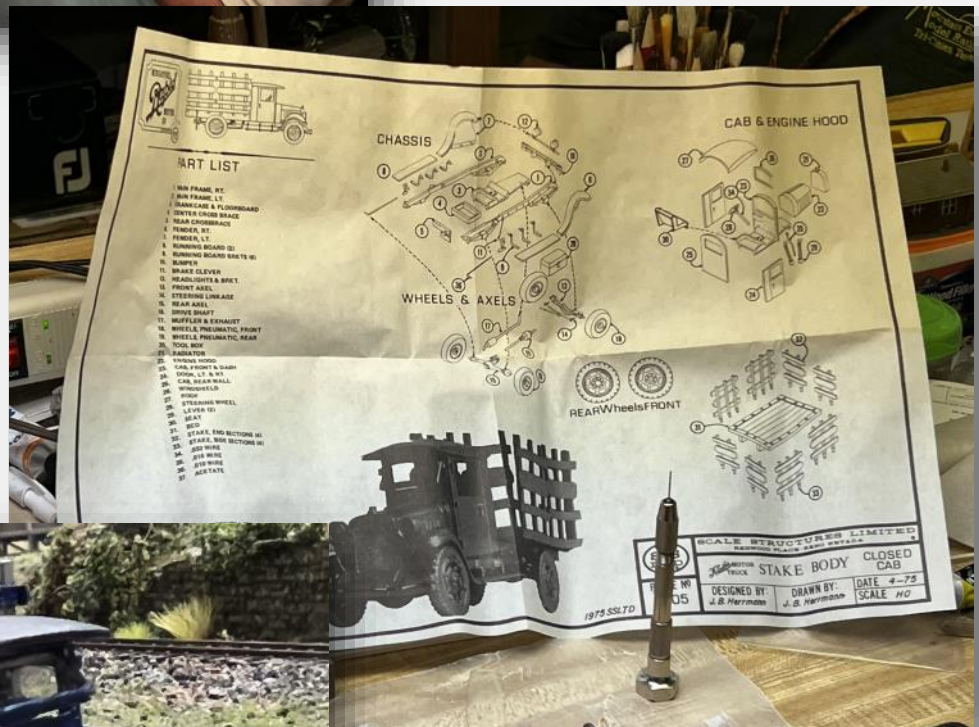


Club News

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



Taking a short break on Elk Park, Dr. Also received another vehicle kit for the layout. Although no exact specifics, this seems to be a similar make and model to our last stake pick-up truck which can be found in Elk Park travelling towards State Line Hill. the stake truck has been fully assembled and has made its way out to the layout adding that much more activity to the progress being made across the layout.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Taking a break from the vehicles we have some progress to report over at Blevins Crossing with work picking up again on the pond just outside of the little town. Dr. Alsop began work on adding an island in the center of the pond along with a bit of work to one of the banks. Once the plaster finished drying the work was primed in a brown primer getting ready for paint before adding the water.



Club News

Tweetsie Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Work continues at Blevins Crossing on the dry pond that won't be very dry for much longer. Dr. Alsop has gone back in to paint the rocks and surrounding banks getting the area ready for water. Some foliage is also being added to the top of the island set in the middle as it gets that much closer to completion.



Club News

N Scale Layout Update: Article and photographs by Logan Heaton

Another area of the N scale layout has been completed and updated. After putting down new grass and other foliage the houses were cleaned up a bit before being placed back down on the layout along with some last minute touch ups. Even new residents are moving into the suburbs as a moving truck can be seen with furniture being unloaded to bring a new family to the neighborhood.



Club News

**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@gmail.com**



Heritage Days!

Appalachian Way! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Many railroads were on display to represent the Appalachian Way keeping freight and passengers on the move across our layouts with railroads from both the past and present putting on a real show of railroad power throughout the day. During all this we were able to catch a few snapshots and meet ups of the different trains in action which we hope everyone will enjoy. Stay tuned for more updates !



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Heritage Days!

Appalachian Way! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Heritage Days!

Appalachian Way! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Heritage Days!

Going Southeast! – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton



Many southeast favorites could be seen for the Heritage Day this past weekend for Go-in' Southeast. From steam to diesel, narrow gauge to standard gauge or even fallen flags to modern railroads there was a bit of everything to see showcasing the many railroads that would have even been seen going through our region along with the southeast United States. A few scenes were captured of the different trains seen during the event which I hope you all will enjoy.



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Heritage Days!

Going Southeast! – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Heritage Days!

Going Southeast! – Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Great Smoky Mountain Railroad!

Train Ride! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

A fun time was had by all as many of our guests and members headed out to Bryson City to enjoy a relaxing train ride along the river on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. We would like to thank the train crew and everyone at the railroad for a great experience and also thank you to all who joined us on this wonderful journey.



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Great Smoky Mountain Railroad!

Train Ride! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Great Smoky Mountain Railroad!

Train Ride! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Great Smoky Mountain Railroad!

Train Museum! — Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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Besides the train ride, one of the highlights of the trip was the museum which had four operating layouts, three of which had buttons to interact with the layouts from making the trains move to starting different scenes on the layout. Many model trains from Lionel were also on display in cabinets and display cases around the museum. There was so much to see that many visitors would head back in to see what was missed. Truly an incredible place to visit.



Great Smoky Mountain Railroad!

Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

(continued from page 23)



Wreck It Wednesday!

Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Accidents will happen and the railroad celebrities are no exception to this. During some work in the roundhouse Norfolk and Western #611 was moved onto the turntable to place the locomotive into another stall. During this movement rather due to an unknown malfunction or the throttle being accidentally bumped the engine started to move from its spot and ended up in the turntable pit. No damage to the locomotive or the turntable and after some quick clean up and recalibration everything was back to normal.



Club News

The new 2023 calendars are available!!

Just arrived!! Our new 2023 calendar is now available for purchase at the gift table starting today!! This year's calendar will feature event dates from our Heritage Days to our Big Train Show and also operating dates for the museum. It will also be themed around local railroads both past and present featuring photos of the real railroads along with scenes from our layouts. Calendars will be available for \$8.00 to purchase. For members of the museum the cost will be \$5.00 per calendar.

Be sure to grab a copy!



MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 9/20/22

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

Members Present : Fred Alsop, John Carter, Gary Gilliam, Jonathan Gilliam, Paul Haynes, Logan Heaton, Rick Mulholland, Wallace Shealy , Bill Smith, Robert Sullivan, Mike Tarter, Roger Teinert

Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report- Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the August meeting have been submitted for review/correction/publication in the September *Signal Bridge/Coal Road* newsletter. 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 August was given to the club President. The only recent expenditure was the renewal of the *club's* website registration. Fred reminded 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 reports usual Club activities are proceeding.

Presidents report- Fred Alsop: The Museum Board of Advisors met with Jenny Brock, on Thursday the 18th. The prime discussion topic was the future relocation of the museum. Apparently there has been discussion between Johnson City leaders (Cathy Ball, Johnson City Manager, and others) and ETSU administration regarding redevelopment of the Walnut Street area, and both entities would like to see the Carter train museum to be a part of it. If a proposed site is approved, the next step would be to get architectural renderings and perhaps a model constructed for presentation/ fundraising purposes. With Lamb Hall renovation nearing completion possibly next spring (2023), the relocation is getting closer.

Old Business:

Rail Excursion - The October 8th excursion, sponsored by the Carter chapter of NRHS and the Carter Railroad Museum, 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 122 people. There was discussion / concern about filling 2 buses. Fee is approx. \$125 per person, and will include touring of the large Lionel O gauge museum . See the MEMRR website for details.

Train Show – Roger reports planning is well underway for the 2023 Train Show. Flyers have been received – Roger requests that we all help get these out everywhere. He is working on vendor invite packets to send out when we receive 2023 calendars to include. There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting for the 2023 Train Show - event each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center on West State of Franklin Rd; all Club members are welcome to join. The planned date for 2023 is June 2-3. 30 rooms are blocked/reserved at the Carnegie Hotel, primarily for vendors; room rates have increased.

Library - Wallace reported that all the hardbound books have been labeled and cataloged, with assistance from the ETSU library. Other materials like DVDs, periodicals will eventually follow. He tells us that Club members can check out books now – see him for procedure. Reminder - We have 2021 *HOn3 Annuals* available for sale.

Carter RR Museum – Fred noted the unique donated collection of tractors, other farm machinery and trucks is on public display in a glass case in the Tweetsie room until the end of the year. It's amazing - come have a look.

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MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 9/20/22

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New Business:

Annual Picnic - Roger Teinert happily reported the Annual Picnic is confirmed as a GO, for October 2nd at the pavilion at Winged Deer Park. The Club will provide fried chicken, drinks and utensils – club members will bring a dish, or girlfriends. Ahem - The pavilion is reserved from 4 to 7 PM. There will be an email blast sent out to all members with a sign-up form and to list what dish or dessert they plan to bring.

Publicity - Fred says the 2023 Museum Calendars are in final process, with a focus this year on local railroads. We will order 250. And, a manuscript for an article about the Elk Park town on the Tweetsie layout has been submitted to White River Publications for possible inclusion in their *HOn3 Annual* magazine. An additional article about the Tweetsie 'tank in the narrows' may be published by this same publisher, perhaps in the *Narrow Gauge Gazette*. This latter magazine may also feature an article about the unique 3D printed water tank (as built by the ET&WNC) model produced by Ben Merritt.

There was discussion of encouraging all Club members to have and wear Club shirts when at the museum and club layouts on Saturdays. As our Club grows in membership and public recognition our overall presentation becomes much more relevant. Visitors will be less confused when they see Club members wearing similar identifying shirts and this will promote the Club when people visit the museum layouts. There was a bit of discussion of the Club supplying shirts or vests in future when relocated. This led to a motion by Mike Tarter to have Club members acquire and wear Club shirts when open to the public on Saturdays. This was seconded by Bill Smith and the motion passed with 11 yeas and 1 nay vote.

The annual museum Christmas Party is planned for Dec. 15th, 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!

There was respectful discussion about a few Club members with autism. Upon discussion, Fred suggested we invite an autism counselor to speak to our group to help us understand how to interact with these valued fellow club members. We agreed and a meeting was set for October 8th.

We discussed that as our club grows membership, we are having increasing congestion on the HO layout as some MEMRR club members stay on the layout for several hours continuously. This precludes some other members from running trains. In an effort to be fair to all and manage this congestion, we discussed establishing a sign-up board for running trains in specific time slots. Members will be able to sign up to reserve 1 hour blocks on the main lines. This does not include staging time, DCC testing, etc. After discussion, Wallace made a motion to implement such a running schedule, Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed with 11 yeas and 1 nay vote. The procedure will be sent out to members via email for implementation on October 1st.

Next membership meeting is October 18, at 6:30 in room 223 in Brown Hall.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Rick Mulholland shared a marvelous video presentation of "Miniature Wonderland"

Respectfully submitted;

Mike Tarter, Secretary

Carter Railroad Museum Coordinators Meeting – 10/13/22

The October Coordinators meeting was called to order by museum director, Fred Alsop, at 6:05 PM in room 235, Campus Center Building, East Tennessee State University. Coordinators/members present: Geoff Stunkard, John Carter, Frank Fezzie, Jim Hoit, Mike Tarter, Ron Green, Bill Smith.

Reports as follows:

Museum Director, *Fred Alsop.*

Thanks to Lisa Lyons for such a terrific presentation on autism on October 6th. We had 22 attendees including several parents who have autistic children. There was most informative discussion.

RR Museum tour with city commissioner Jenny Brock, city manager Cathy Ball, advisory board members, Roger Teinert, Geoff Stunkard, Mike Tarter, and Fred Alsop, on October 12.

Successful rail excursion with 53 participants to Bryson City and the Smoky Mt. Railroad on October 8.

At least 8 MEMRR/Carter Chapter NRHS members attended.

Publications: 2023 Museum Calendar proofed for printing; 2022 *HO_n3 Annual* draft proofed and resubmitted; 2023 Big Train Show banners received and ready for display

White board for MEMRR HO Layout train operations is working as intended providing equal opportunity for members to operate on the layout on Saturdays.

Heritage Day Event Coordinator, *Geoff Stunkard.*

Heritage Day Event for October is "Southeast Railroads" and the donated tractor & farm machinery display. The latter will be on display in the "Tweetsie" gallery through the end of the year.

An article is being prepared by Geoff and Michael Sagers on the ET&WNC "tank in the narrows", the unique water tank on the "Tweetsie" layout. They plan to submit the article to the *Narrow Gauge Gazette*.

Question? "Why are the locomotives in the engine houses on all the layouts parked with their noses pointed out? This is not the prototypical way locomotives were parked in these engine facilities."

MEMRR Vice-President, *John Carter.*

The RIP-Track Coordinator, Jim Hoit, has indicated we are getting a lot of repair problems with rolling stock wheels, couplers, non-gauged cars, cars becoming uncoupled, etc., especially from younger members. There is also a problem with mishandling club cars that are being taken from the workroom storage cases and not properly carried back and forth to the HO layout for use on Saturdays (Jim Hoit confirmed this). Possible solutions: 1) placing locks on all rolling stock storage cases that would require someone in authority to oversee the use of these museum cars. 2) Working with the RIP-Track Coordinator to show all members how to gauge wheel sets, to set couplers properly, and to properly weight rolling stock for better performance on the layouts.

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Carter Railroad Museum Coordinators Meeting – 10/13/22

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RIP-Track Coordinator, *Jim Hoit*.

There is a small wooden box in the workroom with all the necessary tools for maintaining rolling stock (no parts are provided, but the tools are available).

Jim is happy to help fix members rolling stock on Thursday nights (work nights) and to show members how to do simple maintenance on their personal cars.

MEMRR HO Layout Coordinator, *Frank Fezzie*.

Both the MEMRR HO Layout and the Museum ET&WNC Layout computers needed some adjustments/configurations. Members are asked to follow start-up procedures carefully.

N-Scale Coordinator, *Mike Tarter*.

The N-Scale runs “sometimes”. He is getting a lot of help from Jim Gorny and others on the rebuilding of the scenery and others are welcome to join him on this project on Thursday evenings.

G-Scale Coordinator, *Ron Green*.

A new power strip and extension cord has been installed.

Plans are to rebuild some of the frogs and, perhaps work on the points on several of the turnouts to improve train performance.

Website Coordinator, *Bill Smith*.

Will be out of town for a week.

Website is up to date with all the 2023 Big Train Show forms available for downloading.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 10th, 6:00 PM, room 235 Campus Center Building, ETSU

Notes submitted by Fred Alsop

15th Anniversary Celebration!



During our 15th Anniversary Celebration one of the many things happening around the museum was the running of our ETSU Presidential Special around our HO scale layout. During the rest of the year this special train can be seen in one of our display cases with each passenger car named after a president of ETSU and showing their years of service as the university's president. On this one time of year though the consist is brought out and cleaned up for a day out on the high iron for everyone to see. We captured a few scenes of the train on different sections of the layout including close up shots of the passenger cars which we hope everyone will enjoy.



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15th Anniversary Celebration!

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**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:**
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 20th century. Literally dozens of railroads large and small provided service throughout Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and the upper midwestern states, all service as links to the chain.

Between passenger and freight operations, the railroad were crucially important in the era before widespread air travel and interstate highways. This was especially true during the 1st & 2nd World Wars. Whether it was perishables like produce and livestock or raw commodities such as coal and ore, everything from store goods to Studebakers came from this region. Since so many models of these trains remain popular, icons of streamlining and strength, it is planned to have excellent Midwestern representations in operation by volunteers on the museum's 24x44 foot HO scale layout. The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes model railroad layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for display, including the newest addition dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered 'Tweetsie' line, the East

In addition to the displays, there is also a growing research library, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum's programs. Info can be found online at '<http://etsu.edu/railroad/>' or '<http://johnsonsdetpot.com/>' or '<http://www.stateoffranklin.net/johnsons/glcarter/cartermuseum.html>'

Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) club coordinate the exhibits. Visit 'www.memrr.org' to learn more about MEMRR, or visit '<http://glcarternrhs.com/>' to learn more about Carter Chapter, which helps demonstrate and maintain the model layouts, museum exhibits and other projects.

Membership opportunities are available to adults, and include special benefits and model railroading enjoyment.

The museum can be identified by a flashing railroad crossing signal at the back entrance to the Campus Center Building. Visitors should enter ETSU's campus from State of Franklin Road (at green light) onto Jack Vest Drive and continue east to North Dossett Drive (then left) to John Roberts Bell Drive at end, then right then left on Ross Drive(176) to end, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

**For more information about Heritage Day,
contact Fred Alsop at 423-439-6838 or alsopf@etsu.edu*

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