

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

**THE SIGNAL BRIDGE**

AND

**THE COAL ROAD**

Volume 30—Issue 2 February 2023

Cover photograph by Paul Haynes

**Club News!**

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Wreck It Wednesday	

**We're getting together at the  
*Black Olive Restaurant*  
Elizabethton, March 30th at 6 pm.  
**R.S.V.P. by March 28th**  
**Hope to see you there!!****

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



It's February and Punxsutawney Phil – that Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Weather Prognosticator Extraordinary – emerged from his burrow (with a little help from his handlers) to make his much-anticipated forecast. He did reportedly see his shadow predicting 6 more weeks of winter, but here in our part of Tennessee we have gone from well below freezing to 80 F degree weather today. From snow to blooming flowers and back again. It's grand to have a hobby that can be practiced in the in-

doors such as model railroading or curling up with a good model railroad or train magazine. If you have not yet obtained your copy of the 2022 edition of the *HOn3 Annual* you need to purchase one from our sales table at the member's reduced price of \$22 and not only read our article about the Elk Park section of our "Tweetsie" layout, but also Johnny Graybeal's article on some of the ET&WNC locomotives, plus a lot of other outstanding articles in this collector's edition annual magazine. And, for those of you who are having troubles keeping up with club meeting dates, we still have a supply of our **museum's 2023 calendars** with all of those dates and the year's Heritage Day events clearly marked.

**G.L. Carter Railroad Museum:** Our museum home on the ETSU campus for the past 15 years will soon have to be on the move. After months of searching for a new home for us, with the help of Johnson City Commissioner, Jenny Brock, we now have a suitable building that we are working to complete the paperwork on to secure a lease agreement. The building is the Taylor Building at 207 N. Boone Street, in Johnson City. It is a stand-alone building with an excellent location, more than 100 parking spaces, and very near one of the city's new public parks. If we can secure the location with a joint agreement between ETSU and Johnson City, we will have approximately 2,000 sq.ft. more floor space than we currently have in an almost ready-to-move-into facility that would need minimum remodeling. If we can make this happen as an origin bridge between the university and Johnson City who own both of their beginnings to railroads and railroad tycoons, we will be moving in a few months. **A note of caution: Until, and When, this becomes a finalized agreement, please don't go into the building identifying yourself as a member of the railroad museum, or a railroad club member!!** At such time as we have a signed contract in hand I will arrange a tour for everyone who wants to take a look at the inside of the building. For now, please drive around it to see where we hope to be, but don't go inside as it is still an operating business and we don't need to bother our potential future landlord. So, the future looks bright but I still have to negotiate a deal between university and city administrators. At this date I still have no firm date from ETSU as to when all occupants (including our museum) have to be out of the Campus Center Building, but rumor has it as sometime this summer, perhaps late June or July. The building is slated to be demolished in early fall 2023.

**Packing for the Big Move:** We have begun to use Thursday evening work sessions as a time to begin packing those articles from around the museum that are not often used and can easily be placed in temporary storage anticipating our move later in the year. On the MEMRR side, ***Coordinator, Bob Grygotis***, has been organizing some of these work/pick-up/pack-up sessions. If you have personal items that you are not often using that are stored in the museum, perhaps under the layouts, please consider taking them home as one less thing to move later on. If you have good boxes that can be used for packing please bring them to the museum and we will put them to good use. In addition to removing items that are stored under all of the museum's layouts, some of the first rooms that we can concentrate on for packing a lot of smaller items (but perhaps not all as yet) are as follows: The Alsop Gallery workroom, the shelves in the office/work space that Alsop uses, the big 108 workroom, the storage room in 236. These will constitute a very good start. Boxes, packing tubs, and elbow grease needed!

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

(continued from page 2)

**Spring Fling:** MEMRR Vice-President John Carter has secured the Black Olive Restaurant in Elizabethton, TN as the site for our Spring Fling (you will remember this as the site for the recent Carter RR Museum's Christmas Holiday Party). This restaurant was voted on unanimously by the MEMRR members at the February 21 monthly business meeting. This will be our first social event of 2023 and will be held on **Thursday, March 30, from 6:00-8:30 PM.** Please mark your calendar and plan to bring your spouse or significant-other for an evening of good food and outstanding company (no children please!). As always, the meal is Dutch treat.

**Spring Rail Excursion in the Planning Stages:** The Carter Chapter NRHS is working on the details needed to schedule their first public rail excursion for the 2023 season. The plan is to bus to Knoxville and ride the 3-Rivers Rambler Railway from the west side of the city up to the forks of the river where the Tennessee River has its origin on the east side of the city. The train on its return trip drops us at the dock of the Tennessee Riverboat Company for a luncheon cruise on the same river. The Saturday dates we are trying to secure are either April 29 or May 13 (the gap spans ETSU's final exam and graduation period). The riverboat company can give us either date, but the railroad is still having some maintenance issues with some of its locomotives and at this time is still unable to confirm a date in their spring schedule. When we get a firm commitment from the railroad we will set up the excursion and begin an advertising campaign to fill it up. As our roving reporter, *Logan Heaton* advises, "stay tuned".

**Annual Big Train Show:** *Roger Teinert*, Coordinator for the Annual Big Train show and many of his volunteers are hard at work planning for this year's event to be held Friday and Saturday, 2-3 June. Any members traveling to area train shows over the next few months are asked to take some of our train show flyers and vendor application forms (available at the Carter RR Museum, or from Roger, to the shows with you for distribution. Please talk to the vendors about coming to the show as well. Many of those who you converse with will already have been to our show in the past, or may be aware of it, but please engage them in conversation and tell them about our outstanding venue and services. **On the local front, we need lots of tables, more than 300 8-foot tables, so if you know any places that may lend them to use for few days please let Roger or another committee member know.** Committee meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (just before the MEMRR meetings) at 5:00 PM at Portobellos Restaurant on west State of Franklin (Kroger Shopping Center) and everyone is welcome to dine with us and join in the planning discussions.

**Possible Re-Publication of the G.L. Carter Biography:** A definitive biography of **George L. Carter** as the last great entrepreneur was written by two ETSU employees, **Ned Erwin** and **Ray Stahl**. A 1,000 copies were published by the ETSU Press in 2012, and 6 years after Dr. Stahl's death. It has never been reprinted and our museum has some of the very few remaining unsold copies. **Fred** met with **Dr. Ron Roach**, chairman of the Department of Appalachian Studies, ETSU, and **Ned Erwin** on February 17 to discuss the possibility of reprinting the book as a second edition. The author welcomed to opportunity to begin to plan this opportunity as something he had long wanted to do, but was financially unable to accomplish. I am beginning the exploration of the costs of such an endeavor as, both Dr. Roach and I would like to have copies available for sale. The digital files of the first printing are still available at ETSU and this would make the shared cost much less. I will keep you posted as we find out more information. On a similar note, I recently

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

(continued from page 3)

spoke to *Sheri Lewis*, the manager/owner of **The Overmountain Press**, who published *The Blue Ridge Stemwinder*, by *John Waite* and *Chris Ford*, a book that is also out-of-print. This work is the definitive book on the history of the ET&WNC Railroad including a listing of all of its locomotives and rolling stock. We have a copy in our library, and at least one more in the museum that we have relied heavily on for photographs of many of the buildings that were important to the narrow-gauge railroad. This book has been the primary source from which I have been able to create models of these structures, particularly buildings that have been destroyed many years ago to populate our 1925-themed model railroad. Unfortunately, the technology used for the printing of this book predated digital printing and to print new editions would have to be done from scratch and would be very expensive. It is, therefore, not going to happen in the near future.

**Around the Carter Railroad Museum:** As is our tradition, the lockbox code on the outside door containing the entrance keys to the museum has had its **code changed on 31 January**. All members who are currently paid up for 2023 have been given the code. No member is to provide this code to any other member.

Lots of activities are still taking place including the continued upgrades to both club, museum-owned, and private modules. Members are always welcome to come lend a hand, especially on Thursday afternoon-work nights.

\**Ben Merritt* has 3-D printed the ET&WNC passenger coach *Azalea* in 3 different scales (contact Ben at his business website, *Merritt 3-D Designs and Printing*, for information and orders), and he has also 3-D printed the "Tweetsie" caboose #503. I have recently assembled, painted and decaled this caboose and you can see it on our layout or photos of it. It is a well-designed replica of the prototype and a welcome addition to our rollingstock. As with most custom kits you have to supply couplers and trucks.

\**The MEMRR HO-Scale Layout* has work continuing on the former "*Don Ramey modules*" with a timbering operation and logging on the mountain becoming the theme. Some private owners are also adding more details to their modules.

\**N-Scale Layout* work continues to center on rockface upgrades and the replacement of aged lichen "vegetation" with fresh-looking form "vegetation".

\**G-Scale Layout* will soon have its 4 aging turnouts replaced to improve the performance of both locomotives and rollingstock. One new steam locomotive has been purchased to replace some of the aging fleet of engines.

\*"*Tweetsie*" **Layout** has had no additional work done on scenery, but the next section to receive such cosmetic attention will be the Johnson City engine facility area with ballasting of tracks, and yard detailing. As mentioned above, the #503 caboose is now ready for service.

\***Library** work on cataloging non-hardbound volumes will be the next task for the library staff.

\***Children's Playroom** has had no additional items placed into service, but remains active under the watchful eye of our Station Master, *Amy Merritt*, and with the outstanding help of our student workers.

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

*(continued from page 4)*

The Carter Railroad Museum remains open to the public on Saturdays from 10AM to 3:00 PM and continues to attract up the 100+ visitors on some Saturdays. Memberships remain open in the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS and new members are welcome. Our websites remain upgraded and available to the public and we can be found on social media. There is a lot going on at our museum and if you have not been to see us for a while, please come by as soon as you can and join in the fun.

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

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

**Your 2022 Membership Expired Jan 31st!**

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

### **MEMRR member dues:**

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

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

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

or mailed to

Make checks payable to **MEMRR**, and mail to  
MEMRR, P.O. Box 70697, ETSU , Johnson City, TN 37614

### **Carter Chapter of NRHS member dues:**

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

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

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

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

121 Main Street, Bristol TN 37620

**Annual dues were required by January 31st, 2023**

## Club News

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

New utility poles are popping up across the layout following the main line. Now we did have poles up before following the outside line but not everywhere so now all the modules will be connected by these utility poles. The poles have also been moved from the outside to the inside main line which helps keep them out of the way especially in case of derailment so crews don't have to work around the poles to rerail any locomotives or rolling stock. Nothing has been decided yet if the poles will be connected by wire like the real thing, so we shall see in time.



## Club News

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

The ash chute has been completed and now in place on the layout!! Tucked just behind the chutes where the magnetic ore would be loaded into the hopper cars the new ash chute has been fully assembled and weathered to be put in place already with a load to be hauled away by the next train to take away. This adds that much more to the mines to get the facility as close as possible to what it was back in its heyday as we continue to research the route of our current layout setup.



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## Club News

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

A new piece of rolling stock is being worked on for our ET&WNC roster. With many of our larger projects completed with the space we currently have, Dr. Fred Alsop has begun work on ET&WNC caboose #503. This kit is made by our friends at [Merritt 3D Designs & Printing](#) and like many of their products this one is also very well made with plenty of detail and will make an incredible addition to the layout once completed. Caboose #503 is certainly a unique one being the only caboose in the ET&WNC roster that did not have a cupola for the brakeman and conductor to see above the train so crews would have to watch from the windows or out on the platform. Dr. Alsop has already begun work by installing the grab irons on the caboose after drilling out the holes to install them along with preparing the chassis for the body. Again we would like to thank our friends at [Merritt 3D Designs & Printing](#) for this incredible piece and to keep up the good work on their products as we continue to follow the progress on this newest addition to the railroad.



## Club News

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

Things have progressed incredibly on ET&WNC caboose #305 with Dr. Alsop going into paint, weathering and final assembly. After the body was primed and painted weathering the model began showing a lot of miles on the old caboose such as faded and chipped away paint near the chassis with some added dirt. Even the steps and platforms showing some major foot traffic coming in and out from the carriage. With all that done, work on the trucks and couplers were installed along with final assembly and decals to finish it up. Hopefully this weekend we will get a preview of the latest addition to the ET&WNC in action so be sure to stay tuned for that. We would again give a special shoutout to our friends at [Merritt 3D Designs & Printing](#) on this awesome kit. If you haven't already, be sure to check them out and their other awesome products.



## Club News

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

It's all coming down to the details now. Over the past couple months this section of the layout has been coming along nicely and now it is coming down to finishing up the hill side. Museum member Jim Gorny can be seen here currently touching up on the rock work and also starting to add grass and other foliage to the side of the hill. From there work should also begin soon on redoing the area in front of the hill where the old sawmill once sat. More on that as the area continues to develop.



## Club News

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

If there is one thing any model railroader will tell you, no matter what scale you run, sometimes things don't work out like you hope. Case and point is over on the N scale layout where things seem to have been finishing up on the remodel of the hill until an issue was found with the current design. Although most of the locomotives and rail equipment goes past this area fine with no issue it was found that longer locomotives, passenger cars and freight cars were having difficulty getting through the area without coming off the rails. To fix this problem museum members Jim Gorny and Mike Tarter work on chipping away the plaster to make enough clearance for all equipment to pass by without any sort of issue. After a few passes with a Southern Railway PB unit and a passenger car it seems now there is more than enough clearance for our longer pieces of equipment to go through without derailments so now time to repaint and begin again on the details.



## Club News

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

Just a quick follow up on last week's update as the adjustments to the rocky side of the hill has been fixed allowing trains to pass through with no issues. The new rock work has also been painted and detailed to match with the rest of the hill now being left to dry before continuing on to the next stage on the layout.



## Club News

**Members! Please welcome our new members as you have the opportunity to meet them. We are blessed with gaining some new folks with a real interest in model railroading and a desire to help us any way they can as they learn our operating procedures. Please extend a warm handshake and help them become involved in our clubs and our railroad museum!**

**We would love to know more about you!**

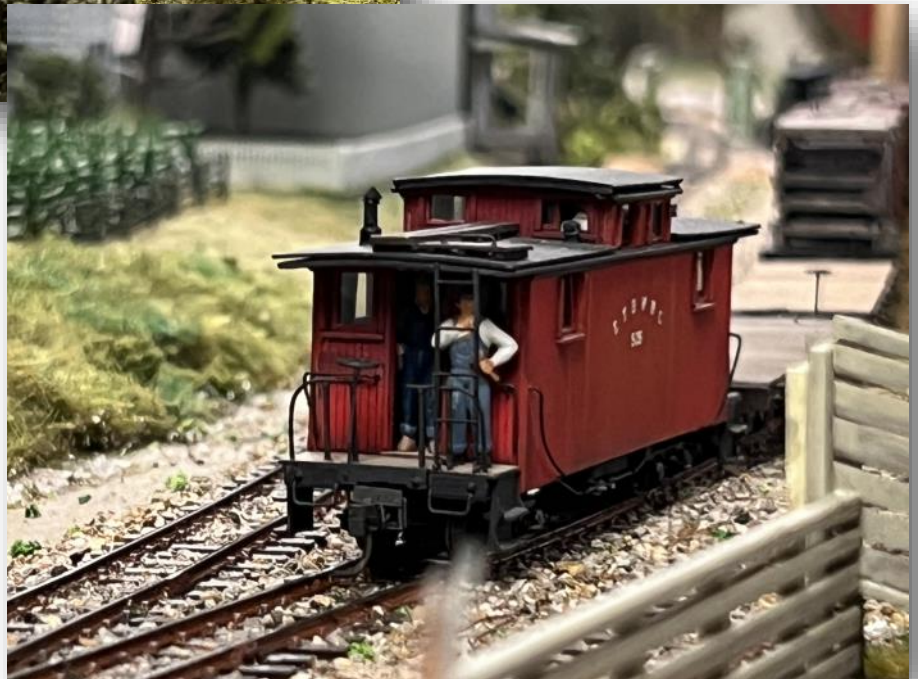


**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STORY  
WITH FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER,  
PLEASE SEND VIA EMAIL TO OUR EDITOR AT  
[cathysmithmemrr@gmail.com](mailto:cathysmithmemrr@gmail.com)**

## Heritage Days!

### Lil' Chicago Johnson City Railroads -Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

Johnson City has always been a railroad town with many trains that came through here from the Southern Railway and the Clinchfield not to mention our very own ET&WNC that once called this great city home. Although these railroads are gone their legacy can still be seen today carrying the freight we need for our day to day lives through Norfolk Southern and CSX. Many locomotives and rolling stock can also be seen in museums across the country or some cases still in operation taking excursions. There are also many artifacts and layouts showing these railroad operations like they did back in the day much like what you can find at our museum. For this Heritage Day event we had many of these railroads in operation across our layouts which we were able to capture a few scenes of these trains in action. We hope everyone enjoys these Heritage Day snapshots!!



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# Heritage Days!

## Lil' Chicago Johnson City Railroads -Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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*(continued on page 17)*



## Heritage Days!

### Lil' Chicago Johnson City Railroads -Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

*(continued from page 16)*



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# Heritage Days!

## Lil' Chicago Johnson City Railroads -Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

*(continued from page 17)*



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# Heritage Days!

## Lil' Chicago Johnson City Railroads -Article and Photos by Logan Heaton

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## Club News

### The new 2023 calendars are available!!

Our new 2023 calendar is now available for purchase at the gift table! This year's calendar features event dates from our Heritage Days to our Big Train Show and also operating dates for the museum. It is also be themed around local railroads both past and present and 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!



## Club News!

# Big Train Show!!!

It's the new year and you know what that means!! Time to mark your calendar for our upcoming Big Train Show!! In about 5 months on Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd. The ETSU Mini-Dome will be host to many model railroad and railroad memorabilia vendors along with operating layouts for all to enjoy. Last year we had an incredible turnout for both guests and vendors for our return after two years away and we hope to make this one even better. Admission for the event will be \$8.00 per day with children under the age of 12 will get in free.

For vendors there is still time to register. For those interested or for more information on the event please contact Roger Teinert at 423-791-4937 or Bill Smith at 423-491-0623.

We look forward to seeing you all in June and we will keep you all up to date with any updates or changes taking place for the show!!



## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 10/18/22

Attendees welcomed and Meeting called to order at 6:46 PM by President Fred Alsop

Members Present : Fred Alsop, Paul Haynes, Jaykob S, Rick Mulholland, Robert Sullivan, Lanny Norris, Mike Tarter, Ron Green, John Carter, Geoff Stunkard, Jim Pahr, Charlotte Pahr, Roger Teinert

Fred invited Officer Reports.

Secretary's report- Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the September meeting have been submitted for review/correction/publication in the October Coal Road newsletter. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as published, John Carter seconded, the motion passed by acclamation. 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 September was given to the club President. Mike reports a few members are renewing membership early and members are paying for the Club shirts as received.

V.P. report - John Carter reports usual Club activities are proceeding, i.e., nothing new to report. .

Presidents report- Fred Alsop:

Fred tells us that Frank Fezzie who has been wonderfully helping as the HO layout coordinator is relinquishing the role and Fred is inviting a volunteer to replace Fred.

Relocation –The Johnson City Manager, Cathy Ball and City Commissioner, Jenny Brock toured the Carter Railroad Museum on the morning of October 12<sup>th</sup>. The tour was guided by Fred, Geoff Stunkard, Roger Teinert and Mike Tarter. (As an intriguing coincidence, Cathy Balls father worked for the Clinchfield railroad at the Erwin train facilities, and later CSX). There has been discussion between John City and ETSU regarding development of the Walnut Street area, and both entities would like to see the Carter train museum to be a part of it. Another meeting was being planned between the city leaders and the ETSU administration. With demolition of the present building is likely to start fall 2023, our layouts will have to start moving right after the Big Train Show ends.

Lisa Lyons was very kind to give a presentation to 22 of our members on October 6<sup>th</sup> regarding how we can welcome and collegially interact with some of our members who have aspects of autism. (Lisa has an autistic member in her family – she certainly knows this subject.) The meeting was very informative – THANK YOU Lisa!

Old Business:

Train Show – Roger reports planning is well underway for the June 2-3 2023 Train Show. Flyers have been received, and he will be bringing some to the local HobbyTown store for distribution. 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. We have received 2 new train show banners. We discussed getting ads for the show in train enthusiast magazines (*Trains*, *Model Railroader*, *Model Railroader Craftsman*, etc.) - Mike tarter volunteered to help coordinate these ads. (Also RailServe) There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting (and social gathering) for the 2023 event each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center (note the change in time). We order off the menu - all members are invited to join us.

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## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 10/18/22

(continued from page 22)

Annual Picnic – the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Carter RR Museum picnic had over 40 attendees on a cool but nice day. A very successful social event .

Rail Excursion - The October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion, sponsored by the Carter chapter of NRHS, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City NC was a success, with 53 participants including 8 Carter Chapter/MEMRR members. We passed out to the attendees MEMRR and Museum and Train Show brochures as well as a feedback form. The excursion was a financial success as well.

### New Business:

Annual Christmas Party – Roger Teinert reminds us 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.

Mike reports that members are placing orders for Club shirts to wear when we are open to the public, as decided in the September MEMRR meeting. Fred suggests we all keep encouraging members to look dignified and proud of membership.

A white magnetic train operations board has been installed in the MEMRR layout for members to sign up for running times on the Club HO layout during museum visitor hours. Members are able to sign up to reserve 1 hour blocks on the main lines. This does not include staging time, DCC testing, etc. This is working well, making running time opportunities equitable / available for all members.

Fred tells us the 2023 Club calendar is proof approved and at the printer. The *HOn3 Annual* article (8 pages) about the Elk Park addition to the Tweetsie layout has been proofed and sent to the publisher. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication.

Locks are being sourced for the two rolling stock display/ storage wall cabinets in the museum workroom, to help control usage of these valuable trains.

Next Heritage Day October 29<sup>th</sup> theme is South East Railroads.

Geoff Stunkard shared with us a program of "*Tweetsie Slides and Post cards*". Really interesting.

Next membership meeting is November 15, at 6:30 in room 223 in Brown Hall.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 11/15/22

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## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 11/15/22

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November is the month to begin renewing annual memberships in the MEMRR Club. Dues are \$30 for individual and \$6 for a co-member, same as last year. It is payable as of now, through January, but sooner will be helpful. An email will be sent reminding all members.

November is also the month to begin selection of club officers for 2023. In lieu of a nominating committee, Fred inquired if the present officers would be willing to serve for an additional year. All have responded affirmatively. Any and all other club members are invited to express interest in officer roles for 2023.

Following this, Fred invited nominations for officer and member of the year recognition. He will get nomination forms emailed to the members shortly.

Fred tells us the 2023 Club calendar is printed and now available. Club members get a discounted price of \$5.

The *HOn3 Annual* article (8 pages) about the Elk Park addition to the Tweetsie layout has been proofed and sent to the publisher. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication.

An article "Tank in the Narrows" galley has been proofed and returned to White River Publications- the publishers of *The Narrow Gauge Gazette*.

Additional articles are in the works: an article on making model willow trees, and Ben is writing one on his work with 3D printing.

Fred mentioned that the museum recently received generous donation of 8 boxes of train books.

Mike Tarter informed the group that he and Ron Green recently surveyed a large N scale layout that may someday be donated to the museum.

Next Heritage Day November 26<sup>th</sup> (after Thanksgiving) theme is CLINCHFIELD!

The formal meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Geoff Stunkard shared with us a slide program of "*Railroads Around Here and Other Places*". Really interesting.

Next membership meeting is January 17, at 6:30 in room 223 in Brown Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 1/17/23

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

Members Present : Fred Alsop, Wallace Shealy, Paul Haynes, Mike Tarter, John Carter, Geoff Stunkard, Ben Merritt, Scott Stodola, Ed Fuller, Randy Rogers, Jim Hoyt, scribble scribble. On ZOOM call – Ron Green, Robert Sullivan, Logan Heaton, Rick Mulholland.

Fred requested Officer Reports.

Secretary's report- Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the October and November meetings have been submitted for review/correction by Fred Alsop and publication in the next Coal Road newsletter. Mike made a motion to hold approval of the minutes until publication and available for member review. John Carter seconded, the motion passed by acclamation. Mike Tarter informs the members that he has updated the membership list. A reminder to all members that 2023 membership renewals are DUE January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Treasurers' report - Mike Tarter: Executive summary; the MEMRR has money and is financially solvent. The final financial report for December was presented to the club President. Mike reports members are continuing to renew membership and members are paying for the Club shirts as received. (The shirts look quite spiffy.)

V.P. report - John Carter reports he is working on developing 'hands on' training sessions and programs.

Presidents report- Fred Alsop:

Fred welcomed new members to the club for 2023. He reminds us that we have copies of 2022 HOn3 Annual magazines available to members for \$22 (\$30 cost for non members). This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication. And 2023 MEMRR Calendars are available for \$5 each.

Old Business:

Train Show - There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting (and social gathering) for the 2023 event each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center (note the change in time). We order off the menu - all members are invited to join us. We discussed getting ads for the show in train enthusiast magazines (*Trains, Model Railroader, Model Railroader Craftsman, RailServe, etc.*) Mike Tarter is helping coordinate these ads. He is contacting White River Publications, and Kalmbach. Scott brought up that he may be able to help recruit assistance in picking up and setting up display tables. THANK YOU, Scott!

Relocation update- Meetings continue with ETSU and Johnson City (Jenny Brock) officials and management regarding the eventual relocation of the Carter RR Museum and our train club. A possible location has been tentatively identified in downtown Johnson City next to Founders Park. There was considerable discussion of the details of establishing a new location. With demolition of the present building is likely to start fall 2023, our layouts and displays will have to start moving right after the Big Train Show ends in June 2023. Some of the 'tidying up and sorting' process has begun. Relocation will be a huge effort, but ETSU management has indicated the university will assist.

Library - Wallace reports that all the hardback books (over 2,500) in the Carter Library have been cataloged and bar-coded with Library of Congress identification, and are now searchable via the ETSU library. He will be issuing bar code cards to Club members to allow borrowing of books.

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## MEMRR Monthly Business Meeting – 1/17/23

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### New Business:

Special events are being planned for 2023, both social and excursions (all tentative at this time):

Rail excursions, sponsored by the Carter Museum and the Carter NHRS Chapter:

Spring – possible April/May 3 Rivers Rambler & Star of Knoxville (postponed to a later date)

Labor Day Weekend- Chattanooga and Blue Ridge GA

Fall (October) – Bryson City NC Great Smoky Mountain Railroad

Social Events, families welcome:

Spring Social (March/ April), at Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton

Mid Year, a Sunday in August, visit the Christian Ministries in Hampton to see the Doe River Gorge, Lunch under the big tent, see their rail project progress, and ride the rails of the old ET&WNC RR

Annual Christmas Holiday party, possible Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton (we're open to other locations)

There was some discussion of upcoming Train Shows at Easley SC and Asheville NC

Next Heritage Day January 28<sup>th</sup>, the theme is Johnson City was Little Chicago years ago

The formal meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Next membership meeting is February 21, at 6:30 in room 223 in Brown Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 10/17/22

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by President Fred Alsop

Members Present: Fred Alsop, Mike Tarter, John Dodge, Roger Teinert, Paul Haynes, Geoff Stunkard

Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the September meeting have been submitted for review/correction/publication in the October Coal Road newsletter. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as published, Roger seconded, the motion passed by acclamation.

Treasurers' report, John Dodge: The Carter Chapter of NHRS has money and is financially solvent. John has a check to deposit, surplus related to the recent Great Smoky Mountain Railroad excursion from Bryson City.

V.P. report, Roger Teinert: He is sourcing locks for the glass train cases in the workroom.

Presidents report:

Relocation -The Johnson City Manager, Cathy Ball and City Commissioner, Jenny Brock toured the Carter Railroad Museum on the morning of October 12<sup>th</sup>. (As an intriguing coincidence, Cathy Balls father worked for the Clinchfield railroad at the Erwin train facilities, and later CSX). There has been discussion between John City and ETSU regarding development of the Walnut Street area, and both entities would like to see the Carter train museum to be a part of it. Another meeting was being planned between the city leaders and the ETSU administration. With demolition of the present building is likely to start fall 2023, our layouts will have to start moving right after the Big Train Show ends.

Lisa Lyons was very kind to give a presentation to 22 of our members on October 6<sup>th</sup> regarding how we can welcome and collegially interact with some of our members who have aspects of autism. (Lisa has an autistic member in her family - she knows this subject.) The meeting was terrifically informative - THANK YOU Lisa!

Old Business:

Train Show - Roger reports planning is well underway for the June 2-3 2023 Train Show. Flyers have been received, and he will be bringing some to the local HobbyTown store for distribution. 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. We have received 2 new train show banners. We discussed getting ads for the show in train enthusiast magazines (*Trains, Model Railroader, Model Railroader Craftsman*, etc.) - Mike tarter volunteered to help coordinate these ads. (Also RailServe) 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.

Annual Picnic - the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Carter RR Museum picnic had over 40 attendees on a nice day. A very successful social event .

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## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 10/17/22

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Old Business - Continued:

Rail Excursion - The October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion, sponsored by the Carter chapter of NRHS, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City NC was a success, with 53 participants including 8 Carter Chapter/MEMRR members. We passed out to the attendees MEMRR and Museum and Train Show brochures as well as a feedback form. John Dodge reports the excursion was a financial success as well.

New Business:

Annual Christmas Party - Roger Teinert reminds us 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.

Mike reports that members are placing orders for Club shirts to wear when we are open to the public, as decided in the September MEMRR meeting. Fred suggests we all keep encouraging members to look dignified and proud of membership.

A white magnetic train operations board has been installed in the MEMRR layout for members to sign up for running times on the Club HO layout during museum visitor hours. This is working well, making running time opportunities equitable / available for all members.

Fred tells us the 2023 Club calendar is proof approved and at the printer. The *HOn3 Annual* article (8 pages) about the Elk Park addition to the Tweetsie layout has been proofed and sent to the publisher. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 11/14/22

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

Members Present: Fred Alsop, Mike Tarter, John Dodge, Ed Krause, Paul Haynes, Randy Rogers

Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the October meeting have been submitted for review/correction/publication in the October Coal Road newsletter. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Roger seconded, the motion passed by acclamation.

Treasurers' report, John Dodge: The Carter Chapter of NHRS has money and is financially solvent. He is receiving checks for 2023 membership renewal.

V.P. report, Roger Teinert: Not present - attending a train show.

Presidents report:

Relocation - Meetings continue with Johnson City and ETSU officials and management regarding the eventual relocation of the Carter RR Museum and our train club. No location has been determined as yet.

November is National Model Train month, and the clubs will be inviting nominees for offices.

Fred advised us he will be absent from the museum from Nov. 19 to Nov. 26. Roger Teinert will be present and representing Club management.

Old Business:

Train Show- 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 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary open house on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> was well attended, over 75 visitors that day.

Rail Excursion - The October 8<sup>th</sup> excursion, sponsored by the Carter chapter of NRHS, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City NC was a success, with 53 participants including 8 Carter Chapter/MEMRR members. Fred presented the results of the survey/feedback from the attendees - 46 surveys were received. About 50% of the attendees said they would do another excursion; their suggestions were Knoxville and Chattanooga. An important fact gathered was how the folks learned of the tour. Most heard of the tour via the newspaper article and through friends. It brought to our attention the importance of mass emails to inform the public. We can get addresses from our guest book and surveys, for example. Marketing will become increasingly important to the museum and clubs.

New Business:

Annual Christmas Party - Fred reminds us 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. Ben Merritt will send out a registration sign up via email.

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## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 11/14/22

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### New Business: Continued

November is the month to begin renewing annual memberships in the Carter NRHS Chapter. Dues are \$10 for local membership and \$57 to the National group, both payable to Carter NRHS. Send checks to John Dodge , who will be email reminding the members.

November is also the month to begin selection of club officers for 2023. In lieu of a nominating committee, Fred inquired if the present officers would be willing to serve for an additional year. All responded affirmatively. He will also invite any and all other club members to express interest in officer roles for 2023.

Following this, Fred invited nominations for officer and member of the year. He will get nomination forms posted to the members shortly.

Fred tells us the 2023 Club calendar is printed and now available to members at a discount.. The *HOn3 Annual* article (8 pages) about the Elk Park addition to the Tweetsie layout has been proofed and sent to the publisher. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication. An article "Tank in the Narrows" galley has been proofed and returned to White River Publications- the publishers of *The Narrow Gauge Gazette*.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

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## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 1/16/23

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by President Fred Alsop

Members Present: Fred Alsop, Mike Tarter, John Dodge, John Carter, Scott Stodola, Ben Merritt

Fred called for Officer Reports.

Secretary's report: Secretary, Mike Tarter, reported that the minutes of the October and November meetings have been submitted for review/correction/publication in the next Coal Road newsletter.

Treasurers' report, John Dodge: The Carter Chapter of NHRS has money and is financially solvent.

V.P. report, Roger Teinert: Not able to be present

Presidents report:

Fred reminds us that we have copies of 2022 HOn3 Annual magazines available to members for \$22 (\$30 cost for non members). This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year the Tweetsie layout has been included in this prestigious publication. And 2023 MEMRR Calendars are available for \$5 each to club members.

### Old Business:

Membership: John reports that the Chapter has enough members to remain viable. Member and co-member dues are \$69 annually, which covers both National and Local dues.

Relocation update- Meetings continue with ETSU and Johnson City (Jenny Brock) officials and management regarding the eventual relocation of the Carter RR Museum and our train club. A possible location has been tentatively identified in downtown Johnson City near Kings Common Park. There was considerable discussion of the details of establishing a new location. With demolition of the present building is likely to start fall 2023, our layouts and displays will have to start moving right after the Big Train Show ends in June 2023. Some of the 'tidying up and sorting' process has begun. Relocation will be a huge effort, but ETSU management has indicated the university will assist.

### New Business:

RailCamp: The Chapter has funds to sponsor one or two students to the annual week long Rail Camp organized by the NRHS. Approximate cost per student would be \$1,200 plus air fare to Philadelphia. The Chapter is open to nominations.

Rail Excursions: - There was discussion of the Carter Museum and the Carter NHRS Chapter sponsoring several Rail excursions this year;

Spring - possible April/May 3 Rivers Rambler & Star of Knoxville (postponed to a later date)

Labor Day Weekend- Chattanooga and Blue Ridge GA

Fall (October) - Bryson City NC Great Smoky Mountain Railroad

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## Carter NRHS Chapter Monthly Business Meeting - 1/16/23

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Train Show: Planning is well underway for the 2023 Train Show. There is a Train Show Committee planning meeting for the 2023 Train Show event tomorrow and each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 at Portobello's Restaurant in the Kroger shopping center.

Social Events: The Museum and Clubs are planning several social events with families welcome;

Spring Social (March/April), at Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton

Mid Year, a Sunday in August, visit the Christian Ministries in Hampton to see the Doe River Gorge, Lunch under the big tent, see their rail project progress, and ride the rails of the old ET&WNC RR

Annual Christmas Holiday party, possible Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Black Olive restaurant in Elizabethton (we're open to other locations)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Tarter, Secretary

## Carter Railroad Museum Coordinators Meeting

Check back next month.

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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  
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://johnsonsdepot.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*