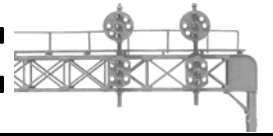


THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 14

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODULAR RAILROADERS CLUB
NOVEMBER 2007 ISSUE

Number 12

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Fred Alsop

Vice-President:

John Carter

Secretary:

Mary Doran-Bleck

Treasurer:

Duane Swank

Newsletter Editor:

Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:

John Edwards

LOCATION

ETSU Campus, George L.
Carter Museum

HOURS

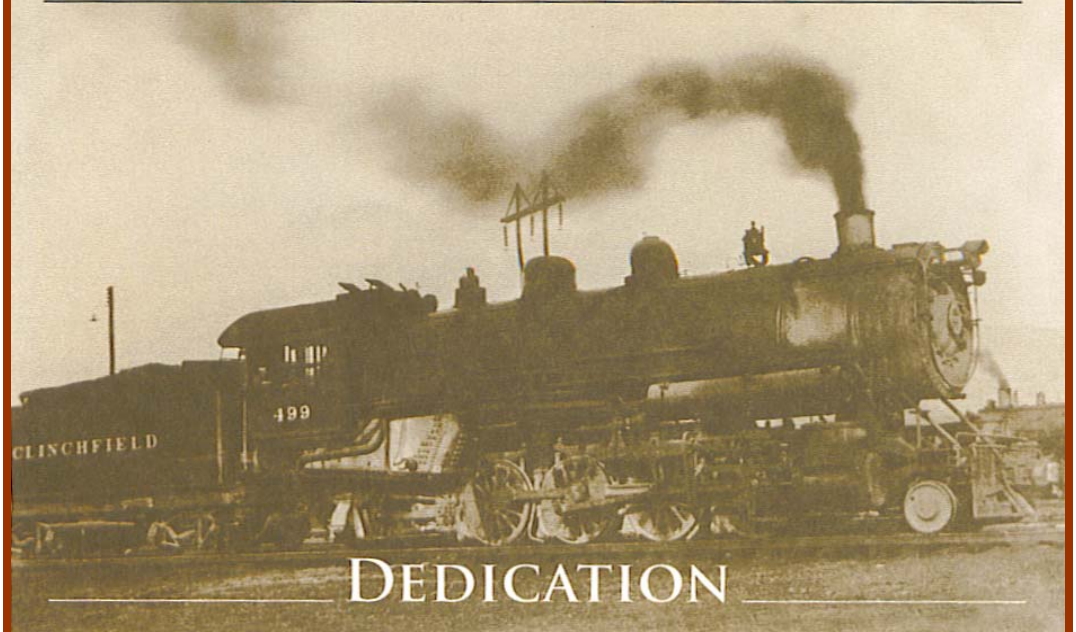
Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Room 312, Johnson City, TN.

- A social gathering is held prior to the business meeting at *EL TORITOS* on State of Franklin near ETSU in the Kroger Plaza starting at 5:45 PM. Visitors and those interested in joining MEMRR are invited to attend.

- Work nights are held weekly on Thursday evenings starting at 4:30 PM and lasting until ???

- Open viewing and operating layout is available every Saturday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM starting in October 2007.

GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM *East Tennessee State University*



GEORGE L. CARTER *1857-1936*

Railroad Magnate
Industrialist
Visionary
Philanthropist
ETSU Benefactor



Dr. Paul E. Stanton Jr., President
 East Tennessee State University
 cordially
 invites you to attend the
 Dedication
 of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum
 Friday, November 16, 2007
 11 a.m.
 Old College of Medicine Building-ETSU Main Campus
 Inside Front Entrance on Pedestrian Mall
 (opposite Roy S. Nicks Hall)

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

For more information, contact the
 ETSU Office of University Relations
 (423) 439-4317

*Disability parking along Sherrod Drive at front entrance
 General parking available in lot between Reece Museum and Culp Center*

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Rails Across America Edition

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **INDUSTRIES IN ACTION**. This is the second, **Railroads and Coal**. The subject of the video is modern day coal operations and the rail industry's link. Both Norfolk Southern's Pocahontas Division and the BNSF's Powder River Basin' are featured with the Eastern coal operations receiving the largest share of footage.

The video is a great addition to the club's other video on coal operations on the former Clinchfield trackage. While not as detailed as the Clinchfield video when describing day to day operations, there's lots of big power, long trains and helper action. Chapters include:

- The Importance Of Coal
- Regional Coal Production
- The Success Of Norfolk Southern Coal
- Barges, Transloaders And Alcos
- Norfolk's Superior Customer Satisfaction
- A Comparison: East Vs West
- Operations: Then And Now
- The Pocahontas Division: Dispatching The Trains
- Cabooses And Helper Engines
- Coal Preparation
- The Load Out Process
- The Future Of Coal

If you like modern diesels and big power with coal in the east setting then sit back and enjoy the scenes. You can borrow the club's copy and enjoy an hour or so of watching the big boys operate.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

SIGNAL BRIDGE SCOTT PEEPLES

E-mail bcspeeples@peoplepc.com

Home Layout Student

MEMRR Module No

Favorite railroad

Norfolk & Western, Clinchfield

Favorite aspect of hobby

Running trains

Least favorite aspect of hobby

Not had much experience with other aspects of the hobby

How did you get started in hobby

Grandfather's small collection

How long have you been a member of the MEMRR

2 Years

What got you started with MEMRR

Seeing the club layout set up at Sycamore Shoals

What dreams do you have for your layout or module

I have a DC double-tracked oval shaped layout that has a 3 track yard and a passing track. The EZ-track layout fits on a 6' by 8' carpet. I can't do much else with it since I'm stuck with only the carpet.

What other model railroad or railfan activities do you participate in

Visiting Museums

What one thing would improve MEMRR

Make the club layout more operational oriented.



My First Train Ride

Allan Morton

When I was very young, every Saturday morning my family would go to the Penn Harris Hotel in downtown Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. My mother would get her hair done in the beauty shop. My father and I would go to the barber shop for a haircut and a manicure. The shop was always full and I was greeted by the regulars and every barber knew me by name. I was treated like a special patron and even got my neck shaved after my haircut. That was a big deal to me!

After that, I would go to the restaurant in the hotel for breakfast and to help "Grandma Cokie" fold the napkins used with each place setting in the restaurant. I looked forward to this job every week.

However, this Saturday was going to be very special. Instead of going home, we were going to meet my grandfather at the railroad station for my first train ride. He was a passenger train conductor for the Pennsylvania Railroad. I had seen him at home in his uniform but, never at work. We arrived at the station, also in downtown Harrisburg just a few blocks from the state capital building. It was a very large building and a passenger bridge over the railroad tracks provided access to the trains below. There at the bottom of the steps was my grandfather, train crew and car knocker. A pair of Pennsy Alco PA's were backing down on the train I was going to ride. I had never heard or seen anything this big!

I watched the process until it was complete and boarded the train. I took my seat but could not see out the window unless I got on my knees. Moments later my grandfather arrived and gave me his pocket watch. He instructed me to let him know the arrival time at each stop along the way to Philadelphia. I was only too happy to comply with this assignment. I felt like I was running the train. I had seen trains at a distance but, never from this vantage point. I looked out the window as the farms and towns rolled by. It was truly a ride to remember and a day I will never forget.

When my grandfather died, I was given his pocket watch. It remains one of the most cherished possessions I will ever have.

**Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders
Minutes**

October 16, 2007

5:45 PM Dinner at El Toritos

7:00 PM Meeting in Brown Hall, ETSU Campus

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary's Report: No report from September meeting; Business session was postponed due to picnic at T. McKee's.

Newsletter Editor's Report: October issue of the *Signal Bridge* has been reproduced and mailed out. The Webmaster has an Adobe .pdf version of the issue which has been forwarded to members with computer and internet access.

Treasurer's Report: The treasury is down to approximately \$150. Dues season starts in November. Members are encouraged to renew dues early.

WebMaster's Report: Members can access the new website at MEMRR.ORG. John Edwards can establish email accounts for members. Route all requests to John.

Vice-President's Report: John relayed a special thank you from the Tri-Cities Railfan Club for our hosting an open house for their membership.

President's Report:

State of the Museum:

- Additional Digitrax utility throttles and loconet plug-in have arrived. Conversion of the HO layout will commence after the November 16th dedication.
- Additional ceiling lights and two rows of track lights have been added.
- Lettering of ETSU Express/President's Train has been finished – thanks to Mike Buster.
- The University has ordered security camera for the museum.
- Many displays have been assembled in the display cases.
- Norfolk Southern has donated a flashing signal crossbuck that will be installed outside the building near the west entrance.
- A Crossbuck donation box has been assembled – thanks to John Edwards.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The club cookout and picnic at Tom and Kim McKee's home was a huge success... A thank you has been sent.
- Mini-cam purchase status ... Gary Cameron is researching equipment and checking issues regarding multiple frequencies to operate more than one camera.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nomination committee consisting of Mike Buster and Paul Haynes has been appointed. Nominations will be reported out at the November meeting.
- **Important Dates:**
Green Shirt Events:
Wednesday, October 17th: 9:30 – 10:30 AM President's Council (University Administration will tour the new museum.
Saturday, October 20th: 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM ETSU Homecoming; lots of visitors.
Friday, November 16; 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM George L. Carter Railroad Museum formal dedication... lots of important guests
- **Amendments of By-Laws:** Language to include WebMaster and Newsletter Editor is needed.

PROGRAM:

Selected material from the Dream/Plan/Build DVD series

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 20, 2007
5:45 PM El Toritos – Dinner
7:00 PM 312 Brown Hall, ETSU Campus

Thursdays are work nights
Saturdays are work and operating sessions

Wednesday November 14th
Watch the Cable County Report
on Channel 11 @ 5:55 PM
Tim Cable produced a 4 minute segment on the
new museum and MEMRR!

JOIN THE FUN

THURSDAYS ARE WORK NIGHTS THE CREW GATHERS BEGINNING AT 5:30 OR SO...
COME WORK ON THE LAYOUTS OR RUN SOME TRAINS
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN – SEE – OR – DO IN N Gauge – G Gauge – and HO