



CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Vice-President:
John Carter

Secretary:
Art Daniels

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 TORITO* 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.

From the Conductor's Desk...

Lessons From The Prototype Pioneer Fences

The following photos are of pioneer fences. The rustic look and feel recommend them for use around that back country farm scene back up one of those hollars. These were found in Virginia along the Blue Ridge Parkway.



Pictured here are three types of Post and Board, Stockade, and traditional Snake.



Here is a second style of snake fencing

Next month we will take a look at some modeling tips for building pioneer fences.



The view from the engineer's side of the cab.

Summer is the time for picnics and outdoor grilling and **Tom and Kim McKee** treated the entire MEMRR to a terrific picnic on June 27th by not only providing us access to their wonderful lake-front home, but they also provided all the food and drinks. Thank you so much Tom and Kim. We truly appreciate your warm, southern hospitality. Tom has a great G-scale garden railway layout that provided a lot of railroading interest for all of us.

About noon on Saturday, July 4th, the HO-scale 21 stall roundhouse was put into its space on the HO-layout. All the lights, special effects, and the roundhouse bridge were tested and they are working as planned. Come by and take a look and park one of your locomotives in one of the available stalls. It's quite a building! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard since this project began in November 2008 to make it happen. Tom McKee has agreed to the purchase of new G-Scale track to replace the curves and the 4 turnouts on his layout and that track has been ordered. Jim Millhorn has repaired a couple of the G-Scale locomotives from DollyWood; Bob Barrett of HobbyTownUSA has provided the G-Scale track we need to encircle the ceiling of the Kid's Playroom; Don Ramey has assembled the track hangers and two terrific truss bridges for the project; Gary Woods has cut out the track roadbed and a group has been identified to begin work on getting the track in place and trains running on it.

The East Tennessee Railfan Association in Kingsport has made 130 pairs of Clinchfield Railroad color prints of their yellow-nosed F7s on the Copper Creek bridge and in the Nolichucky Gorge that were used for publicity for the CRR available to the MEMRR/Carter Railroad Museum for sale. The prints have been out of circulation for more than 20 years. They are offered as a fund raiser for both organizations. The Club voted to sell the consigned prints at the June meeting. I have discussed the details with the ETSU Advancement Office and they have approved this request to sell the prints as a fund raiser and have provided a mechanism by which to do so. This can be discussed further at the July meeting as both the Vice President and the Treasurer will have the details. One framed copy of each of the prints has been on display in the Carter Museum in the "Clinchfield RR" case since shortly after the museum opened. Please check them out. Perhaps you'll want a pair of these beautiful prints for yourself or as a gift for a railroading friend.

At the June meeting the club approved a suggested plan for organization and coordination within the club that should bring enhanced participation opportunities for all our members. We acted to create areas of interest, focus and responsibility that will be headed by a coordinator or co-coordinators that will be

assembled around projects, processes or activities of the MEMRR and the Carter RR Museum. These will be volunteer groups that will combine the interests of our members with areas within the museum and the club that currently need work. Members are asked to choose one or more of these sub-groups to work with. All areas are open, many are transitory and will last no longer than it takes to complete the work, and every member can move from one group to another as they so desire. Not all areas have volunteer coordinators as of this writing, so we still need some volunteers, but here are the current units and their coordinator(s):

- **MUSEUM-CLUB SALES**, Duane Swank and Gary Rabetoy;
- **MUSEUM-CLUB PUBLICITY**, Hobie Hyder;
- **MUSEUM DISPLAY CASES**, Jim Pahr and Gary Cameron;
- **KID'S PLAYROOM**, (coordinator needed);
- **RABETOY HO/Hon3 LAYOUT**, Gary Rabetoy;
- **"JACK COPE" TRAVELING LAYOUT**, Jerry Dennis and Gary Cameron;
- **McKEE G-SCALE LAYOUT**, (coordinator needed);
- **BANKUS N-SCALE LAYOUT**, Tod Eaton;
- **MEMRR HO-SCALE LAYOUT**, John Edwards and Lyle Montieth—electrical and wiring.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Carter RR Museum so you can indicate which group(s) you want to identify with to help out. The coordinators will hold regular short meetings to organize the work on the projects.

The MEMRR and our partnership with ETSU: Our club's current relationship with East Tennessee State University is based on a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the MEMRR and the University that provides the working conditions under which we are operating in the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. This written agreement is the basis for establishing the museum itself and outlines the responsibilities of each partner. The document outlines the use of facilities, the creation and display of exhibits, the management and services provided, and the basis of the partnership itself. It was signed in February 2007 and is subject to review and, if appropriate, renegotiation every 5 years from the date of the agreement. Covered in the agreement are certain expectations that are consistent with those found in any contract with a state entity, including state universities.

We are to insure that the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and firearms are not permitted. We are to insure that all dangerous materials including flammables are used under proper supervision and are stored appropriately in accordance with all environmental and fire regulations.

Being open to the public at the museum also means we are representing our club, the museum and the university and this means that our conduct must always be professional and above reproach. We are spokesmen and women representing a lot of entities beyond ourselves.

The membership does a great job meeting and talking with visitors, answering their questions, looking out for their safety, and providing a positive experience for them. Many have come back many times with their families and friends, many have recommended the museum as a great educational place to visit, and some have even written our praises to the local newspapers. Our club has grown significantly in the past 2 years because of the opportunity we provide for membership and because of the friendly way you have treated our visitors.

While all of this is positive and represents the standard of conduct we have set for ourselves, we must always be on our guard to not cross over a line of accepted conduct to one that would cause any concern for us or our visitors. Continue to make every effort to give each visitor the very best experience while they are in the Carter RR Museum, continue to look out for their safety, and continue to let the parents and guardians be responsible for their children by advising them of any possible safety hazards, i.e., standing on the stools we provide or that they have brought with them for that purpose, not pulling on the plastic barriers around the layouts, staying away from electrical cords/outlets, etc. You should never pickup or touch a child that is not related to you without the explicit permission of the adult that is accompanying them.

We are ambassadors for the Club and the University and as such, we want to ensure that every visitor has a safe and positive experience with us. Keep up the good work fellow MEMRR

members. We have a great opportunity in our relationship with the university that few similar clubs across the country share.

You won't want to miss the July Club meeting on the 21st. **Jim Millhorn** will be doing part 2 of his program on painting cars and locos with an airbrush. The meeting will be in our regular location, 312 Brown Hall, but after the business meeting the club will move to the Museum workroom for a hands-on airbrush painting demonstration that you can participate in. Here's your chance to spray some paint under the helpful eyes of a professional.

I will be leading a birding/natural history trip to Ecuador beginning 9 July and will be returning after that and a brief vacation with Jo Ann's parents in Minnesota around the 2nd of August. Keep the trains on the track and enjoy our club!

Fred Alsop,

President, Mountain Empire Model Railroad Club
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum

**MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING
June 16, 2009**

Call to Order and Recognition of New Members

Fred Alsop called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were no new members present, however Fred mentioned that several people had recently joined the club.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: The Minutes for the May Meeting were approved as previously submitted by Jesse Kittle and published in the *Signal Bridge*.

Newsletter Editor's Report: Ted Bleck-Doran reported that additional news and articles were needed for the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Duane Swank presented the following summary of the financial status of the club treasury:

Balance Forward: \$1977.79
Income: \$522.30
Expenses: \$182.10
Month Ending Balance: \$2317.99
Available Balance: \$1970.44

Webmaster's Report: John Edwards reported that the web host has incorporated a Security Update, which appears to be functioning without impact to the club's website.

Vice President's Report: John Carter was not present initially. Fred reported that Jim Millhorn is giving the programs for June and July and that additional programs needed to be scheduled for August and beyond.

President's Report: Fred suggested that members planning to be present at the museum for Saturday public sessions, arrange to place the "Train Show" signs at appropriate locations on State of Franklin road to attract the public. The signs should be out before 10:00 AM and be retrieved before 3:00 PM .

Old Business:

1. The **Digitrax Zephyr System** has been purchased and is operational on the HO layout.

2. The **Dollywood G Scale engine repair** and track installation are proceeding. This train will run as an overhead loop in the Children's Room.
3. Due to **narrow-radius curves**, the Tank Engine is the best running choice for the Tom McKee G-Scale Layout during Museum public hours.
4. So far, there has been minimal interest shown through responses to the proposed **Fall Club Rail Fan trip** concept presented by Hobie Hyder. Other members present at the meeting mentioned several other possible Rail Fan Excursion options, details of which can be found on various websites, such as The Watauga Valley Chapter of the NRHS.
5. The **Rabetoy Layout** has been successfully moved into the Museum and is ready for work by interested club members.

New Business:

1. John Carter introduced a set of two **Clinchfield Railroad color prints**, of which the East Tennessee Railfan Association has a large number of copies available for sale. This group has offered to consign a number of these print sets to our group for sale. The ETRA wants to receive \$12.50 for each set sold. A motion was made and seconded to have MEMRR participate in the sale of these prints. After discussion regarding sale prices, methods of sale, etc., the motion was approved by the membership with one "No" vote and one "Abstention" vote noted.
2. **The Club Picnic**, hosted by the McKees at their place is set for June 27 at 5:00 PM. Final date to sign up member and spouse/significant other is Friday June 19, 1:00 PM, after which the attendee list will be finalized and given to Fred for presentation to the McKees. A motion was made and seconded to permit Fred Alsop to offer the McKees some compensation from club funds to offset costs due to possibly greater-than-expected number of attendees due to recent club membership growth. After discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.
3. **Museum display shelves** now have space available and members are encouraged to plan to display appropriate materials.
4. Fred introduced the concept of **developing committees and "group leaders"** to oversee the growing complexity and variety of layouts and other features present within the Museum. His stated goals are to get actions going in these areas and to provide opportunities for increased participation in Museum and club activities, particularly by newer members who are not owners of MEMRR HO modules. Fred asked for

leaders to volunteer and obtained the following responses at the meeting:

- **MEMRR HO LAYOUT:** John Edwards and Lyle Montieth for DCC and Electrical Issues.
- **BANKUS N LAYOUT:** Tod Eaton, overall coordination of enhancements.
- **TOM MCKEE G LAYOUT:** Jim Millhorn, mechanical issues.
- **COPE TRAVELING HO LAYOUT:** Gary Cameron and Jerry Dennis, co-coordinators
- **RABETOY HO/HOn3 LAYOUT:** Gary Rabetoy, overall coordination
- **CHILDREN's HANDS-ON LAYOUT:** No volunteers
- **DISPLAY CASES:** Jim Pahrts and Gary Cameron, co-coordinators
- **CLUB/MUSEUM SALES:** Gary Rabetoy and Duane Swank, co-coordinators

Other New Business:

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Rails

Great American Layouts Edition

Bill and Mary Miller's C&S Ohio Creek Extension and Elk Mountain Timber Company Railway

Kalmbach has produced a new video in The Dream Plan Build video series: **Great American Layouts Edition** This is an exploration of a single model railroad, It features **Bill and Mary Miller's C&S Ohio Creek Extension and Elk Mountain Timber Company Railway** layout. The subject of the video is recreating rail operations in Colorado. The layout is an On3 layout featuring classic Colorado narrow gauge operation. An On2½ branchline is also featured.

The Miller's layout fills an area 28'3" x 29'8". It is set in the 1940's when the C&S has been saved by the renewed demand for Colorado ore. (The real C&S had been abandoned by the early '40's with a small remnant operated by the D&RGW).

Chapters include:

- The History of the Ohio Creek Extension
- A Behind the Scenes Tour
 - Gunnison
 - Cooper
 - Baldwin
 - Kebler Pass
 - Ruby Junction
 - Floresta
 - Delta Junction
 - Branch Line: Kebler Pass to Irwin
 - Elk Mountain Timber Co. Railway
- Techniques for Your Layout
 - Building a Turn-out Mechanism
 - Tricks for Weathering Your Rolling Stock

Bill and Mary are NMRA Master Model Railroaders so their suggestions come from years of modeling excellence.

Enjoy an hour or so with a fabulous layout – borrow the club's copy soon.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

5. Art Daniels is donating 1970s copies of model railroad and train magazines to the Museum. John Carter stated that such donations need to be coordinated through Duane Swank for inventory and club-availability management.
6. A number of members mentioned recent RR-related television shows. Jim Pahrts mentioned possible availability of outdated medical gauze from local medical institutions. Paul Haynes and Duane Swank reminded members of the July opening ceremony for the Bristol Station. Gary Cameron mentioned the Swap Meet and open house planned for 1-3 PM Sunday July 5 at The Southeast Regional Train Center in downtown Johnson City.

Layout Reports:

N-Scale: Fred reported on continued progress to improve reliability on the Bankus Layout.

HO-Scale: No specific report was presented for the HO Layout

G-Scale: No specific report on the G-Scale layout.

Other Items:

The volunteer schedule was set for the next several weeks. The next meeting date was confirmed for July 21.

Program:

The business meeting was concluded and the June program on car painting and decaling was presented by Jim Millhorn.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Fred Alsop following the program at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Minutes compiled and respectfully submitted June 17, 2009 by Arthur T. Daniels, MEMRR Secretary

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Rails

Rails Across America Edition

Mississippi River Main Line

Kalmbach has produced a new video in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **Great American Layouts Edition** This video tours scenes along the Mississippi river basin in the upper Midwest. BNSF and Canadian Pacific coal and freight trains are captured in video running alongside the mighty Mississippi.

Chapters include:

- The Mississippi River Bridge
- Train Watching at Dakota
- Heading through Donehower and Lamoile
- Rail Traffic in East and West Homer
- From Winona to Minnesota City
- Multiple Trains at Whitman and Kellogg
- Amtrack and Freights at MP 336 & 337
- East and Westbound Freights at Maple Springs
- CP Freights at Lake City
- BNSF and CP at Frontenac
- Scenic Shots at MP 366 and MP 368
- Red Wing Operations
- Multiple Train Meets at Vermillion
- Crossing Old Milwaukee Road Bridge
- Ending the Journey at Dayton's Bluff

Enjoy an hour or so with a fabulous layout – borrow the club's copy soon.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

Proposed Interest Areas, Leadership, and Projects

from
Special Meeting called July 6, 2009

Coordinators/Co-Coordinators are listed along with workgroup projects

HO- LAYOUT
JOHN EDWARDS
LYLE MONTIETH
Operating Yards
Track Work
Bridge tracks

BANKUS-N SCALE
TOD EVANS

Electrical work
Track work

MCKEE-G SCALE
OPEN

Milhorn-fixer
Replace track in outer loop
Straight, curved, turnouts

COPE-TRAVELING
JERRY DENNIS
GARY CAMERON
Folding Legs
Scenery-permanent
Different scenarios

RABETOY - HO
GARY RABETOY

KIDS PLAYROOM
OPEN

DISPLAY CASES
JIM PAHRIS
GARY CAMERON

SALES
DUANE SWANK
GARY RABETOY

N & W OR SOUTHERN
HO3-Tweetsie

G-Scale/ceiling
Caboose
Thomas layout
Lego set

4 Large & 1 CRR/Carter
Change 1 case per month
Change 1 case per month
Scale cars/people/track

Hats
Patches
Prints (pair) Price TBA

PUBLICITY
HOBIE HYDER

EVENTS
HOBIE HYDER

PUBLICATIONS
TED BLECK-DORAN

ETSU
JC Press/weekly
Create Website
TV/WETS radio
Logo contest

Workshops
National Model Train Month
Train Show

Newsletter Content
CD/DVD Special Issues
Web Site Content
Seek'n'Find Cards
Member Extras

Members are asked to consider becoming active in one or more of the interest areas and can contact the group coordinator(s) for more information, to make suggestions and to volunteer. As mentioned in the President's column this month, joining one or more of these interest groups will provide all members additional opportunities to become more active in MEMRR.

Picnic at The McKees

