

FOUNDED IN 1989

The ET TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ET&WNC RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Memorial Day Weekend Convention Plans In Place!

We're putting the finishing touches in place for our 2022 Convention. Some special events are planned as well as our usual favorites. We'll have three special presentations courtesy of Dr. Fred Alsop and his colleagues from ETSU. Also three opportunities to participate in timetable operations in HO scale at the Carter Museum's fantastic ET&WNC layout. We plan a tour on the Tweetsie Trail—the route covered by my story in the latest issue of *Every Time With No Complaint*. We'll have the opportunity to enjoy some private time riding behind the 105 year old #12 (keeping our fingers crossed here) with photo run-bys Saturday evening, as well as some more steam time at the Doe River Gorge on Sunday. The schedule as of this writing continues on page three...

Curtis Brookshire, Editor 🚩

From the workbench of your Society President –

Hey y'all! After missing two punches on our Convention tickets, we'll finally have the opportunity to get together again on Memorial Day weekend! **Please register to attend by mailing the Registration Form included with this newsletter...send it back no later than May 1 as we have tight deadlines to reserve our meals and rooms.** Thank you in advance for your help on this!

I feel that getting back on the track of attending our Annual Conventions will get us, as a Society, back to some sense of normalcy with our Business Meetings, convention activities, and the general

camaraderie that comes along with seeing old friends and meeting new ones. They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder... but it can also lead to apathy...and we as a Society don't need that. We need all of you involved in the Society to BE involved and keep this organization current, viable and moving ahead. I think we've done well despite the limits imposed by the pandemic, and we need to keep-on-keeping-on as this cruel time in our history is hopefully on the downhill run. And y'all can help with that by keeping up your membership, supporting our projects, and talking up our favorite little narrow gauge railroad...the ET&WNC!

Curtis Brookshire and Fred Alsop have joined forces to present us with a great schedule of events for the Convention weekend. Some were scheduled for last year, only to be canceled, but that gives us the opportunity to add them to this agenda and make for an outstanding list of "stuff for us to do!" Thank you Curtis and Fred!

Oh, and don't forget that for our Business Meeting, this year is an election year for President and Secretary.

If you plan to attend, and we hope you will, please, please, please get your Registration Forms sent in ASAP so that we can plan accordingly...they take a good while to make it to our treasurer Patricia. We don't want anyone to miss out on getting a room or missing one of the fine meals that are planned. I can taste that fried chicken right now! Thank y'all for what you do and I hope to see all of y'all in late May!

CFORD

News From Around the ET&WNC Preservation Community

George L. Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU with focus on the ET&WNC RR HOn3 layout

Fred J. Alsop III, Director of the museum, sends us this –

While a lot of work continues on the model layout exhibits in the railroad museum, we are also making plans to be a part of the Annual ET&WNC Railroad Historical Society Convention that is coming to Johnson City over the Memorial Day Weekend. We will provide some running time for those ET&WNC RR model railroaders who would like to have an hour operating on our HOn3 “Tweetsie” layout during several periods on Saturday when our museum is open to the public. You may bring your own DCC locomotives and rolling stock or use the trains we have available on the layout.

We are also planning for our Annual Big Train Show the following week on June 3 & 4. This model and rail fan show covers the 64,000 sq ft of the ETSU Mini-Dome near the railroad museum. This will be the first time we have had the show since 2020 because of COVID-19 and major renovations for the facility by the university last year. We anticipate having more than 300 vendor tables and several operating model train layouts in several gauges. Mark your calendar and come enjoy the event.

Our ET&WNC model layout’s Elk Park, NC section is nearing completion with the final building, a Ford Service and Sales structure, having been completed. This little business



Ford Sales & Service at Elk Park, NC, plastic and wood construction, created by Fred Alsop.

will be the last one to be added to our little mountain railroad town and is placed on the south side of the tracks and the roadway leading to the town. The next, and last phase will be the detailing of the village with period 1920s vehicles,

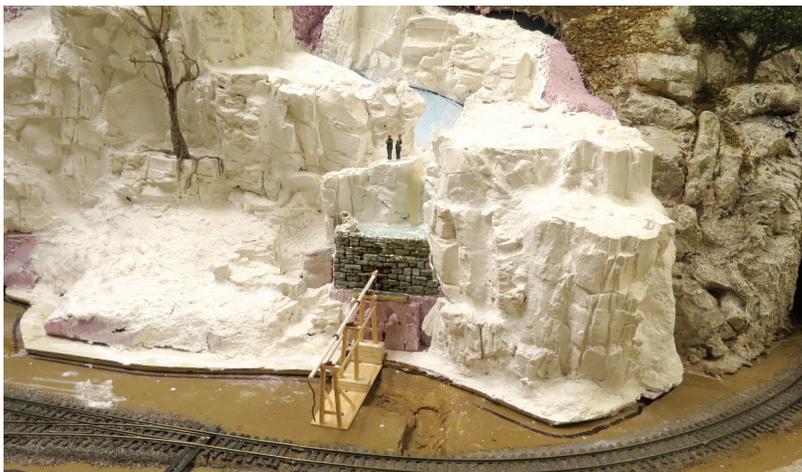
boxes, barrels, and trade goods around the buildings, and of course, little people to populate the town. All will be ready and in place when the Historical Society Convention comes to Johnson City in late May.

Student member Ben Merritt has 3D printed the railroad’s water tanks in the two configurations used by the “Tweetsie” and I have been busy detailing and installing them in their historic locations along the right-of-way. They are great additions to the layout and Ben is selling them online. They can be ordered from <http://merritt3d.com> in several model scales.

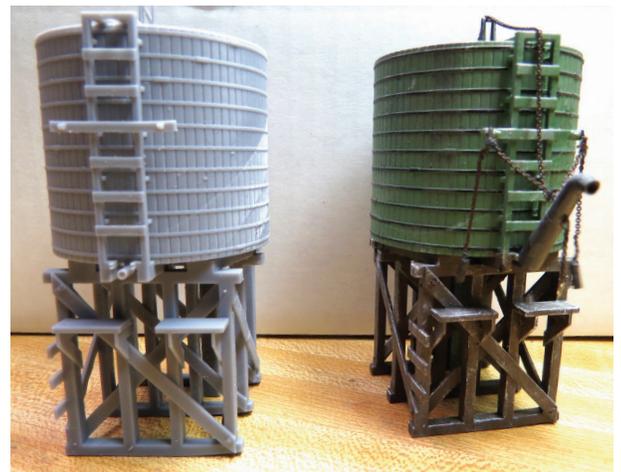
The next priority on the “Tweetsie” layout will be the unique water tank that the railroad installed near Hampton, TN by damming up part of a small stream along a cliff face into a cistern with an 8-inch pipe reaching out to the roadbed on wooden supports to feed water to the locomotive tenders. Member Michael Sager has been researching the site conducting actual field work and photographing what stonework still remains and we plan to duplicate this unusual narrow gauge railroad solution to obtaining water for their locomotives on our layout.

Another 150 hardback railroad-themed books have been donated to our library, along with as many railroad DVDs, bringing our catalogued library collection to more than 2,500 volumes. The museum now may have the largest single collection of railroad books in the state. Current circulation is for members only, not to the general public, but we plan to have a wider circulation in the future. Other happenings around the Carter RR Museum include the continued upgrading of the scenery on our N scale “Knoxville-themed” layout and the creation of a logging scene on the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders’ HO scale southern Appalachian-themed layout complete with mountain timbering operations and a logging mill.

The G. L. Carter Railroad Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University is open to the public Saturdays from 10 am–3 pm and at other times by special arrangement. Check our website for club, museum and special events postings, and YouTube for updated museum videos. Our website can be found at www.memrr.org. 🚂



Hampton Hillside Water, in “the narrows” alongside the Doe River and adjacent to tunnel 1, is under construction by Michael Sager and Fred Alsop. Photos courtesy of Fred Alsop.



ET&WNC RR water tank model 3D printed by Ben Merritt with painting and details by Fred Alsop.

Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum

Matt Bumgarner has this news from Newton, NC –

The first quarter of 2022 has been one of slow but methodical processes on several fronts at the SE Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum. Notable highlights include:

- a) The continued construction and operation of our HO/HOn3 layout highlighting the local railroading of the Southern Railway, Carolina & North-Western, and W. M. Ritter operations. The Model Railroad Center crew is very close to a complete conversion to DCC.
- b) The city of Newton approved our zoning application to operate our dining car as a restaurant facility.
- c) The mechanical crew has been planning on the move of our shops at Oyama to the museum campus, with wood and metal-working equipment being housed in a 40-ft Pullman Standard boxcar.
- d) The crew has also been busy on steam locomotive Virginia-Carolina #50 in preparation for making her roll on her own wheels for the first time in 60+ years. The cylinders and pistons are being slowly lubed and the rods will soon be dropped.
- e) ET&WNC Motorcar #1 is coming to life thanks to the generous support of Chris Robbins and Tweetsie Railroad's ongoing Heritage Weekend. The car is now in a shop bay of her own, the chassis has been bolted together with new hardware, and the axle springs have been mounted.

Our museum is open on Fridays from 11 am-5 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am-4 pm with no admission charge. Please come by and say hello! Also visit our website at www.newtondepot.com. 🚩

News from the Historical Society Modeling Committee

We would like to introduce you to 3DP TRAIN, a growing marketplace that builds upon and expands what we started with Western Rails Company. We now offer even more 3D printed products in Z through O scale by designers from around the world. We will be at the show featuring products from across our marketplace. We will be highlighting Western Rails Company's recently release of the O Scale Passenger and TOFC Cars.

Visit us at <https://3dptrain.com> to view our ever-growing collection of high-quality 3D printed kits. We have a limited offer good through May 28th, you can receive 10% off and pick up your order at the Big Train Show! Just use code BTS7. 🚩

Tentative Convention Schedule - May 27-29

Friday, May 27

Convention Registration Opens	
Main Ballroom - Carnegie Hotel	2 pm
First Operating Session - Carter Railroad Museum	
ETSU Campus	3 pm
Business Meeting and Banquet –	
Jerry Turbyfill - Guest Speaker	
<i>Saving the Linville Depot and Caboose 505</i>	
Main Ballroom - Carnegie Hotel	5:30 pm

Saturday, May 28

Tweetsie Trail Hike / Bike Tour (Weather Permitting) –	
Tweetsie Trail - Johnson City.....	8 am
Geoff Stunkard Presentation –	
<i>The Narrow Gauge Dilemma – How It Happened, Why It Ended</i>	
This overview will showcase the reasons why narrow gauge railroading grew in popularity, its benefits and deficiencies, and its final decline. Stunkard will present a visual guide to this history, and his collection of over 500 worldwide narrow gauge postcards will be on display for examination.	
Lower Level Room - Carnegie Hotel.....	9 am
Second Operating Session - Carter Railroad Museum	
ETSU Campus	10 am
Lunch On Your Own –	
Yee-Haw Brewing / White Duck Taco Shop - Johnson City	Noonish
Third Operating Session - Carter Railroad Museum	
ETSU Campus	2 pm
Dr. Mick Whitelaw Presentation –	
<i>A Role in Rock History - Geology of the Appalachians and Tweetsie's Useful Purpose</i>	
The geography of the region was crucial to the railroad's purpose. This will focus on the areas of the line that meant so much to its success – the ore mine at Cranberry, the scenic beauty of the Doe River Gorge, the quarry at Milligan, and coke and coal for the furnace at Johnson City, which came from regional sources as well.	
ETSU Campus	2 pm
Leave For Tweetsie Railroad.....	4 pm
Tweetsie Train Ride, Dinner Catered by Dan'l Boone Inn, and a Short Presentation - This One Will Be A Surprise! –	
Tweetsie Railroad - Tweetsie Palace	6 pm

Sunday, May 29

Dr. Fred Alsop Presentation –	
<i>It Was Here Once: Railroad Archeology With Dr. Alsop</i>	
The effort to develop the museum's historical narrative required diligence. Master model builder Fred J Alsop will showcase the effort that went into building just one of the many buildings on the layout as well as overall points of interest that have been recreated true-to-form. Once completed, seminar attendees will be directed to view the areas in question located on the layout.	
ETSU Campus	9 am
DRG Group Lunch and (<i>Good Lord Willing</i>) Steam Train Rides –	
Doe River Gorge.....	Noon

Note: Presentation topics, times and locations are subject to change.

Your Registration fee of \$75.00 will cover all Historical Society Convention Sponsored Activities (including our Society admission to Tweetsie Railroad and the train rides at the Gorge), and the cost of three meals (Friday night at the Carnegie, Saturday night at Tweetsie and Sunday lunch at Doe River Gorge). We really need everyone to register as early as possible so we can provide an accurate headcount to cover our meals.

Tweetsie Railroad Happenings

Chris Robbins sends this from Blowing Rock, NC –



Tweetsie begins its 2022 season on April 9th. The park will operate Saturdays and Sundays until the end of May. The Historical Society Convention visit happens after the park closes on Saturday, May 28th. Summer hours begin June 2nd and the park will be open Thursdays through Monday, closed Tuesday and Wednesday until August 14th when weekend hours resume.

Right now the staff are “working on the railroad” with track and trestle work underway to ready the park for its 65th Birthday Season. Keep August 27th and 28th on your calendars for Railroad Heritage Weekend where special events happen both days.

Check our website for the most current schedule and information at www.tweetsie.com. 🚩

Doe River Gorge

Mark Milbourne reports from Hampton, TN –

Spring is already springing at DRG and everyone is busy with camp season just around the corner. In the meantime, spring guest group activity is also picking up, with some train and motorcar rides already and more pending. And with COVID about gone, we expect to be very busy with school groups in early May.

Trackwork season is also here and it has already been blown off in preparation for inspection. Some motorcar maintenance has also already been done. My trip to take delivery of the tie inserter machine, reported as pending last time, was delayed a week or two due to lingering winter weather up north, but the

machine is now on property and in the midst of narrow gauging and overhaul, along with receiving a new engine. By the time you read this we hope it will be back together, and if there are no further challenges (such as pump or cylinder leaks), we hope to get a lot more ties put in this spring. As mentioned last time, this is to enable the Crown steam locomotive to travel up the gorge and fully test it out, as well as provide some show for the convention this year. Again, if you will have some time and energy available in April or early May, let me know! There is little news on the Crown itself since it was winterized, other than some backburner work on various details and finding a source of better coal. We're almost out of freezing weather now, but we need to get the track up to snuff to be able to run far enough to really test it, so for the moment track work is Crown work.

Preliminary engineering work for the new Christmas Train loop of track has been completed and the survey crew is expected any day now to stake it out. Conversations are also in progress to contract out a new boiler for the first Porter steam locomotive. We've learned that lead time for a new boiler is at least a year, so given the goal of operating for Christmas season 2023, this process needs to start ASAP. In light of that, work has begun to strip the old boiler down for removal as it will be needed for reference by the selected builder. We also have a lead on a steel building to become the locomotive shop. This would be placed immediately behind the existing former sawmill shed which is currently storing all the new equipment and will become the coach shed.

That's all the news for now. The convention will be here before we know it, and after two years off, I hope everyone can make it and hope to see you here! Please visit our website for more info about our activities at www.doerivergorge.com. 🚩



This photo was taken 30 years ago during our 1992 Historical Society Convention visit to Tweetsie Railroad. For her 75th birthday that year Number 12 had received a beautiful ET&WNC Railroad tribute paint job which Tweetsie kept in use for at least several more years. See more photos from that Convention [here](#). Photo courtesy of Chris Ford.



32nd Annual ET&WNC Railroad Historical Society Convention May 27-29, 2022 - Carnegie Hotel - Johnson City, Tennessee Convention Registration Form

Your contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The Convention price this year will be \$75.00 per person. Total cost for you and a spouse would be \$150.00. **This fee includes ALL Convention sponsored activities plus the Friday night banquet at the business meeting, the meal at Tweetsie Railroad on Saturday night, and lunch at Doe River Gorge on Sunday.** Give us the name of each person attending the Convention so that name badges can be made. Please mark which meals each person will be present for so that we can get an accurate headcount and have meal tickets ready for you. Thank you!

Name	Friday Night Banquet	Meal at Tweetsie	Lunch at DRG	Price
_____				\$75.00
_____				\$75.00
_____				\$75.00
_____				\$75.00
_____				\$75.00

Mail check and this form *no later than May 1, 2022* to:

ET&WNC RR Historical Society Treasurer
PO Box 70697
ETSU
Johnson City, TN 37614

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to:
ET&WNC RR HS

You may also pay by credit/debit card*** Visa____ MasterCard____ AmericanExpress____ Discover____

Name on card _____

Card number _____

Expiration Date: Month____ Year____ Billing Zip Code_____

Security code number on back of card_____

*****Note - There is a 3.5% plus 15 cents processing fee added to this transaction by the card processing company. Your card will be charged \$77.80 per person.**

If you have any questions please contact Treasurer Patricia Jennings at pjdrgr2006@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to make your reservations at the beautiful Carnegie Hotel in downtown Johnson City, Tennessee. There is a *limited* block of rooms available just for our Historical Society Convention attendees at the great rate of \$102.00 per night, so *please book early*. Make your reservations by calling the Carnegie toll-free at **866-757-8277 and be sure to tell them you are with the **ET&WNC RR Historical Society**. View the accommodations at www.carnegiehotel.com.**