



The ET TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ET&WNC RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Address any inquiries to -

**The ET&WNC Railroad
Historical Society**

PO Box 70697
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37614

The Convention Offered Plenty of Activities For All Who Attended

Don't put the blame on Mame. Put the blame on Jane. Dealing with moving, two years of weeds, Migraine cluster headaches, and now Bronchitis have helped me forget my newsletter. Back to the subject at hand.

The major highlight of my summer and I hope, yours, too, was the 28th Convention of our beloved East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad Historical Society. Wow! Friday night, June 3rd was the beginning of a superb weekend with good friends, festive surroundings, and Dean Smith. This humorous, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic model railroader had us enthralled with the history of the railroad and working with his model railroad which requires seven volunteers to run. Two good women are behind this good man!

An unexpected change in the menu put too many carbohydrates in our evening meal. This should not happen. Too

many of us are on restricted diets.

Saturday morning, Chris Ford, our President gave us a knowledgeable and detailed preview of our visit to the Cranberry Mines.

Dr. Mick Whitelaw from the Geology Department of East Tennessee State University did a background history of the Roan Mountain area and its part in the future Cranberry Mines. It was fascinating seeing and holding the iron ore, especially Cranberry Gneiss Granite. These rocks and those in the mines began forming more than 950 million years ago!

At the mine, Catherine Caldwell of NC Resources sadly informed us that the mines contain the largest number of hibernating bats in North Carolina, but they have been contaminated with White Nose Syndrome, a fungus from Europe. There has been a 99 percent decline in this flying insect exterminator.

Visiting the Cranberry Mines was a

Time To Pay Your Dues!

special occasion for most of us, especially those who had never seen it before. We felt as if we were walking on hallowed ground and saw the marks left behind on the walls, tanks, and equipment. The awesome size of this pre-machine industry made us feel quite insignificant. It was fascinating seeing the historical and geographical workings of an important manufacturing process for this time. Thank you, Chris, for your presentation. Thank you, Jerry Turbyfill, our V-P, for your perseverance in lining up this adventure.

The visit to the Tweetsie Railroad is always special. The train, the whistle,

the bell, the marvelous supper from the Daniel Boone Inn, and this year, we took a picture of our family. We are sorry that some of you had to leave before being included in the photo.

Sunday morning's train ride into the only remaining working narrow gauge section of the ET&WNC Railroad, the Doe River Gorge, was as always a special occasion. Riding the rail up to Pardee Point behind No. 16 and the motorcar to the deck bridge gave us time to reminisce about those who came before us. Old friends shared memories and new friends got acquainted. Even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits.

After lunch and drying out, we headed to the Linville Depot at the Avery County Museum in Newland, NC. Friends of the Depot had delicious refreshments for us. Standing just inside the freight doors and looking at displays of artifacts, one realizes the hard work and dedication that went into restoring this unique rolling museum. Thanks to everyone who returned the old brick house to our beautiful Linville Depot.

It's time to look ahead to 2017. We look forward to 100th birthdays, a return to Johnson City, on June 2, 3 and 4, a model train show at ETSU, and time to do it all!
Jane Brady - Secretary

ET&WNC Railroad Layout To Be Published Again

Dr. Fred Alsop reports that the George L. Carter Railroad Museum's ET&WNC RR model railroad layout will be featured for the third consecutive year in the 2016 Edition of the HOn3 Annual published by White River Productions. The museum will have 9 pages highlighting Pardee Point, Blevins and the Cranberry Mine sections of the HOn3 scale layout that is now in its 4th year of construction. The magazine should be available in October. The museum on the ETSU campus welcomes donations towards the construction of this model railroad that depicts the ET&WNC RR from Johnson City to Cranberry, NC and extends an invitation to visit the museum any Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Fall Family Fun Day at the Gorge

Looking for something fun to do Sunday, October 16, 2016? Come on over to Hampton, Tennessee. Doe River Gorge is the place to be for the annual "Fall Family Fun Day". Time: 10 am-5 pm. Admission is free. Train rides: \$5. For more information on free or \$5 activities go to www.doerivergorge.com and click on Fall Family Fun Day!

A Word from the President

I'm writing this at a time when I should be thankful. It was 97° yesterday and 77° today. Thank you! Thank you!

I'd also like to thank all of y'all for your participation in the Society and its functions. From our members to our volunteer officers and board. It's y'all who make this

Society work, make it worthwhile, and make it the great organization that it is.

Hopefully it's a bit cooler for all of us. Football has started and we're moving into that time of year. Yeah, I'm talking about fall, but I'm also talking about time for getting our dues paid. Our treasurer Patricia Jennings says she has "absolutely nothing to do" (yeah, right!) and would love to receive checks for the 2016-2017 dues year and to send you membership cards. Let's take her up on that!

Thanks to all who attended the Convention. The Train Show, the tour of Cranberry Mine, lectures, Tweetsie, the Gorge... all were fun and informative and no one had time to be bored. So stay tuned for 2017, June 2, 3 & 4. We'll again be aligned with the Train Show at ETSU (and we'll allow plenty of time for all to attend). There'll be three (count 'em) celebrations for the three 100 year anniversaries ... the Linville Depot, Combine Car 15, and of course number 12. And we will have speakers for each one of these "birthday parties". Once-in-a-lifetime buddy!

Note that a dues form is included with this newsletter. Please take a minute to fill it out, mail a check and get current!

What? Don't know if you are current? Check your membership card... if it doesn't say "valid through June of 2017" then you're not up-to-date. If you want to check further, drop Patricia an email, her address is on the front of this newsletter. She'll let you know your membership status.

Speaking of that, maybe I should check my card to see if I'm current ... uh, oh!! Patricia!!!



Group shot from our Saturday night dinner at the Tweetsie Palace. Photo courtesy of Benjamin Burton.

Chris R. Ford



ET&WNC Railroad Historical Society

PO Box 70697 • ETSU • Johnson City, TN 37614

Membership/Dues Form

Your contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for paying your dues in a timely manner! This helps with our record keeping, lowers our costs, and keeps you from missing important Society publications.

Please note that the "Dues Year" runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Please check your current Membership Card or contact the Treasurer if there is any question about your membership status or if you have a change of home or email address.

The Society thanks you for helping to keep our operating costs low!
If you would like to receive your newsletters and notices via email, please check here...

Please Check Which Year(s) This Payment Represents -

2016 - 2017 (current year - runs from July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017)

2017 - 2018

2018 - 2019

2019 - 2020

Payment Enclosed For The Following -

Amount

Society Membership Dues - **\$30.00** per year

Caboose #505 Donation

Combine Car #15 Donation

G. L. Carter Museum ET&WNC Layout Donation

Motorcar #1 Donation

Linville Depot Maintenance Donation

Doe River Gorge Railroad Donation

Mail check and this form to:

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

Please check one:

☐ **New Member**

☐ **Current Member Renewal**

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 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 \$31.24 per membership.**

If you have any questions please contact Treasurer Patricia Jennings at pjdrgr2006@yahoo.com or 336-452-4212.

Making Tracks and Preserving Memories at the
Avery County Historical Museum

SUPPORT OUR BRICK PAVER FUNDRAISER

*Purchase Personalized Brick Pavers, to be permanently installed
at the Old Linville Depot, next to the Museum*

In Honor or In Memory

Of the Families and Friends of Avery County and the ET & WNC Railroad!



*In Memory of
James Y Smith
Linville, NC*

\$50

*Per Brick Paver
(Tax Deductible)*

Proceeds will go to the preservation and development of the Museum and Depot.

Brick Pavers may be personalized with up to 3 lines of text, 12 characters per line.

Your Name:

Address:

Phone /Email:

Avery County Historical Museum, PO Box 266, Newland NC 28657
828-733-7111 averymuseum@gmail.com www.averymuseum.com

A Lasting Tribute, A Unique Gift!