

Long Live Carter and Clinchfield! ETSU Railroad Museum celebrates 10 years on November 18 and brings it back home for November 25

Regional focused railroading celebrations are back-to-back for the final two Saturdays of November

It has been 10 years since the initial opening of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. The popular free facility located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University, is now a multi-room complex on the first floor, and will celebrate that anniversary with a special event on November 18, followed by the annual Heritage Day focusing on the Clinchfield Railroad, created by ETSU legacy donor George L. Carter.

“November is always a busy month for us, and we are excited to be hosting two events here,” said Geoff Stunkard, who coordinates the museum’s Heritage Day program. “One symbolizes our museum’s long-standing presence here on campus, and the other focuses on the original railroad both closest to the university and most responsible for funding its founding.”

Indeed, Carter, the facility’s namesake, gave the state the original plot of land as well as a substantial financial gift that resulted in ETSU being located in Johnson City. Among a number of businesses, his Clinchfield Railroad originally ran down what is now State of Franklin through downtown, and that line was relocated to its present location to the east of campus as the city grew.

The 10th anniversary event will consist of (FRED – ADD HERE)

The following weekend, the Saturday of the Thanksgiving Day weekend, the museum’s layouts will showcase some of the equipment that once ran on the Clinchfield line, such as the legendary Challenger-design steam engines and colorful diesels. The equipment will be operated by volunteers on the museum’s world-class 24x44 foot HO scale layout and the standard gauge portion of the new ET&WNC narrow gauge display room.

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 Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad; this room, still under construction, again will be open for guided tours during event days.

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.htm>'

Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) club will coordinate the exhibits. Visit '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 first street on left (David Collins Way) then turn left and go to the end (John Roberts Bell Drive) then turn right then left on Ross Drive(176) to end, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

For more information about Heritage Day, contact Alsop at 423-439-6838 or alsopf@mail.etsu.edu. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.

CARTER MUSEUM HERITAGE DAYS 2017 – final Saturday each month

November: Clinchfield

December: Fallen Flags