



## **STEAM TRAINS ONLY, PLEASE! On March 25 at ETSU's Carter Railroad Museum**

***Popular museum facility to again feature STEAM UP!, a Heritage Day of model steam locomotives in action, plus special displays***

Back by popular demand, STEAM UP! has been scheduled for on-time arrival on March 24 at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum, located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University. Following up one of the most popular programs of the year, this spring date was carried over for the seventh straight year to showcase the sounds and sights of steam locomotion in miniature form. Members of both the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club will be 'at full throttle and shoveling on the coal' for visitors at the museum on this date.

Steam trains of various designs will be prominently displayed and operated on the large 1:87 HO scale layout that is housed in the museum, which includes a 21-stall steam-era roundhouse. Demonstrations in model form on this 24x44 layout will give the public a basic idea how varied these machines were. In addition, there will steam equipment operating on the new ET&WNC narrow gauge steam railroad exhibit and G-scale interactive logging display. Videos of steam operations from decades ago will play on the monitors and children will have a chance to play with models of popular steam engines like Thomas and James in the museum's special children's activity room.

Steam locomotives reigned supreme as the iconic representatives of the industrial revolution. Even referred to as an 'iron horse' due to its innate striding motion and 'breathing' sounds, some examples had no problem topping 100 mph or pulling an actual mile of freight cars. By World War II, ongoing development of internal combustion diesels began to make serious changes to the face of railroading. Like 'horses,' steam engines required care, maintained by a literal army of experienced machinists, pipe-fitters, boiler-makers, and other skilled labor. With diesels not needing this attention, steam was nearly completely gone by 1960, though this design is still widely associated with railroading 50 years later.

"Steam railroading will probably always have a place in railroad history," says Geoff Stunkard, the coordinator of the museum Heritage Days program. "This annual 'Steam UP!' event gives people an idea of how that equipment operated and appeared. With model trains now capable of replicating even the sounds of steam, this is very enjoyable for both us as a facility and for the public. Should be a, well, blast!"

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](http://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 North Dossett Drive(then left) to John Roberts Bell Drive at end, then 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](mailto: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

March: Steam UP! All Steam

April: Diesel – All diesels 1925-1960

May: Modern – 21st Century

June: Tri-Cities

July: Western

August: Midwestern

September: Heritage paint schemes

October: Roanoke Rails

November: Clinchfield

December: Fallen Flags