



A train on today's Norfolk Southern, seen recently near Weber City, Virginia waiting for southbound clearance into Tennessee. Changes in the coal industry are drastically reshaping the region's railroads.

Carter Railroad Museum Will Host Back-to-Back Events for Two Weekends

Popular ETSU attraction will portray modern railroads on May 27, and then presents a huge nationally-advertised train show June 2-3

Big things will soon be happening on back-to-back weekends at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. First, on May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the roar of modern power in miniature will be featured at the museum, which is located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University, during their annual Modern Railroading Celebration. The museum then turns its sights on a much larger event with a two-day train show, sale and demonstration in the university's Mini Dome athletic facility on Friday June 2, and Saturday, June 3, featuring invited attendees and exhibitors from across the south and beyond.

The Heritage Day will feature modern trains and equipment representing the large North American railroad systems and equipment that are currently functioning, including Amtrak and local lines CSX and Norfolk Southern, as well as other national and regional lines. These are the trains seen today in the Tri-Cities region and beyond, and this particular day is markedly different from others on the Heritage Day schedule in that it is not focused on the past but the present.

“No doubt, the Carter Railroad Museum's mission is mainly historical in nature, but we set aside this event each year to showcase and help give understanding to modern railroading as well,” says Geoff Stunkard, the coordinator of the museum Heritage Days program. “Today's railroading is a dynamic business environment, much more critical to America's economic success than people usually realize.”

Members from both the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club and the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will be on hand to assist in this display day. They will then pull out all of the stops for the museum's first-ever train show the following weekend. Held in the ETSU Memorial Center Mini-Dome, which has the exhibit capacity of 64,000 square feet, this event has been in the planning stages for over a year now. It will feature

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several operating model railroads, including a live steam exhibit, other displays, and more than 150 tables of for-sale merchandise. Limited to new and pre-owned railroad-related products, the show will give attendees hours of pleasure observing the exhibits and purchasing goods. Admission to the train show is \$5.00 per day with free adjacent parking. As the popular Blue Plum festival is occurring during the same time frame, this will be a landmark event for the museum, which itself will be open for its regular operating hours during the show weekend.

As always, volunteers from the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club are heading up the effort for the Museum for May 27 and June 2 & 3; joining them will be members from the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Models of these trains will run primarily on the club's 24x44 HO scale model operation, while period-correct posters and displays making up the remainder of the exhibit.

In addition to mixed operations on the museum-based 24x44 HO scale layout, there will be trains running on the museum's interactive logging railroad in G scale, and on the ET&WNC narrow gauge line in HO_{n3} scale. The latter is an exacting replication of this railroad that has been featured in national magazine publications.

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 Carter Railroad Museum is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Admission free). 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. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.

CARTER MUSEUM HERITAGE DAYS 2017 – final Saturday each month

January 28: Northeast

February 25: Short Line – Industrial lines

March 25: Steam UP! All Steam

April 29: Diesel – All diesels 1925-1960

May 27: Modern – 21st Century

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June 24: Tri-Cities
July 29: Western
August 26: Midwestern
September 30: Heritage paint schemes
October 28: Roanoke Rails
November 25: Clinchfield
December 30: Fallen Flags