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Press Release

Industrial and Short Lines steam into Carter Railroad Museum's for February 24 Heritage Day

Near-complete Tweetsie Layout will headline ETSU museum's monthly event



PHOTO – A scale model of an ET&WNC steam engine climbs in the Doe River Gorge as modeled in the 1300-square-foot Tweetsie layout at the Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU.

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage Days at the George L Carter Railroad Museum will highlight short lines and industrial railroads on February 24th. The multi-room facility located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University will showcase the unique smaller railroads and the industrial-oriented railroad operations on the North American continent.

Among this collective group is private equipment that operated around factories and mills, trains that ran through smaller locales with a single connection to a larger line, and non-interchange lines (that did not forward equipment to outside operations) such as the narrow-gauge East Tennessee & Western North Carolina (Tweetsie), The smaller 36"-width size cars could not be sent forward on standard-gauged 54" track size, a feature which is modeled extensively at the museum in its own display hall.

"We are very proud of this particular model project of Tweetsie, which has been covered in several national magazine stories," explains Geoff Stunkard, the coordinator of the museum's Heritage Days program. "In fact, it is believed to be the largest such model of this real railroad in existence in this scale. It is called HO_n3, and features a large amount of one-off buildings and scenes that are almost breath-taking. If you have not been here yet to see this 1300-square foot exhibit, this will be a wonderful chance to view in operation."

As always, volunteers from the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club are heading up the effort for this day; joining them will be members from the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Models of short line and industrial trains will operate on the museum's 24x44 HO standard gauge scale operation as well as the ET&WNC exhibit, as well as the museum's G-scale logging railroad. Display cases will showcase the remainder of the exhibit.

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 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 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.

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