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Oct.—Dec. 2024

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<https://wba-tca-eastern.org>

WB&A Board of Directors

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Chuck McGinnis

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Bob Heine

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<i>In This Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	2
My Favorite Pastimes	3
Who is This	3
Membership Update	4
Upcoming Events	4
Special Upcoming Outing	5
Contribute to the Trolley Newsletter	5
Guide to Track Cleaning & Maintenance	7
How to dork out on trains in Baltimore	8
Kids' Train Day	11
Join Us for Start Your Day W/ WB&A	12

"The Trolley" The Official WB&A Newsletter



WB&A Chapter - Eastern Division - Train Collectors Association
Established 1964

President's Report

This Autumn Season 2024, finds us returning to Virginia for the first time since Covid. Members Ron Edwards and Dave Edie are doing an excellent job of planning and organizing this show at the Springfield Fire Hall on September 21. I look forward to seeing many members at the show. On August 17 & 18, WB&A had an information table at the Chantilly, Virginia Greenberg Train Show advertising our Springfield Show, and it generated a lot of interest. Thanks to John Gomeljak, Michael Ackerman, Ron Edwards and myself for staffing this table.

We are still working with Historic Manassas for a presence at Manassas Railroad Days in June 2025. We plan to meet with them again soon about the possibility of WB&A having a presence in Manassas in June 2025.

It is time for Elections again, and we have 2 openings on the Board of Directors. Our Board meets about 6 time per year at different members home, and does the planning for club events and activities. If necessary, the meetings are held on Zoom. I appeal to the membership to considering joining our board and having a part in the clubs future.

Our November Membership meeting and mini meet is planned for November 9, at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. It will also include the counting of ballots for the election.

Our Arbutus Christmas Show is planned for Saturday December 14 at the Arbutus Fire Hall. This show is being planned by Carol and Chuck McGinnis again this year and we appreciate all they do to make this a successful show.

The Social Committee continues to plan Start your Day Gatherings and other interesting outings for the Club. Thank you to Carol McGinnis for leading this effort and all of the fun events we have had.

The Club Archives are still in my garage, as the Baltimore Streetcar Museum has not been able to clear a safe space to store them. I am not certain they will, and was hoping a member would offer up some space for storage. They take the space of about 10 Bankers Boxes.

As we age as a club, I would like to encourage our younger members to step up for leadership roles with the club.

As always thanks to all of the Board members, and Show Leaders for all they do to keep our club moving. If you have any concerns or ideas, I am available to speak by phone most any time.

John Buxton 410-952-7356.



There are only 21 **WB&A 60th Anniversary Boxcar** available for sale. The price is \$60.00 plus \$14 shipping. Send a check to Carol McGinnis at 5400 Vantage Point Road, #1005, Columbia, MD 21044. Or you can order on-line at our web site (\$2.00 Convenience fee).



Treasurer's Report as of 9/1/2024

By Mike Ackerman

The Chapter's financial activities for Jan. 1, 2024 through Sep. 1, 2024 are summarized below. If you have any other questions or comments feel free to contact me at mjackermn@gmail.com

Check Book Balance — Jan. 1, 2024 \$33,628
Check Book Balance — Sep 1, 2024 \$26,292

Significant Activities Jan. 1, 2024 thru Sep. 1, 2024

	Income	Expenses
Train Meets	3293	5156
Membership:		
Dues — 2023 (7)	106	1
Dues prepaid — 2023 (204)	3060	
Dues — 2024 (86)	1291	8
Dues prepaid — 2024 (67)	1005	
Dues — 2025 (8)	120	
Dues prepaid — 2025 (1)	15	
Dues — 2026 (1)	15	
Meetings		510
Supplies		68
Social Activities	6023	12185
Trolley (2 Issue)		290
Election		-
Board	205	171

* Note: Revenue and expenses listed as "prepaid" were received or paid before Jan. 1, 2024 and are therefore not accounted for as revenue or expense for 2024 since they are included on the Check Book Balance of January 1, 2024.



TOP TEN WB&A BENEFITS

- 1 Fun and Fellowship with your Train Friends
- 2 Wealth of information available from other collectors, operators and layout builders.
- 3 A wonderful opportunity to participate at the local level in the world's greatest hobby.
- 4 Free admission to local WB&A Train Shows. (Show advertised in local newspapers).
- 5 Free admission at Members Only WB&A Swap Meets.
- 6 Receive quarterly the WB&A Newsletter "The Trolley".
- 7 Do you use Facebook? If so, request to join our Facebook Affinity Group. Contact the Group Moderator
- 8 Share in the excitement of the Toy Train Hobby.
- 9 Serving as a committee member or officer at the local level is very rewarding.
- 10 Buy, Sell, Trade with local train enthusiasts.

WB&A Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 23, 2024 Via ZOOM

Meeting Start Time: 7:30 pm

Meeting End Time: 8:00 pm

In Attendance

Present: John Buxton, Bob Gray, Chuck McGinnis, Bob Heine, Ron Edwards, David Eadie, Michael Ackerman, Tom Salen

A quorum being determined, the meeting was called to order by John Buxton, WB&A President.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT

President, John Buxton, explained that the purpose of this special meeting of the WB&A Board of Directors was to determine if the Club was going to hold a Train Meet in Virginia on September, 2024.

REVIEW OF DATA AND DISCUSSION

Ron Edwards reviewed his research findings and explained the contract offered by the Springfield Fire Hall. Board members discussed the importance of holding an event in Virginia since we have not done so for several years. The group recognized that our planning window for this event is fairly short and that event preparation will have to be done quickly. Soliciting vendors must be take place as soon as possible with particular emphasis on Virginia vendors. Michael Ackerman stated the importance of obtaining a generous

number of vendors.

Bob Gray will provide Ron Edwards with an email list for WB&A members who live in Virginia and with an email list of all TCA members who live in Virginia.

After discussion the Board unanimously approved the motion to hold the Virginia Show on September 21, 2024 at the Springfield Fire Hall.

NEXT MEETING – The next BOD meeting will be on April 6, 2024 at a location in Virginia to be announced later.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:00 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Bob Gray, WB&A

Secretary

Minutes approved on August 21, 2024



How to combine two of my favorite pastimes Model railroading and rail trail riding and scooting

Stuart Hirsch

Last Wednesday turned out to be a near perfect day for me, the weather and the company. After some problems finding the Grumps Cafe in Gambrills, I finally made it, all be it a half hour late, to begin the Start Your Day with WB&A event. I had breakfast at home so I decided to have a hamburger for brunch. It was delicious. The weather was perfect and I could not have asked for better train-oriented discussions and show and tells. I got to show off my new Lionel 1309 engine in Western MD fireball livery. I think everyone appreciated that I had brought it. I also got to see what others in the club were collecting, showing, and selling. I think a good time was had by all.

After the meeting I realized I was close to the WB&A rail trail, isn't that interesting? Our club's name is the same as the rail trails. Did we coordinate with the Friends of the Anne Arundel Count Trails or Rails to Trails Conservancy, or is it just a coincidence? Anyway I used Safari and Maps to find the closest parking access to the B&A trail. It turned out to be just 3 1/2 miles away from Grump's Cafe. So I decided to go to the trail and take a ride. I had originally thought we were meeting close to Columbia and wanted to ride over to the mall so I had taken one of my E Scooters with me. Although I prefer E Bikes for their stability, comfort, added safety, and exercise;

they are far heavier and difficult to transport in a regular car. When I got to the parking lot I unloaded my scooter, put on my gloves, sun glasses, and helmet and headed north. I got to Odenton Road and turned around because I checked my power and wanted to be sure I could make it back to the parking lot. When I got to parking lot, I saw I had just enough power to go a little bit further and make it back. I went zooming past a senior couple walking, and the wife excitingly ask, "What is that?" She must have thought I was a ghost of trains past. Yes, I did go a little above the speed limit of 15 mph. I guess my speed was about 20-25. The speedometer is hard to read in bright sunlight with my sunglasses on. I went south to where the trail was closed because the MD Dept. of Recreation and Parks is building a new bike/pedestrian bridge across the Patuxent River. I checked my power and knew I was down to 20% or less, just enough to make it back to the parking lot. So I started back toward home. On the way, I zoomed past a couple on trikes. The woman had a congenial trike, but the dude must have weighed 500 pounds or more. He was on an electric mid-drive trike. The motor looked pretty big and powerful, but of course he needs the most powerful and well-built trike he could find. I was amazed that any SE Bike or trike made could handle his weight. Home was almost a straight shot past BWI and through Catonsville and via Rolling Rd to home.

All in all a great outing with good friends



In the last issue, we asked who the gentleman is pictured here with his transformer. We received several replies, and I am including the first one we received.

Thank you Joseph!

"photos of a man playing with his transformer"

These photos feature Alfred Franceschetti who was a TCA charter member and proprietor of Alfra Engineering (toy trains parts)

Al Franceschetti Sr.

CM5 -77

Alfra Engineering

7910 Poplar Hill Drive

Clinton, MD 20735

He passed away in 2008

[https://](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/alfred-franceschetti-obituary?id=5611213)

[www.legacy.com/us/](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/alfred-franceschetti-obituary?id=5611213)

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[name/alfred-franceschetti-obituary?id=5611213](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/alfred-franceschetti-obituary?id=5611213)

There are a few references to his sudden illness and passing in 2008 on the Toy Trains Mailing List toytrains@groups.io

The bookcase in background in the last photo happened to be featured in a showcase photo for a home sale transaction in 2014.

7910 Poplar Hill Drive Clinton MD 20735.

Fond memories

Joseph Korczynski

korczyns@verizon.net

TCA # 93-37848



WB&A Membership Update

by Bob Gray

We are fast approaching the end of the WB&A Membership year. Our memberships run from January 1 to December 31. At this time, 156 members have paid their 2024 dues. If you have not taken care of your 2024 dues, please do it before the end of the year. Any questions you have about the status of your membership should be directed to me, Bob Gray, at bgray5002@yahoo.com.

The WB&A allows a grace period for members who have not updated their membership. That period runs from January 1 to March 1 of the following year. At that time, we remove names from our membership list and all services and benefits will end.

For those who have already taken care of your 2024 membership dues, we thank you very much. Your prompt attention to this task makes it possible for the Club to plan and implement more and better member services.

If you still need to pay 2024 dues, a Membership Renewal Form is in this issue of the Trolley. You may also download one from the WB&A website (www.wba-tca-eastern.org) under the "Membership" menu tab. Again, if you need assistance, contact Bob Gray.



Find us on
Facebook

**Do you use
Facebook?**

**If so, request to join our
Facebook Affinity Group. Contact
the Group Moderator.**



**Toy Trains &
Collectibles**

7216 New Market Court
Manassas VA 20109
toytrainsandcollectibles.com
571-379-5497

Hope & Dan Danielson

dandhtrains@comcast.net

BUY - SELL - PARTS - SERVICE



Peter Kalamaris

Leon Viands

**Look who just
joined WB&A!!!**



Upcoming Events

Sep. 21, 2024	WB&A Springfield Train show
Sep. 25, 2024	Start Your Day, Silver Diner, Fairfax, Va
Oct. 5, 2024	Northern Virginia Model Railroaders Open House
Oct. 5, 2024	John Simms Backyard layout, Drayden, MD
Oct. 17-19, 2024	TCA Eastern Division York Train Show, Vienna, VA
Oct. 30, 2024	Start Your Day with WB&A, Restaurant 198
Nov. 9, 2024	WB&A Mini-Meet & Business Meeting, BSM
Nov. 16, 2024	Northern Virginia Model Railroaders Open House
Nov. 20, 2024	Start Your Day with WB&A, Panera Bread, Vienna, VA
Dec. 2, 2024	(Vienna Holiday Stroll) NVMR
Dec. 7-8, 2024	Greenberg Train Show, Timonium, MD
Dec. 14, 2024	WB&A Arbutus Firehall Train Meet, Arbutus, MD
Dec. 18, 2024	Start Your Day with WB&A, Union Station D.C.
Feb. 23, 2025	WB&A Annapolis Train Show
Apr 24-25, 2025	TCA Eastern Division York Train Show



Allen E. Crotts
TCA 95 - 41208



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Woody's Train Restoration & Repair offers professional repair and restoration services for post war Lionel trains. We specialize in steam locomotives and tenders. We have the ability to repaint and rubber stamp locomotive cab numbers. We have full repair shop and can rebuild smoke units, e-units, repair whistles and rewire your locomotive to almost new. We just recently added a Lionel press and can change out broken diesel and steamer wheels and perform various other repairs. If your train needs some TLC just e-mail us (deutsche_marine@hotmail.com) with your needs and we most likely can help you. (Here is a sample Woody has

restored back to greatness.)



**Join Us for a Very Special
WB&A Fall Outing
Bob Gray**

In a previous Trolley article titled "Whoa! WB&A Member's Model Layout Has 4,000 Feet of Track," I interviewed Club Member John Simms about the backyard railroad he has constructed on his farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Now here is the good news. John has offered to host WB&A club members for lunch and a ride on his back yard railroad. The event will take place on:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

10:00 AM to 1 PM

47030 Christianna Lane

Dryden, MD 20630

Lunch will be served

John's home is located in St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland. It will be at least a two-hour drive for most members, so we encourage car-pooling if possible.

In order to plan for our meal at this event, I am requesting that you contact me, Bob Gray at bgray5002@yahoo.com and let me know how many will be attending.

This outing is a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about model railroading on a large scale. John will share his experiences is creating his railroad.

For John, his backyard railroad is a successor and addition to his life-long American Flyer hobby interest. John, whose family resided in Baltimore and Catonsville, now lives in Dryden, Maryland. His ample and relatively level acreage provided the ideal starting point for his outdoor railroad. An additional incentive was to provide exciting experiences for his four cherished grandchildren as well as other family members and friends.



John began this endeavor about 20-years-ago with the acquisition of a kit for a gondola car to run on 7.5 - inch rails. He, then, added the trucks and couplers. He followed this with the construction of a few more cars and the purchase of a General Electric Dash 9 petrol hydraulic locomotive from Titan Trains in Boones Mill, Virginia. That engine, that uses a 4-stroke gasoline engine that runs through a hydraulic gearbox that provides smooth power to the axels, is decorated with Chesapeake and Ohio colors.



In addition to being a member of the WB&A, John belongs to the Chesapeake and Alleghany Steam Preservation Society. Located in Leakin Park on Windsor Mill Road in Baltimore, the club hosts public run days on the second Sunday of each month from April to November offering free rides to visitors. The club also holds periodic work-days and a yearly session on safety issues related to back yard railroads. WB&A members will recall seeing the Chesapeake and Alleghany Steam Preservation Society's trains at Timonium Train Shows.

Although John's acreage is fairly level, he had to build a trestle over a ravine. That task required the use of some heavy equipment and help from a friend with a mini-excavator to prepare for the setting of concrete footings. This undertaking represented the biggest challenge John faced in getting his railroad in operation although he did recognize that this type of model railroading is expensive. He noted that locomotives at this scale cost in excess of \$15,000. But what a thrill it is to actually ride family and friends on your model railroad.

John's love of trains began like that of many WB&A members, with a four-by-eight layout that his father set up at Christmastime, featuring American Flyer trains. Over the years, he has stuck with American Flyer, although he still has his grandfather's Lionel Standard gauge train too. With two generations of model train enthusiasts behind him, John has taken his interest to astounding heights.



Contribute to the Trolley Newsletter

Please consider contributing an article to the WB&A's excellent newsletter, The Trolley. Members would love to hear about what you are doing train-wise. Just jot down a few paragraphs and include some pictures. Tell about what you are doing with your layout or a recent ride you took on a vintage train. Maybe you have been to a good train exhibit in another city. Tell us about it. What have you been looking for that you can't find. Maybe another Club member can give you a tip. Just ask. The membership likes to read articles by other members. Send your article to Bob Gray at bgray5002@yahoo.com





Brunswick Railroad Days

2h · 🌐



50 days left until our biggest event of the year!



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RAIN or SHINE
Throughout Downtown Brunswick

**TRAIN RIDES • KIDS ACTIVITIES • FOOD VENDORS
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SAT - OCT 5	SUN - OCT 6	SAT & SUN
Main Stage - 1-4PM Cashmere	Main Stage - 2-5PM The Reagan Years	Side Stage - 10AM-1PM Nat Aguilar & Friends

Toy Train Show & Sale

Open to the Public

Presented by the WB&A Chapter -TCA

Saturday, September 21, 2024



9:00 AM To 2:00 PM

8:00 AM for WB&A Members

Admission: \$5

FREE for WB&A members, Children under 13, Firemen, Military, Guard Reserve, Scouts in uniform when accompanied by an adult.

Greater Springfield Vol Fire Dept

7011 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia

Directions: I-495 towards Virginia, Take Springfield exit onto Old Keene Mill Rd, Right onto Bland Rd, Right onto Amherst Ave, (Over Bridge), Amherst becomes Backlick Rd after passing American Legion Post 575, Firehouse is on the left approx. 1 mile. Coming from West on Franconia Springfield Pkwy, Turn at Backlick Rd, Firehouse is directly at the end of the ramp. Coming from the East on Franconia Springfield Pkwy, Turn at Backlick Rd and turn right.

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For more information contact:

Ron Edwards (703) 451-5023 ronedwards2@hotmail.com
or

Dave Eadie 703-451-4143 Dbeadie50@Outlook.Com

Next WB&A Train Show - WB&A Arbutus Firehall Train Meet - December 14, 2024
For information, contact Carol McGinnis at (410) 336-8522 or John Buxton at 410-952-3356

Ron Edwards sent this information to me. The train trip may be sold out by the time we go to press, but I think it would be a great trip for Christmas in Williamsburg. If it is sold out, keep it in mind for next year!



Tiny Tim's TRAINS & TOYS

2024 Ashland Santa Train

Sunday Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024

Details on Website 

Tickets Available Exclusively through

Tiny Tim's Trains & Toys
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In-Store or By-Phone **804-368-0063**

All-Day Round-Trip Excursion!
8:47am Leaves Ashland -
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4:07pm Leaves Williamsburg -
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Amtrak Chartered Coaches
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Infant Under-2 FREE (on lap no seat)

TrainAndToyStore.com



2024 Ashland Santa Train

Ashland Santa Train Tickets INCLUDE:

- Start with Complimentary Coffee & Cocoa with Mrs Claus!
- Round Trip Excursion - Colonial Williamsburg* aboard Reserved Amtrak Passenger Cars
- Onboard Entertainment by SANTA, Elves, Christmas Carol and The Polar Express Conductor!
- Visit Colonial Williamsburg - Enjoy a stroll thru Historic Area, Retail & Landed ColonialWilliamsburg.com
- Visit Merchants Square - Holiday Shopping and Restaurants! MerchantsSquare.org
- Visit the Williamsburg Christmas Market
- Dec 8th (only) Williamsburg Art Festival - (11-4) 75 unique artists & musicians along Prince George Street 2ndSundayinWilliamsburg.com

SOUVENIR

Ticket Purchase Information
Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024

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- PURCHASE Tickets In-Store or by Phone at: **804-368-0063** (during business hours only)
- AMTRAK requires legal **PASSENGER NAMES**
- Ticket Purchase indicates agreement with our **TERMS & CONDITIONS**
- APR 2025 FARE!** See details on TrainAndToyStore.com

AMTRAK allows 5 trolleys, Carry-on Bags, Snacks and Drinks
Amtrak does not offer weather-delay Refunds Rain, Shine or Snow, We Go!

Sponsored by **Tiny Tim's Trains & Toys**
104 S Railroad Ave, Ashland, VA 23005 **804-368-0063**
TinyTimToys@gmail.com (Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun-Mon 11-3)

Editors Note: The following article is from www.warrenvillerrailroad.com, and is reprinted with permission.

The DEFINITIVE Guide to Track Cleaning & Maintenance

Yes, another "how to" dedicated to restoring and maintaining track!

There have been many published over the years, but every one of them seems to either miss important items or mislead. So, by popular demand, I offer this tutorial.

I'll start with what track is not salvageable for layout use:

1) Track with more than a little light surface rust.

Yes, more aggressive rust can be cleaned off and the track will look fine for a while, but the tinplate coating is often removed in the process. These tracks will rust again, especially in a somewhat humid basement - the last thing you want after you worked so hard on your layout.

TIP: Salvage track pins and cardboard insulators from these tracks for future use if needed.

TIP: Cut up the rusted rails and use them for car loads or trackside salvage piles.

2) Bent or dented track - why look for derailments and less than smooth running?

TIP: Use these tracks as noted above or to use the non-damaged portions to cut for custom sized lengths that may be needed for your track plan.

Below is a picture of almost everything you will need to clean and maintain track:



1. Fantastic or similar spray cleaner
2. Fingernail brush
3. Pieces of terrycloth towels
4. Plastic scouring pads
5. Folded paper towel
6. Sandpaper
7. WD 40 spray
8. Rubbing alcohol
9. Flat screwdriver

10. A small block of wood
11. Salvaged track insulators
12. Diagonal cutters
13. A 12 volt tester (a 12 volt bulb in a socket with 2 wires will do)
14. a Rat tail file
15. Of course, track to work on.

Not included above, but also needed, will be

1. A small hammer
2. A train transformer with two leads with alligator clips attached.

Cleaning procedures:

- 1) Spray your track piece lightly with your spray cleaner (never soak in water!) and softly brush with your fingernail brush, to clean surface dirt and dust off.
- 2) Wipe dry with one of your terrycloth towel pieces.
- 3) If there was some light surface rust on your track piece, lightly spray the tops of the track section with WD -40 and wipe dry with a different piece of terrycloth towel. No light surface rust? Skip this step.

- 4) Lightly scrub the tops of the rails with your scouring pads until the tops of the rails feel nice and smooth to your nger touch.

TIP: Never use steel wool or sandpaper for this purpose. If you do you will remove tinplating and rust will result. Also, steel wool will shred and get into your engines, causing shorts - especially on trains with magne-traction.

- 5) Wipe the top of the rails with your folded paper towel saturated with rubbing alcohol.
- 6) Inspect the track pins.

If they appear clean, simply wipe them with your alcohol pad.

If they are dirty or lightly rusted remove them**, clean them with the sandpaper or your scouring pad, and wipe with your alcohol pad. If they are in bad shape or missing, this would be the time to use the pins you salvaged from unusable track as noted above.

**Remove the pins by griping them next to the rail, from the bottom of the track section with your diagonal cutters.

Leverage the cutter against the track tie and out they will come.

Before reinserting these pins into the rails, it may be a good idea to clean the inside openings with your rat tail file.

Tap the pins back into the rails with a small hammer. Tighten them by squeezing the rail in its web, close to the rail head and track pin, with your diagonal cutters.

- 7) Test the track for shorts. Track shorts are usually as a result of the center rail insulator being split, worn or out of place.

Attach one lead from your transformer to an outer rail and the other to the center rail with the alligator clips— make sure they don't touch each other. Then simply touch one wire of your test light to an

outer rail and the other to the center rail - if the bulb lights— no short, it's that simple.

8) If there is a short:

With your screwdriver pry up the tabs holding the insulators to the center rail. Remove the rail along with its insulators. Inspect the insulators for splits or worn areas and replace with better ones salvaged from unusable track as noted in the beginning of this article. The problem could also be an insulator that slipped out of place causing rail to tie contact - just slide it back into place.

Put the rail/insulator combination back into place on the track ties and push the tabs back down into place with your screwdriver. BEFORE doing so, however, place your small block of wood into the hollow under the tie so that it is not deformed when pushing the tabs back into place.

Re-test the track section for shorts before using.

Maintaining track cleanliness:

Clean track results in better train operation and can help avoid your train slowing down, or ickering lights, on some areas.

On my layout, I've found that routine overall track cleaning is very rarely needed - a need for spot cleaning is more common.

Clean areas when and where:

1. You notice the train slowing or train lights flickering in isolated areas.
2. You feel or see black grime on the rail tops - this is usually the result of train wheel lubrication, or traction tire residue, on the rails.
3. You just finished trackwork and or scenery repairs near tracks.

In most cases all you will need to do is wipe the track heads with your paper towel wetted with alcohol - no drying is necessary as the alcohol evaporates almost immediately and leaves no residue. You'll likely see the paper towel pad turn black, just refold it and continue using it as you move along.

In the case of # 2 above, first clean the rail heads with your scouring pad then proceed with your paper towel/ alcohol cleaning.

Pre-emptive side note:

There are many who say that fancy track cleaning solutions are necessary and that, as 70% rubbing alcohol is 30% water, it will cause tracks to rust. I disagree, based on my personal experience. I've been using inexpensive 70% rubbing alcohol to clean tracks for over 30 years and it has always done the job for me, and I've never had a track rust as a result of its use.



Editors Note: The following article is borrowed from The Baltimore Banner

How to dork out on trains in Baltimore

Julie Bykowicz and Lewis Foulkes



Lewis waits for trains to roll by near Baltimore's historic Penn Station. (Julie Bykowicz/The Baltimore Banner)

Full steam ahead: The birthplace of railroad manufacturing is

packed with train lore and active rail

Baltimore is just about the best city in America if you love trains.

Baltimore is filled with historic train buildings old tracks — a paradise for rail lovers - Some of the country's oldest, most storied train companies — including the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Northern Central Railway — were headquartered here. Gorgeous train stations dotted the 1800s landscape, and many still stand today.

Abandoned tracks peek out from the stone-block streets of Fells Point and the hiking trails in North Baltimore. And Charm City still hums with trains. You can watch the flow of commuter and Amtrak trains at the century-old Penn Station, which is undergoing a \$150 million face-lift. You can ride the light rail. We even have a subway.

Train history is so inescapable that The Baltimore Banner is located in the old power plant for the city's streetcar systems, and Lewis Foulkes, one of the authors of this article, attends a school that backs up to the narrow-gauge Ma & Pa Railroad that ran passenger and freight trains between Baltimore and York, Pennsylvania.

Here's how to fill your day if you have a one-track mind:

Trainspotting:

Our favorite place to watch heavy rail roll by is a perch above the Howard Street tunnel along Mount Royal Avenue, just south of Dolphin Street. While you're there, you can also catch glimpses of the light rail pulling in and out of the Mount Royal/MICA stop. Sometimes we also peer down at another freight tunnel parallel to that station.





Lewis checks out the freight tunnel below the Mount Royal/MICA light rail stop. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)



Transflo Terminal Services, best viewed from Fort Avenue, features an epic number of parked tank cars. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

Locust Point also has some incredible train sights. Park near Ice Queens Snowball Shop (a Lewis favorite) and walk along Fort Avenue toward Fort McHenry. On your right, you'll pass Transflo Terminal Services, where all kinds of tank cars are parked.

Another great vantage point for the many tracks in South Baltimore is Latrobe Park. Climb to the top of the hills along the southeast side for the best views. Not far from here, you can also check out a MARC commuter train service shop at the end of Ludlow Street, just beyond the foundry building.

Abandoned train lines

Many of Maryland's former rail lines have been converted into great hiking trails and bike paths. King among them is the NCR trail, which runs 41 miles from near Cockeysville up to York. It used to carry the Northern Central Railway's passenger and freight trains. The Maryland portion is also called the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail, named after a former secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Evidence of its previous rail life is everywhere along the trail. If you spot a white marker with a "W," that's where the train was required to whistle. Some of the historic train stations, including in Monkton, are open to



If you're on the NCR trail, venture just north of the border into Pennsylvania to commune with some great old train equipment, as Lewis did in 2023. (Julie Bykowicz/The Baltimore Banner)

the public. Just north of the Pennsylvania line in New Freedom is a sort of train utopia, where you can check out abandoned track repair equipment, boxcars and a giant black diesel engine.

Lake Roland park's red trail also includes old railroad tracks and great views of the light rail. And Stony Run Trail, which passes just to the east of Roland Park Elementary Middle School, is the former rail bed for Ma & Pa Railroad. There isn't much discarded train paraphernalia here that we've discovered, but Ma & Pa's Wyndhurst Station still stands today, home to shops and offices.



Wyndhurst Station, now a collection of shops in Roland Park, recalls a more train-centric period in Baltimore. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

There are grand, historic train stations all across Baltimore: Penn Station (1911), Camden Station, now home of the Orioles' ballpark (1867), and Mount Royal Station on the campus of the Maryland Institute College of Art (1896).





Fells Point used to thrum with trains transporting goods to and from the harbor. Rails remain embedded in the stone-block streets. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

But train life relics abound — even if some are now covered up by cars. Look down next time you are crossing Thames Street in Fells Point. Woven into the stone blocks are metal rails, a callback to when rail cars shuttled commercial goods to and from the waterfront.

Museums and activities



Mark Dawson, a motorman and curator of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, has stories to tell you as you time travel to the streetcar era along Falls Road. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

We'll get to the big guy in a minute, but for our money, nothing tops the Baltimore Streetcar Museum — and not just because tickets are a deal at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Tucked along Falls Road not far from Penn Station, the museum has limited weekend hours throughout the spring and summer and again in December.

The museum boasts a collection of 25 vehicles, including four active streetcars that run along specially installed tracks. But the best feature is the volunteers, some of whom have been at the museum for many decades. They know everything about streetcars — and lots about old Baltimore, too.

Ask John O'Neill, president of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum since the 1980s, for a quick primer on how the museum came to be, and he'll answer this way: "Long

story — it's all a long story." And as Mark Dawson, a motorman and curator of the museum, shuttles visitors along the track, he regales them with tales of the amusement parks the streetcar companies put up at the end of their lines to gin up night and weekend ridership.

And of course the crown jewel of Baltimore train world is the B&O Railroad Museum.

The building itself is a rail relic, and the museum inside has "the oldest and most comprehensive collection of railroad history in the Western Hemisphere," according to its website. Mount Clare Shops, including the eye-catching circular passenger car building that forms the center of the museum, the oldest railroad manufacturing complex in the U.S., dates to the 1820s.



The B&O Railroad Museum recently announced an expansion. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)



The Carrollton Viaduct, the oldest operational rail bridge in the U.S. is worth the short walk to view. (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

There's too much to say about this gorgeous museum, but if you want to connect its collection to real life, check out the model of the Carrollton Viaduct. And then you can go; it's less than three miles southwest of the museum. Park at Carroll Park Golf Course, and walk about 15 minutes on Gwynns Falls Trail for a view.

Built in 1829, the Carrollton Viaduct is the oldest railroad bridge in the U.S. — and carries CSX freight trains to this very day. It was constructed of stone from Port Deposit and Ellicott City, according to a "Five Minute Histories"

video by Johns Hopkins, executive director of Baltimore Heritage. B&O rushed to complete its line, including the viaduct, because Baltimore was worried about losing port business to cities digging canals — the rage at the time, Hopkins says.



Adorable miniature steam and diesel engines power joyful riders along Leakin Park on the second Sunday of each month. It's free! (Julie Bykowicz / The Baltimore Banner)

Think you have a tiny train lover in the making? One of our favorite things to do during Lewis's younger years was to ride the steam (and diesel) powered miniature trains around Leakin Park near Windsor Mill Road. The **Chesapeake & Allegheny Live Steamers** club sets up shop here on the second Sunday of each month from March through November. Rides are free, though the wonderful volunteers do accept donations.

The club's goals include preserving "the knowledge of the operation of steam engines, usually of railroad nature," according to its website. Anyone is welcome to squeeze into these shrunken train cars. They're best suited for tots, but the adult passengers make for entertaining visuals.

(Julie Bykowicz is business and enterprise editor at The Baltimore Banner. Her son, Lewis Foulkes, just completed fourth grade at Roland Park Elementary Middle School.)



Please send any train-related articles, stories, and/or print-ready photos for consideration in any upcoming publication of "The Trolley" or on the Chapter Web Site. Send via e-mail to:

pullenp@gmail.com
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES
FOR Jan.-Mar. 2024 TROLLEY
Dec. 10, 2024



The following article is borrowed from **Volume 85, No. 2** of the National Capital Trolley Museum's newsletter, **The Headway Recorder**.

KIDS' TRAIN DAY



NCTM volunteer Tony Colella demonstrates his Duplo train layout to visitors.

Photo: WB&A photographer Judy Ackerman

On May 11th, the Museum welcomed 179 visitors for its Kids' Train Day, organized in collaboration with the WB&A Train Club. More than 12 tables were set up displaying train sets with gauges ranging from the small Z-gauge all the way up to G gauge. Four of our own NCTM volunteers



Timesaver Switching Puzzle Layout by members of the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers

participated with their own displays: Garret Nicholson, Tony Colella, and Anthony and Andrew Vo.

The enthusiasm of all contributors was evident, and our visitors had a great time seeing the variety of the displays. Special thanks go out to Museum member and WB&A coordinator Bob Gray for organizing this event again this year.



**Join Us for
Start Your Day W/ WB&A**

"Start Your Day w/ WB&A" are informal get-togethers of model train enthusiasts at local morning gathering spots to socialize and talk about trains. These events are the result of a suggestion made by a member attending a WB&A General Business Meeting a few years ago. The location for Start Your Day alternates between Maryland Virginia restaurants so pick one near you and join us.

WB&A members and guests are invited to attend. Attendees are encouraged to bring a railroad item for discussion. These gatherings provide an excellent opportunity to share information regarding local events as well as TCA, TCA/Eastern Division, and WB&A activities.

If you have any question, contact Bob Gray at bgray5002@yahoo.com



WB&A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Return with a check or money order for \$15.00 payable to WB&A Chapter.

Mail to Bob Gray, 1201 Topaz Court, Odenton, MD 21113

You may now renew your WB&A membership ONLINE using your credit card. (+ \$1.50 convenience fee.) Just go to the WB&A website wba-tca-eastern.org or use the QR code at right to reach the website.

If you have any questions contact Bob Gray at bgray5002@yahoo.com.



Name _____

TCA Membership No. _____ WB&A Membership No. _____

(Note: You must be a current TCA member to join the WB&A Train Club)

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone No. _____

Email _____

Train Interest (What do you collect?) _____

Do you have a layout? Yes No

Do you plan to attend a WB&A event this year? Yes No

Signature _____





WB&A Chapter - Eastern Division - Train Collectors Association
Established 1964

WB&A ARBUTUS FIREHALL TRAIN MEET

Saturday, December 14, 2024

The only show in Arbutus!

LOCATION – ARBUTUS FIREHALL, [5200 Southwestern Blvd, Arbutus, MD 21227](#)

Featuring vendors, trains of all scales, accessories, books and more!

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

Active Military w/ ID are FREE, Boy & Girl Scouts in uniform are FREE

WB&A Members are FREE

DOORS OPEN: 8 AM – 1 PM

Questions? Call Carol McGinnis at 410-336-8522 or John Buxton at 410-952-7356

See Page 13 to register for the show!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WB&A Chapter - Eastern Division - Train Collectors Association
Established 1964

WB&A Month by Month Calendar Updated: July 23, 2024 (REVISED)

* Saturday, October 5, 2024 HOME TOUR. 10 AM John Simms Backyard Railroad. 47030 Christianna Lane, Drayden, MD 20630. (RainDate Sunday, October 6th) John will provide lunch!

*Wednesday, October 30, 2024 START YOUR DAY with WB&A 10 AM-Noon, Restaurant 198, 15540 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

*November 9, 2024 9 AM WB&A Fall Mini-Meet & General Business Meeting, Baltimore Streetcar Museum, 1901 Falls Rd, Baltimore, MD 21211 WATCH for the DATE.

Nov 9 – Nov 10, First Frost Train Meet, Allentown, PA

*Wednesday, November 20, 2024 START YOUR DAY w/ WB&A. 10 AM – Noon Panera Bread, 136 Maple Ave, Vienna, VA 22180

December 7-8, 2024 Greenberg Train Show, Timonium, MD

*Saturday, December 14, 2024 WB&A Arbutus Firehall Train Meet, 5200 SW Blvd, Arbutus, MD 21227 9 AM – 1 PM (WB&A admitted at 8 AM) 5' tables. Contact Chuck McGinnis for details at mcginnis74@verizon.net.

*Wednesday, December 18, 2024 START YOUR DAY w/ WB&A. 10AM – Noon, Union Station D.C., 50 Massachusetts Ave, NE Washington DC 20002

