

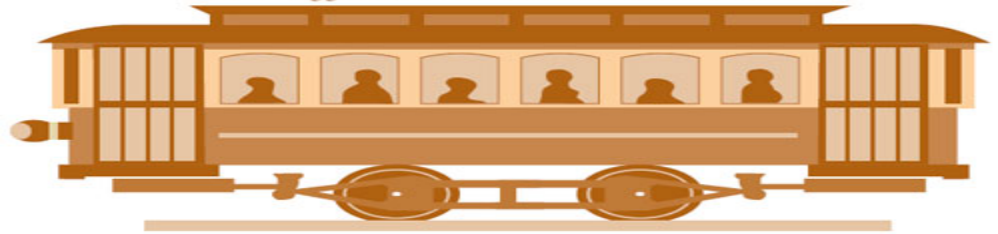
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**“The Trolley”
The Official WB&A Newsletter**



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

WB&A Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Nancy Tentzeras
Vice Pres: George Tsakiris
Treasurer: Glenn MacKinnon
Secretary: Nicholas Tentzeras
Past Pres: Art Tate

Directors:

Steve Burket
Bob Ferguson, Membership
Colleen Hall
Pete Jackson, Kids Korner, Meet Chairman
Mary Jackson, Kids Korner
Tom Salen

Eastern Division Representative:

Dan Danielson

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GET ON BOARD.....

THE UNSTOPPABLE TRAIN is getting ready to leave the station with a lot of **EXCITEMENT** and **FUN** to encounter along the way as we weave through the upcoming months with new ideas and activities to implement and share with the Chapter as well as with the entire **Toy Train Hobby** Community.

Your Board of Directors have been working hard this winter planning new activities and initiatives based on feedback that we have received from the membership. We are planning our first semi-annual swap meet *Sunday June 5th*. This will be different than what was our Mini-Meet where we swapped trains for a few hours and then had our General Membership Meeting; we are moving the Membership Meeting to a separate day and devoting the swap meet to a **FUN-FILLED DAY** of just playing, selling, and swapping trains and train stories and leaving the business talk to another day, which is scheduled for *Saturday, June 11th*. Our members have shown a great interest in getting together for chapter outings like the Holiday Layout Tour that we had this past December; which was a true success and a lot of fun for those who were able to join us that day. So mark your calendars for *Saturday June 25th* for a Train Day Outing at the home of James and Colleen Hall. Furthermore, we are looking at ways of communicating, sharing and promoting the chapter and the hobby with others through additional communication resources that will be integrated with our existing website www.wbachapter.org and the *Trolley* newsletter, like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. More details of all these new ideas and initiatives can be found in the flyers enclosed.

We need the membership to **GET ON BOARD** and spread the good news of the fun and exciting new activities that the chapter has planned this year for these activities to be truly a success.

Keep your ideas coming as we look forward to new ways of exploring and sharing the toy train hobby.

Nancy Tentzeras, WB&A President

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**Treasurer's Report
As of March 20th, 2011**

Your Chapter is starting off the year on the right foot! Several changes are on the way that we think will provide added value to our membership and increase interest in toy train collecting. Read on in the newsletter to find out more. The Annapolis Armory Show held on March 12 was resounding success financially. We set a record for total revenue as well as paid attendance. Congratulations to Art Tate for great work as Meet Chairman! As of the date of this report all expense associated with the show have not been submitted. However, we are certain to at least break even. Thank you all for supporting the meet. As last year came to a close, your Board of Directors decided that it was time to recognize two organizations and one individual that have faithfully supported our annual Kena Temple meet in December since its inception. The National Capital Trackers and the Northern Virginia N-Trackers always set up first class modular layouts even though they are heavily committed to many events during the Christmas season. Both organizations have contributed mightily to the success of the Kena show. We have presented the Trackers with two Lionel Legacy Command Control systems and \$100 to the N-Trackers. We also presented a plaque to Alan Crotts in recognitions of his "Train Doctor" efforts. Many attendees have left the show with an old engine in good working order thanks to Alan's expertise. Our Chapter is poised to accomplish great things in the months ahead.

The Chapter's financial activities for January — March are summarized below. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at 703-927-9843 or glen.mackinnon@verizon.net. - Glenn

Check Book Balance — January 1, 2011 \$13,686.68
Check Book Balance — March 19, 2011 \$17,743.07

	EXPENSES	REVENUE
MD Armory March 12 Meet	\$1159	\$3818
Membership Dues 2011	\$292	\$4017
Kids Korner	\$161	\$0
Tracker & N-Track Gifts	\$674	\$0

**Secretary's Report
for September 08, 2010
Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Tentzeras at 6:15 PM at the home of Glenn and Janet MacKinnon.

Voting Members in attendance were as follows: Nancy Tentzeras, George Tsakiris, Glenn MacKinnon, Stephen Burket, Bob Ferguson, Colleen Hall, Pete Jackson, and Mary Jackson.

Non-voting Members in attendance: Dan Danielson.

Items discussed included the following:

- Glenn MacKinnon reported on the various expenses the chapter has incurred throughout the year and that the chapter finances are in good shape.
- Bob Ferguson reported that there are currently 350 members on the roster, which 315 are current on their dues.
- Pete Jackson reported on the status of the Kena Temple Meet. We secured Robbie Schroeder who will be available to sell parts. Flyers are available to be distributed to the local hobby stores.
- There was discussion that we will reschedule the Annapolis Armory Meet scheduled for February 12, 2011 as there are other events the same day.
- George Tsakiris gave a brief report on the nominations for the 2011—2012 BOD and Eastern Division Representative.
- George provided an update on the upcoming min-meet delegating tasks to the BOD to ensure success.
- Dan Danielson reported on what's happening at Eastern Division.
- Need volunteers to help out at Kids Korner; we will also need someone to take over Kids Korner as October York will be Pete and Mary's last York.
- Nancy provided an update on the Christmas Layout Tour planned for December 19th.
- Dan Danielson reported on how successful the 2010 convention with many thanks to the hardworking volunteers. Many of the tours sold out; Greenspring tours did a magnificent job in coordinating all the tours.

Next meeting to be held October 31st at the home of Nicholas and Nancy Tentzeras.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Nicholas Tentzeras, Secretary WB&A Chapter
 (minutes scribed by Colleen Hall)

Historian's Corner

A little more than ten years ago, in April 1990, WB&A and TCA were celebrating the opening of the expanded National Toy Train Museum. WB&A's own Dan Rollyson, 72-4393, wrote a very noteworthy article for the TCA Quarterly which included pictures from himself, Nancy Swan, 73-6084, and William Kratville, 79-14265. It may also be of interest that Donna Rogers, who still works at the museum, opened the doors to a "long line of TCA members and their families" on the Wednesday before York that warm April Morning.

Also featured in the article was WB&A's Dan Danielson who was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. A curtain blocked the expansion area so that only Historic Hall was open for viewing. At the appointed hour a ribbon was cut and the curtain parted. The running layouts featured a G Gauge layout built as a backyard railroad, and a Standard Gauge layout with multi levels of operation and a "reproduction Lionel State Ste" donated by Lionel.

Beyond the operating layouts was a theatre which is still today showing new and classic toy train films. Past President, Al Levin "once referred to the Toy Train Museum as TCA's precious jewel." On hand throughout the day helping with logistics and festivities were Hope Danielson, Frances Nowland, Faith and Steve Kehn, and Gary Lavinus. WB&A was certainly well represented! (Source: TCA Quarterly, January 1991, Vol 37, No. 1)

The TCA is coming up on its 60th year with 2014 not that far away, and the planning for a celebration needs to include reflection and records. What are your thoughts about how to properly commemorate this event? Maybe you have thought of something, or done something, that might help us make 2014 a banner year. Let me know.

Carol Redman McGinnis
 Carol.McGinnis74@verizon.net
 95-41066



Families enjoying the operating layouts at the Annapolis Armory Meet.



TOP TEN WB&A BENEFETS

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. (Shows advertised in local newspapers.)
5	Free admission & table at WB& A Swap Meets.
6	Receive quarterly the WB&A Newsletter "The Trolley".
7	Access to the newly designed and enhanced chapter web site (www.wbachaptertca.org)
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.

Membership Moments by Bob Ferguson

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of March 31st - 329

There are a total of 247 who have paid their dues for 2011. We, therefore, have a remaining 82 who have not yet paid for 2011. If you have not done so, please renew your membership now in order to continue receiving all of the benefits, see page four for a renewal form. (Be aware that this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew, and that would be a very sad state of affairs!)

If you can not remember whether you paid or not pull out your plastic WB&A membership card. It should have a blue "11" sticker on it. If you only see "10" or something earlier, then you are one of the 82 and you need to pay.

We have been getting regular submissions of dues from the newsletter notices. In addition we have been getting new members from letters sent out to new TCA people who live in our area as listed in the TCA newsletter. As a reminder, our area covers Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, and northern Virginia.

*View from the Observation Car
by George Tsakiris*

Book Review: 101 Classic Toy Trains — Best of the Postwar Years

This book was purchased (for \$24.95) at the last York Eastern Division Show where I met and had the book signed by the author, Roger Carp. Roger is very knowledgeable in Toy Train history, is a Senior Editor for Classic Toy Trains, writes the column Collectable Classics in that magazine and has written several books on various aspects of the toy train hobby.

The concept of the book is straight forward, compile and discuss what is arguably the best 101 classic toy train items be they engine, train set, rolling stock, or accessory. This was a group effort with other members of Classic Toy Trains magazine, several other toy train experts, and backed by countless reference materials and interviews with former manufacturer employees. The book is a delight of information, history, and behind the scenes stories of these items, their development, the context of the times, and what makes them a classic.

One to two pages are devoted to each item with at least one color photo per item. However, what makes this book come alive are the accompanying stories about the various firms, the owners and product developers, and the competitive environment for toy trains in the postwar era.

To no ones surprise Lionel and American Flyer are well represented but other firms are here too. Lionel is represented by such classics as the 2360 GGI, 72 Berkshire, 773 Hudson, F3s animated newsstand, operating barrel car, and many more. American Flyer is well represented by the Circus Train set, Baker's Chocolate Tank car, Seaboard Coaler, Saw Mill, Texas & Pacific GP 7, and on and on.

Other players in the postwar toy train market, some providing innovative entries to this list, even if some did not obtain large commercial success are represented. Marx Western Pacific Passenger set and Oak Park station can be found in the book. Also smaller less well known firms such as Kusan (Satellite train among others), Auburn Models, Mini-Craft, Mini-toys , Plasticville, Colber, and Unique Art are represented.

You can debate if some items were omitted, other items should have made the top 101 list, or should have been higher (or lower) on the list. Roger presents his criteria for selection and acknowledges that others may have a different opinion. For someone with casual knowledge of postwar toy trains, this book is an entertaining and informative primer. For the more experienced collector, you have a great addition to your library and added information in context of the times.

***WB&A 2011 MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS AND NEW APPLICANTS***

**Return with Self Addressed Stamped Envelope & a check/money order for \$18 payable to WB&A.
Mail to: Bob Ferguson, 1408 Pennington Lane South, Annapolis, Md. 21409 or
in the envelope provided within this newsletter**

Name _____
TCA# _____ WB&A# _____
Address _____ Apt# _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
E-Mail _____
Signature _____

**Please contact Bob Ferguson at 410-974-0158 with any questions.
*Your 2011 Dues were due December 31st, 2010***

***Kena Temple Meet ushers in
the Christmas Train Season
by Pete Jackson***

The Kena Temple Train Show was a huge success both in table sales (72) and paid guests (500+), thanks to all the help we were able to have on hand (before, during and after) the show. The vendors told us that they had good sales - even Clem sold some things!!!! Bob Ferguson was doing a bang-up job signing up new and returning members.

The National Capitol Trackers had a huge layout which kept many kids (old and young alike) interested all day long. The Lego display that Matthew and Anthony put on was out of this world with 2+ trains running and a monorail complete with a Disney theme creation, kids were just mesmerized. Additionally, the N-Trackers put on a wonderful display with their tiny trains and scenery. Trains were plentiful throughout the day for purchase or enjoying on numerous operating layouts.

The ladies of the Oriental Shrine kept everyone fueled from breakfast to lunch with their delicious food and a wonderful place to gather, sit and eat plus telling tales all about their train finds.

Thanks to everyone who showed up Friday evening to help setup over 100 tables (Ted Walton, Glenn MacKinnion, Tom Salen, Steve Burket, John Conlon, Tom Keagel, Bill & Kathy Potterton and Joe Fletcher plus my nephew Scott Atkison). These people also stayed over on Saturday afternoon to help close down the show and help clean up. Art Tate and Bob Ferguson got up at the crack of dawn to put up the signs and a terrific banner which attracted many people to come in and enjoy the trains. Santa (Chris Crowl) entertained all the kids listening to their wish lists. A special thanks goes to my wife, Mary, who greeted everyone at the door selling tickets with Colleen Hall's help. Colleen also roamed the aisles selling the 50-50 tickets which brought in about \$120 which was won by Bill Potterton. A young lady won the Grand Prize of a Flyer Train set which was graciously donated by Nancy Swann. Door prizes were won by Charles Delalihan and our own Karl Rammling.



The Annapolis Armory Meet in full swing with a lot of buying and selling going on.

CONGRATULATIONS,
to WB&A Members,
DEBBIE GEISER,
COLLEEN HALL,
NANCY TENTZERAS &
NICHOLAS TENTZERAS

for **WINNING BIG** in the TCA Membership Challenge for their recruiting efforts in helping Eastern Division bring in 281 new members for TCA. Each member received a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$100 gift certificate to be used at the TCA Museum Store.


The TCA Membership challenge continues for another year.; so get on the bandwagon in supporting TCA and sign up a new member.

You could be a recipient of **BIG BUCKS** this year!



Join in the challenge; simply signing a TCA Application can make us all winners!

REPAIRS **PARTS**


BUY/SELL ELECTRIC TRAINS
LIONEL — MARK — AMERICAN FLYER
 TCA - TTOS - LOTS
 86-23598 7520 700

LOOSE CABGOOSE

Robbie Schroeder 12824 MEADOWBROOK LA.
 301-843-8769 WB&A 1734 Waldorf, MD 20601

NOW SELLING ALFRA ENGINEERING PARTS
 NO LIST YET STILL ORGINIZEN CALL WITH NEEDS
 10% DISCOUNT TO WB&A MEMBERS

ALL ABOARD

All Aboard was the theme for the WB&A's tour on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Nancy and Nicholas put together a fun-filled day of activity and comrade for all that was able to join us for a day filled with laughter, friendship, stories, and warmth.

Nancy corralled us all up and we all boarded the bus on time and departed for our first stop at the College Park Aviation Museum where the National Capital Trackers had set up a wonderful layout for all to enjoy along with the wonderful history of aviation. We all rallied up to watch the trains, wandered about reading the great history and learning of the time line of aviation. Some of us even tried our hand at landing a plane on one of the consoles, while others took time to create some artwork with their children, marvel at the taking off of a plane from the airport and visit the gift shop for a souvenir to take home with them and/or to give as a gift. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the College Park Aviation Museum, you may want to put it on your list of "To Dos" and at this time of year you will have an added bonus of the National Capital Trackers layout. This was a pretty good start of the day, but there was much more to come.

We reloaded our coach bus and headed to the D.C. Harbor for a scrumptious brunch at Phillips Seafood, which tempted our taste buds and filled our stomachs. I doubt that anyone left hungry, if they did, shame on them, for the buffet was filled to the rim with a variety of items to pick from.

Our bus driver, Nate, joined our table and had many questions for us about the world of train collecting. He asked us questions such as, do we have stores, do we just collect, do we see the hobby moving into the modern age (i.e. computeristic...), etc. Well, we had various answers, but I think what we all agreed upon was the history of trains, the teachings it provides to all, and the friends you make along the years that last a lifetime. Nate gave us his full attention and thanked us for sharing all that we had and we in turn invited him to join the TCA and the WB&A. We extended an invite to York so that he can see first-hand the light in the eyes of those from the youngest to the oldest when they see something that catches their eye, or when they see an old friend, or when they share with you their stories, and the handshake that one member gives another and knows that in that handshake one's honor and honesty is conveyed.

So as our driver, Nate did upon our arrival, he went and got our bus and did a u-turn at the corner and backed it up almost a city block so that he could open his doors right under the canopy of Phillips Seafood, this provided our members with an easy on and off access and showed us Nate's skills and his concern for our members.

So now where was I..., oh yes, with our stomachs full and ready for a nap, Nancy had Nate take us to the U.S. Botanic Gardens... We entered the door that said "TRAINS" and after shuffling along a bit we entered the beauty of the Botanic Gardens. Our first delight was the ornaments made by the staff whereby they placed dirt into a clear ornament and then placed a small cutting (you can try it with a seed) into it and the beauty of the ornament told you, you were in for a treat. As we entered into the inner building, we saw the wonderful displays that were crafted and placed amongst the beautiful plants and flowers. As we moved further along, we entered the TRAIN room and it did not lack in creativity or beauty and everyone's camera was snapping away. Once we soaked in the allure of this room, we continued throughout the Botanic Gardens and were rewarded with the splendor of the beauty this world offers to us all if we take time to "smell the flowers." Alas, however, we had to make our way back to the bus for our next adventure which was Union Station.

At Union Station, we made our way to the train layout (I bet you were not surprise to hear that) and the Christmas tree. The beauty of Union Station still rings thru the comings and goings of the travelers reminded us that we still depend upon the mighty train to get us to and from.

Now you might be thinking, what is there left to do on a cold, D.C. evening in the middle of December... well, Nancy and Nicholas had it all figured out. We got back on the bus and Nate drove us over to visit the National Christmas tree. As we grew closer to the tree, we could see the hundreds that were there to do exactly as we were, sharing in the meaning of what this time of year means to many. We could hear and see the young boys and girls who stood on this cold night singing their songs, we were able to walk around the beautifully adorned Christmas tree along with the individual trees from the various states of this great country, one could visit the Santa Workshop, and visit the Manger. Yet around this wonderful Christmas tree was a beautiful outdoor train layout that everyone stopped to enjoy and to marvel on the wonder and the peace all of this brought to those that had the good fortune to be seeing and taking it all in.

So by now, filled with a day of wonder, a day of friendship, and day of spending time with those you love, we made our way back to the warmth of our bus and took our seats and enjoyed a round of cookies and water this all being kindly served by two of the young girls and their dad. I say, to those that joined us on this trip, I hope you have fond memories of your day and will joins us yet again. For those that could not join us, we hope to see you in the future as we will be again saying to you all

By Colleen Hall

ALL ABOARD



Aerial shot of the National Capital Trackers at College Park Aviation Museum.



Enjoying brunch at Phillips Seafood Restaurant.



Children of all ages enjoying the trains weaving through the Botanic Gardens.



A Message from your new Eastern Division President, Jim Kronz

Fellow members of the Eastern Division and WB&A; first of all I want to thank you for the trust you have shown in electing me to be the president of the Train Collectors Association for the next two years. In assuming this office I am succeeding some really great leaders of the TCA: the Yohe family, Bill Spanaralli, Clem Clement, and Sam Geiser. I will have a wonderfully diverse Board of Directors to support me. As you know the Eastern Division stretches from near Richmond to Buffalo. To properly represent this division area we will have 2 members from Pennsylvania, 1 from Maryland, 2 from New York, 1 from Delaware and 3 from Virginia.

My father bought me my first Lionel train set the Christmas before I was born. He bought a second set for my brother and I in 1947. I still have the second set and have replace the first (my brother and I destroyed it when we were too young to understand and mom threw it away). During my 26 years in the Navy, when I was home for Christmas my son and I would set up "the trains" when our living conditions permitted. They didn't always, like the Christmas — New Year period we were in transit from duty in Mayport, Florida to my new duty station in Stuttgart, Germany. Then in 1998 my wife's cousin invited me to my first train show. It was at the Annapolis Armory. I can remember walking in there that day and being totally blown away by the sight of so many toy trains in one place. Like most of us "older members of the TCA" I remember during my younger years that at Christmas time every department store and even some of the hardware stores displayed and sold toy trains. There were frequent arguments between young fellows whether Lionel or American Flyer trains were better. But, those days were long gone by the late 1990's, and one had to find the occasional hobby store that handled trains to buy new track or the occasional add-on rail car. That day at the armory was like a rekindling of a hobby I like born with. I bought a new locomotive before I left that day, and another locomotive and a caboose at the next show I attended. I joined the TCA as soon as learned of it and shortly after I joined the WB&A. I was the treasurer of the Eastern Division for 6 years.

The Eastern Division Board of Directors meets the Tuesday afternoon of the York Meet weeks in April and October. All members of the division are welcome to attend these meetings as an observer if you ever have the time. The division general membership meeting is held during the York Meet on Saturday morning from 8:00 AM till 8:45 AM in the Orange (Toyota Hall) right after the coffee and donut social and before the meet opens at 9:00 AM. All division members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The semi-annual York Train Meets are the highlight of our division activity. A lot of you work on preparation for and conduct to the meets, and we thank you for your involvement. Improvements to York are always being sought and tried. Some are retained for the meet enhancement they achieve and others go by the wayside. But, we are always open for new ideas.

Again, thank you for electing me, and I promise I will do my best to



WB&A Eastern Division Report
by
Dan Danielson

With April just around the corner all attention is focused on the Spring York train show. Jim Kronz, our new Eastern Division President, is busy making sure that all facets for the meet will come off smoothly. In addition to Jim, we also have a new Division Treasurer, Lee Wood, and a new Board member, Bill McCluskey. While you are at York this spring make sure you welcome each one to his new position. If you have time on Tuesday before York stop in and see your Officers and Directors at work during our BOD meeting. The meeting starts at noon in the conference room in the Orange Hall.

In case you didn't see the notice Kay Yohe, Past TCA and Eastern Division President, passed away recently. Kay and George were the major force in bringing the York Meet to the position of being premier train meet in all of TCA. The BOD made a special donation to the TCA Library in Kay's memory. She was also very active in working with the Library Committee to help make it a first class operation.

The work on starting a second Chapter in the Division has been slowed but is still in the planning process. This Chapter will be located in the New York area near Rochester and Buffalo. More to follow on this project.

Our 2010 Convention committee took the Eastern Division officers, Directors, and their spouses to dinner last October as a thank you for the \$25,000 donation they made to help fund the shuttle bus service during the entire convention. Dinner was held at the Roosevelt Tavern in York. It was a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by everyone attending.

Don't forget the Ice Cream Social and Free Coffee and Donuts while you attend the York train show. Ice cream is served Friday evening, and coffee and donuts on Saturday morning prior to the Eastern Division business meeting. Both events are in the Orange Hall lobby area. See you at York!!!!

THANKS TO PETE & MARY FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OVER THE YEARS TO MAKING KIDS KORNER A SUCCESS.

Spring York meet is Just Around the Corner
April 14th - 16th, 2011

**A time to renew great friendships,
memories and have a lot of fun,
All in the name of trains.**

**Mark your calendars for the
Scheduled Events planned
during the York Meet**

**Wednesday, April 13th, 2011
National Toy Train Museum
Open House**

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Friday October 15th, 2010
Ice Cream Social
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Saturday April 16th, 2011
Coffee and Donuts
7:30 AM—8:30 AM**

**(Please plan to attend the Eastern Division
Membership Meeting during this time)**

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES....

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 email to: newsletter_editor@wbachaptertca.org.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES
FOR 2011 TROLLEY**

**3RD QUARTER 2011: JUNE 20TH, 2011
4TH QUARTER 2011: AUGUST 25TH, 2011**

Advertise in the "The Trolley"

Ad Size	Per Issue	Year
Business Card	20.00	60.00
Quarter Page	30.00	100.00
Half Page	60.00	200.00
Full Page	125.00	400.00

Send a check or money order payable to WB&A with your print ready AD to:

Nancy Tentzeras
WB&A Newsletter Editor
12453 Quail Woods Drive
Germantown, MD 20874—1545

AN ORIOLES FEEL GOOD TALE

by Gordon Wilson

Past TCA President and Baseball Fan

For any of you who know me, you surely know that I live and die with the Philadelphia Phillies, which is why I left the Convention's Orioles ball game on June 25, early. I returned to my hotel room to listen to the Phillies play their ball game in Colorado. Thus, I missed the Orioles BIG 9th Inning comeback. However, if you really know me well, you also know that I love the game of baseball even more than the Phillies. I will seek out a Professional Baseball game at whatever city the TCA happens to call home for their convention, be it Big League or minor league. I love the game, period! Sacramento has a minor league team. I hope they're home.

Upon arriving at Camden Yards, Christie and I had with us two Orioles LOGO baseballs which we were going to have BOOG POWELL, an ex-ORIOLES player, sign at his Bar-B-Que restaurant on the Right Field Concourse of Camden Yards. However, by the time we arrived there, he was gone. We were told he had gone to a get-together in the Warehouse. So off we went to seek him out. We found where he was supposed to be, but he had left. We were then directed to another room, a fancy tavern, but he wasn't there either. It was then that we met Valerie Callahan, an Orioles employee working near the entrance to the park by the Warehouse. We explained our predicament to her.

She suggested we return to her door the following night and she would see to it that Mr. Powell would sign the baseballs for us. We told her that the next night was our Convention Banquet and since Christie was an officer of the TCA, we would not be able to get away. She then said, "Tell you what ! Give my the Balls, your name and address, and I'll get him to sign the balls tomorrow and I'll ship them to you." She seemed so sincere, that I agreed, but honestly, I thought that that was the last I'd ever seen of those baseballs, especially when I tried to give her money for shipping and she refused it.

Fast forward now to when we finally returned home to Arizona on August 14, 2010 and picked up our mail. There was a package with a return address from Valerie Callahan. Inside were two ORIOLES baseballs signed by BOOG POWELL & TWO ORIOLES BASEBALL CAPS, plus a very nice note from Mrs. Callahan. I wrote Mrs. Callahan a thank you note and a glowing letter to the Orioles Public Relations Chair, with a copy to Peter Angelos, the owner of the Orioles. I also sent her a check for the amount of the postage for the shipping and a few Arizona Diamondbacks "goodies," as an additional thank you. A week later I received a letter back from her thanking me for what I had sent her, but she returned my check, uncashed, saying, "the whole episode had been her pleasure to serve to visitors to Baltimore." That is truly a **FEEL GOOD STORY** which the people of Baltimore need to hear about and so do you all, who ran a really FUN convention!



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

Louis Steuer	Fredricksburg, VA
Jeffrey Dulberg	New Carrollton, MD
Kenneth Ferlic	Gaithersburg, MD
Stephen Hajash	Romney, WV
John Masiyowski	Oak Hill, VA
Norman Salen	Rockville, MD
Robert Tomlinson	Catonsville, MD
Burnett Deyerle, III	Bristow, VA
Greg Laszcynski	Ellicott City, MD
Nathan Hall	Manassas, VA
John Yonce	Alexandria, VA
Peter Marchese	Tappahannock, VA
Robert Feeney	Manchester, MD
David Zinn	Glen Burnie, MD

Help us in recruiting your train friends to be new members!

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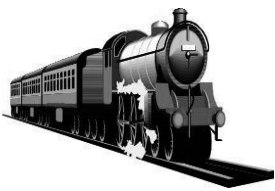
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Baltimore Street Cars

Soon after the switch had been turned off for the last two street car lines, there was talks about establishing an electric rail transit. The city of Baltimore installed some kind of overhead wire for a third rail to help with the congestion of vehicles since the cost of cement and asphalt took too much money to repair the roads.

In 1964, the Maryland Regional Planning Council totally dismissed the idea that the street cars were antiquated. Their proposal of "heavy rail" better known as subway cars would include a 72 mile subway system starting from downtown Baltimore City, going in all different directions. All 72 miles have yet to be conclude as of 2010.

The original cost of construction was estimated at \$700 million dollars. Digging for the subway did not get started until December 1976. The subway started at Charles and Baltimore Streets and went north to Reistertown Plaza for 8 1/2 miles. The first subway car arrived in Baltimore July 1982 and officially opened November 21, 1983. It was 20 years between the last street car and the first subway.

and the rest of the story.....

Baltimore's subway, is currently 15.5 miles long starting from Owings Mills (north Baltimore county through Baltimore City downtown over a stop at the world famous Lexington market ending at John Hopkins hospital. This route has 15 stations and it takes 30 minutes.

Baltimore light rail is 30 miles long with it starting at Hunt valley Mall in Baltimore County and ending at Cromwell Bridge in Anne Arundel county. There are 33 Stations including one at Penn. Railroad station and at Thurmond Marshall Baltimore Washington Airport. This route takes an one hour and fifteen minutes.

The above mention subway and light rail runs north and south.

There has been reports of a subway or light rail running from Social Security to South east Baltimore, a section of town called Canton; however nothing is definite.

In comparison to the Baltimore Rail System, the Washington DC. subway is 100 miles long and has 86 stations.

As of the 2009 census Baltimore's population is 620,901 and Washington DC. population is 596,651 but during the week Washington DC. workers come from northern Virginia and as far as southern Maryland.

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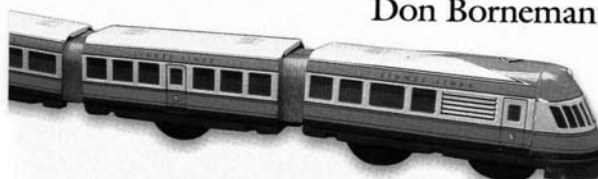
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