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WB&A Chapter Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Washington, Baltimore, &
 Annapolis Chapter, Eastern Division, Train Collector's
 Association

Web Site: <http://www.wbachaptertca.com>

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The WB&A President's Message

Time marches on and WB&A Chapter is no exception. We had our first Meet at the new Annapolis location and by all accounts, it was a great success. Over 400 members, guests and visitors attended the Meet and everyone I spoke to told me they enjoyed themselves. There were over eighty tables sold to dealers who also benefited from a good day of selling according to our feedback. One very encouraging sight was the large number of children who showed up with their parents; the portable train layouts we brought to the meet were packed two and three deep for much of the Meet. We never even had an opportunity to let the trains cool down. The look of excitement and awe in their young eyes reminds me of why our hobby is so great and why we must continue to promote it in this fashion. Due to the success of the Meet, a fall Meet is being contemplated and we are in the process of settling on a date and finding a Meet Chairman to coordinate the effort. Anyone who is interested, please contact WB&A at the enclosed web address or phone us.

Your new Board of Directors had their first meeting and is well on its way to charting a new course for WB&A. If you would like a voice in what happens in your Club - let us know. We welcome all input from our members and no opinion is overlooked.

The Eastern Division meet at York is just around the corner and I know the excitement of York gets to all of us. WB&A Chapter is exploring the possibility of setting up a recruiting booth to bring more TCA members into the Club. Our new secretary, Nicholas Tentzeras, has graciously volunteered to man the booth but he will need some help and relief. Anyone interested, please contact us. Here is a great chance to get involved with your Club on a very important level.

Well, that's all for now. See you at York

Art

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WB&A Treasurer's Report
As Of February 28, 2006

Balance on Hand, Jan 1, 2005			\$11,285
Major Financial Activities	Expense	Income	Net
Oregon Ridge Train Meet 05	\$1,520	\$2,268	\$748
Oregon Ridge Train Meet 06	\$1,765	\$2,195	\$429
Kena Temple Train Show 05	\$3,228	\$4,339	\$1,111
MD Armory Train Show 06	\$2,275	\$3,025	\$750
Club Shirts	\$1,195	\$743	(\$442)
Mini-Meets 05	\$629	\$0	(\$629)
Newsletter 05	\$2,544	\$1,025	(\$1,519)
Newsletter 06	0	\$519	\$519
Membership Dues 05	\$116	\$2,020	\$1,904
Membership Dues 06	\$0	\$2,675	\$2,675
Balance on Hand, Feb 28, 2006			\$17,311

Treasurer's Notes: The past year has been very good for WB&A financially. Our check book balance is healthy as a result of our train meets not losing money, members paying their annual dues in a timely fashion and newsletter advertising revenues. Using e-mail to distribute the newsletter will significantly reduce our publishing costs in the future. We will continue the program of two mini-meets a year to provide value to our members. We have a club shirts available in all sizes for purchase. A significant portion of the funds we have available now are going to be used as seed money for the TCA 2010 Convention in Baltimore. See you all at York in April! Glenn



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Planning for the New WB&A Website

Nicholas and Nancy Tentzeras are planning to redesign the WB&A website and are asking for your help. Please send them your comments and thoughts about the current and future websites by e-mail (See Contacts—Page 1). Click on the WB&A website and take the on-line survey, soon to be available, to express your views on redesigning the current WB&A website. Please participate in this survey to make it work for you; it will end on June 01, 2006.



"Boxcar" Brian's Corner
"Annapolis Armory Restored!"

Johnny Carson's character, "The Great Karnak," would stumble to his desk, press a "hermetically sealed" envelope to his temple, and give the answer to the question inside the envelope. Our answer would be: "York Blue Hall, Valencia Ballroom, and Pikesville and Annapolis Armories." Johnny would open the envelope and reveal our question: *"Where are four places where nostalgia drips from the walls?"*

It doesn't seem that long ago when WB&A's two-day meet in Pikesville was nick-named, "Little York." This big-little meet, open only to TCA members and guests, was frequently followed by the TTOS Capitol Division's Meet in the Annapolis Armory where the public was welcomed an hour after members were admitted. Many of the folks active in the hobby belonged to both clubs and would set up and attend both meets - WB&A on Fri-Sat, and TTOS on Sunday.

Many of the big dealers from the northeast came down to hawk their trains and accessories, such as Charlie Ro, from Bean Town; Elliott Smith, from Brooklyn; and Bob Higgins, from Long Island, who still does York and a some area shows featuring the 2530 series aluminum cars custom-painted in many railroad names and color combinations.

Other regulars were Bruce Greenberg, whose "Bookstore" back then was a mere two tables featuring repro Lionel catalogs; Jim Warrington's tables offered fine prewar Standard Gauge trains; and Bill Eddins, a Lionel distributor from Manassas, could really get 'em for you wholesale! The ubiquitous Mel Price piled his "overpriced rarities" up to the ceiling on against-the-wall tables.

Who could forget "Boxcar" Ernie Davis, the Arthur Murray dance instructor from Cleveland, who seemed to always have one of those pricey 6464 boxcars that you've been seeking? Ernie would rotate his cars from his tables to boxes under them to give the appearance to the casual observer that he was "turning 'em over" quickly. And then there was, "Lennie the Rug," of later fame who made the scene, boxes filled with rusty rarities?

There were times when they marched four abreast in the aisles at both meets much like York on Friday morning with folks searching for a bargain on that special piece. *"Those were the days, my friend; we thought they'd never end."*

Well end they did and now the old MD Armory has been refurbished, repainted and is once again open for business. However, if those old walls could talk, or sing, they could tell a story that would rival one of Damon Runyon's.

Pikesville next?



MD Armory February 28 Train Show

The February 18, 2006 WB&A Chapter Train Show was a big hit with dealers and show attendees alike! Armory personnel, led by SGT Bernard Welsh, handled the 90 table set-up, catering, and cleanup. All we had to do was to show up and put on the show! That was a welcome change and we are looking forward to the next Armory show in February 2007.

The show opened at 8:00 for TCA members with early heavy trading and then the public came in at 9:00 for a great show. Art Tate had the WB&A layouts running for the kids (and us), and Alfred Whiting and Glenn MacKinnon gave excellent seminar talks on using TMCC and DCS command control systems on train layouts. At the next show, Alfred is going to do a live installation of a TMCC board, soldering and all.

Diane Dobrzycki walked through the crowd selling raffle tickets and Bob Heine signed up a good number of new WB&A members. Mary Jackson and Nan Kronz greeted the show attendees and sold tickets like crazy at the gate.

Carol McGinnis did an outstanding job announcing activities and giving away door prizes as she always does. Alan Crotts served as the "Train Doctor" and was kept very busy fixing and testing trains before they were purchased. Right next to Al were Charlie and Ionia Schmitt selling train repair parts to members, attendees, and the Train Doctor as well.

The next WB&A Train Show at the Armory will be bigger and better than ever. Based on the requests for tables and overall success of the show, we have increased the floor plan from 90 tables to 120, exclusive of the train layouts. We have also budgeted for much more advertising in the Annapolis area and more post cards—the next show will be the best ever!

Things are ever changing at WB&A. Garrett Goldstein is the new Meet Chairman. Garrett has a lot of trade show experience and you can expect bigger and better train shows in the future!

The next WB&A Show will be at the Kena Temple in Fairfax, VA, on December 9, 2006, just in time for the Holidays! See Page 8 to register early.



Large Crowd with Lots of Trading



Layouts for All to Enjoy



32' of Train Parts Available

**The Finer Points of Handcars
By Stan Dobrzycki**

WB&A Train Shows always have theme, which for recent shows have been GG-1 Electrics and Brass Engines. For the Maryland Armory Show in Annapolis, the theme was handcars and my collection was on display. They created such interest that I decided to write a short article about them in our newsletter.

Prototype handcars are known by several different names such as the Pump Car, Velocipede, Manpower Car, Inspection Car, and Section Car. All of them have one thing in common – they are propelled by the rider. Handcars were first used in the 1850's and early 1860's and could carry four to six workers whose duty it was to maintain the tracks. The



Stan's Collection Shown at the Annapolis Armory Show

first toys of this type probably came out around this time and were produced as push – pull type toys. In the 1930's wind-up handcars were made by Marx and Lionel and electric versions followed later.

The earliest handcar produced by Marx was the Moon Mullins and Kayo Handcar (1920-30s), later the pink Easter Bunny Handcar (1930's), followed by the Girard Handcar (1933-35). The Popeye and Olive Oyl Handcar (1935-38) is the rarest and most sought after.

Lionel started making the 1100 Mickey and Minnie Handcars (1934), then the 1103 Peter Rabbit Chick Mobile, followed by the 1105 Santa pumping the handcar with Mickey in his backpack (1935-36). The 1106 Series is the most rare.

Lionel and Marx continued production of hand cars through the Post-War Period and Lionel, MTH, and K-Line made many of them in the Modern Era. Collecting these cars is a lot of fun—hope you now have enough information to start acquiring some, especially those from the Marx and Lionel Pre-war period. Happy hunting!!

2010



2010 Convention by Dan Danielson

Hope and I, Convention Co-Chairs, hosted the first planning meeting in my home on March 18, 2006. In attendance, among many others, were Dan and Eileen Rollyson, Assistant Co-Chairs; Eileen is also the Treasurer.

We reviewed the National Convention Guidelines Manual, looked at possible funding opportunities, and discussed potential tours and dinner cruises. We talked about the transportation and parking issues as well as proposed parking for commuting members. There were ideas exchanged on a Convention patch and other mementos as well.

Decisions concerning the Convention site, Headquarters Hotel, overflow hotels, general Hall layout, Welcome Party Site, and Banquet/Auction Site have been made. We are ahead of schedule but must keep the momentum going.

We will need about 70 volunteers for a successful Convention. If you are interested, please call Hope or me at 703-222-2982 or Dan or Eileen at 703-573-8822. Thanks again to all who attended and provided us with so many good ideas and interesting discussions.

Allen E. Crotts
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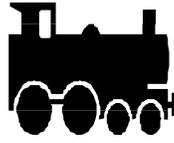
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Glenn's Open House by Glenn Mac Kinnon

Last December Janet and I opened up our home for an open house to celebrate the holiday season and show off our train layout. Over 50 friends and neighbors attended while six trains were running simultaneously on three mainlines wired to support multi-train operations. The 24x16' L-shaped layout fills up most of our basement and features a mountain and snow village complex that Janet designed, built and landscaped with 25 buildings. Several young children from our neighborhood received their first exposure to toy trains and enjoyed watching 12 operating accessories, including a Pre-War #97 Coal Elevator. Other features on the layout include a 1940's era downtown scene and a military-space installation focused on Lionel's #197 Rocket Launcher.



Clem Clement showed up with one of his famous motorized trolleys of unknown manufacturer and age. After some tinkering, we were able to get it moving with a minimum of smoke and sparks. Joe Helsing brought his smooth running 6-8-6 Pennsy Turbine. The engine ran like new, smoking magnificently while pulling Post-War grey roofed passengers cars Chatham, Hillside and Maplewood. Janet and I and our guests thoroughly enjoyed the day and we plan to have a similar event during this year's holiday season.

Admission
\$4.00
Children under 12
FREE with an
Adult

Arbutus Train and Toy Show

Location: Arbutus Volunteer Firehall ~ 1/4 m. off beltway Exit ~ 12A
Southwestern Blvd. ~ Tables ~ \$15.00 ea.
Tables at the door ~ \$18.00 if available. Table fees
must be in 30 days before the show date.



Next Shows: Saturday, Sept. 24, 2006 (9 am—1 pm); Dealer Setup 7:00 am
Sunday, Dec. 16, 2006 (8:30 am—1 pm) Dealer Setup 6:30 am

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Upcoming Train Shows

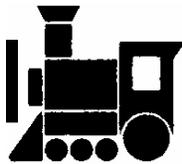
Train Show/Meet	Date(s)	Contact
York, PA	Apr 20-22	703-222-2982
Harrisonburg, VA	May 7	540-248-5528
Fredericksburg, VA	May 21	804-746-0659
Falls Church Mini-Meet	Jun 4	WB&A Only
Richmond, VA	Jul 22-23	760-376-2682
Timonium, MD	Jul 29-30	630-279-4048
Chesterfield Cty, VA	Aug 5	804-746-0659
Chantilly, VA	Aug 26-27	630-279-4048
Arbutus, MD	Sep 24	410-465-3782
York, PA	Oct 19-21	703-222-2982
Chesterfield Cty, VA	Nov 4	804-746-0659
Winchester, VA	Nov 11	549-662-2728
Fredericksburg, VA	Nov 18-19	540-286-3714
Clearview, VA	Nov 25	304-229-1930
Virginia Beach, VA	Dec 2-3	630-279-4048
WB&A Kena, VA	Dec 9	703-731-4073
Fredericksburg, VA	Dec 9-10	540-854-7062
Arbutus, MD	Dec 16	410-465-3782
Chantilly, VA	Dec 30-31	630-279-4048

Historical Train Wrecks by Sam Geiser

Looking back in time through the pronounced clouds of black and gray smoke of railroads in America, the rail sounds of the early 1800's were remarkably free of serious train wrecks. During the first twenty plus years after they started passenger operations, from 1829 until 1853, there still were not any really disastrous wrecks. Very few passengers were killed in these early days when contrasted to the time after the Civil War, when the death rate from railroad wrecks went up alarmingly. Up until 1853 no more than half a dozen people were killed in any single wreck, but on May 6, 1853, forty-six people were killed in a head on collision at Secaucus, New Jersey.

Runs in the early days were short. Track mileage for the entire country in 1835, for example, was only 1,098 miles. Even by 1850 after twenty years of railroad expansion only 9,021 miles of track had been laid. With short trips and low density of traffic, railroad travel remained fairly safe in spite of primitive operations.

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Eastern Division TCA President's Message by Clem Clement

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The big new surprise for Eastern Division's spring meet at York is that the National Capital Trackers will be running trains in the Black Hall throughout the Meet. Please stop by and visit with them and see their huge O gauge modular layout. We are all excited about this new activity.

The general plan for the spring Meet is similar to last Fall's: three wonderful days of playing trains. We open all the halls on Thursday, April 20 at noon with the playing of our National Anthem. Then it is Katy-bar-the-door of trading and seeing friends till the final closing on Saturday April 22 at 2 pm. Check your Meet Notice for daily opening and closing times. The free ice cream social start time has moved to 7 pm-8 pm Friday evening and is in the promenade of the Orange Hall, as before. We will have surprise entertainment — please plan to attend. Also the National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg has a full day of interesting and informative activities planned for you on Wednesday, April 19.

Elections are coming up this fall. Our new bylaws allow us to begin the process this April. If you are interested in running or know someone who might be interested in running for the Board of Directors, contact the Nominating Committee. Bill Spanarelli is our Nominating Chair and the names of the Committee members will be announced at the Members Meeting on Saturday of York.

So pack your things for Spring weather in PA and plan to join us in April for another fun and friend filled Eastern Division York Meet.

See ya at York in the Spring! Clem

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 - \ Train Races
 - \ Business Meeting
 - \ Fun with Your Train Friends
- \ Quarterly Newsletter

Bob Drake
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Falls Church Mini-Meet, June 4, 2006, 9:00 am. Business meeting 10:30. Free Donut Breakfast & Lunch.
Directions: From the Beltway, take 66 East, take RT 29 South off 66, Right at light, pass Firehouse, right on W. Jefferson, right on Little Falls to Masonic Temple at 411 on left.

Register early for the WB&A Kena Temple Train Show. December 9. 2006

- **Setup Friday, December 8, 2006, at 2:00 pm or Saturday at 7:00 am**
- **TCA Members admitted 8:00 am Saturday, December 9, 2006**
- **WB&A Members admitted FREE**
- **Open to Public at 9:00 am and closes at 2:30 (Admission \$5.00)**

Directions: From I495 Beltway in Virginia, Take US 50 West. Move into left lane by the fourth light. At the 6th light, turn left onto Barkley Drive and take an immediate right at the Mantua sign. Go down to stop sign and turn left into the parking lot. Dealer load-in is at far end of lot.

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Extra Tables: \$ 30.00 ea \$ _____
Total Due (Check to "WB&A"): \$ _____

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