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

## WB&A Board of Directors

### Officers:

President: Art Tate  
Vice Pres: Stan Dobrzycki  
Treasurer: Glenn MacKinnon  
Secretary: Nicholas Tentzeras  
Past Pres: Dan Danielson

### Directors:

Mary Jackson, Kids Korner  
Pete Jackson, Meet Chairman  
Fred Krochmal  
David Martino  
Carol McGinnis, Membership Chairman  
Nancy Tentzeras, Newsletter Editor

### Eastern Division Representative:

Hope Danielson

### Key Contacts:

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**Train Shows:** Phone: 703-455-6154  
E-Mail: [meet-chairman@wbachapttertca.org](mailto:meet-chairman@wbachapttertca.org)

## **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TRAIN CLUB**

As I begin my third year as President, I must reflect back upon my initial years in WB&A and the changes that taken place since then. There have been many good developments though there are some trends that I feel do not bode well for our great hobby of collecting and running model trains. My predecessors, Sam Geiser and Dan Danielson worked extremely hard and breathed new life into an organization that was having financial and membership difficulties. We owe them both our appreciation and thanks for preserving WB&A and advancing the wellbeing of our Club.

I felt that it was my job to bring the Club to "the next level" and I thought that meant offering more activities and better meets to our members. Your Board of Directors and I set off to do just that. You, our membership, have indicated that was what you wanted from your Club. Early on, our efforts were rewarded as was verified by a great show of support for the first WB&A outing to Strasburg, PA. We moved one of our meets to the Kena Temple in Fairfax and again we received encouraging results in the first meet. We then moved to Annapolis and that meet did quite well also. Many people worked very hard to make these functions the success they were. However, a disturbing trend has become evident in our Club and our hobby in general. That trend seems to be a lack of enthusiasm and participation in Club activities. Our second outing, on the Potomac Eagle in Romney, W. Va. suffered from a lack of support and we lost several hundred dollars on the excursion. Our last few train meets have met with a tepid response that borders on apathy. Purchases of tables are down as is attendance. We have advertised these events in local newspapers, in our newsletter and our website and while attendance by the public is up, attendance from our own members is down severely.

Rather than launch into a lecture that might alienate some members and would be unfair to those who faithfully support the Club, I would simply like to point out that no organization could prosper without the sustaining contribution of time, effort and active participation that is the lifeblood of a Club such as ours.

Show your support at an upcoming meet by buying a table and selling some of those trains you've been meaning to get rid of. If you have nothing to sell, please attend and enjoy the fellowship of your friends who share our great hobby. Bring the children or grandchildren for free. What child doesn't love trains? When the next excursion is announced, plan to attend. Was there ever a occasion you didn't love a train ride? You will have a wonderful time, I promise. Your Club needs your support. Please, join us and let us know that you want this Club to continue the activities and functions we have provided. Without you there can be no WB&A of the future.

Art Tate, President

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**Treasurer's Report  
As of December 31, 2007**

Our Chapter has continued to move forward financially in 2007. After having mad a small profit on the Annapolis Armory meet in February, our fortunes changed somewhat with our train meet activities in the fall. Both the November Annapolis Armory Meet and the Kena Temple Meet in December were affected by poor attendance and reduced numbers of table holders. In spite of these disappointments, our bank balance has grown moderately; a result of new members joining the chapter, ongoing membership renewals and payments for advertising in the Newsletter. The Chapter's financial activities are summarized below. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at 703-927-9843 or [glen.mackinnon@verizon.net](mailto:glen.mackinnon@verizon.net). - Glenn

<b>Checkbook Balance January 1, 2007</b>		<b>\$13,846.45</b>
<b>Significant Activities January 1, 2007 thru December 31, 2007</b>		
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
MD Armory February 07 Meet	\$2,034	\$3,035
MD Armory November 07 Meet	\$2,076	\$1,943
Kena Temple December 07 Meet	\$3,314	\$3,212
MD Armory February 08 Meet	\$300	\$0
Newsletter 07	\$1,980	\$1,095
Club Shirts	\$0	\$240
TCA National Items Sold	\$0	\$505
Membership Dues 07	\$268	\$5,693
Membership Dues 08	\$49	\$2,555
WB&A Web Site	\$354	\$0
Kids Korner	\$430	\$607
TCA 2007 Directory Ad	\$170	\$0
Mini Meets 2007	\$1,052	\$0
Potomac Eagle Trip	\$3,441	\$3,012
Election	\$221	\$0
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$943	\$0
<b>Checkbook Balance December 31, 2007</b>		<b>\$16373.49</b>
<b>Certificate of Deposit w/Eastern Savings Bank</b>		<b>\$ 2056.17</b>

**Advertise in the "The Trolley"**

<b>Ad Size</b>	<b>Per Issue</b>	<b>Year</b>
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Nancy Tentzeras  
WB&A Newsletter Editor  
12453 Quail Woods Drive  
Germantown, MD 20874—1545

**Secretary's Report  
for October 30, 2007  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Meeting** was called to order by Art Tate at 6:35 PM. The Secretary verified that we had a quorum present and any votes taken at this meeting are binding.

**Voting Members in attendance were as follows:** Art Tate, Stan Dobrzycki, Glenn MacKinnon, Nicholas Tentzeras, Mary Jackson, Carol McGinnis, & Nancy Tentzeras.

**Items that the Board discussed included the following:**

- Treasurer Glenn MacKinnon reported that the checking account balance as of October 30, 2007 is \$13,875.89 and the CD has a balance of \$2,004.37.
- Membership Director Carol McGinnis reported there are 36 new members since February Annapolis Meet, therefore have their membership waived for 2008. We closed the 2007 membership with 324 members and have collected \$5,696.00 in 2007 dues .
- Nancy Tentzeras reported that we are in search of a new printer for the newsletter as the one we were using retired at the end of September completing the printing of the 4th quarter newsletter.
- The Board discussed the agenda for the General Membership Meeting on November 3rd, 2007
- Art reported on the progress of the November 10th Annapolis Meet.
- Art reported that Eastern Division had yet another successful York meet with over 15,000 people in attendance.
- There was discussion of future meet locations with members expressing interest of having a meet in the Baltimore/Carroll County area.

The Secretary's Report was accepted as Published.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Nicholas Tentzeras, Secretary WB&A Chapter

**THANK YOUR WB&A NEWSLETTER  
ADVERTISERS BY PATRONIZING  
THEIR BUSINESSES!**

***Historian's Corner***  
***Words of Wisdom***  
**by Carol Redman McGinnis**

Tucked away between the Board of Directors meeting minutes of November, 1973 and March, 1974 was a poignant letter written by the president of the WB&A. His comments and concerns are itemized below:

- Serious thought to improvements in the Chapter
- The BOD needs feedback from the membership, since the Chapter belongs to it's members and we must reflect the desires of the membership
- Compliments concerning the Pikesville meet.
- How can we improve conditions of the meets – unloading, setup, food, security
- The continuance of the Chapter newsletter and soliciting articles from the members.
- How often should mini meets be held?
- What if admission charges are raised?
- So... How about some feedback? Our president notes here that – "If I don't hear anything I must assume that everyone is perfectly satisfied... although I find it difficult to believe that universal euphoria has set in."
- We need volunteers as well as ideas.

These were the feelings and thoughts of then WB&A President, 1973-1974, Al Franceschetti. We all need to think long and hard about these issues. Most of them are still affecting the club today and the bottom line still remains that we need feedback from you, after all, you are the WB&A.

***Membership Moments***

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of October 30, 2007 - 324**

Membership 2007 closed out the year with 324 members. 36 new members have joined since the February Annapolis meet and are therefore FREE for 2008. A Master List has been created of known WB&A numbers. The Membership Chair will glean through these and send an invitation to former members who continue to be TCA members and are still living at the same address to return to the club. If you know of any former WB&A members extend a personal invitation to reconnect.

***Our Heartfelt THANKS!!!***

We wish to thank Jim & Nan Kronz for the many years of their time, hard work, and dedication that they have given to Kids Korner @ York; they will surely be missed, especially by Pete & Mary Jackson who will now need assistance with Kids Korner. To volunteer, please contact Pete & Mary Jackson @ [petetrains@verizon.net](mailto:petetrains@verizon.net).



***TOP TEN WB&A BENEFETS***

<b>1</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship with your Train Friends.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Wealth of information available from other collectors, operators, and layout builders.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A wonderful opportunity to participate at the local level in the world's greatest hobby.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Free admission to local WB&amp;A Train Shows. (Shows advertised in local newspapers.)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Free admission &amp; table at WB&amp;A Mini-Meets.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Receive quarterly the WB&amp;A Newsletter "<i>The Trolley</i>".</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Access to the newly designed and enhanced chapter web site (<a href="http://www.wbachaptertca.org">www.wbachaptertca.org</a>)</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>A chance to get involved in planning the 2010 TCA National Convention in Baltimore.</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Serving as a committee member or officer at the local level is very rewarding.</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Buy, sell, trade with local train enthusiasts.</b>

**Congratulations to  
the newly elected  
Officers and Board of Directors  
for the 2008 – 2009 term**

**President: Art Tate**  
**Vice President: Stanley Dobrzycki**  
**Treasurer: Glenn MacKinnon**  
**Secretary: Nicholas Tentzeras**

**Board of Directors**  
**Carol McGinnis**  
**Fred Krochmal**  
**Pete Jackson**

**A BIG Thank You for  
volunteering to serve the Chapter!!**

**From the TCA Development Desk**  
**by Jane Boyce**

When asked about the future of TCA, I am pulled in many directions. There are so many aspects that, when combined, all contribute to our success.

First, our TCA recruitment efforts have increased dramatically. We are advertising in either Classic Toy Trains, Model Railroader, Garden Railways or Scale Rails every month during 2008. We have encouraged our Divisions and Chapters to participate in the World's Greatest Hobby Shows throughout the country which draw huge crowds. I will be attending and working on recruiting new members at the WGH Show in Hampton, VA in February. I recently worked at a popular train show in Allentown, PA where I recruited several new members.

Recruiting kids is a huge focus. Some new children's events at the museum which are in the works must wait to happen until the sewer issue is resolved. I have, however, applied for a grant for the development of a coloring book for children which portrays the history of toy train manufacturing in the US. I have redesigned the Kids Club application to make it more appealing and I have been actively working with the Kids Club on concepts and ideas to make the club stronger.

We are still receiving donations to our first Annual Appeal. This is so important to our future and such a great way for members to show their dedication to this hobby and the TCA. While many of our members have been very generous, I have yet to hear from many more. Please give.

I have put together a cruise through Carnival Cruise Lines which is also a fundraising activity. Funds raised from this event will seed our Endowment Fund, a critical piece for our future. This event also offers the opportunity for great socializing and fun for members and is a great recruiting tool for non-members! I also created a Cruise Raffle, where chances are only \$5.00 each. They make great gifts and I have suggested that Divisions/Chapters consider purchasing some for door prizes at their meets.

The Museum Store is being totally upgraded and expanded and now includes an on-line store and a line of TCA-branded merchandise. This is a great source of gift ideas for TCA members and train lovers.

These efforts require much attention and time. Since I am a one-woman shop, I can only accomplish so much; for the rest, I need your support and help. Please be generous. It is critical to my success and the future of TCA.

**Spring York Meet  
is Just Around the Corner**

**April 17th—19th 2008**

**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 16th, 2008  
National Toy Train Museum  
Open House  
10:00 AM — 5:00 PM**

**Friday April 18th, 2008  
Ice Cream Social  
7:00—8:00 PM**

**Saturday April 19th, 2008  
Coffee and Donuts  
7:30—8:30 AM  
(Please plan to attend  
the Eastern Division Membership meet-  
ing during this time.)**

**Stop by and visit the WB&A Membership  
Recruiting Table in the Silver Hall or  
lend a hand at Kids Korner (a WB&A  
sponsored activity).**

**Look forward to seeing everyone there!**

At the **January 9th, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting**, President , Art Tate asked the board to accept his recommendation that **MARY JACKSON** fill the vacated Board of Director's seat created by Garrett Goldstein who resigned. Mary was accepted to fill the position with a unanimous vote.

### **CONGRATULATIONS MARY!**

Thanks to Garrett Goldstein who served the board as Meet Chairman this past year.



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### **Upcoming Train Shows**

Train Show/Meet	Date (s)	Contact
Annapolis Armory	Feb 9	410-766-9100
York, PA	Apr 17-19	302.674.5797
Falls Church Mini Meet	June 1	WB&A Only
York, PA	Oct 16 - 18	302.674.5797
Beltsville Mini Meet	Nov 1	WB&A Only
WB&A VA Meet	TBD	703-455-6154

### **Sam's Train Wrecks** *by Sam Geiser*

Life as a locomotive engineer on mid century railroads was extremely hazardous. With bridge collapse, washouts, derailments and head on collisions, death was a very real possibility for the engineer.

As with head on accidents, passenger and train personnel now had to contend with rear end collisions. In 1882, an editorial in Scientific American described the danger quite dramatically; "Collisions, in fact, like the assassins stab, are now more to be dreaded from the rear than from the front".

After 1865 America's railroads moved with enormous growth from their pioneer days of small, light trains into their mature era in which trains were long, heavy and crowded with passengers. As Railroad traffic increased, and it became necessary on heavily travelled roads to run many trains close together, the threat of rear end collisions increased alarmingly. As the number of passengers on scheduled runs exceeded the capacity of one train, the company would often put extra trains on the one scheduled; two trains for one that was scheduled. The second train would follow the first at a distance of a few hundred yards. At low speeds the danger of rear end collisions was slight, but as speed increased to only 35-45 miles an hour, a very real danger from rear end smash ups rose. Collisions resulted when the first unit slowed, stopped or broke down. Also, it was hard to stop a train in an emergency since old fashion hand brakes were still in use, until the 1890's. Rear end collisions remained the single worst type of railroad accident for fifty years after 1870.

## **Kena Toy Train Show and Sale**

### **December 8, 2007**

The WB&A Chapter - Eastern Division - TCA held their annual Kena Toy Train Show and Sale on Saturday, Dec, 08 at the Shiners' Kena Temple in Fairfax, VA. One of the best parts of the Show as always was being able to visit, talk, and catch up with new and old friends; and seeing the looks on the faces of the kids.

Starting at 5:30 AM we begin setting up tables and sellers started to bring in their toy trains and related merchandise at 6:45, and the meet was ready to go at 8 AM. (Some of the bigger dealers may have been just a little behind). We usually set up on Friday afternoon, but a children's Christmas party that night prevented us from doing that. A good time selling and buying and watching the large train layouts run, including the National Capital Trackers and several Lego trains on a complex layout was had by young and old. The young kids, and maybe a few of the older ones, enjoyed a visit with Santa Claus.

The Show opened to the general public at 9:00 AM, and many families with their children saw first hand the fun and tradition of toy trains.

Did we mention we also had great food prepared and served by the Shriners' Kena Temple women's auxiliary?

A number of very nice donated prizes were given away including a Christmas engine and tender with two Polar Express Cars which was won by a promising future train collector/operator and our own Ted Walton won a Lionel Pennsylvania Flyer Freight Expansion package, donated by Steve and Fran Fortes, owners of KMA Junction in Manassas, VA. Ted said winning felt great and said thanks to the folks at KMA Junction as he hadn't won something in a very long time.



Clem Clement had his table loaded with rareness and the throngs chortled over the pile. Clem had some interesting home made O gauge to display and a set of Kaisner streamliners. Of the many folks that looked at these only Dan Danielson recognized them as Kaisner. Clem had a Lionel 10 series truck with solid trolley wheels.

Don't know how that came to be; also a set of standard wheels with a circular ridge on the backing plate; manufacturer unknown was available. Clem's "Barking box" got a good workout as well. This box contained some real dogs of parts and was there for the taking. Clem is famous for having parts that may help someone else fix a train. A little fellow fell in love with a musical train carousel Clem had. He was a bit shy and his family encouraged him to negotiate. By Golly, he did!! He beat me down with his negotiating style. And WB&A President Art Tate meet him and shook his hand, approved of the deal and made that little boy so proud!!

A grandfather came by so excited that we continue to hold the meet at Kena. He gets to bring his grandkids every time and strongly hopes we continue at this venue.

Allen Crotts was again the Loco Doctor. He was swamped with work. He sets up such a professional looking booth with special lights, his apron on, and equipment everywhere. He always draws a crowd of watchers and kibitzers. He surely can fix those trains!!

A Special Thanks to our volunteers and door prize contributors, **KMA Junction, Springfield Station, and Catoctin Mountain Trains** as well as the Kena Temple staff. We could not have done it without you.

Many thanks to all who worked to make this event a huge success; which was a great way to enter the Christmas season.

We pray that you all have a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We hope to see you in 2008 so you too can get in on all the fun at our upcoming meets, mini-meets, and chapter outings.

***Thanks to Clem Clement and Ted Walton who contributed to this article.***

***Photos courtesy of Glenn MacKinnon and Nancy Tentzeras.***



## *SHARE YOUR MEMORIES....*

Do you have a story that you would like to share with your fellow WB&A Chapter members? Please send any train-related articles, stories, and/or camera-ready images for consideration in any upcoming publication of "The Trolley" or on the Chapter Web Site via email to [newsletter\\_editor@wbachaptertca.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@wbachaptertca.org) or via US mail to Nancy Tentzeras WB&A Newsletter Editor, 12453 Quail Woods Drive, Germantown, MD 20874.

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR 2008 TROLLEY**

**2ND QUARTER: APRIL 01, 2008**

**3RD QUARTER: JULY 01, 2008**

**4TH QUARTER: SEPTEMBER 01, 2008**

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*Our Deepest Sympathies to the family of Sarah Reed Lavinus of her untimely passing. Sarah has served as TCA National Secretary for many years and will be surely missed by many who knew her.*

Need to renew your membership or know a friend who would like to join the WB&A Chapter-TCA, please pass this application on to them. Additional forms available online.

#### **WB&A 2008 Membership**

Fill in and return this form  
Renewals and New Applicants

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TCA# \_\_\_\_\_ WB&A #: \_\_\_\_\_ (renewals)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail address (or NA) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Send a self addressed stamped envelope \*

Make check or money order payable to **WB&A** for \$18.00

Send to: Carol McGinnis  
6293 Lightpoint Place  
Columbia, MD 21045



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

**Richard S. Bennett JR**      **Kingsville, MD**

**Ronald Augenbaugh**      **Columbia, MD**

**Charles P. Shaw**      **Newark, MD**

**Bill Bauersfeld**      **Timonium, MD**

**Richard Guttendorf**      **Elkton, MD**

**William F. Schrodell**      **Massey, MD**

**Lawrence P. Chambers**      **Severna Park, MD**

**Ed Witt**      **District Heights, MD**

**Joe Fletcher**      **McLean, VA**

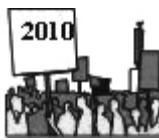
**Wes Carr**      **Pasadena, MD**

**Harry McGowan**      **College Park, MD**



## ***Eastern Division TCA President's Message by Sam Geiser***

Congratulations to WB&A's new Board of Directors and Officers. I am looking forward to another successful team effort towards increasing membership, outings and great meets. Volunteers are needed to support every meet. They set up tables and chairs, place signs on the road ways, help table members bring in their many boxes of trains; put up signs, collect money, sign up new members and help out wherever they are needed. This unit of cooperation is the foundation of WB&A's success and their spirit of togetherness that will continue their ability for future growth and longevity. Remember, WB&A is a member organization that exists because you participate and will only continue with your help. My thanks to the Officers and Directors, the Volunteers and all their wonderful families who support our unique and crazy hobby of playing trains.



## ***2010 Convention Update by Dan Danielson***

It's hard to believe that it is but two and a half years to the Convention! Time has really started to fly by. If you have not yet become a part of our team, please join us by contacting Colleen Hall at 540-622-2258. Colleen is our Secretary and is more than willing to send you a list of committees and contact names. As always, you can contact Hope or me at 703-743-2153 or Dan and Eileen Rollyson at 703-573-8822. All of us would love to have you participate in a very exciting event.

Our convention will be very different than any other convention you may have attended. The theme for our convention is "Outside the Box". We have challenged every committee to come up with a different way of doing its function or event. So far, I would say we have been very successful with this idea. Come join us and find out all the exciting things that will make Baltimore 2010 a "Convention to Remember".

Most of the major parts of the convention have been worked out. The hotels, banquet, trading pits, public display areas, welcome party, dinner cruise, special displays, Kids Club, and BOD dinner have all the basic ground work completed. However, there is much to do on these committees relative to finalizing these events.

Work on the Banquet cars, Banquet favors, tours, offsite parking, shuttle buses, registration, and other committees is just under way. So there are many opportunities to be a part of a fun, energetic group that would welcome you to our team.

The convention will be held in the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore, MD. The Convention dates are June 20-26, 2010. The Sheraton Inner City will be the headquarters hotel, with the Radisson and Holiday Inn being backup hotels. We are projecting 1,500 attendees at the convention, but could have as many as 2,500. Be a part of exciting TCA history! Join us now as we have fun completing all the final touches over the next two to two and a half years.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**WB&A Mini-Meet & General Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday June 01st, 2008**  
**Kemper- Macon Ware Lodge**  
**411 Little Falls, Falls Church, VA**  
**Mini- Meet 9:00 AM—Business Meeting 10:30 AM**

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### **WB&A Eastern Division Director Report By Hope Danielson**

The October 2007 Eastern Division York Meet was hugely successful. More than 14,500 members, guests, their spouses, children and significant others registered for the Meet. It was one of the best-attended York Meets ever. The National Capital Trackers Modular Railroad Club built a large operating layout filling the entire Black Hall for all to enjoy. The Ice Cream Social and Coffee & Donut Hour were well-attended.

Members of the Eastern Division Board of Directors confirmed Mike Petronella as Meet Chairman, replacing Bill Spanarelli. Bill was recognized for his leadership and presented with a handsome desk set.

Meet expenses continue to increase. Therefore, beginning with the April 2008 Meet, registration fees will increase as follows: Advance Registration for members and guests \$12; Advance Registration for senior and/or disabled members having 10 years membership \$6; At-the-Door Registration for all members and guests \$20. Table fees will increase \$2 each, with a comparable percentage increase in booth space.

Eastern Division will participate in The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, February 16, 17, 2008, in Hampton, VA.

## **Stan's Trolley Tidbits**

### **The Last Power Plant**

The Last Power Plant which was used to move the cable cars still exists. It is located at Pratt Street & Market Place, next to the Aquarium at the Inner Harbor. It's still called the Power Plant, though it now holds the Barnes & Noble Book Store, The Hard Rock Café, the ESPN Zone and many other entertaining establishments. To complete the cable car system, it would have cost \$803,210.00 and yearly expenses of over \$100,000.00 to maintain.

A company called the Central Railway Line (CRL) had transit lines running from Pimlico Avenue and Pikesville, which is located in North Baltimore to Curtis Bay which is South Baltimore. This line didn't go into Downtown Baltimore. The CRL ran horses for nine years until they got permission in 1892 from the city to go to electric cars. They purchased 20 electric cars which were powered by two 25 horse powered motors, and had 24 seats; though the company claimed that the cars could hold 90 people. The cars were manned by a conductor and motorman in blue uniforms and caps. The fare was only five cents a ride. Passengers were expecting to make the 12 1/2 mile round trip in 70 minutes in contrast to 128 minute ride by horse transit vehicles. Soon after the company asked the city for permission to double track the line. The company soon ceased to exist and was taken over by Baltimore Traction Company.

Not all the citizens of Baltimore were enthused about Street Cars going in their neighborhood. The sparks hissing just made too much noise; they were more happy with horse trolleys.

If anyone is a little familiar with Baltimore Street Cars, there were many companies operating at one time, which included Northern Central RR, Baltimore Union Railway, Baltimore Central Railway, and the Baltimore Traction Co. These systems were not confined to the city but extended into Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County. More tidbits in the next issue focusing on Elevated Trestle and Mail Street Car.



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## **November Mini-Meet Gathering**

**November 3rd, 2007**

**Beltsville, MD**  
**by Carol R. McGinnis**

The Fall WB&A Mini Meet was held at Frances Fuchs Special Center, 11011 Cherry Hill Road, Beltsville, MD. As people arrived they were greeted with coffee and donuts. Members brought an assortment of trains that were available to buy, as well as catalogs and accessories. The site once again proved to be a gathering point for our club. There were several people noticeably absent due to illness or prior commitments, but a good time was had by all in attendance. The General Membership Meeting was held and the results of the elections were announced. Discussion was held on the upcoming 2010 Baltimore National Convention, and the recent October York meet.

Lunch served afterwards included sub sandwiches, pizza, soda, and chips. Several members paid their dues and picked up their 2008 membership stickers.

Toys were collected for the **Marines Toys For Tots** Campaign and a box was later delivered to a local Toys R Us for distribution. We missed those of you who could not attend and hope to see you at Annapolis and Kena.



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## *Christmas Bills* *Boxcar Brian Reilly*

My first electric train was a prewar Lionel 262/262T which consisted of five 800 Series freight cars. I was fortunate enough to also receive a No. 122 illuminated passenger station from Santa that year and an 068 battery-operated warning signal, the type that still turns up occasionally at York.

My birthday is in September and I received my train my second Christmas. I was still sleeping in a bed with sides that pulled up so I wouldn't fall out of it and land on the floor. My Dad added a No. 81 controlling rheostat so I could run the train from my bed. In my imagination I went everywhere on that little train.

We were living in New York City at the time and my Mom and Dad took me downtown to Lionel's legendary layout. Oh, how I loved to watch the trains scoot around on that three-level layout that I still can visualize in my mind minus a few details.

Dad's family sent an S.O.S. that my grandmother was ill and that he should return to help the family at a very critical time. My Dad was the youngest of his brothers and sisters so he answered the call and we moved to Omaha, Nebraska. We were only going to stay a couple of years before returning to Mom's native New York City. Well, it turned into 35 years for me.

I had a cousin named Michael Davlin who lived in Omaha. Mike was three years older than me and was the closest to being the big brother that I never had. Mike joined in my fascination for electric trains. In those days most train sets were set up on the floor after they put on their annual Christmas Show under the tree. It would stay on the floor, or under my bed, until my Mom tired of tripping over it and off to the toy box it would go. Mom liked things to be orderly, be in a place where they would be easy to locate when you're in a hurry.

I would send away my dime to Lionel in September for a copy of that year's catalog which would arrive by Thanksgiving. At the time, I believe I wanted at least one of everything in it. Mom wanted me to have the *Chemistry set*, of all things! She would also make me throw away the old one when the new catalog arrived.

The winters were long, dark, and cold in Nebraska with few days that a kid could play outdoors until April. So the toy train

was a valuable asset. Mom would say, "When the children are playing with the trains, I know where they are." When she took me shopping with her she would leave me at one of the large department store train layouts and tell me not to leave there until she returned. She didn't have to worry as most of the large stores in those days had both Lionel and American Flyer "O" and Standard gauge trains running and some clockwork trains on display all day long.

Mike and I played with old "262" and her humble consist many a cold evening "going to Chicago" or out west to Denver. Mom couldn't wait for spring when the kids could go outside to play and let her gather and put all the toys in their proper place for storage until next winter. She would play along with us helping us to cast toy lead soldiers in the molding sets that were plentiful back then. She once suffered a bad burn when some molten lead spilled over on her index finger leaving a deep scar. That didn't stop her; she was of English descent and went right on pouring lead into the molds until we were old enough to do it ourselves.

I decided that my name, "Brian," was just not manly enough for the engineer of a freight train. So I came up with the name, "Bill." As if "Mike" wasn't a masculine enough name for an engineer, I asked Mike what would be his name when we played trains. Mike replied, "Well, I'll be Bill, too." He also came up with a single word for "play like"; when we sat down to run the trains Mike would say, "Okay, 'Bill,' let's 'playke' railroad engineers." It really broke our parents up when we began with this little scenario.

Time passed. My work took me back to New York City in 1969 before coming to Washington, D.C., in 1972. Mike was a good athlete. He was an all-state football player on his high school's Nebraska State Championship team and later lettered at Notre Dame when he was only 16. He left college to do a stint in the Navy only to return to earn his degree and play football for San Francisco University. He later played defensive end for the Washington Redskins until a knee mishap ended his playing days. He completed his career teaching math and coaching football at a large high school in Marin County, California, over the Golden Gate Bridge north of San Francisco where he mentored several very good teams.

We annually exchanged Christmas Cards until a few years ago when Mike passed on. Through all those years, Mike signed his cards "Midge" [for his wife, Marguerite] and for himself, "Bill."

### **2008 Shows**

**Sunday March 09, 2008**  
**Sunday September 28, 2008**  
**Saturday December 20, 2008**

We follow TCA Standards  
at Our Meets.

### **Arbutus Train and Toy Show**

**Location: Arbutus Volunteer Firehall ~ 1/4 mile off Beltway ~ 12A Southwestern Blvd.**

**Doors Open 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM ~ Dealers Setup 7:00 AM**

**All Table's \$15.00 ~ includes one Admission ~ Tables at the door ~ \$18.00 if available**

**Table Fees must be in 30 days before the show date.**

**Admission \$4.00 ~ Children under 12 FREE with an Adult**

**For information contact Frank or Sunny Vacek ~ 410.465.3782 (Evenings 6 - 9 PM)**



## *Take a Model Train to Work Day, 2007*

*Carol R. McGinnis*

On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, I took advantage of "Take a Model Train to Work Day." It was an exciting day for the students and staff at my school. The picture says it all.



I set up a simple O gauge oval in my classroom. The track was mounted on a thin sheet of plywood, which makes it portable. The base is extended by 2x4s to allow for wiring underneath, away from curious hands and arms.

The children were fascinated by the movement and sound of the trains. They got the chance to decorate the platform with cars, trucks, people, and animals. We talked about the smell of the train, the sounds, and the colors which tied into the theme for this month of "Using My Senses." Every so often I stopped the train so that the kids could swap out items around the platform. We talked about the power to the train, and that mommy or daddy, or a teacher, should operate the transformer.

It was a wonderful opportunity to share with the kids at school. They all got a cut out of a train when they left, to remind them of the fun that they had.

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WB&A Newsletter Editor  
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Have you renewed your WB&A membership or received your 2008 sticker?  
If not, please do so ASAP so you can still receive the great benefits we offer  
including this newsletter you are reading.

**Reminder!!!**

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

### **UPCOMING CHAPTER OUTINGS**

**Saturday, May 17th, 2008 — Altoona, PA** where we will visit the Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum, and take a most beautiful drive through the Allegheny Mountains to Horseshoe Curve.

**Saturday, August 30th, 2008 - Sunday August 31st, 2008 — Roanoke, VA (an overnighter at the Hotel Roanoke)** where we will visit the O. Winston Link Museum which features the Norfolk & Western Steam trains as well as the Virginia Museum of Transportation to name a few sites.

A minimum of 40 people needed for each Chapter Outing or the outing will be canceled. So let ALL your Family & Friends know about these exciting excursions that the chapter membership desired. Come join in **ALL THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT!**

To reserve your seat or for more information, contact Nicholas Tentzeras @ 301.515.0234 or via email [secretary@wbachapttertca.org](mailto:secretary@wbachapttertca.org).