



THE SEMAPHORE

April - July 2025

From President, Rich Parsons

We have all heard the old adage: "The older I get the faster time goes." I find this to be very true. As I write this article, we have completed one fourth of 2025. There have been many things completed at the Museum so far this year. Come in and check out the completed projects.

One major project that has been completed is the sorting and pricing of many years of donations. I think there were about 25 years of donations to be sorted. Interestingly enough, it took the crew 25 months to complete the task. (See article later in the newsletter). Going forward, we will be working one Monday a month to sort and price new donations. If you accept a donation, please find an inventory sheet in the kitchen cabinet and at a minimum put the donor's name, address and phone number with the donation. All donations go upstairs on the table to the left of the stairs.

The fence on the north side of the building has been removed. We hope this will help with the placing of graffiti on our building. The graffiti painters were using the fence as a ladder.

We are preparing for the Arkansas City Train Show on April 19th. We need extra help to make this a successful fundraiser for the Club. The Museum is closed that day. Please consider what you can do to help.

We are also working to get a new lighted sign installed on the front of the building. This should help our visibility.

By the decision of the Board, ONLY club members are allowed to come in by way of the back door. All non-members must come in the front door and check in at the ticket window... there will be *no* exceptions. There is a sign posted on the back door.

I am going to get on my soapbox for a minute (maybe I shouldn't). The Club is YOUR Club. Currently, there are about 15-20 Members who do most of the work at the Museum. As I get older, I get tired quicker. Many of us who are doing most of the work are also experiencing burnout. We need several of you to step up and find ways to share your time to work at the Museum. We are not asking for more than 3-4 hours a quarter (of course, if you want to spend more time we will gladly accept your offer). Please check with any Board Member or Officer and someone can help you plug in to an area that you would have an interest. I really would encourage you to make this *your* Museum and find ways to plug in and help: run trains on a Saturday and talk with our guests about OUR hobby, work a train show, help with projects around the Museum, etc. Nuff said.

Thank you for what you already do,

Rich



WTTC 40th Anniversary Dinnne

1985 - 2025



Original WTTC Officers
will speak about the “Good Ol’ Days”
Come prepared for a Silent Auction

Catered by: \$25 / Person
Blue Moon \$40 / Couple

Tickets must be purchased (paid for) no later than May 31.
There will be **no** ticket sales at the door.

A Timeline of the WTTC

1985 The start of the Wichita Toy Train Club.

1986 The beginning of the children's layout and meetings were held in a Harry Street restaurant for several years.

2000 The club moved into the Pawnee Mall.

2001 The club moved once again to the lower level of Twin Lakes where the first S-Gauge layout was built, and the Taggart Layout was reconstructed. We had a grand opening for the layout, unfortunately not too long after, the new owners let us know that our previously free rent (little heat or water was available) would now be \$8,000 per month and still with little heat or water availability. Both layouts were taken apart and put into storage.

2003 the club incorporated.

2006 Meetings moved into a Quonset hut as we began the search for a new building and we celebrated our 20th Anniversary.

2012 Thanks to Bill Cohen, we finally acquired our current building on Laura. After months of cleaning, moving of walls, sheetrock work, re-wiring and lighting, new lowered ceilings, painting, bathroom refurbishing and flooring we opened.

2016 The club observed its 30th Anniversary.

2025 WTTC is now celebrating our 40th Anniversary!

This timeline was provided by Jim Hickman.

SCENERY, ACCESSORIES & ROLLING STOCK... we have a supermarket!!!

We have lots of scenery supplies: trees, grasses & flowers, ground cover, rocks, rock molds, ballast, tunnel portals, bridges, building parts, fence, signs, billboards, utility poles, light poles, people, animals and more as well as all sizes of cars, trucks, commercial trucks, semis, semi loads, train car loads, farm equipment and construction equipment.

We have an entire room of buildings, N – S/O, also unassembled buildings and building parts.

Our rolling stock includes a room with HO and N scale; engines, tank cars, box cars, cattle cars, reefers, gondolas, hoppers, cabooses and more. Another room has S, O and some G scale engines and other rolling stock.

We have a room of transformers, and we have parts and lots of track N - O scale.

These items are all upstairs and require a Yard Master/member to take all shoppers upstairs and remain with them while shopping.

As you visit with guests, please tell them of our upstairs shopping opportunity!



A small, dedicated group of members have spent well over two years, and countless hours every Monday sorting, pricing and organizing all the many buildings, scenery supplies, accessories, rolling stock and parts. Engines and transformers have been tested and those in need have been repaired.





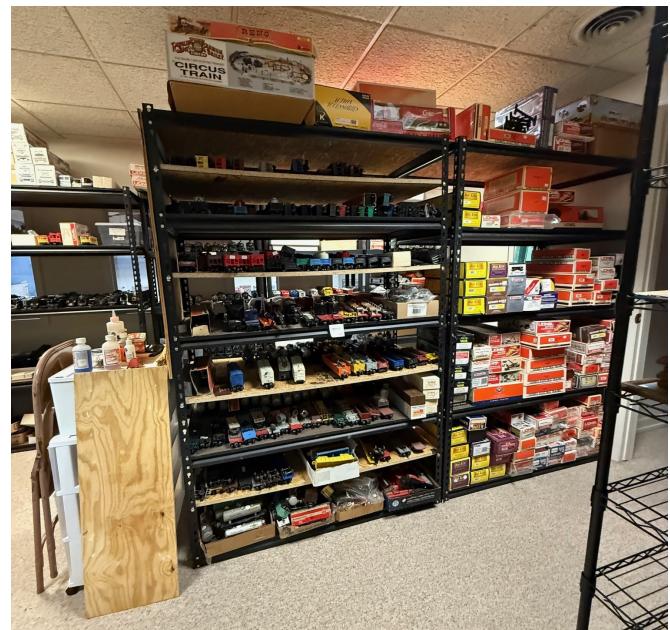
Scenery
&
N Gauge Room



HO Room



S, O & G Gauge Room



Not only has this group gone through all the many years of accumulated donations and getting them sorted and priced, but hours were spent cleaning, assembling many shelving units, arranging (and re-arranging) rooms to try to accommodate all of the items, as well as cutting and adding shelves to existing shelving units for more space and making labels for the shelves and tubs.

If you have not been upstairs, go up and take a peek at the results of the efforts of this group:

Norval Alliston
Duane & Diane Dawson
Kevin DeThample
Frank & Shirlene LeBleu
Rich & Nancy Parsons
Gerald Peterson
John Peterson





If you have trains or train related items for sale, send us pictures and/or a complete description, your asking price and contact information and we will list it in the newsletter.

O Gauge For Sale:

Lionel #6-11838 ATSF 4-6-4 TMCC Freight Set Like new in box. W/5 freight cars \$525

Lionel #6-19257 3-car 6464 series box car set in original box, Used \$60

MTH #30-7001 Wabash 6 car freight set. Mint in original box. \$175

MTH #20-4153 & 20-4053 7 car 70' Madison passenger set Southern RR, like new \$300

MTH #30-2231-1 New Haven RDC two car set, like new in original box. ProtoSound 2.0 \$125

MTH #30-20155-1 New Haven F3 ABA set, like new in original box. ProtoSound 3.0 \$275

Javen Schmucker

Newton, Kansas

316-253-5918



Bachman ON30 Derrick Car.
No. 913 White Pass and Yukon.
Asking \$30.
Frank LeBleu
210-693-9870.





NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We look forward to seeing you at the museum!

Javen & Beth Schmucker, Julian & Kacie Martinez

Richard Martin, Kevin Wineburner and Howard Day

Kids Caboose Club...

In January: We had at least 11 kids! We had so many throughout the hour, we might have lost count. It was a wonderful turnout. I believe only 5 of the 11 were members so we had conversations with the parents of the others about memberships with much interest!

We made Shrinky Dink keychains. The kids colored a train or railroad crossing sign then we used a heat gun to shrink them. The kids really enjoyed watching them shrink down.

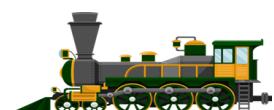
For February, we had the kids color a Thomas The Train picture and glue them to construction paper hearts and include a little chocolate to make a valentine they can give away. We're hoping for another great turnout.

Last month, The kids made keychains with round beads and train beads. We had All non-members join us and gave out membership information!

This month we are making little train planters and planting Sunflower seeds! Our next club meeting will be April 12th.



Upcoming Train Shows



10th Annual Arkansas City Train Show: Saturday, April 19, 2025 9am - 4 pm
Agri-Business building, 712 W. Washington, Ark City, KS

The Greater Tulsa Area Train Show: April 25 and 26, 2025, will be held at the Rhema Ninowski Recreation Center, 1367 West Kenosha St. in Broken Arrow, OK.

Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo: June 14 & 15, 2025, Kansas State Fairgrounds, Pride of Kansas Building.

The Train Trip to Grandma's

Every month Martín's parents took a trip to see Grandma and came home on the same train the next day. One day the child said to his parents: "I'm already grown up. Can I go to my grandma's alone?"



After a brief discussion, his parents accepted. They stood with him as he waited for the train to depart. They said goodbye to their son and gave him some tips through the window. Martin repeated to them: "I know, I've been told this more than a thousand times." As the train was about to leave, his father murmured in his ear: "Son if you feel bad or insecure, this is for you!" and he put something in his pocket.

Now Martin was alone, sitting on the train as he had wanted, without his parents for the first time and he was admiring the landscape out the window. Around him some unknown people pushed themselves in and they made a lot of noise as they got in and out of the train car.

The conductor made some comments about him being alone. One person looked at him with eyes of sadness. Martin was feeling more uneasy with every minute that passed and now, he was scared!

He felt cornered and alone. He put his head down, and with tears in his eyes, he remembered his dad had put something in his pocket. Trembling, he searched for what his father had given him. Upon finding the piece of paper he read: "Son, I'm in the last train car!".

That's how life is, we must let our kids go. We must let them try new things, but we always like to be in the last car, watching, in case they are afraid or in case they find obstacles and don't know what to do. We want to be close to them, no matter their age and for as long as we can.

(Adapted from Unknown author)



Officers

President: Rich Parsons

Vice President: Brian Chestnut

Secretary: Shirlene LeBleu

Treasurer: Zachariah Hubl

Board Members

Norval Alliston

Greg Jamis

John Flinn

Frank LeBleu

Mike Gable

Jerald Peterson

Gary Thompson

Conrad Youngblom

Jr. Director: Isaac Langhofer

Hours:

Saturdays 10AM - 5PM (except holidays)

Age 13 and older: \$7 6 through 12: \$4

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wichitatrainmuseum.org