



THE SEMAPHORE

January - March 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!! A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

By the time you are reading this note, 2024 will be gone into the rear-view mirror. Hopefully it was a year of memories we all want to keep (and maybe some we don't want to keep).

There were many things accomplished at the Museum: the stairs were installed to the mezzanine, the awesome train that was donated to us by New Spring Church was installed on the north end of the building, the gift shop was enlarged by adding 3 display cases to offer items for sale, progress was made on both the "O" permanent layout and the "HO" layout and good progress was made on the upstairs sorting and pricing of donations. I am sure there are many other things that were accomplished by a small, dedicated group of Members.

We had two very successful Train Shows in 2024. THANK YOU to all who helped with making these shows a success. It takes a lot of work to put on a train show.

How can you help in 2025? BY VOLUNTEERING your time and talent. Always have openings for volunteers. Become a Board Member. Come down on Saturdays to run trains and visit with our guests. Volunteer to help with projects that happen during the year and only require a few hours of your time. There are many more things that need volunteers.

I have said it before and I will say it again, this is YOUR organization. By working together, we can make it even better than we are today.

2025 is also our 40th Anniversary Year. We will have special events and opportunities to help celebrate 40 years of Growth. Please help us make this a memorable year for the Museum. It is quite an accomplishment to be around 40 years as a volunteer organization.

Until next time...keep the whistle blowing.

Rich Parsons, President





*We look forward to seeing you
at the WTTC Member Winter Party!*



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New Spring Project continues!

Several volunteers continue to work on getting the donation from the New Spring Church installed. The latest effort was done by Duane Dawson, Frank LeBleu, and Norval Alliston. They got the caboose modified and up on the bridge.



Thanks to the efforts and many hours of labor, our donated train display continues to evolve!

There are just a few more finishing touches and it will be complete. Thank you to all those who have had and continue to have a part in this incredible display!

Museum Christmas Decorations!

If you weren't at the museum when we decorated for Christmas, you missed an evening of fun. While we were putting up the decorations, we enjoyed homemade cookies and hot apple cider. The decorations went up quickly and then we had a cookie exchange. We all went home with delicious cookies to share for days. Those participating were: Duane & Diann Dawson, Mike & Shari Shockey, Frank & Shirlene LeBleu, and Jerald Peterson.



Lights, garland and ornaments were used along with work and lots of fun!!! The efforts of all resulted in a wonderfully decorated museum! THANK YOU to all!

The cookie exchanged resulted in many delicious cookies being shared and eaten... but who is counting?!?!



2025 Elections

Our 2025 elections were held at our Business meeting held on December 7. Our member turn-out was a bit low; we had only 25 ballots cast.

We had two officer positions, four director positions and the Jr. director position open for 2025. The following were elected.

Vice President: Brian Chestnut

Secretary: Shirlene LeBleu

Directors: Norval Alliston, Greg Jamis, Mike Gable and Conrad Youngblom

Jr. Director: Isaac Langhofer

These individuals will begin their 2-year term on January 1, 2025. If you see them at the club, give them a thank you for all the work they do for you and the club.

It's That Time again...

Start planning to volunteer for the 2025 Ark City Train Show. It is a relatively small show, but always well attended. We will need volunteers to set-up and run trains, work the concession stand, and work at the admission desk.

10th Annual Arkansas City Train Show

OPERATING
TRAIN
LAYOUTS



* Buy
* Sell
* Trade

Agri-Business
Building
712 W. Washington

Admission \$6 Adults
Children under 12 free
w/paid adult



Saturday, April 19, 2025
9am - 4pm
Sponsored by Wichita Toy Train
Museum/Club
(www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org)
and
Visit Ark City



Club member train running opportunities!

John Flinn is planning a time to open the museum for members to come run their trains without the public. This will give you time to enjoy running without entertaining the visitors. He is planning for something in the evening or on a Sunday afternoon for members to come run their trains on the O-Gauge, S-Gauge, or HO-Gauge layouts. **Watch for more information coming soon.**



NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We look forward to seeing you at the museum!

Thomas & Kim Meuchel, Eddie & Kate Koehler, Don & Christine Baker, Virginia Wiseman,

Cecil Goldsmith and Jeff & Nora McVicker

Kids Caboose Club...



We look forward to our next club meeting on January 2nd at 11:00 am see you then!

Fun Facts...

What is the most famous train?

Thomas the Tank Engine – This fictional train is the star of a beloved children's book series and television show. Thomas the Tank Engine has become an iconic symbol of childhood and is beloved by generations of children around the world.

Why is it called a train?

'Train' comes from a French verb that meant "to draw; drag." It originally referred to the part of a gown that trailed behind the wearer. The word train has been part of English since the 14th century—since its Middle English days.

What are some of the most famous trains in the world's history?

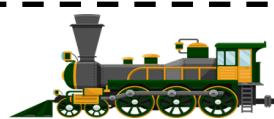
- The Orient Express 1883
- The Trans-Siberian Express 1898
- The Flying Scotsman 1928
- Frontier Mail 1928
- The Grand Trunk Express 1929
- The Super Chief 1937
- The Mallard 1938
- The Qinghai-Tibet Railway
- The Shinkansen 1964
- The Indian Pacific 1970

How old is the first train?

The first railway line in the world dates back to 1825, when George Stephenson connected the towns of Stockton and Darlington in England by rail. The line was intended to transport coal. The wagons were pulled by steam engines. Passengers were transported by horse-drawn carriages.



Upcoming Train Shows



Great Train Show

KCI Expo Center 11730 N Ambassador Dr, Kansas City, MO 64153 January 4th & 5th 10am-4pm

National Model Railroad Association

Cessna Activity Center 2744 S. George Washington. Saturday, February 1, 2025 9 am-5 pm. and Sunday. February 2, 10 am-4 pm. Adults \$8 for both days. Children ten and under are free with paid adults.

10th Annual Arkansas City Train Show

Agri-Business Bldg. 712 W. Washington Saturday April 19, 2025 9 am-4 pm

The Great Train Wreck...

The Great Train Wreck of 1918 occurred on July 9, 1918, in Nashville, Tennessee. Two passenger trains, operated by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway ("NC&StL"), collided head-on, costing at least 101 lives and injuring an additional 171. It is considered the worst rail accident in U.S. history, though estimates of the death toll of this accident overlap with that of the Malbone Street Wreck in Brooklyn, New York, the same year.

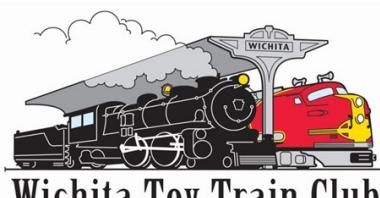
The two trains involved were the No. 4, scheduled to depart Nashville for Memphis, Tennessee, at 7:00 a.m.; and the No. 1 from Memphis, about half an hour late for a scheduled arrival in Nashville at 7:10 a.m. At about 7:20 a.m., the two trains collided while traversing a section of single track line known as "Dutchman's Curve" west of downtown Nashville, in the present-day neighborhood of Belle Meade. The trains were each traveling at an estimated 50 to 60 mph. The impact derailed them both and destroyed several wooden cars.

An investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) attributed the cause of the accident to several factors, notably serious errors by the crew of train No. 4 and interlocking tower operators, all of whom failed to properly account for the presence of train No. 1 on the line. The ICC also pointed to a lack of a proper system for the accurate determination of train positions and noted that the wooden construction of the cars greatly increased the number of fatalities.



DETAILS

Date: July 9, 1918; 106 years ago 7:20 am
Location: Nashville, Tennessee
Operator: Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway
Incident type: Collision
Cause: Human error
Trains: 2
Deaths: 101
Injured: 171



Wichita Toy Train Club

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	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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Wichita, Kansas 67211
(620) 837-3006
wichitatrainmuseum.org