

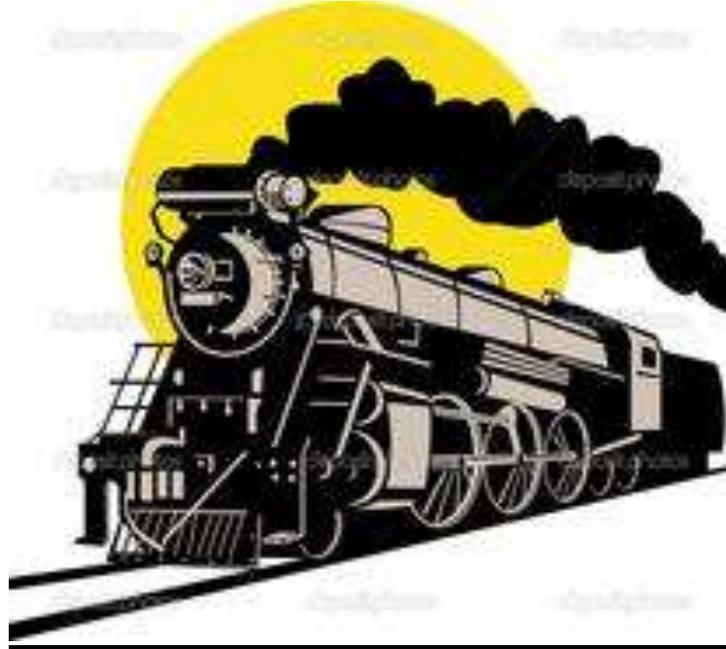
THE SEMAPHORE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wichita Toy Train Club – Established 1986

Visit us on the web at www.wichitoytrainclub.org or www.wichitoytrainmuseum.org

January 2017 - Volume XXXII—Number 1

Thank you to all members for a successful 2016.



Looking forward to a successful 2017.

Coming Events for WTTC

Great Train Expo, January 28-29

Set up on Friday, Jan. 27, starting at 1:00 pm at Century II Convention Hall, 225 W. Douglas. Hours Saturday and Sunday 10:00 – 4:00. O and S Gauge Modulars on display. Need runners for both gauges. Wear a WTTC item and bring trains for free admission.

Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet, February 4-5

Set up on Friday, February 3, after 3:00 pm at Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd. Hours Saturday 9:00 – 5:00 and Sunday Noon – 4:00. O and S Gauge Modulars on display. Need runners for both gauges. Wear a WTTC item and bring trains for free admission.

THE SEMAPHORE

Next Business Meeting is Saturday, February 11, at 8:30 am.



Parties – January 28 (Saturday) Boy's Birthday Party, 10:30 am
February 11 (Saturday) Boy's Birthday Party, 10:30 am
February 12 (Sunday) Boy's Birthday Party, 2:00 pm
May 13 (Saturday) Boy's Birthday Party, 2:30 pm

GOOD NEWS!

Since Wichita Toy Train Club now owns our building, we applied for exemption for personal property taxes in 2016. A letter was received from the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals yesterday granting exemption. This means that WTTC will not have to pay property taxes. Thank you to Rich Meister, the Executive Board, Mike Gable and Shari Shockey for submitting the application and documentation. WTTC will have to pay the "specials" of approximately \$5.00 each year. This is a major benefit to WTTC for our annual budget.

LIONEL AMBASSADOR REVIEW



WTTC ordered the Lionel LionChief Pet Shop Set for the Children's Layout. What is the response of a child to this set? Laikyn's, granddaughter of Kathy and John Flinn, reaction is a new fan of Lionel's Pet Shop Set. Our granddaughter's new favorite train to play with at the Wichita Toy Train Club. At two and a half Laikyn has mastered the Lion Chief controls. She knows how to run the train forward, backwards, and blow the horn, AND She plays the doggie and cat sounds...over and over and over!!!

Check out our monthly reviews on wichitatoytrainclub.youtube, produced by Zachariah Hubl and Christopher Meister.

THE SEMAPHORE

CHOCOLATE TRAIN...YUMMY!

THIS IS WILD. LOOK AT EACH PICTURE AND REMEMBER IT IS ALL CHOCOLATE.

A train made entirely of chocolate has set a new Guinness World Record as the longest chocolate structure in the world...

The sculpture, on display at the busy Brussels South station, is 112-feet (34.05 meters) long and weighs over 2,755 pounds (1250 kilos). Maltese chocolate artist Andrew Farrugia spent over 700 hours constructing the masterpiece.



He said he came up with the idea of the train last year after visiting the Belgian Chocolate Festival in Bruges: "I had this idea for a while, and I said what do you think if we do this realization of a long chocolate train, you know, because a train you can make it as long as you like."

THE SEMAPHORE

CHOCOLATE TRAIN...YUMMY! Continued

"Actually it was going to be much smaller than it was, but I kept on adding another wagon, and another wagon, and it's the size it is today."

Farrugia had previously built a smaller train of 12 feet for an event in Malta, which he said gave him insight about how to build this much larger version.

There are two parts to the train. The first seven wagons are modeled after the new Belgian trains, and the rest of the train is modeled after the old train wagons, including a wagon with a bar and restaurant on board.

Three days before the event, Farrugia transported the chocolate train by truck in 25 wooden boxes from Malta to Belgium.

Farrugia said the train incurred considerable damage during the drive and several of the train's walls had completely collapsed.. Luckily, with hard work and little sleep, the chocolate artist was able to fix all the damages before presenting the train to the public on [Monday](#).

After measuring the length of the train and confirming no material other than chocolate was used, officials from the Guinness Book of World Records added a new category to the collection of world records and declared the train to be the longest chocolate structure in the world.

I would have finished half the chocolate long before it was completed!

WTTC Closure on January 14 and 15!

Everyone has heard of "better safe than sorry." However, the weather indicated it would be very icy and unsafe to drive. In this case, John Flinn, Mike and Esther Gable and Adolph Weigant opened the museum and on Saturday had 20 admissions, booked a birthday party and a new membership application. Way to Go!

(Editor's note: If I didn't mention your name, please let me know so you can be recognized.)

The WTTC January 2017 Minutes will be sent by separate email.