

Tidewater Big Train Operators *Gull*



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Gull Editor	Sophie B		
Gull Asst Editor	Sherry C		

Website: www.tbto.org

Facebook: [Tidewater Big Train Operators](#)

Club Calendar

July 19th, 2025 - TBTO Club Meeting

Time: 11:00

Dog Gone Line Railroad (Dave & Sherry C)

Virginia Beach, VA

September 6, 2025 - TBTO Train Display/Show
Time: Setup 8:00 AM, trains running 10:00-2:00
Carl J's apartment complex

October 17-18, 2025 - TBTO Train Display/Show (Tentative)
Happy Daisy Garden Center
407 McArthur Dr, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

November 30-Dec 4, 2025 TBTO Train Display/Show (Setup)
Tidewater Big Train Operators Annual Holiday Show
Avalon Church of Christ
844 Woodstock Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

December 5-13, 2025 TBTO Train Display/Show
Tidewater Big Train Operators Annual Holiday Show
Avalon Church of Christ
844 Woodstock Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

February 7-8, 2026 Greenberg's Train & Toy Show (Tentative)
Hampton, VA

President's Corner (Outgoing): Hillie H

There has been a Change of Command in our organization! Congratulations Dave for taking over as President! And Carl has taken over as the Vice President!

These past 2 years have been a pleasure. I would like to thank each and every one of you who has helped me on this journey. I learned a lot, and looking back there are some things I think I would like to have done differently.. ok a lot of things. The biggest lesson was juggling full time employment, family and the club activities is a tough endeavor. I couldn't have done it without Tal and Teya. Thank you to the both of you.

The Modular layout started out as an idea and through everyone's help, ideas and dedication, it has now become a reality. I know we spent some long days having our "Working Meetings". Some spent their free time making the table tops. Thank you all for all the work that was put into this project. Although there is still some work to be done, finishing the bridge and some wiring, we did take it out for a "Show and Tell". This past weekend we took just a small oval setup to the Chesapeake Library. It took us 2 hours to set up and 45 minutes to break down and load into the trailer. I think we learned a lot about how to set it up efficiently. Although it was said during our planning of the Modular's, we won't be on the floor setting up track, in reality there is some

floor time. But that is for a brief time and limited to one or two folks. A far cry from the whole group kneeling down. It does save the back and knees. A huge plus! I believe the show was a success. I heard there were over 1,000 folks who had the opportunity to see trains running during the weekend show.

As I wrap this up, I would like to say one last time Thank You for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Hillie

Scribblings on the Box Car Wall: Dave C

Once again, I have been 'railroaded' into the club presidency, and they tell me I must write something to go into the Gull. TBTO is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. I hope the members will work together for several more years. Garden railroading is a fun hobby. Let us keep it alive.

The club did a small setup at the Chesapeake Library. We used the four corners and a couple of straight sections to build a fourteen by 18-foot module. Talmadge decided to pull these sections from the club trailer and used his trailer to transport them to the library. The club's trailer was also rearranged so the modules will be at the rear of the trailer to make it easier to remove for future displays. The modules were set up in about an hour. The Kids run Trains were set up and running trains by then. We are in a learning mode on setting up the modules. We will be writing some steps to hopefully make it easier to assemble.

I want to thank the members that helped set up and take down, we hope to use more modules next year.

So long for now. I must pick up a few cases of Gatorade so I can clean up my layout. Hope to see everyone at the July meeting at the Dog Gone Line RR on July 19, 2025.

Secretary Notes Sherry Caldwell

- The TBTO meeting was held on June 28, 2025, at the Chesapeake Central Library.
- There were fifteen members present. No refreshments were provided.
- Sherry C mentioned the Gull needs a new editor. Suzanne D suggested a one-page newsletter with club meeting dates and notes. This would be sent by email. Sophie B may be interested.
- Tal P gave the treasurer's report. We still have money. An audit and

budget need to be done. Dues are also due.

- The slate of officers: President: Dave C, VP: Carl J; Secretary: Sherry C; Treasurer: Teya C. Advisors: Hillie H, Suzanne D and Nancy K. Jerry K motioned to accept the nominations. Sophie B seconded.
- Tal P mentioned the Sept. 6, 2025, set up at Carl J's apartment complex. It is in a covered, open parking lot. Set up would be 8am and trains run from 10-2 pm. May set up a small module.
- Tal P received a request from Spencer Train Museum to set up our modules. The dates are March 4-8, 2026. The club would receive \$200. The running times are 8 am to 10 pm daily. The cost is exorbitant. Suzanne D motioned not to participate. Jerry K seconded NOT to participate. Passed by members present.
- Sophie B shared that Happy Daisy Garden Center, Elizabeth City NC, may be able to have us set up a layout on October 17-18,2025. Sophie suggested having a Halloween theme. Haunted railroads here we come!
- Tal P has made the final draft for the Holiday Display.
- TBTO will meet on July 19, 2025, at 11am, at the Dog Gone Line RR.
- No 50/50 was done.

Where We've Been/What We Did (Club/Member Activities)

Chesapeake (Va) Central Library



Where to go/What to do - Other Train Events



• **PARADE** • **VENDORS** • **CARNIVAL** • **CAR SHOW** •



SEPTEMBER 29TH - OCTOBER 5TH

50TH ANNUAL SELMA RAILROAD EST. DAYS 1975

DOWNTOWN SELMA, NC

• **LIVE MUSIC** • **MODEL TRAINS** • **FOOD TRUCKS** •

A large teal banner for the 50th Annual Selma Railroad Days. It features a circular logo on the left with a train and the text "SELMA RAILROAD DAYS EST. 1975 50TH CELEBRATION". The main text in the center reads "50TH ANNUAL SELMA RAILROAD EST. DAYS 1975". Below that, it says "DOWNTOWN SELMA, NC". At the top and bottom of the banner are lists of activities: "PARADE • VENDORS • CARNIVAL • CAR SHOW •" and "LIVE MUSIC • MODEL TRAINS • FOOD TRUCKS •".

November 8th – 9th, 2025

Saturday 9 am – 5 pm

Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

Jim Graham Building, North Carolina State
Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC.

4285 Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

Enter at Gate 9 on Trinity Road

Admission: \$10 covers both days

Where to go/What to do - Scenic & Heritage Railroads

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park



The Cass Scenic Railroad State Park is a state park, tourist railroad operation, and steam preservation facility located in the former lumber town of Cass, West Virginia, in the eastern central region of the Mountain State. The park primarily consists of the Cass Scenic Railroad, an 11-mile long tourist railroad that is owned by the West Virginia State Rail Authority and operated by the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. The park also includes the former lumber company town of Cass and a portion of the summit of Bald Knob, the highest point on Back Allegheny Mountain and the third highest in the state.

Today the railroad owns 8 Shay locomotives, one rare Heisler locomotive, and one rare Climax locomotive. In addition to Cass shop crews, over the years volunteers from the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association have assisted in various rebuilding projects. Two regular trips are available to visitors: a 2-hour round trip to Whittaker Station and a 5-hour round trip to Bald Knob, the third highest point in the state. In the past, the railroad has also offered a five-hour round trip to the abandoned site of the town of Spruce: once the coldest and highest town east of the Rockies. Former company houses in Cass have been refurbished and are available for rent, and a caboose on Bald Knob is available for overnight camping. Town and shop tours are

available daily to visitors who desire to learn more about the town and the lumber industry, and to observe how the geared locomotives are maintained by the talented Cass shop. A tour of a recreated logging camp is available at Whittaker Station. - [HawkinsRails](#)

[Official Website](#)