

Tidewater Big Train Operators Club

GULL



The Gull is the official monthly newsletter of the Tidewater Big Train Operators Club, Inc. Dues are \$30.00 payable on July 1st, yearly. Submit item for inclusion NLT the 20th of each month. We'll take anything. Typos & misspelled words are intentional to help keep the members awake when reading the newsletter.

Volume 101

July 2021

President: Steve Daum 804-815-0254

sadaum1@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Tal Piland 757-581-2353

lgbtal@verizon.net

Secretary: Sherry Caldwell 757-490-2155

slocva26@gmail.com

Treasurer: Etta Burch 757-488-9228

ettajerry4@gmail.com

Advisors: Mike Junghans 757-848-3605

mrjdpj2cox.net

Raphael Sicinski 757-798-9017

rsicinski@aol.com

Bill Miller 757-218-5367

wkmiller85@yahoo.com

Marketing Committee:

Mark and Becky Jungham

Editor: Bill Miller

Assistant Editor: Sherry Caldwell

Librarian NEEDED

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/115824558135

WEB ADDRESS: WWW.TBTO.ORG

Next month's meeting:

Train show at Trinity United Methodist Church has been cancelled due to rising COVID numbers. The club meeting for August has not been determined yet.

TBTO board will meet August 7.

Well, here we are at the top of the summer:

During a NASCAR race in New Hampshire a few years ago, the announcer said "They have ten days of summer here and we're right in the middle of it."

Or as Achmed once said "It's 'ot. 'ot, 'ot, ot."

(Of course, as I'm writing this, it's cool and rainy. Go figure.)



Steve Daum

President's Corner

Well, this month started off on a really good note by having a Golden Spike for Raphael Sicinski that was enjoyed by all. We were also going strong with planning well underway for the show at Trinity. Mark and Becky reported that it looked like White's Fall Show was a go and White's may use us to usher in their Christmas season. Teya reported that an organizational meeting for Avalon was to be held soon. So overall, things were looking good.

Yes, that was a silent BUT you heard and it seems like the other shoe may be dropping. As I'm sure you have heard, we are having a most unpleasant visit again from our friend COVID 19. As I write this, Virginia is reporting their highest numbers since last April and North Carolina has numbers around three times higher than Virginia. The figure of most concern is the increasing number of infections of people that are fully vaccinated and having to be hospitalized. So where does that leave us?

I'll be blunt, with the way the numbers are trending, it is not looking good. As this is being written, Mike Junghans has made the very difficult decision: to cancel the show for Trinity Methodist Church. I completely agree with his decision. Where does that leave us with the other shows and meetings? Quite frankly, we're in a holding pattern. We will have to continue to watch how the case numbers are trending. We'll wait and see if restrictions, either by the State, businesses or organizations are placed upon us on doing a show or, as before, to be able to meet in person. If restrictions are placed upon us, we will have to decide if it is practical for us to do a show, or if we would even want to. More than likely, since the numbers are already as bad as they were in April, I expect to see a return of those precautions: wearing a mask, social distancing, no large indoor gatherings, limiting the size of outdoor gatherings, etc. Some businesses have already started requiring masks and I have heard of some organizations considering going back to similar restrictions. Are we going to have to go back to the way we were last year? I hope not! Only time and conditions will tell.

BE SAFE AND BE CAREFUL

Steve

The July meeting of the TBTO was hosted by Raphael and Jennifer Sicinski on July 10, 2021.

There were 38 members and one guest present. A “GOLDEN SPIKE” ceremony was done for the RJSS railroad.



Raphael accepted the appointment as an advisor.

TRINITY SETUP HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

No update on Avalon Holiday Show.

Bylaws will be discussed at the board meeting on August 7, 2021. The bylaw update will be voted on at the September club meeting.

Locks have been changed on the shed and rear door of trailer. Keys will be given to the president, vice president, and two advisors. Items to be checked out by advisor/member and signed back in. No extra keys will be made.

Treasurers report was given by Etta Burch. The club has money, just not reported in the Gull. Taxes are done.

Bill Miller discussed the Project Endeavor. NMRA driven by several members. Need a city sponsor with indoor space for all scale permanent layouts. Someone will check out the London Bridge Road layout that may be donated for our club to display.

Sophie Boone won the 50/50.



What you will miss if you don't go to the BTO convention this in August.



Clinic 3 - Railroad Visits

By Teya Caple-Woods

Teya is a very strong supporter of Garden Railroading, having had an article published in Garden Railways about her own backyard empire, been president of her local club, and is currently a BTO director. Over the years, she has attended both the BTO Conventions, the National Conventions, as well as many other shows and train events. And she has done a wonderful job of recording her visits to both 1:1 scale railroads and to the backyard G scale railroads around the country. For our third clinic in Cleveland, she has put together a presentation of some of her more memorial visits to share with us. As model railroading is never done, looking at what others have done can generate ideas for a road under construction or additions to one that has been running for a while.



Oh yea, clinics on 3D modeling by Charles Bartel

You will utilize 3D builder (or other drawing program you might have on your computer so long as it can generate an STL file) and design a small trackside component. Bring your own laptop, design a part and have it printed.

and Landscaping by Mark Langan

Mark is a master gardener who can take a hand full of plants and a building model and make some very realistic scenes.

And a ride on the *Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad*



<https://cabinfeverauctions.bidwrangler.com/ui/auctions/67005>

Cabin Fever is holding an online auction with 644 G scale items on **September 1, starting at 5:00 pm.** There are many custom built and unusual items.



Amtrak



Circus



Custom



Unusual manufacturers

Gotta have one of these



Also European items, lots of diecast cars and trucks, people, World War 2 items, and accessories.

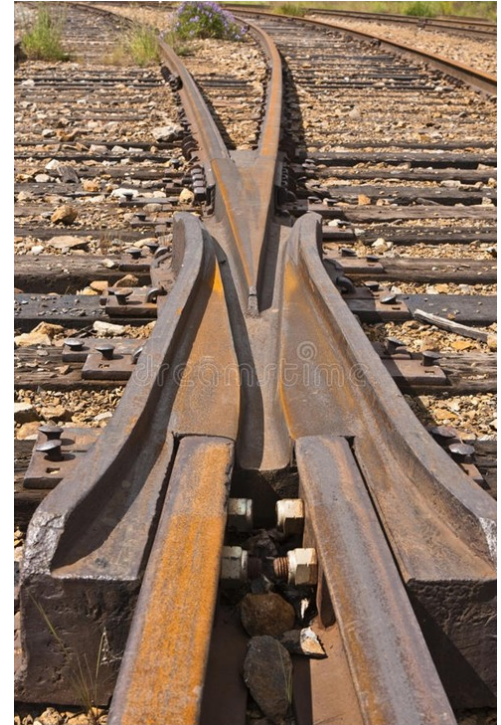
Either I will be going up to Pennsylvania later September, or a friend whose father lives in Douglassville is also going up that time. So shipping is not an issue. Let me know if you plan to bid, or want me to try to get something for you.

The Frog

Here is one of the greatest inventions of modern times:

This is called a “railroad frog”. It’s designed to allow two sets of tracks cross over each other.

It was invented in Boston by Gridley Bryant, a brilliant engineer, quarryman and self-promoter. He built the first commercial railroad in America in Quincy in 1825. There had been other rails put up in America before that; the British put in the first rails in Nova Scotia probably 100 years earlier. But Bryant had a quarry in Quincy in the Blue Hills and he needed to move his granite to the Neponset River so it could be barged over to Boston to build Faneuil Hall and the Bunker Hill Monument. The stones were so heavy that he carved the rails from granite because the soft steel rails of the day buckled under the weight. There was no steam power then - the trains operated on gravity. The car at the top was filled with granite and rolled down a hill and pulled the car at the bottom up to the top, acting as a brake. Bryant invented the frog and the roundhouse for turning trains around.



Another note about Cabin Fever auctions. They have been selling lots from the MTH factory, mostly O scale (yes, some of us still play with the small stuff). They’ve had eleven sales so far, but estimate about 25 more sales in the next two years. Many of these items are unique, pre-production, or custom items. So if you’re into these tiny trains, keep a watch on the Cabin Fever auctions.

As reported at the last meeting, Project Endeavor is just now getting started on a marketing plan to establish a permanent multi-scale display in Hampton Roads. They will hold a planning meeting Sunday, August 22. We are looking for someone from our club to represent TBTO for the Project Endeavor effort. Anyone interested please contact Bill Miller for further information about this project and contacts.

Upcoming major events



Greenberg's Train & Toy Show

August 7-8, 2021

Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg Expo & Confer-

Holiday Inn Cleveland-S Independence
6001 Rockside Rd
Independence, Ohio

Monday, August 16, 2021
thru Saturday, August 21, 2021



ALL TRACKS LEAD TO
Cleveland
Big Train Operator Club Convention

Welcome to the
***Great Scale Model Train
and Railroad Collectors Shows***
& Railroad Marketplace

Location: Maryland State Fair 2200 York Rd. Timonium, MD 21093

WE'RE BACK! Next Show is October 2 & 3, 2021



www.gsmts.com