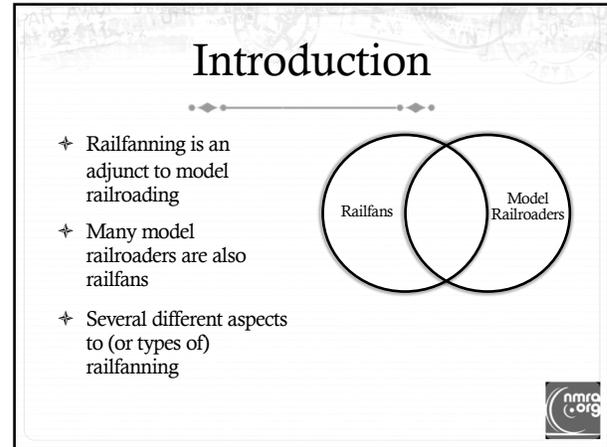


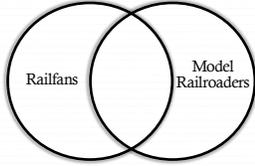
# Railfanning

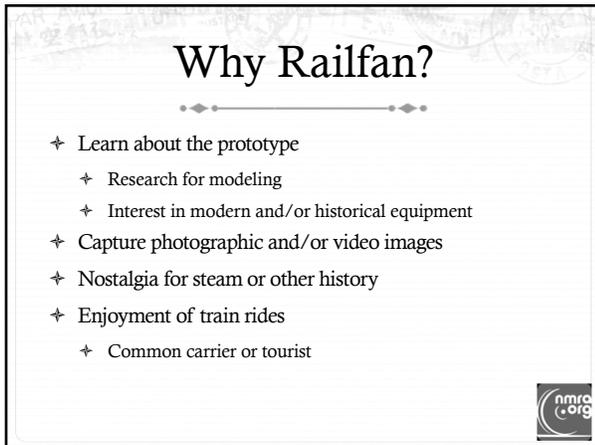
Dr. David Arday  
Life Member, NMRA

# Introduction

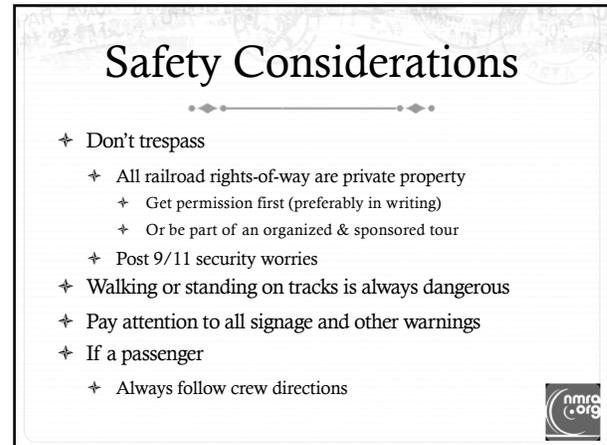
- ✦ Railfanning is an adjunct to model railroading
- ✦ Many model railroaders are also railfans
- ✦ Several different aspects to (or types of) railfanning





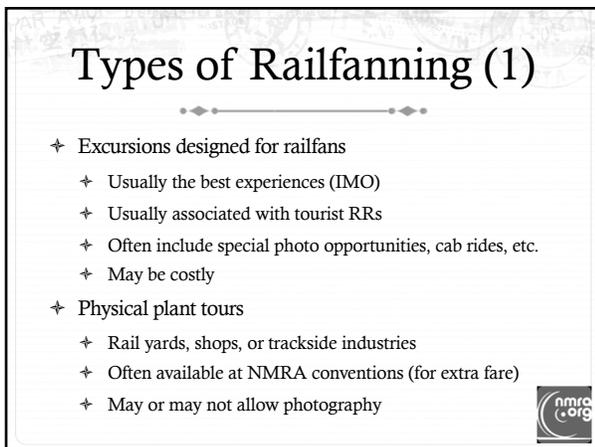
# Why Railfan?

- ✦ Learn about the prototype
  - ✦ Research for modeling
  - ✦ Interest in modern and/or historical equipment
- ✦ Capture photographic and/or video images
- ✦ Nostalgia for steam or other history
- ✦ Enjoyment of train rides
  - ✦ Common carrier or tourist

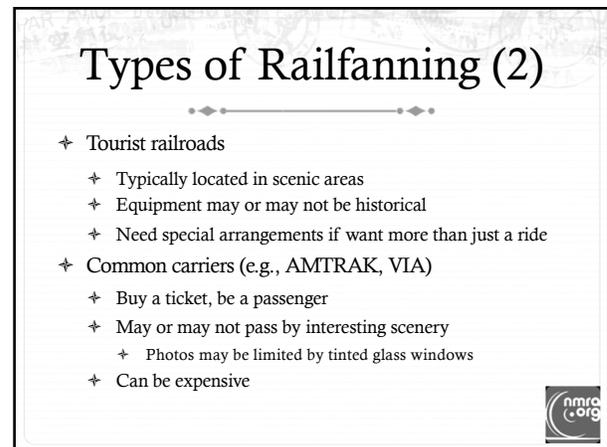
# Safety Considerations

- ✦ Don't trespass
  - ✦ All railroad rights-of-way are private property
    - ✦ Get permission first (preferably in writing)
    - ✦ Or be part of an organized & sponsored tour
  - ✦ Post 9/11 security worries
- ✦ Walking or standing on tracks is always dangerous
- ✦ Pay attention to all signage and other warnings
- ✦ If a passenger
  - ✦ Always follow crew directions

# Types of Railfanning (1)

- ✦ Excursions designed for railfans
  - ✦ Usually the best experiences (IMO)
  - ✦ Usually associated with tourist RRs
  - ✦ Often include special photo opportunities, cab rides, etc.
  - ✦ May be costly
- ✦ Physical plant tours
  - ✦ Rail yards, shops, or trackside industries
  - ✦ Often available at NMRA conventions (for extra fare)
  - ✦ May or may not allow photography

# Types of Railfanning (2)

- ✦ Tourist railroads
  - ✦ Typically located in scenic areas
  - ✦ Equipment may or may not be historical
  - ✦ Need special arrangements if want more than just a ride
- ✦ Common carriers (e.g., AMTRAK, VIA)
  - ✦ Buy a ticket, be a passenger
  - ✦ May or may not pass by interesting scenery
    - ✦ Photos may be limited by tinted glass windows
  - ✦ Can be expensive



## Types of Railfanning (3)

- ✦ Trackside observation
  - ✦ Usually best if at an interesting location or “hot spot”
    - ✦ e.g., Horseshoe Curve, Tehachapi Loop
    - ✦ Some hot spots have live cameras on the web
  - ✦ Typically least expensive
  - ✦ Be careful not to trespass
    - ✦ May be able to get permission first



## Research

- ✦ [www.TrainWeb.com](http://www.TrainWeb.com)
  - ✦ Links to just about everything involving RRs
  - ✦ <http://railfans.com/>
- ✦ <https://www.railserv.com/>
  - ✦ Guide to 19K railroad associated web sites
- ✦ <http://railfanlocations.weebly.com/>
- ✦ <http://railfan.com/>
  - ✦ *Railfan & Railroad Magazine* (White River Productions)
- ✦ <http://potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/Information/Railfan.html>
  - ✦ Page from last October’s MER convention with local sites of interest

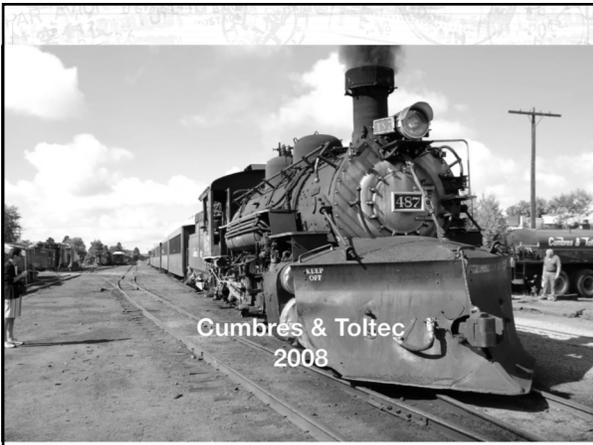


### Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR

2008  
Tourist Trip

## Cumbres & Toltec

- ✦ Built 1881 as D&RGW 3-ft gauge San Juan extension (Alamosa to Durango) to support mining operations
- ✦ Operated as tourist RR jointly by CO and NM since 1970
  - ✦ Runs between Antonito, CO, and Chama, NM (64 mi.)
  - ✦ Usually 2 trains daily, 1 in each direction, May - Oct
  - ✦ Trains meet at Osier (~midway) for lunch stop
  - ✦ Passengers either switch trains (round-trip) or continue through
  - ✦ Through passengers bussed between Chama & Antonito, or vice versa
- ✦ Motive power: former D&RGW 2-8-2 outside frame Baldwins from early 1900s



Slide Show



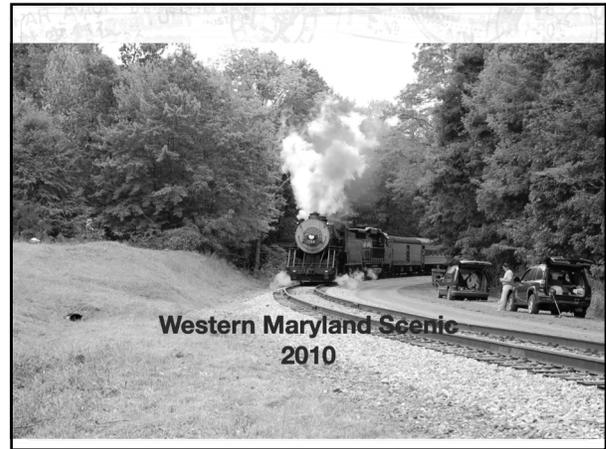
### Western Maryland Scenic RR

2010  
“Photo Freight” Railfan Excursion

## Western Maryland Scenic

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- ✦ Runs from Cumberland to Frostburg, MD, on former Western Maryland and some Cumberland & Pennsylvania track
- ✦ Operating turntable at Frostburg
- ✦ Former steam power was ex-Lake Superior & Ishpeming #34, a 1916 Baldwin-built 2-8-0 Consolidation, repainted as WM #734
  - ✦ Also has two ex-Conrail GP-30s, and has been restoring ex-C&O #1309, a 2-6-6-2 Mallet
- ✦ Rails-to-trails bike path built along side of track about 10 yrs. ago, reducing opportunities for historic realism in photos
- ✦ Current management focusing on tourist trips, not railfan specials

Slide Show

## Tehachapi Loop

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2015  
Trackside Observation

## Tehachapi Loop

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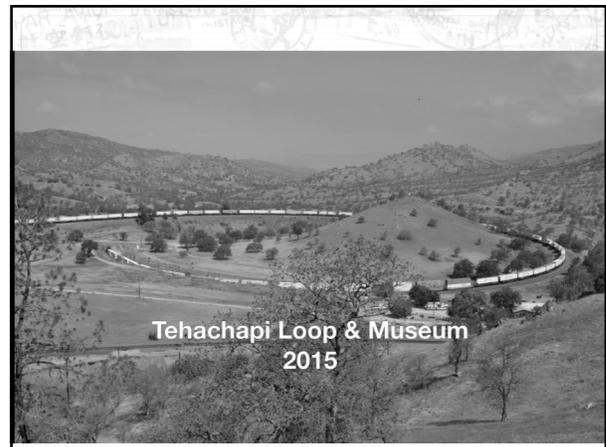
- ✦ Completed in 1876 by Southern Pacific RR
  - ✦ Considered a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century engineering marvel
  - ✦ Connects CA's Central Valley with Mojave Desert Plateau
  - ✦ Built to avoid direct route through Transverse Ranges (too steep) at Freemont/Newhall Pass
    - ✦ Had to go up to plateau, then down through Antelope Valley, and then through 6,000-ft. tunnel under Freemont/Newhall Pass
- ✦ Currently owned by UP with BNSF trackage rights
- ✦ When heading on upgrade (@ ~2%)
  - ✦ Track first passes through the loop tunnel (#9)
  - ✦ Wraps around the central hillock in ~290 deg. turn
  - ✦ Passes over the loop tunnel at roughly 70 deg. angle
  - ✦ Follows an additional nearly 120 deg. left turn, then
  - ✦ ~90 degree right turn into tunnel #10



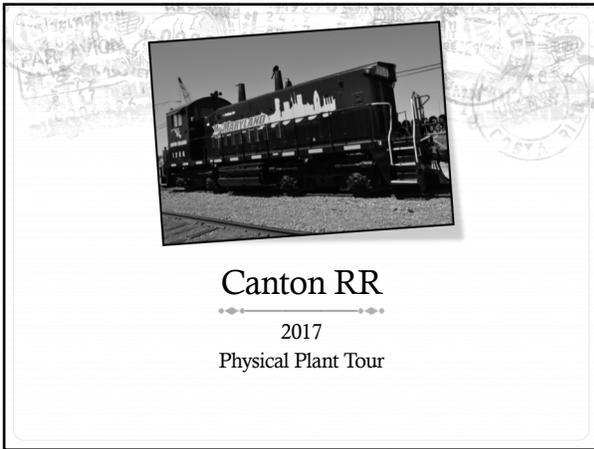
## Tehachapi Depot Museum

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- ✦ Located in reconstructed Tehachapi depot
  - ✦ Downtown Tehachapi is 8 mi. up pass from The Loop
  - ✦ Original depot burned down in 2008
  - ✦ Became museum after 2009 rebuild
  - ✦ Free admission
  - ✦ Many RR artifacts on display
  - ✦ 1930s era RR agent's desk
  - ✦ Scale model and photos of loop

Slide Show



## Canton RR

2017  
Physical Plant Tour

## Canton RR

- ✦ Formed in 1905 by Canton Co. (marine terminal)
- ✦ Class III terminal and switching railroad
  - ✦ RR access to Seagirt Terminal, Port of Baltimore
  - ✦ 6 mi. of mainline
  - ✦ 17 mi. of secondary track (yard tracks and industrial spurs)
  - ✦ Interchanges with CSX and NS
- ✦ Currently owned by MD Transportation Authority
  - ✦ Operated as for-profit entity



## Canton RR Loco Roster

Locomotive number	Model	Type
CTN 32	VO-1000	Switcher
CTN 46	EMD SW900	Switcher
CTN 50	EMD SW9	Switcher
CTN 51	EMD SW9	Switcher
CTN 1201	EMD SW1200	Switcher
CTN 1203	EMD SW1200	Switcher
CTN 1204	EMD SW1200RS	Switcher
CTN 1307	EMD GP7U	Four-axle roadswitcher
CTN 1364	EMD GP7U	Four-axle roadswitcher
CTN 1501	EMD SW1500	Switcher
CTN 1502	EMD SW1500	Switcher




Slide Show

## Summary

- ✦ Special railfan excursions may provide best photo ops, but are usually expensive.
- ✦ Tourist RRs can be fun to ride, but mostly provide scenic views.
- ✦ Trackside viewing good for seeing current motive power and rolling stock, but often lots of down time.
- ✦ Facility tours can be educational, but photography may be limited by policy.



## Questions?

