West Coast Railroaders Group

Track Car Check List

Whether this is your first excursion, or your first excursion of the season, you can do your part to ensure that breakdowns are kept to a minimum.

Some track car breakdowns, even in well maintained cars, are just a part of operating vintage and antique equipment.

However, many track car breakdowns are of a nature that is foreseeable and easily avoidable by proactive inspection and maintenance. Such breakdowns are not only disappointing for the operator of the disabled track car, but also disruptive to other operators who are diligent with regards to inspecting and maintaining their own track cars. In the worst case scenario, breakdowns lead to delays of our host railroad's operations.

Below is a checklist that should be reviewed in the days or weeks preceding your next excursion and corrections made when deficiencies are discovered. While it is mainly intended to assist new operators, seasoned operators may also find some helpful reminders within it.

Please note: This list is not a replacement for the WCRG Track Car Inspection Form. Nor is it intended to be all encompassing. The responsibility for identifying and correcting all deficient items which may affect the reliable and safe operation of a track car rests solely with its owner/operator. Do NOT turn into WCRG.

- ☐ **Battery:** Connections clean and tight. Battery charged. Battery cut-off switch functioning.
- ☐ **Battery Mfg Date:** Mth./Yr.____/____ If battery is over 2 years old, replacement is strongly recommended.
- ☐ **Lubrication:** Grease axle bearings and all other grease fittings. Engine oil level (needs changing?) Transmission oil level (needs changing?)
- ☐ **Filters:** Oil filter, air filter, fuel filter, fuel bowl/strainer (if equipped.) Inspect and replace as needed.
- ☐ **Fuel:** Fuel tank free of sediment/corrosion, filled with fresh fuel. Fuel shut-off functioning.
- ☐ **Carburetor:** Properly adjusted for the anticipated altitude of the excursion. Starts/idles/accelerates/runs smoothly.
- ☐ **Electrical System:** All wiring clean, connections tight, insulation in tact. All lights, accessories have power. Cause of blown fuse(s) determined/corrected, and fuse(s) replaced.
- ☐ **Ignition:** Points inspected, clean, properly adjusted. Buzz coil functioning and properly adjusted. Spark plug(s) properly adjusted, not fouled, with appropriately clean/hot spark.
- ☐ **Engine Drive Belts:** Alternator and/or drive belts in serviceable condition and properly adjusted.
- ☐ **Engine:** There are many types of engines. Is your engine in good-excellent operating condition. If not, what corrections are necessary?
- ☐ **Condenser / Radiator:** Radiator / condenser cap in good conditions, Overflow/vent hose installed, appropriate fluid level.
- ☐ **Exhaust:** USDA and/or USFS spark arrestor installed.
- ☐ **Axles:** Wheel hubs tight to prevent spinning on axle. Axle nuts tight and cotter-pin installed. Axle pulley/axle sprocket tight on axle, key/keyway not worn/loose, bolts tight. Axle collars properly adjusted, bolts tight, set-bolt tight and safety wire installed.
- ☐ **Drive Chains:** Check sprockets (engine & axle) for excessive wear and chain for excessive wear/stretching. Lubricate chain/sprocket.
- ☐ **Belt Drive for Two Cycle Cars:** Drive belt in good condition, properly adjusted, running true on pulleys.
- ☐ **Clutch:** Properly adjusted, no slippage.
- ☐ **Brakes:** Brake rigging properly adjusted, cotter pins in place. Brake lever in first notch prevents movement.
- ☐ **Turntable:** Properly functioning lock (when in raised position), properly extends and retracts as intended. Table/foot is securely attached with sufficient clearance from top of rail head. Alarm functions when not in raised/locked position.
- ☐ **Shunts:** Installed and operable. Nylon screw and washer carried in tool box in case instructed to cut-out shunts.
- ☐ **Radio:** Working mobile radio with required channels.
- ☐ **Spare Parts:** Buzz coil, ignition parts, spark plugs (properly adjusted for quick replacement), fuel filter, fuel bowl, coolant water, oil.
- ☐ **Tools:** Do you have the tools necessary for any minor repairs that you may encounter on an excursion?
- ☐ **Turntable:** Do Audible Alarm, Visual Alarm, and Ignition Interlock function properly? Compliance with Rule 423?
- ☐ **Other Items:** Reflective safety vest, fire extinguisher, snake bite kit, first aid kit, tools, safety toe boots.
- ☐ **Trailer:** Winch functioning, winch battery fully charged (fresh battery in remote control?)
- ☐ **Paperwork to Turn In:** Signed & dated General Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, and payment for excursion fee (stapled)
- ☐ **Paperwork in Track Car:** Rulebook, excursion itinerary, WCRG Track Car Inspection Form (completed & signed.)
- ☐ **Set-on/Set-off:** Are your equipment (trailer, track car, winch, tie-downs, etc.) and procedures designed to permit efficient (and SAFE) set-on and set-off?

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