

Trains Etc. – A Local Train Shop

By Mike Frieders

A visit to the local train shop is a favorite activity of almost all model railroaders. Twila and I are fortunate to be passing by our local train shop, Trains Etc., Inc., several times each day on our way to and from work. Trains Etc. is located on the Fairfax County Parkway just east of I95 south of Springfield. The owners, Burrell and Susan Spindel, give new credence to the old saying that you meet the nicest people in G scale! Burrell got his start in retail 12 years ago as an antique furniture dealer at the Thieves Market in Alexandria. A local dealer sold Marklin trains, inspiring Burrell to use a Marklin train set in one of his furniture displays. When the train dealer went out of business, Burrell purchased his remaining train stock, and as they say, the rest is history. Trains Etc. has been in business for more than 8 years.



Trains Etc. occupies 4,200 square feet on two levels, more than enough room to carry MTH, Lionel, LGB, Marklin, Aristo-Craft, Hornby, and Athearn trains as well as model kits, radio control, and more. The entire second floor is dedicated to large scale. You'll find LGB, Marklin Gauge 1, Marklin Maxi, Lehmann, and Piko among the manufacturers represented upstairs. The second floor also features a new counter height large scale layout to display and test-run all G-gauge engines and rolling stock. Susan's own favorite LGB trains can be found running on the layout on most days. A recent visit found a large selection of Marklin Maxi, LGB, and LGB track in many sizes. Trains Etc. is in the process of becoming an LGB Authorized Train Stop.

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The first floor features a large scenic-ed HO and O scale layout, and an extensive inventory of Marklin HO, Lionel O, and MTH O and Standard Gauge trains.



Trains Etc is located at 8245A Backlick Road. They can be reached at (703)550-1779 or by email at trainsetc@trainsetc.com. You can visit the store from 11 to 7 Monday through Friday, 11 to 6 on Saturdays, and 12 to 5 on Sundays. You can also visit their web site at www.trainsetc.com. They offer a repair service, and shipment anywhere in the world. Trains Etc. accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Over the years we have found Trains Etc. to be very competitive on price, but if you stop by and mention this article you'll receive an additional 10% discount on your purchase.