



# Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA began



OUR AIM: TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, INSPIRE PARTICIPATION & CONNECT WITH MEMBERS

## Spring 2017

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### President's Message

I would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all members of the Atlantic Division and the TCA. The holidays are the wonderful time of year where our highest priority is spending time with our family and friends. This year was no exception.

However, on December 26, it was time to get back to business, as our division had a new venue for our first train show of 2017 at Penns Landing, on the waterfront in Philadelphia, on January 8. In the final few days leading up to the show, every available table had been sold. Unfortunately, for the first time in many years, Mother Nature decided to dump 6-8" of snow on the region the day before the show. Although the snow was responsible for a lower number of attendees than we expected, everyone that did come had glowing compliments for the location. The food, provided by Penns Landing Caterers, was outstanding. I'm looking forward to the next show, just for the Clam Chowder! See coverage of the show on page 5.

Some of you may have missed the first show of the year, but we have four more shows in 2017. A fifth show was added on Saturday, May 13. This Saturday show has been requested by many members. Ironically, this was the first show we booked at the new hall before we found out that Plumbers Hall was not longer available. As a reminder to AD members, don't forget to use your free pass, located on the back of your AD membership card, at any one of our shows.

Also in May, we will hold our annual AD Membership Luncheon and Meeting. Join us for some good food and find out what the Board of Directors is planning. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions directly to the Board. The luncheon will be held at Pepper's Restaurant, in King of Prussia. A "Save the Date" reminder is included in this mailing. A reservation form, with meal choices, will be mailed to you in March.

Another annual event is the AD Board of Directors (**BoD**) Election. Each year, half of the BoD positions will be up for election. For 2017, those positions are: President, Vice President and four (4) Directors. There are two incumbent Directors that have met their term limit and cannot run for another term. We must find candidates to run for the vacant positions. The BoD meets six (6) times per

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year. In addition, BoD members chair or serve on committees to complete activities that are necessary to keep the Division functioning. We welcome new members to the Board to get fresh ideas and new perspectives to keep the Atlantic Division strong and active. This is your Division and the best way to have your voice heard, is to run for office. Please consider running for a position on the Board.

For several years, the AD has been looking for a member to take over responsibility for the Traveling Layout. You don't need to be a BoD member for this position. The layout is taken to special events, primarily within our division boundaries, as well as to the AD Train Shows. We recently returned from Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show where there was always a crowd of children and parents around the layout. Many showed an interest in TCA and the National Toy Train Museum. The traveling layout is interactive, and it is always a big hit with children and parents alike.

A new modular travel layout is under construction, which is much lighter to move in and out of the display venues. The layout will be delivered, picked up and stored by others, unless you have a vehicle that can transport the layout. Help us show others about the TCA and the wonders of train collecting/operating through the operation of our layout. Please contact me, if you are interested.

For the past year, the BoD has been working on plans to issue new fundraising cars. We are optimistic that at least one 'O' gauge car will be announced shortly. A second car, in 'S' gauge, is also being planned. The lead time on the second car is a bit longer, as it will be made in China rather than the USA. We will keep you advised of the progress of both of these projects.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> National TCA Convention will be hosted by the Fort Pitt Division this year. Their convention committee has been hard at work on this convention for the past several years, (we know the effort needed for a successful convention!). They have some terrific tours and events planned. It promises to be a great convention for all. I will be going to Pittsburgh in June and would love to see the Atlantic Division well represented. You can get more information in the Headquarters News or from the convention website ([www.TCAConvention.org](http://www.TCAConvention.org)).

The Atlantic Division website, ([www.ADTCA.com](http://www.ADTCA.com)) is up and running again. In October, the website crashed after a software update had been applied. Without going into the boring techno-details, we moved the website to a new hosting company and the site has been completely rebuilt from scratch. The site was alive again in early November. In addition to getting most of the content, (the pages that you see in your web browser), back online, the new site has been optimized so the content displays correctly on whatever type of device you are using, including personal computers, laptops, mobile phones, tablets and smart televisions. This features makes the site much more user friendly regardless of the device used.

Unfortunately, a website is like a toy train layout, IT'S NEVER DONE and it needs regular maintenance. Our goal is to continue to improve the content available to our members and keep the site current with division activities. The website is the face of the Atlantic Division that the public can see, so we want it be as inviting and complete as possible. Note: on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Toy Train Show sign was placed on the fence in front of the hall on Columbus Blvd. Our website address is quite prominent on the sign. Between Dec. 22 and Jan 7, more than 1200 unique visitors had visited the AD website. Another 200+ visited on the morning of show, Jan. 8.. If you have any ideas for additional types of content, have any problems using the site or find any errors, please send an email to: [Webmaster@ADTCA.COM](mailto:Webmaster@ADTCA.COM).

Anyone interested in any of the above activities or would like to help at our train shows (i.e., setting up and running the layout, security, etc.) please contact any member of the BoD.

Finally, don't forget the National TCA Annual Appeal. The organization is there for your benefit. Your contributions to the Annual Appeal will help keep the TCA running for the next generation of train collectors and operators.

Thank you, Russ Keil, Atlantic Division President

Division News - November 20th Train Show

The lobby and hall areas at Plumbers Union Hall at the last show in Northeast, Philadelphia.



Joe Petrick Jr. (center), incoming Meet Registration Chair, showing the table configurations for the January 8th show at the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall and taking reservations.

Base variations for the Lionel 154 Road Crossing Highway Flasher.

Show Report – Greenberg’s Great Train and Toy Show, Jan. 14-15, 2017



Children in strollers, in their parent’s arms, and holding the hands of their grandparents and parents continuously played with the Division’s small traveling layout over the two days of the show. There rarely was a quiet moment. Of all the ‘action buttons’ available, the horn and whistle won the day, seconded by the ‘clank’ sound of the Crossing gate.

The ‘Super Streets’ track was always in a race between the VW car and the school bus. As each button was pushed and the beacon, flag, gateman, train board or sign-board began its action, there was an “I see it” and then on to the next button. All immediately recognized the Thomas-the-Tank locomotives that ran almost all the time and knew their names.

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Some families knew of our Museum but for many others this was a surprise and eagerly took the NTTM brochure with a 'we'll plan on visiting this summer'. Questions were asked and answered about renewing lapsed membership, how to join the TCA, when/where is another train show.

Thanks to the Layout staffing members for continuing to make this event happen; Jim Boylan, Paul Fenn, John Halajko, Roger Holcombe, Bob Huppman, Bob Lubonski, Dean Quest, Mike Ramsey, Bob Wittendorf.

### New Traveling Layout - An Update



The new Traveling Layout is four sections, each 3 ft. X 6 ft. The accessories (circus and Super Streets) are on separate pads for transport. There are two O gauge and one S gauge loops as well as a 12' ft. O bumper track for trolleys. Wiring is underway.

### Member Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a member that is willing to set up and manage a **Facebook** presence for the Atlantic Division. Other Social media outlets are a possibility further on down the tracks. This social media presence will serve to supplement our online activities and our website will continue to remain the focal point. Facebook can be the vehicle that will steer new visitors to our website.

If we are going to attract new members for both the TCA and the Atlantic Division, social media must be part of our strategy. The younger generations, especially the millennials that grew up with the Internet, use social media for messaging, sharing photos, video and music with their friends and family as well as performing numerous other web activities. If we are going to try to reach these folks, as well as the Gen X & Y groups, we must be accessible on the site they frequent several times a day, Facebook.

There are more than 900 million Facebook users worldwide, a number that is constantly growing. In addition, there are more than 22,000 non-profit organizations that maintain a footprint on Facebook (and other social media outlets).

Facebook can be the vehicle we use to reach a much larger audience with information about the TCA, the Division, our train shows and our other activities. You have all heard the tagline, "like us on Facebook", right? Well, if someone "likes" anyone or any organization on Facebook, the "likee" knows the identity of the "liker" and is able to communicate with them, in an effort direct them to our website and hopefully stimulate enough interest to attend one of our shows and maybe, even become a member of the TCA. There is no downside to exploring this option.

Please contact Russ Keil if you would like to consider helping the AD with this project.  
Email: [RussK@ADTCA.com](mailto:RussK@ADTCA.com)

## Show Schedule: Spring, 2017

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHOW</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Jan. 22, 2017	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk's Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ
Feb. 4-5, 2017	Scale Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD
Feb. 5, 2017	Tom's River Train Show	Elks Lodge 1875, 600 Washington St., Tom River, NJ
Feb. 25-26, 2017	Spring Thaw (ATMA)	Allentown Fairgrounds, 17th & Chew Sts., Allentown,
<b>Mar. 5, 2017</b>	<b>At. Div. – TCA</b>	<b>Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Phila. PA</b>
Mar. 11-12, 2017	Greenberg's	Chase Center, 815 Justison St., Wilmington, DE
Mar. 18, 2017	Keystone Div. – TCA	St. Philip's Parish Hall, Rts. 741 & 999, Millersville, PA
Mar. 18-19, 2017	Greenberg's	Garden State Expo Center, Edison, NJ
Mar. 19, 2017	Gilbertsville	Gilbertsville Fire House, Rt. 73, Gilbertsville, PA
Mar. 26, 2017	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk's Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ
Apr. 8-9, 2017	Scale Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD
Apr. 9, 2017	Wayne Train Show	Wayne PAL Hall, 1 PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470
Apr. 27-29, 2017	Eastern Div. - TCA	York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA 17403
May 6, 2017	Lehigh Valley Show	Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th St., Allentown, PA
<b>May 13, 2017</b>	<b>At. Div. – TCA</b>	<b>Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Phila. PA</b>
May. 21, 2017	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk's Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick,
Jun. 6, 2017	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA
Jun. 26-27, 2017	Scale Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD

### First Train Show at the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall



Show Report – AD Train Show, Jan. 8, 2017 – Bob Wittendorf (05-58473)

It was a sunny, cold and windy day for the first Atlantic Division Train Show at the new location, the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall on Columbus Blvd. in Philadelphia. Fortunately it quit snowing early the evening before. For me, coming from Limerick, PA, the travel time was almost the same, about 60 minutes. The directions included in the flyer were precise, “take I-95 south to exit 20, go 2 blocks then left and U-Turn at Reed Street and go north to lot on right”. There was plenty of parking inside the fenced area and an easy walk to the entrance. Both the North and South entrances were wheelchair and cart-dolly accessible.



Bob Lubonski, Meet Chair (center) Joe Petrick Jr., Show Registrar (right),

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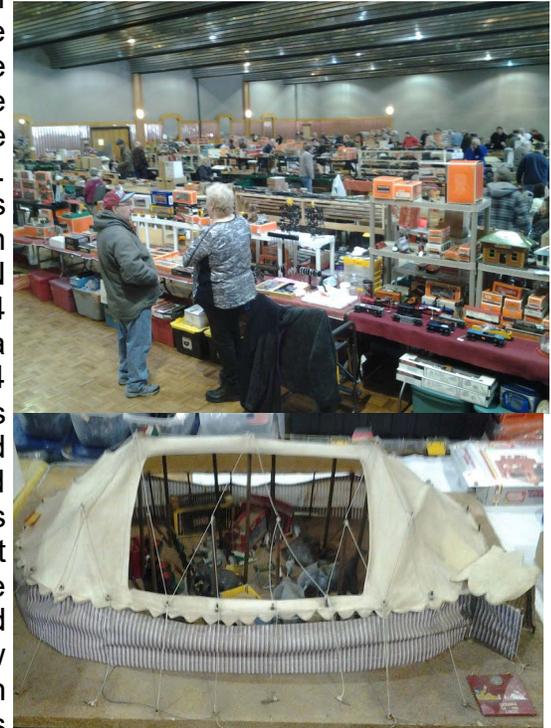
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Registration, food service and operating layouts were in the Lobby with ample room to check-in, pick-up handouts, get a cup of coffee and have a sit-down Breakfast or Brunch before entering the Hall or even Lunch afterward; the food was excellent and at a very reasonable price.

There was space for operating layouts with ample 'walk-around room' to see and operate the accessories. Today, Paul Fenn, Division Director, displayed his Christmas theme layout and Mike Ramsey, Division Treasurer, set up his fun-fill S gauge layout (Toy Trains in Motion). Each one was loaded with buttons to activate the accessories on the layouts – and they were well used by kids of all ages.

The hall is huge with wide isles for easy strolling and ample space to stop and shop without blocking someone trying to pass. All of the tables were booked in advance and only a few table holders were affected by the snow. One of the vendors brought and then sold a ready-to-run N gauge layout (3 X 4 ft.). Also seen was a hand-made, 1/64 scale canvas circus tent with animals and wagons. It seemed that all the vendors there were those that I remember from the Plumbers Hall and maybe some new ones too. With residential neighbors nearby, families and new or returning hobbyists came by for the first time.



Since this Show is the first one at a new location, the Meet Committee will review how things went. For the first show in a new location and despite the weather it went pretty well. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the next Show on March 5th. We will see you there.

### Help Wanted/Classified Advertising—Division Members

If you would like to run a free classified ad (Wanted or For Sale) in the next Atlantic Division Express, please send your information and/or camera ready ad copy by April 10, 2017 to Bob Wittendorf at [rwitten14@gmail.com](mailto:rwitten14@gmail.com) or call (484) 478-2470.

### Newsletter Contacts

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