



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA began



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

Spring 2018

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ADTCA.com



Promoting TCA at Greenberg's Great Train and Toy Show, Jan. 13 & 14, 2018, Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA (more on page 4)

President's Letter

Despite the frigid temperatures, the Atlantic Division kicked off the New Year with a great turnout at our show on January 7th. The Boy Scouts were our guests at this show working on their Railroading Merit Badges. See the additional information on the Boy Scouts in this issue.

Some of you may have missed the first show of the year, but we still have four more shows in 2018, including a Saturday show on May 19th. 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.

On January 13th & 14th, we took the traveling layout to the Greenberg Show at Oaks, PA, representing the TCA. Both days were extremely busy as the children and families love playing with our interactive and colorful layout. The days were long but the reward was in the watching the kids (young and old) interacting with this action-filled layout. In addition to the layout, we distributed literature about the National Toy Train Museum and TCA membership applications. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this event a success.

The traveling layout is one way the Atlantic Division demonstrates to non-TCA members what our organization is all about. However, we need help from our division members with the layout, from setup, running trains and monitoring operations, to tear down and packing the truck. Any amount of time you can spend would be greatly appreciated. We have requests to take the layout to new locations, but cannot fulfill these requests without additional volunteers. Please contact me or any board member for more information.

I have heard from a number of members that would like to become more involved in division activities. Now would be a great time to turn words into actions. One way is helping out at our train shows, (door security, selling raffle tickets, layout help, etc.). If you have good computer skills we can use your help with the website and/or preparing printed documents for our regular mailings. I am certain that we can utilize your skills to help the division but not take too much of your time. Feel free to contact me to discuss how you can help your division.

And, plan on attending our Member Luncheon on Sunday, June 3rd. See preliminary information in this issue and look for a 'Save the Date' and Registration form coming in the mail.

The 64th National TCA Convention will be hosted by the New England Division (NETCA) this year. Their convention committee has been hard at work on this convention for the past several years. They have some terrific tours and events planned for us. It promises to be a great convention for all. It will be held in Warwick, Rhode Island June 23rd to July 1st. You can get more information in the Headquarters News or the convention website (www.TCAConvention.org).

Finally, don't forget the TCA National Annual Appeal. The organization is here 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, (609) 320-3957, Russk@ADTCA.com

Division Activities

Train Shows at Penns Landing Caterers, November 19th, 2017 and January 7th, 2018



Vendors and visitors to the November 19th show once again overcame partially closed streets – as happened at the September show—because the Philadelphia Full-Marathon race was in progress. (note: the 2018 November show date is the 4th). Nevertheless, the attendance was great and the pre-holiday selection was abundant. The children and parents were fascinated with our new layout and the 17 action push –buttons.

In addition, Matthew Tanaka displayed his N scale layout which he calls 'Showa Line Japanese N Scale' depicting an urban to mountain landscape with a Godzilla statue on a 3 ft. X 7 ft. base. Taking almost two years to complete,

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the layout has three independent loops passing through a variety of terrains built from a combination of carved *Styrofoam* and covered with plaster cloth, then landscaped with a variety of commercially available materials.



In the trading hall, AD member Rich Zipin showed the results of months of experimentation to find the right materials to reproduce flags & flag posts for certain pre-war Standard Gauge locomotives for his personal need. After success in the finding just the right materials and reproduction process he is offering these replicas to fill the needs of others.

Contact Rich for more information at 215-676-3458, if interested.

At the January 7th train show, 20 Scouts and Scouters from Troops 32, 44, 112, 155 and 179, of the BSA Cradle of Liberty Council participated in this event to learn about trains and Railroading while earning this educational Railroading Merit Badge. In addition to learning rail safety and how locomotives are powered, they were introduced to the satisfying hobbies of modeling, model railroading and collecting and operating toy trains.



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The Greenberg Show on January 13th to 14th at the Philadelphia Expo Center provided an opportunity to show our hobby to others who might not know about the TCA as an organization, our Museum, Kids and Teens Clubs and the fun of collecting and running trains.



Layout Team: Bob Lubonski (provided layout transportation), Ron DeWitt, Joe Petrick, Paul Hutchinson, Paul Fenn, Bob Huppman, Mike Ramsey, Tom Wagner, Russ Keil

Coming Events / Activities

Division Train Shows, Sunday, March 4th and **Saturday, May 19th**, 8 am - 12:30 PM, at Penns Landing Caterers, (Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall) 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia

All Member Luncheon, Sunday, June 3, 2018, 1 -4 PM



The annual Member Luncheon will be held at Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Rd., in Bristol, PA. There are four entrée choices and a salad, dessert and coffee or tea.

The Member and guest cost is only \$15 per person .A 'Save the Date' notice will be mailed to each member in Feb. The reservation form for this event will be mailed in April, with menu choices listed. A brief meeting of division activities will be held after dessert.



64th National TCA Convention

Warwick, Rhode Island

June 23 To July 1, 2018

Hosted By The New England Division,

Details on Amtrak transportation is available on the convention web site, www.tcaconvention.org.

Member/Community Connection

Editor's Note: *With this issue, I begin a new project that, I hope, will further the effort to promote the model trains hobby as a stimulating (diversity and historical) and educational (construction, electrical, electronic) activity for the this generation and ones to come. And I need your help to progress this. Send me a story about your neighborhood /favorite train store.*

We all know about the advantages of buying electronically but our children/ grandchildren miss the thrill and visual input of seeing and maybe touching model trains. So, here is the first in a series by a Division member of his favorite train store. If you are nearby, stop in with the kids (old and young). And importantly, attend our train meets and others too. Bob Wittendorf



A Trip to My Favorite Train Store:

John Halajko (84-20653)

It used to be that you could spend a whole day in the Central Jersey area visiting five train stores: Nicholas Smith, Great Traditions, Loco Louie's Shop, Joe's Trains and Trains and Things starting after rush hour traffic and ending by closing a store at 9:00 PM. Alas there are only three stores left and the traffic is terrible due to the construction of the I-95 bridge. Fortunately, for those of us living close to Ewing, NJ, Trains and Things is doing well with lots of collections on display.

The owner, Tony Chiarello, believes in the old school marketing technique of Ceiling to Floor Product Display. Think of his store as the three rail catalogs on display in three dimensions.



So if you wish to spend some time at an exciting train store, visit Trains and Things located at 236 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ. It is a feast for the eyes. They now have a larger store in the same strip mall that they were in for over twenty years. Suggest calling 609-883-8790 for current store hours. You can grab lunch or dinner at the sub shop next door.



Using Styrofoam for your railroad - N Scale under construction (BNSF Hi-Line Division)

By Bill Erskine (86-24379)

There are some interesting developments since our initial report about Dan Pantaleo's developing N scale BNSF's Hi Line Division set in northwestern Montana. He wired the switches to the switch controllers in place, and put up some fascia board for some of the layout,



As the layout develops, Dan is starting some experimentation with scenery in N scale. While experienced in building scenery for his previous O gauge layout he is learning to judge the use of materials and their application for N scale. Some initial passes at adding scenic elements are shown in the foreground and far

background.



Working in N scale for the first time, judging scale and application of materials is an interesting and challenging aspect of building this layout. Here two N scale covered haulers are shown as they will exit and enter the wool chip lot at Plum Creek Lumber. The evergreen trees are HUGE.

The BNSF main line crosses the Flathead River shown here with hand-made piers. Once the river base, paint and coating are added, the piers will fit right in. The Rocks are part of the developing McDonald Falls on the Flathead River. Note the single spruce tree in the distance that will be on a promontory extending into the river. To the right of the right of way at that point will be a steep-sloped tall mountain with talus slopes.

Dan is working from photos he has taken over several trips to the area. Questions can be sent to Dan at '726berk@comcast.com.



Winter to Spring Train Show Schedule: March to July 2018

| DATE | SHOW | LOCATION |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar. 4, 2018 | Atlantic Division – TCA | Penns Landing Caterers (Sheet Metal Workers' Union Hall), 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila., PA |
| Mar. 10-11, 2018 | Worlds Greatest Hobby (WGH) on Tour | Garden State Expo Center, Edison, NJ |
| Mar. 25, 2018 | Wayne Train Show | Wayne PAL Hall, 1 PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470 |
| Apr. 8-9, 2018 | Great Scale Model Train Show | MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD |
| Apr. 8, 2018 | Montvale Train Show | St. Joseph HS, 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Montvale, NJ |
| Apr. 19-21, 2018 | York TCA | York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA |
| May 12, 2018 | Lehigh Valley Show | Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th St., Allentown, PA |
| May 19, 2018 | Atlantic Division – TCA | Penns Landing Caterers (Sheet Metal Workers' Union Hall), 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila., PA |
| Jun. 3, 2018 | Hamburg | Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA |
| Jun. 9-10, 2018 | Great Scale Model Train Show | MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD |
| Jun. 23-Jul. 1, 2018 | TCA National Convention | Crowne Plaza Warwick, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI 02886 |

Feature Article

2nd In The Legacy Train Store Series. S&H Hardware, 6700 Castor Ave Philadelphia 19149. By Mike Hudek, (90-32044)

The original S&H Hardware (stands for Samuel & Harold) opened its doors in 1951 and is still listed as a Lionel Dealer. Over three generations the merchandise changed to serve the needs of the community. On a recent visit, the only trains present for sale were a few Lionel boxed starter sets and some accessories.



Growing up in the Mayfair section of Philly, S&H was a popular place to buy trains. I remember my father taking my brother and I there in the mid 60's and giving us \$2.00 each to buy trains. We both came home with an American Flyer 21158 blue Switcher Engine.

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They were the fastest engines we had and spent a lot of time running them, mostly off the track. In the early 90's my son would bring them to the *Members Only Meet* at the Westover Country Club in Jeffersonville, PA and win the drag races that were routinely held. The engines are now retired as the plastic wheels are falling apart.

My next experience with S&H was in the late 80's when I got back into trains. S&H had a thriving repair business and it was where I took all of my engines for repair/service. At that time, S&H had many trains - all of the new issues from Lionel and American Flyer. They had some vintage

trains but, mostly new trains. I purchased my son's first set at S&H, a Southern GP9 freight set; it still runs great.

Through the mid 90's, I was a regular visitor to S&H. As I made train friends around the country, they would ask me to look for specific trains and many times, I would find them at S&H. The train guy at S&H, Harold, loved cash and would cut some great deals. I bought many trains from Harold and shipped them to all parts of the country.

I changed jobs in the late 90's and was not able to get to S&H. I did stop by on occasion when I was visiting my Mom but, until my recent visit, about 10 years had passed. It was sad to see the sparse selection and I could not get anyone who knew the train related stock or could answer questions. Afterwards I looked on their website and they still list trains for sale but the link to TRAINS was 'Not Available'; the links to mailboxes and plumbing supplies worked. I called the store and they said they still do repairs. Maybe not all is lost. If you are in the neighborhood, stop in and see what remains on the shelves.

Your Layout Photos



Bill Erskines' New Haven RR (mostly) three level O scale layout. This was on our 2014 TCA Convention tour.

If you have a scene on your layout that you would like included in a future issue of the "Express", please send the image to Glenn Stinson at jstinson@sprynet.com

Wanted or For Sale Advertising (next issue deadline—May 1, 2018)

Antique Train Repairs and Parts Specializing in Pre war and Post war Lionel trains, 0-27, 0 and Standard Gauge: **Andrew Zeugner, (99-49593) Repair Technician—Hours by appointment only—856-875-7910 1143 Stanton Ave Franklinville N.J. 08322**

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News/Layout Photos—Glenn Stinson, jstinson@sprynet.com:

News/Articles/Stories/Help—Bob Robinson, carolsfancy@gmail.com