



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA Began



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

Fall 2018

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President's Letter

As I write this, we are in the middle of re-tracking the Atlantic Division's traveling layout. It was just a year ago that we completed this layout and first displayed it at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. The re-tracking is just about complete and ready for display at the Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show at the Greater Philadelphia Convention Center in Oaks, PA on August 4th & 5th. This interactive layout has been a huge hit wherever it has been on display. The layout seems to have universal appeal for young and old alike.

The 64th National TCA Convention was held in Warwick, Rhode Island June 23–July 1. The Convention was well attended, including about 20 members and their guests from the Atlantic Division, and over 777 visitors in total. Of course, there were great tours, great food and numerous train layouts with most gauges represented. Most important to me however, was the time I had to spend with friends from around the country and to make some new friends. The Train Marketplace had some unique treasures for many of us collectors and operators. Special thanks go to my good friends Joe Fanara, Steve McCabe, Dennis Ingalls and their convention committee for a great convention.

The 65th National TCA Convention will be held in Albuquerque, NM. This will be hosted by the **Rio Grande Chapter** of the Desert Division. I am personally looking forward to going back to Albuquerque. This mile-high city has moderate temperatures, compared to Phoenix. If you have never visited Albuquerque, this is a great opportunity to attend the convention and see this beautiful part of our great country.

Elaine and Scott Eckstein of the Rio Grande Chapter, are the co-chairs for this convention, and have several interesting tours planned. The TCAConvention.org website will be updated shortly with information about the hotel (**Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town**) and all of the planned tours.

2019 Convention cars can be ordered until August 31, at a 5% discount. Visit <http://tcamembers.org/offers> to place your order. Don't miss the chance to purchase a **Glowing Mint Car** or other unique O, S and Standard gauge cars in available in this car suite.

I represented the Atlantic Division at the annual Board of Directors Meeting. This year there was continued good news for the TCA. With prudent investments and careful spending TCA is operating in the black for the third year in a row. Membership has stabilized and more than 250 previously dropped members have reinstated their membership during the past year.

The Heritage Membership, which was approved in 2016, now has 46

members. TCA members that have been continuous members for 20 years and are over the age of sixty can pay a one-time fee of \$1,000. The payment takes care of dues for ten years, and the remaining \$500 is a tax-deductible gift to the Heritage Fund. The best part is you never pay dues again.

With fall just around the corner, it is time to get ready for our Fall Train Show on September 23. I hope that Mother Nature will be kind to us again at Penn's Landing Caterers (Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall). The train show notice is included in this mailing. Contact Bob Lubonski or myself for more information or to register for tables.

The Meet Committee has finalized the show calendar 2019. The dates are January 6, March 3, September 22 and November 3. Calendar cards will be distributed with the September mailing.

Fall is also the time for our annual election of Board members. This year you will vote four (4) Directors along with the Secretary and Treasurer. Your participation in this election is important. Please take a few minutes to review the candidate's resumes, complete the ballot and drop it in the mail.

In addition to the candidates for office, the ballot contains a line for Atlantic Division Members to approve changes to the Bylaws. There are two (2) significant proposed changes to the Bylaws:

- 1) Change the terms of office for all Board members from the current calendar year to a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- 2) Reduce the number of members required to be present at the annual Members' luncheon from 30 to 15.

Please, make sure to **mark your ballot to approve the changes to our Bylaws.**

The principal reason for the change to the dates for terms of office is to make sure our current and future Board members may serve on National Committees. For the past several years, the Atlantic Division has had a very active role in the National organization and we would like to have this opportunity available to AD Officers or Board members in the future.

Appointment or election to many of the National committees (especially the Executive Committee) is limited to Directors or Officers that will hold their division office for the entire fiscal year. With our current terms of office based on a calendar year, an Atlantic Division representative could be prohibited from serving based on the end date of his/her elected term.

The reduction in the number of members present at the annual Members' Meeting (item 2 above), assures that we have a quorum at all meetings. The Atlantic Division membership has decreased over the past several years at about the same rate as the National organization. As the average age of our members increases, (currently it is 68 years old) it is more difficult for our members to travel to attend division functions. To qualify as an official meeting, we must have a quorum. Note: National holds its annual Members' Meeting at the convention and requires 75 members to be present.

If the Bylaws are approved, candidates elected during the 2018 election cycle will serve an additional six (6) months. Their term will be January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. Incumbents from the 2017 election will remain in office until June 30, 2020, instead of December 31, 2019.

Our fundraiser car program has done quite well for the division in the past few years. Bill Erskine has taken over the program and is working to secure approvals for our next car. As soon as we have an approved design we will notify our members immediately.

We have less than 25 American Flyer cars remaining. If you are interested in purchasing one (or more) of these cars, you can do so online at www.adtca.com/shop. You may also download an order form at www.adtca.com/download-forms, or call/email me at the number below.

Happy railroading!

Russ Keil, Atlantic Division President, (609) 320-3957, russ.keil@comcast.net

Division Activities

Train Show at Penns Landing Caterers, May 19, 2018

Holding this show on a Saturday, (Sundays are the regular day) seemed to be better attended by families. The selection of new and used trains and accessories in all scales was plentiful. The modular Travelling Layout was swamped with kids pushing all the buttons to make the crossing gates, cars, beacons, circus rides move continuously. Thanks to Paul Fenn, Mike Hudek, Paul Hutchinson, Russ Keil, Bob Lubonski, Mike Ramsey for operating, set-up and take-down. The caterer provided a tremendous selection for lunch – once again their clam chowder soup was first-rate. The Meet Committee will review the attendance and dealer comments for next year's show schedule.



A very special display—Thomas and Friends Train Show

One day, Pierce (TCA Junior Member 18-73476) asked his mom and dad, (Terry and Dori), if he could share his *Thomas and Friends* layout with others at a train show. They thought “Sure but where?”

With a little searching, AD President Russ Keil was contacted and space in the hall's lobby was reserved for him at the next show. Pierce, Mom and Dad arrived early Saturday morning to set-up. Pierce got all the parts, track arranged on the two tables in just the right orientation to show off his layout, and made sure that the each loop ran smoothly, and the engines and cars stayed on the



track. His display has six trains running and includes all his items from the beginning of his collecting. He was kept busy keeping it all going to the fascination of the attendees, young and old.

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His parents said that Pierce has been collecting for years and wanted to share his hobby and interests with others. Thanks Pierce for a great show.



48th Anniversary Party and Member's Luncheon, June 3, 2018

The 48th Anniversary Party and Member's Luncheon was held at Georgine's Restaurant in Bristol, PA. Forty-three members and guests enjoyed a delicious four course meal. Mike Ramsey, Treasurer gave a summary of the financial status of the Division and President Russ Keil spoke about the well being of the Division and TCA National.

Jim Boylan provided a display of two O scale Lionel production models – about 70 years apart – of the infamous Pennsylvania Railroad's S2 Turbine.



Re-tracking the Traveling Layout

When the modular layout was first designed and built, Lionel *FasTrack* (O and S gauge) was selected because of its ready-made roadbed and ease of installation. However, the breaks in the modular sections did not easily correspond with the available lengths of straight track. At each module juncture, the track sections were cut to size rather than using separate 'bridging' pieces to span the breaks. Unfortunately, the rails on the S gauge *FasTrack* are held in place with very small molded fingers, these were easily broken, and the rails kept coming loose in transit or during operation. This resulted in having to glue the affected rails to the base that did not hold.

To fix this continuous repair for every train show, *Gargraves* flexible track was selected to replace all the *FasTrack*. Easily said but the renovation took on an 'up-project' that was not immediately



known – the track right-of-way now had to be ballasted (smaller footprint) and the platform repainted; for each of the three loops and the trolley bump track.

After many hours this was accomplished and a smooth, 'no bump' transition from module to module was confirmed. Thanks to Bob Lubonski, Steve Stevens and Russ Keil for the long and laborious work to get this completed in time for the Greenberg's show.



Coming Events/ Activities

Train Shows, September 23 and November 4 at Penn's Landing Caterers, TCA Members: 8 AM to 1 PM, Public 9 AM to 1 PM. 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19147

Model Railroading Days at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 Gap Rd., PA Route 741, Strasburg, Saturday and Sunday, August 18 & 19, 2018

Annual Event: The Annual Event fundraiser information will be mailed in a few weeks. This year's prizes are shown below—winner chooses one. Details will be included in a later mailing. Additional tickets are available on request. The winner selected at our November Train Show.



O gauge, Lionel Scale Riveted GG1, Catalog # 6-83166



S gauge, Amer. Flyer PRR 2-8-8-2 Y3, Catalog # 6-48179

Member/Community Connection

N Scale almost completed (**BNSF Hi-Line Division**)
By Bill Erskine (86-24379)

Dan Pantaleo's N scale BNSF Hi Line Subdivision has made some progress since the last report. While scenery development has slowed due to summer activities of model plane building and flying, the Whitefish, MT section of the Sub has added significant highlights. With the hand-painted backdrop installed, Dan completed and installed the foam mountain that serves as an end cap for the backdrop.

He also built and added some industries for the working siding at Whitefish, track-side crew building and office, a small shipping company and a car shop. A major addition is the Whitefish Depot serving the west- and east-bound Amtrak Empire Builder. The Whitefish Depot Park, a town gathering location in the actual Whitefish, is also represented on Dan's rendition.

Planning for future operations, rolling stock has been added to complete a unit grain train intended to interact with CN's exchange point with BNSF, a unit covered hopper train that will run to/from Seattle and Chicago, a Montana Rail Link gas/ethanol unit train, and a manifest freight that will incorporate service to Whitefish industries. Dan reports that the locomotive roster of Kato, Intermountain, Broadway Limited and Fox Valley power are working almost flawlessly and that the Kato Unitrack and the Kato #6 and #4 switches are handling trains very well. We look forward Dan's continuing progress.

Questions can be sent to Dan at 726berk@comcast.com

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A view of the almost-complete Whitefish, MT area shows the painted backdrop and the mountain that provides transition from the backdrop to the next scene of the railroad.

The mountain is made of 2" layers of insulating foam glued together, carved, and smoothed with *Sculptamold*. It was then treated with a thinned wash of black and tan paint and dry brushed with light gray. Trees, shrubs, logs and other features were added



Things are busy at the Whitefish Depot with Amtrak train #8, the east bound Empire Builder, loading and unloading passengers on track 1 while a covered hopper unit train lead by borrowed CSX power rolls through on Track 2. Two BNSF SD70MACs work the local siding.

In addition to the custom adhesives and propellants plant in the background and the DEFPOTEC Plastics company, a furniture-making industry is planned for this siding.



Whitefish, MT anchors the western end of Dan's Hi Line Sub with only the small wood lot and gravel loading area of Eureka, MT west of here on the layout.

Next Dan plans to move to the opposite side of the painted backdrop to continue the rugged mountain scenery with the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and the entrance to Glacier National Park as the main line moves eastward toward Essex, MT.

Limited Space, Give N Gauge a Try
Mike Hudek, (90-32044)

Postwar American Flyer S Gauge is my first train love but 25 years ago, I set up N Gauge, 1/160 Scale, for my son and his friends. Little did I know it would become an obsession that would lead to 100's of pieces of rolling stock and dozens of engines.



About 6 years ago, I purchased a 3' x 7' layout from Craig's List. I made some modifications and added a lot of detail - 21 square feet of N Gauge layout is a lot of space to build a very functional display.

For example, a 3' x 7' in N gauge is roughly equivalent of 11 x 26' in O gauge. Most (99%) of my engines and rolling stock are PRR, Reading and Penn Central. I operate conventional DC, no need for DCC on a small layout. My next projects are to add a 'point to point' trolley in the town and block the track to operate multiple trains on the same track.

Most people are afraid of the small size but, N Gauge is very easy to work with; I find it easier than HO. There are many trains available in the aftermarket, everything from vintage trains from the 60's to new items with DCC and sound.



My recommendation is to buy engines made in the last 20 years and stay with a higher quality manufacturer, like Atlas, or KATO. The newer engines run quiet and can pull 20+ freight cars with little effort.

If you have limited space and want to run trains, N Gauge is a good size. Look on *Craig's List* or *Facebook Marketplace*. There are often prebuilt layouts for sale. Sometimes there are even layouts built in coffee tables, perfect for the man-cave or bachelor pad.



Fall to Winter train Show Schedule: September to December 2018

DATE	SHOW	LOCATION
Sept. 8, 2018	Lehigh Valley Show	Merchant's Sq. Mart, 1901 S. 12 th St., Allentown, PA
Sept. 9, 2018	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA
Sept. 23, 2018	Atlantic Div. TCA	Penn's Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Phila. PA
Sept. 30, 2018	Toms River Train Show	Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ
Oct. 18-20, 2018	York TCA	York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle St., York, PA 17404
Oct. 27-28, 2018	Great Scale Model Train Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD
Oct. 28, 2018	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Nov. 4, 2018	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Nov. 10-11, 2018	ATMA First Frost	Allentown Fairgrounds, 17 th & Chew St., Allentown, PA
Nov. 18, 2018	Atlantic Div. TCA	Penn's Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd. Phila. PA
Nov. 18, 2018	Lincroft Train Show	Christian Bros. Academy, 850 Newman Spring Rd., Lincroft NJ 07738
Nov. 24-25, 2018	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	New Jersey EXPO Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ
Dec. 1-2, 2018	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD
Dec. 8-9, 2018	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	Lebanon Valley EXPO Ctr, 80 Rocherty Rd., Lebanon, PA
Dec. 16, 2018	Montvale Train Show	St. Joseph's HS, 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Montvale, NJ 07645
Dec. 23, 2018	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Dec. 30, 2018	Toms River Train Show	Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ

Feature Article

HENNING'S TRAINS,
128 S. Line Street. Lansdale, PA 19446, 215-362-2442, www.henningstrains.com



Henning's Trains is one of the oldest toy train business in continuous operation within the Atlantic Division boundaries. In 1939, Harry Sr. started a side business in toy train repair out his home. In the beginning, he just did repairs on the toy trains that his wife Regina would bring home from the Woolworth & Co. store on Main Street in Lansdale where she enjoyed working in the toy department during the busy Christmas season; families would bring their Lionel toy trains back in need some sort of service. Soon Harry Sr. was doing all the train repairs for several stores and setting up a repair shop in the basement to take on anyone's toy train needs.

As a teenager Harry Jr., their oldest son who helped with the repairs, convinced his parents in 1958 to turn a part of their garage into a hobby store. The business expanded from there and the part-time business took off. By 1963, the store was selling N, HO, S, O and Standard gauge trains. The business moved to Hatfield (1972 –



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The shelves and cases are loaded with new (basic starter sets to the latest locomotives) used toy trains and accessories (1 or 2 yr. guarantee on rolling stock/accessories and transformers respectively), and a selection of books and videos. The store is a long time authorized Lionel dealer and service center, including MTH, with six persons on board doing repair/servicing. Sales from their on-line business and their own *EBay* store have opened their doors to the world – they have shipped something to every country.



New at the National Toy Train Museum

Over the winter months while the TCA's National Toy Train Museum is closed - January to early April - the Museum Committee's Volunteers get to work cleaning, painting, and any other maintenance issues that have to be done. In addition to that work, any new displays or enhancements that are approved by the committee are also started and completed.

This past off-season turned into some major additions to the museum. Some time ago, the TCA

was able to acquire a collection of Lionel archive items as well a cabinet of original American Flyer blueprints. The committee decided that we needed to display these items and the best place was the large display case that housed the reproduction of a 1928 Lionel Dealer Display. After we were able to gain access to the case, with the removal of the fixed glass panels, the project got underway.

The Dealer Display was removed, the ceiling was re-constructed and painted and new LED Lighting was added. Custom display pedestals were constructed and new sliding glass panels were installed. We now have all of the items on display with descriptions of each item with the Lionel Certificate of Authenticity.

Another new display that was installed is a replica that was installed is a replica of a Lionel D265 layout built by *O Gauge Railroading* magazine for a series of articles. It was raffled off and won by a member in NY State who gave it to the NTTM when he sold his house. We reconstructed it a bit to accommodate museum use with the addition of clear plastic

panels and push buttons to operate the various accessories. At our Open House in April, *O Gauge Railroading* magazine's Jim Barrett, who constructed it, joined us for a reunion with the layout. The display stands out as a new centerpiece in the museum.

If you have not been to the NTTM recently, it is worth the trip. We are open seven days a week until Labor Day and then on weekends, until we close again on January 1 where we do it all over again.



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We always have room and welcome new volunteers to help us. In particular, we can use people that can help maintain the running layouts and rolling stock while we are open. We are also in need of someone that can update and maintain our video display in the Atrium of the museum that helps connect the TCA with the NTTM and to show the benefits of being a member. If you would like to help us let me know at 856 608 9265 or email me at bkubonski@gmail.com.

Bob Lubonski Museum Committee Chairman



[Editor's note: As is very apparent in the photos, a lot of work and countless hours went into getting the improvements completed by opening day. Division members Russ Keil, Steve Stevens, Bob Lubonski and his nephew and many additional volunteers constructed, enclosed, painted, modified, laminated and electrified (red pushbuttons to operate the accessories) the new displays to highlight our Museum for members and visitors. Thank you for all your expert work.]

Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—November 1, 2018)

Wanted by Alaska Railroad Collector: "Lionel Alaska #9117 TCA" marked black covered hopper from 1978. Comes with no box. Any condition accepted except completely destroyed. Call Don Fleishman (11-65998) at 772-281-2316.

For Sale: Pratt Truss Bridge Kit, # 6920 Single Track (3-rail), \$150.00. (new in box) Call or email Bob Wittendorf (05-58473) at 484-478-2470, rwitten14@gmail.com

Editor: Bob Wittendorf, rwitten14@gmail.com, PO Box 5021, Limerick, PA 19468; (m) 484-478-2470

Up-Coming Events: Win Becker, williamhbeckerinc@gmail.com

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