



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA Began



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

Spring 2019

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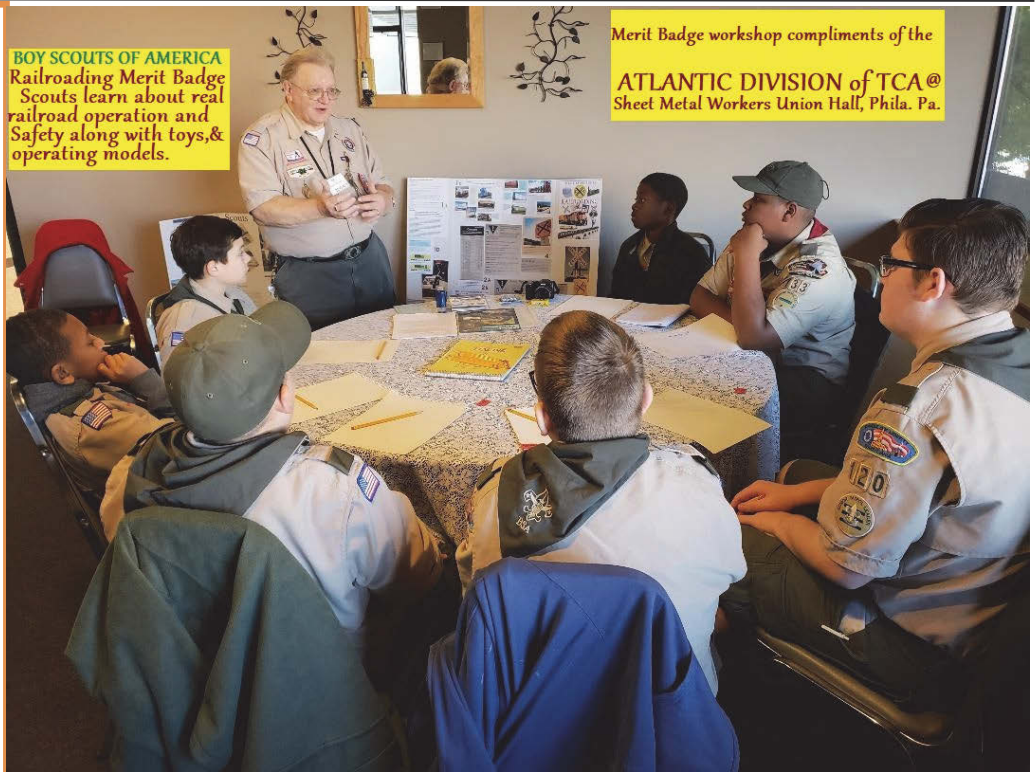
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Need more info? Visit

ADTCA.com



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Railroading Merit Badge
Scouts learn about real
railroad operation and
Safety along with toys, &
operating models.



Merit Badge workshop compliments of the

ATLANTIC DIVISION of TCA®
Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall, Phila. Pa.

At our train shows, the Division provides a meeting place for teaching the Boy Scouts of America's Railroading Merit Badge . See page 6 for details and information about getting more Troops to these events.

Division News

Yuengling Fund-raiser Boxcar: Approval for use of their graphics was obtained and the BoD is has selected the final design of the car. The order has been placed with Lionel with delivery anticipated in the fall. As soon as the pre-production sample has been received and approved, this car will be available for pre-order. See the ADTCA website for latest news.

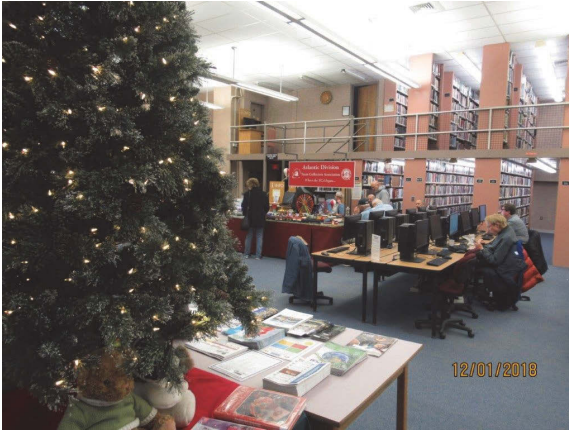
Traveling Layout Helpers: The Layout Team needs help with unloading and setting up our layout in the mornings (7 a.m.) of our shows. It takes about one hour of your time; free to attend afterwards. Bring your engine (O or S) to run but you must stay while on the track. Contact Mike Ramsey for dates when you can help, 610-324-6770.

Division Dues: If you have not renewed by January 31st, your dues are \$10. Send to Secretary, Barb Reed, 6218 Shelbourne St. Phila. PA 19111

Division Activities

Layout Exhibition at Haddon Heights Public Library, Haddon Heights, NJ, December 1-2, 2018

The Division was invited to show our model trains at their annual Holiday event; we accepted with pleasure. The audience was all smiles as the three loops of trains chugged by and the Gateman, Crossing Gates, Amusement Park and Gabe-the Lamplighter got constant usage. Information about the Division's January Train Show, TCA, our Museum, Library and membership applications were provided. Thanks to the layout crew (Ray Emenecker, Paul Fenn, Bob Huppman, Ed Kapuscinski, Russ Keil, Bob Lubonski and Mike Ramsey) for their work.



Atlantic Division Train Shows, Penns Landing Caterers, Philadelphia, PA, January 6, 2019

The wintry weather disappeared for this show-compared to Jan. 2018 (-5° F. wind-chill) and attendance was one of the best so far. Once again, the selection of repair/replacement parts, accessories and locomotives and rolling stock-new, slightly used, vintage-in all scales (Standard, G, O, S, HO, N) from active and closed manufacturers provided something for





everyone's wants and/or needs. There were a few unique and peculiar pieces for sale; and here are a few pictures of these.

As always, our Traveling Layout continues to be the children's (of all ages) best time at the show with the ability to control the layout's operating accessories with a push of a button. Added for this year is the amusement park's Flying Rocket car ride obtained at the fall York meet. Thanks as always to Layout crew members for setting up, manning and taking down the display: Tom Armstrong, Ron DeWitt, Paul Fenn, Mike Hudek, Russ Keil, Bob Lubonski, Joe Petrick, and Mike Ramsey.

Worlds Greatest Hobby Show, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA, January 12-13, 2019

The two day event was well attended by those familiar with the model train hobby, those that may become interested in finding their old trains and bringing them out of storage, and those that have not seen anything like the displays and modular layouts before. While the Division's layout was not the largest, the flow of families to our spot was constant. The Layout Committee made the table's height to benefit our youngest visitors unlike other layouts that required benches, chairs, or Dad/



Grandpa's shoulders to see what was happening. TCA membership applications and National Toy Train Museum brochures were handed out; many did not know of our museum and planned to visit during the summer. Thanks to Bob Lubonski, Russ Keil, Mike Ramsey, Bob Huppman, Paul Fenn, Ron DeWitt and Bob Wittendorf for their constant dedication to showing our layout.

Coming Events/ Activities

Atlantic Division Members' Luncheon & Meeting, Sunday, 1 p.m, May 19, 2019 Save this date for a great meal, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Place: Maggiano's Little Italy, 205 Mall Blvd. King of Prussia, 19406

(Located outside the Mall, next to Crate & Barrel and across from the former Sears now Dick's)

The luncheon will be served 'family style' and offer 2 appetizers, salad, 3 entrées, 2 desserts, soda, coffee and tea. No need to preselect an entrée; try all three. There will be a cash bar in our private dining room for alcoholic beverages. A short business meeting will follow the meal.

This annual luncheon is a great way to enjoy our hobby with other division members. It is also an opportunity to meet the Officers and Directors of your Division, learn about the Division's plans and activities as well as updates at TCA National level. The TCA, both the Atlantic Division and National, are always looking for more help. Contact Russ Keil (609-320-3957) on how to volunteer. The registration form is included with the newsletter in this mailing. We expect a large turnout for this event, so early registration is recommended.



Jun. 3rd, 2018 Luncheon at
Georgine's Rest, Bensalem, PA



Spring / Summer Train Show Schedule: March to July, 2019

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHOW</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Mar. 31, 2019	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Apr. 5-6, 2019	Great Scale Model Train Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD
Apr. 11-13, 2019	York TCA	York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle St., York, PA 17404
Apr. 28, 2019	Toms River Train Show	Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753
May 4, 2019	Cherry Valley Model RR Club-All Scale Swap Meet & Open House	Grace Church, 7 E. Maple Ave. Merchantville, NJ 08109
May 19, 2019	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Jun. 2, 2019	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA 19526
	65th TCA National Convention June 22—June 30, 2019	Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grand Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM
Jul. 14, 2019	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Jul. 21, 2019	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Jul. 28, 2019	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA 19526

Member/Community Connection

Many of you may already know, the Division has been actively sponsoring the attainment of the Railroading Merit Badge by local Boy Scouts of America troops. This program began in 2017 with an idea from Leon Duminiak, AD Board of Director and a former BSA Scoutmaster. Through his efforts and connections with local Troops, the program has been a huge success. The following is a letter and pictures I received last November for use in this Newsletter. I think Walter says it best. Bob Wittendorf, Editor

Hello Mr. Wittendorf:

It's the fourth of November, shortly the sounds and sights of Christmas present, will be upon us. But on this day the memories of Christmas past flooded the exhibition hall of the Sheet Metal Workers [Union Local 19]. The symbols of Christmas past, and the toys that stimulated the imagination of Children, and still do today when the present generation, from pre-toddlers to adolescence, are introduced to the sounds, lights, and movement of toy trains and their accessories. True symbols of Christmas and the Holiday Season. To many that didn't celebrate traditional Christmas Holidays it was Holiday time and toy trains were a part of the passage of childhood. But, Toy Trains bring so much more learning to youth because they represent a major tool in the development of humanity. Commerce, Finance, travel, [and these] are only a few of the effects trains have made on American, and International life. What better method of teaching than a toy representation.



What could be better than a train show and earning a MERIT BADGE?



On this day, brought to collectors and introducing the hobby of Toy Train Collecting, the Train Collectors Association, "Atlantic Division" made available space for education in Railroading, to the Local Philadelphia area Boy Scouts of America, for a workshop to earn the Railroading Merit Badge. Since partnering with the Roosevelt District, Cradle of Liberty Council BSA, the ADTCA has availed itself to the Scouts quarterly, at their Train meets located on Columbus Blvd in Philadelphia. Most recently two Troops of 11 Scouts & Scouters took part in the November Meet. Two Districts participated, Roosevelt and Triune. This is the 6th Meet attended by Scouts and over 50 Scouts have earned the Railroading Merit Badge and have been introduced to the world of Toy Train collecting and modeling.



Thanks to the suggestion of our own Leon Duminiak we may have an example of an HO module as we prepare to build a modular layout from the two HO collections acquired in 2018

May I also thank the many TCA collectors who have made donations of toy trains and related items.

Hope the pictures have sufficient DPI. Happy Holidays see you in January, hopefully with lots of Scouts to introduce to Railroading and a great Hobby.

Walter Waholek, Unit Commissioner

[Ed. Note: This article tells of a transition from one layout type to another as a consequence of moving to another home. Many of you may have already made the change but for others, it may be in your future; either to upsize or downsize. To help you to make this change with the fewest of missteps, i.e., 'should have done this first', or 'I will work around it', I want to begin a series about 'The Switch'. Send me your story for printing here in your newsletter, either electronic or hand-written. Contact information on page 8]

N Scale-BNSF Layout—By: Bill Erskine (86-24379)

My neighbor, Dan Pantaleo, has provided updates to the Newsletter about his evolving N scale BNSF Hi Line Subdivision. At first, this article may seem out of place for a group that is largely Standard, O & S scale enthusiasts. However, because of Dan's background in O gauge and his new experience in working with foam in place of hard shell for scenery, I thought that it would be helpful to understand more about the 'behind-the-scenes' thinking about his change from O to N.

Thoughts On Going from O Gauge to N Scale, By: Dan Pantaleo

Some background. I'm in my "early" 70's, active indoors and out, building and flying control line model planes, enjoying jazz piano lessons, viewing the stars with my telescopes on clear nights, painting landscapes in oils and, of course, operating model trains. My wife calls me a "hobbyist".

Why change?

Seventeen years ago, my wife and I downsized to a one-floor home on three acres of beautiful woods. The basement was perfect for an O gauge model train layout based on Norfolk Southern's (NS) Blue Ridge and Alta Vista subdivision in south central Virginia. It took five years to build, wire and landscape. It was up and running for seven years providing many hours of fun, some limited operations, and enjoyment for me, my grandchildren and many visitors including tours during the TCA National convention in Philadelphia a few years back. The bench work was a "walk-in" wrap-around design with four sections. The overall footprint was approximately 42' X 14' and the layout ran on two interconnected levels that could also be run as two separate "show loops".

We knew that at some point we would have to move to a maintenance free "55 and better" type of community. I had no preconceptions or locations identified but thought that any new location would probably be more space-limited. About two years ago, anticipating that this change would happen within a year or two, I started to prepare for the move and began disassembling the best O gauge layout I had ever built after thirty years of starting, stopping and moving layouts. This took about 18 months, as I wanted to clean and pack the rolling stock, locomotives, signals, switches, structures, vehicles and the many other items that make up a complete layout and disassemble the wiring and bench work for my two daughters and the grandkids.

Why N? *For Space and Scenery*

Well before starting the disassembly, I asked my long-time friend and HO scale modeler, Earl Paine, if he would help me to design layout that was set in one of my most favorite places—northwestern Montana. Not knowing the eventual location of our new home or its available layout space, I needed to plan for a smaller footprint than what I was used to. Moreover, I wanted to model the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway in the Rockies.

I knew that downsizing the layout footprint while trying to model the soaring scenery of the Rockies would be almost impossible if I stayed in O gauge. However, my viewing of on-line videos and reading articles about N scale layouts pointed me to it as being best for modeling the height and depth needed for such scenes. The incomparable Montana scenery provides a beautiful setting for the BNSF Hi Line Subdivision.

I decided to model in N scale since this would allow me to fit more track and grandeur-sized western scenery in less space. While I like planning, building, and wiring a layout, my true enjoyment is creating scenes that are at least somewhat prototypical of a location of interest to me. Having only laid track and wired three-rail layouts since I was eight years old, I knew nothing about two-rail electronics and little of DC versus DCC. I looked at N scale BNSF rolling stock and

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locomotives with good reviews-*Kato* and others had a wide range of offerings. I checked with Earl about brand quality, gained more knowledge about DC vs DCC and sound, and was tutored on two-track reversing loops and power blocks-which are handled differently than three-rail O gauge.

Design & Track Plan Development

My personal knowledge of the BNSF Hi Line subdivision from Whitefish to East Glacier, Montana with the accompanying industries, locations, features and signature scenery elements made it easier for my friend Earl (a CAD expert) to design the track plan. I also knew that I wanted to have a “U” shaped bench work in case I needed to build in modular unit format. So off and on for almost two years I would visit with Earl at his home (which, by the way, was in a very pleasant 55+ community), as he designed the plan from my descriptions, listen to his advice from his extensive HO experience and watched the layout evolve on his computer.

Because the program that Earl was using could provide a parts list for track sections, he asked about my choice of track as we neared “completion” of the plan. Knowing a few HO scale modelers and hearing about the time it took to “hand-lay” track and considering my age, my objective was to get the track down in a manner that provided stability, and to get trains running while also permitting flexibility and adaptability to unknown changes. Based on reviews and conversations I decided to go with *Kato Unitrack*.

The Move:

My wife would look at ‘55+ communities’ and when she found one that appeared to have the kind of setting, size and amenities we wanted, I would accompany her. We had a list of ‘nice to have’ and ‘need to have’, which, of course, included a basement suitable for a train layout. Then, one-day Earl’s wife called mine and said, “The house next to us is coming on the market!” We made an appointment and visited the house. It fit our criteria and the neighborhood was great—an extra was that it was next door to Earl’s home. Moreover, the ‘icing on the cake’ was the basement with a recently built but never used “U” shaped train table just waiting for a layout.

Ongoing:

The development of the layout is progressing with the track and wiring in place and the scenery about one half completed. From my experience over the last year and a half of working on the layout, *Unitrack* is as close to “bullet proof” as I could expect as a two-rail beginner. This layout is my first experience building scenery with 2” insulation foam board. It affords a lot of creativity as it presents new challenges but I do enjoy finding new solutions so the adventure continues.

Feature Article



Holly Beach Train Depot,

4712 Pacific Ave Wildwood, NJ 08260,

(609 522 2379. www.hollybeachtraindepot.com)

By: Mike Hudek, TCA# 90-32044

I had a chance to meet with Larry Lillo at Holly Beach Trains. Some may know Larry from York; he has a space in the Orange Hall. Holly Beach is housed in a historic building on Pacific Ave in Wildwood, NJ.

For those children on the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s or a transplant to this area, Pacific Avenue was the hot spot for

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entertainment and the party life. Despite several attempts to revive it in the 80's and 90's, the street never made a comeback.

Larry started his business in 1993 selling mostly modern Lionel, K-Line, LGB, Williams, and MTH and supplementing with post war Lionel and Flyer-when he could get it. Business was booming in the 90's and early 2000's but has slowed since. Larry started selling HO trains and found a new customer base.

Holly Beach is a full-service train store. Everything you would need to build a layout is sold at Holly Beach. Scenery materials, cars, trucks, people, track and trees are available in a wide variety. Holly Beach is an Authorized Lionel Dealer; repairs are a big part of the business. He is also working on a very large O gauge layout on the 2nd floor. It has been under construction for several years but now that Larry is retired, he hopes to open it as an attraction to promote the hobby.

Next time you are in the Wildwood area stop by Holly Beach Train Depot and see what they have to offer. It is the only train store remaining in Cape May and Cumberland Counties.



Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—June 1, 2019)

No new listing received this issue for items For Sale, Trade or Wanted.

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