



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA Began



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

Winter 2019

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Division News

- Renewal Reminder
- Call for nominations for Officers and Directors
- Annual Event's GG1 on layout
- Our 50th Anniversary

Division Activities

- Nov. 3rd Train Show

Coming Events/Activities

- Jan. 5, 2020, Train Show
- Jan. 11-12, 2020, Greenberg Show, Oaks, PA
- Mar. 1, 2020 Train Show

Shows Schedule

- December 2019 to March 2020

National Model RR Open House -

News from NTTM

- Volunteers Needed

Feature Article

- GG1 Ornament-Update
- Using a Table & How to Build a Basic Platform

Wanted/For Sale/Trade

- Layout with House For Sale

Newsletter Contacts

Need more info? **ADTCA.com**



Train Collectors Association, Strasburg, PA



President's Message

First of all, on behalf of the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Division, I would like to wish each of you a joyous and happy Holiday Season. May you be rewarded with lots of train goodies.

The holiday season always seems to reinvigorate our interest in the trains we all love. Whether we run or display them for our friends and family, it's still a joy for each of us. It takes us back to the days when our parents gave us our first trains, usually during the holidays. The memories of playing with the trains with my three brothers while my father and grandfather watched us, returns vividly each year.

This is the first Christmas season that my youngest grandson, age 21 months, has discovered my trains. He watched them last year, but this season he wants to run them. He knows that they're in the basement, so he

Continued from page 1

goes to the door, knocks a few times then shouts ‘who-who’ until I take him downstairs to run “his” beloved trains. He doesn’t care what we run, as long as he can control the throttle, bell and whistle. This affinity for toy trains only started a few months ago, but hopefully he will continue in this hobby and follow in my footsteps. I sure he will have many of the same kind of memories that I carry with me today.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.
Russ Keil, President, Atlantic Division

Division News

Division Renewals

A renewal card was included in the October mailing to all active Division members. If you have not returned your payment of \$8.00 or have misplaced it, send your name, TCA number, address, delivery choice (USPS, email, or both), and cash or check (payable to Atlantic Division-TCA) to Bob Wittendorf, PO Box 5021, Limerick, PA 19468-0921. Division membership is open to all TCA members, regardless of where you live. It provides first notice of our fund-raising cars, free admission to one (1) Division train show, reminder show flyers, and four issues of this newsletter. Dues submitted after January 31, 2020 are \$10.00.

2020 Election-Call for Nominations for President, Vice-President and four Directors

In 2020, the offices of President, Vice-president and four directors needs to be filled for a two year term-July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022. If you have the time and want to facilitate and guide management of our Division, please consider running for an office. You can ‘self-nominate’ yourself for any position. Tom Wagner, current VP, is heading the Nominating Committee and is ready to receive your questions. Any member residing in the geographic boundaries of the Division is eligible to run for office. Briefly, the duties of the Officers and Board of Directors are: attend six meetings/year, serve on committees/projects, and support /promote the activities of Division.

Full details will be mailed in a few weeks. The election will be held in March 2020 and tallied by mid-May. Contact Tom Wagner, at email t2trains@aol.com or 215-287-3027 for information.

Annual Event’s GG1 on track

The Division’s 2019 Annual Event O scale prize, Lionel PRR

Riveted GG1, was won by member Bill McLaughlin of Sicklerville, NJ. Bill picked-up early the next day from President Russ Keil. “Couldn’t wait to get it” said Bill.

The 2020 Annual Event prizes will include a new O gauge locomotive and the S gauge Legacy Penn Central U33 remaining from this year’s drawing. Details and tickets will be mailed in September.



Division News--Continued

Our 50th Anniversary Plan on joining in the celebration

Our Division, first known as *The Delaware Valley Chapter* was started in 1970. A history of our beginnings can be found at the ADTCA.com website. The *Express* will be showing some of the highlights of the past 50 years in the coming issues. Think about coming to the Members Luncheon and Meeting to celebrate our anniversary to be held on a Sunday, either May 3rd or 17th, depending on availability of a suitable restaurant and take part in the celebration.

Division Secretary Needed

A member is needed to complete the term of the elected secretary through June 2021. The duties are to attend the BoD meetings (6/yr.), prepare the meeting's minutes, and manage the new and renewal memberships. Familiarity with spreadsheets and word documents is useful and assistance will be provided as needed. Contact Russ Keil, 609-320-3957, russ.keil@comcast.net for details.

Division Activities

Atlantic Division Train Show, November 3rd, Penns Landing Caterers, Philadelphia, PA

Once again, the weather was perfect, the food was excellent, the attendance was outstanding, the BSA Railroading Merit Badge seminar was successful for all participants but, once again, there was an event (5K Walk/Run) in the Penn's Landing area that closed some streets by the show. The Phila. Police did great allowing those shouting from their cars 'Going to the Train Show' to go around the barricades on Columbus Avenue to enter the parking lot. Thank you PPD.



Division Activities-continued

Scouts and Scouters from Troops in the Cradle of Liberty Council attended the Railroad Merit Badge (MB) seminar. The Scouts used their talents to prepare a display. The MB seminar is open to other BSA Councils in the Philadelphia area. Contact Walt Waholek, Roosevelt District, Dean of Merit Badges at 'artsnfacts08@aol.com' or 215-725-6208 for information on how to participate.



Ives Trains and Toy Railroad Systems help prepare you for work that Uncle Sam may need you to do later. You learn simplified civil engineering by laying the tracks, installing the switches, building stations, planning tunnels and setting signals.

Best of all, it's great fun—the kind you like.
Ed. (2019): taken from 1914 advertising flyer

Ives Toys

Make Happy-Boys

**And
Girls
Too!**

Coming Events/ Activities

Atlantic Division-TCA Polar Bear Train Show, January 5, 2020,
Penns Landing Caterers Doors Open 8 AM-12:30 PM

Greenberg Train and Toy Show, January 11-12, 2020,
Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA

Set-up on Friday, Jan. 10. Show volunteers have free admission to show with AD-TCA pass. Contact Mike Ramsey with your availability at (m) 610-324-6770 or 'mdramsey@comcast.net or



Atlantic Division-TCA Spring Fever Train Show,
March 1, 2020, Penns Landing Caterers.
Doors Open 8 AM-12:30 PM

66th National TCA Convention
June 21-28, 2020, Jacksonville, FL.



Winter Train Show Schedule: December, 2019 to March 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHOW</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Dec. 15, 2019	Montvale Train Show	St. Joseph's HS, 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Montvale, NJ 07645
Dec. 22, 2019	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Dec. 29, 2019	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Jan. 4, 2020	Keystone Div. TCA	Lancaster Farm & Home Ctr., 1383 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601
Jan. 4-5, 2020	Cherry Valley Model RR Club	Grace Church, 7 E. Maple Ave., Merchantville, NJ 08109
Jan. 5, 2020	Atlantic Div. TCA	Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila. PA 19147
Jan. 11-12, 2020	Greenberg's Train/Toy	Greater Phila. EXPO Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456
Jan 11-12, 2020	Cherry Valley Model RR Club	Grace Church, 7 E. Maple Ave., Merchantville, NJ 08109
Jan. 18, 2020	LehighValley TrainShow	Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12 th St., Allentown, PA 18103
Jan. 26, 2020	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA 19526
Feb. 1-2, 2020	Great Scale Model Train	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD 21093
Feb. 2, 2020	Toms River Train Show	Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753
Feb. 8-9, 2020	Greenberg's Train/Toy	Meadowlands EXPO Center, Secaucus, NJ 07094
Feb. 15-16, 2020	Greenberg's Train/Toy	Chase Center on the Riverfront, Justison Ave., Wilm, DE 19801
Feb. 22-23, 2020	Allentown Spring Thaw	Allentown Fairgrounds, 17 th & Chew Sts, Allentown, PA 18103
Feb. 29-Mar. 1, 2020	Greenberg's Train/Toy	New Jersey EXPO Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ 08837
Mar. 1, 2020	Atlantic Div. TCA	Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila. PA 19147
Mar. 8, 2020	Montvale Train Show	St. Joseph's HS, 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Montvale, NJ 07645
Mar. 15, 2020	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470
Mar. 29, 2020	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723

Local Model Train Clubs Open Houses: November-December, 2019

Each fall, model railroading clubs and individuals in our area show their layouts to the public by listing their addresses with the visiting hours/dates in a regional calendar. This year's events have passed so make a note to visit the website [.http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com](http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com) in Sept/Oct, 2020,

This year, BoD Director, Mike Hudek, took his grandkids to visit one of these. Here is a summary and pictures from this visit to . THE BUFFALO LINE AT KEYSTONE FARM, Downingtown, PA

The Pennsylvania Railroad Buffalo line runs from Rockville tower at the east end of the Rockville Bridge in Harrisburg Pa. to it's namesake city in Buffalo NY. It follows the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg to Keating PA, just west of Renovo. From Renovo it runs west to Emporium PA where it begins it climb over the Alleghenies. Once over Keating Summit it begins a slow descent towards the state of New York.



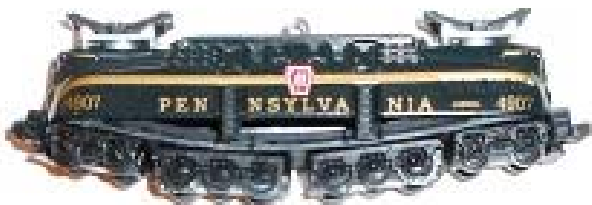
News from the National Toy Train Museum

Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to help keep the trains and accessories working by cleaning and performing simple maintenance. If you live near the Museum (about 1 hour from King of Prussia via US 30), you can help our many visitors see our trains, tracks and accessories all operating in fine working order. The schedule is flexible, any day of the week including Saturday. Contact Melody Rogers at NTTM office, 717-687-8623 x103 or email rmrogers@traincollectors.org.



Previous Feature Article– Hallmark Ornament, an update



Keep your eye on your Hallmark GG-1. Just like the old pre-war diecast items from American Flyer and Lionel, some of the Hallmark casting are expanding. So far no other models have been affected. This could be an isolated casting error; there are GG1 that have no defects. Best to avoid storage at extreme high temperatures, Terry Trickel

Member / Community Connection-Feature Article

Ed. I'm certain that most, at some time in the past, have built a platform like the one described in the Feature Article. If you know of someone starting with trains around the Christmas tree, please pass this article along to them. And, invite them to our next train show and even, to join TCA and our Division. Meanwhile, try a 'Table Top' display as used by Mike Ramsey in previous years.



BUILDING A 4 X 8 TRAIN PLATFORM - By: Terry L. Trickel, TCA # 79-13707

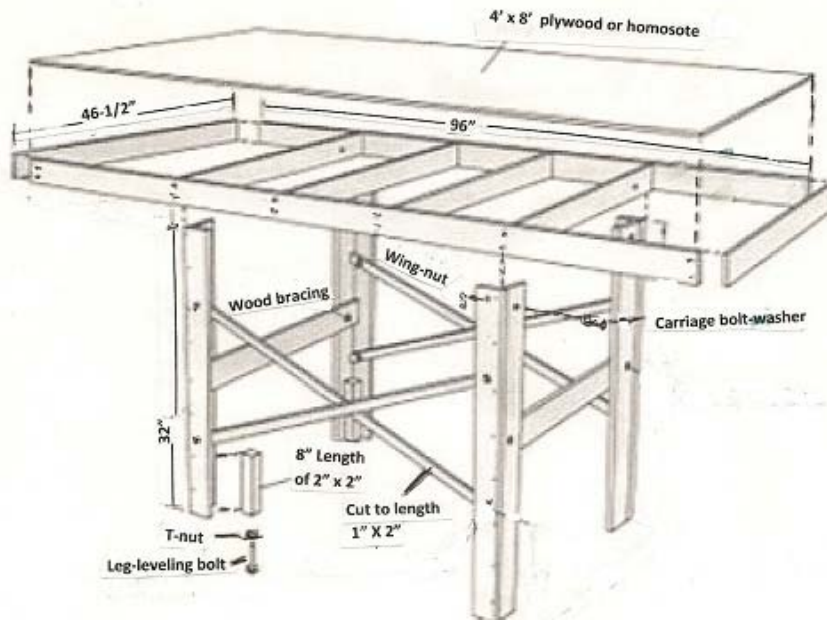
The newsletter editor suggested a topic on building a beginners train layout to benefit the new hobbyist. From the new and old train collectors, we like to see trains run. Many train sets

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

purchased at this time start with track around the Christmas tree. The next step is to get the track off the floor to some sort of platform. There are a number of books and articles on the subject of layout and track planning. *Kalambach Publishing Company* offers a wide variety of books on platform construction and that can be adapted for all scales.

The most common platform size for HO or O is the 4 x 8 foot size. A 5 x 9 foot table size would be better for S and G gauge trains. For larger layouts, open bench work and multi-level construction would be your best way to go. In this article, directions and materials are shown for building a 4 x 8 platform. While assembling your platform, refer to the diagram.



From my experience, It is best to have two people to assemble the layout. Purchase your lumber from your local supplier, e.g., Lowe's, Home Depot, etc. If you do not have a power saw, ask your supplier to cut your lumber. Purchase lumber in longer lengths to save on cost and as reminder, the saw blade cut is about 1/8" thick so some of these cuts must be precise to ensure exact fit. I usually purchase three 8-foot boards for the center and end support boards and two 12 foot lengths for the sides of the layout. I save the left over boards for leg braces. When selecting your boards, make sure they are straight. I suggest using screws to assemble the platform; nails tend to

splinter the wood. Also, apply carpenters glue to the joints.

Material needed for a traditional platform

- 2 - 1" x 4" x 8' Pine Board
- 6 - 1" x 4" x 46-1/2" Pine Board
- 4 - 1" x 4" x 32" Pine Board
- 4 - 1" x 3" x 32" Pine Board
- 4 - 1" x 2" x 8' Pine Board
- 1 - 1/2" x 4' x 8' Plywood or Homasote (sound-proofing board)
- 1 - box of #8 2" wood screw
- 1- wood/carpenters glue
- 8 - 1/2" x 3" carriage bolts
- 8 - 1/2" washers
- 8 - 1/2" wing nuts / nuts
- 1 - 2" X 2" X 48" Pine lumber & 4 leg leveling bolts(optional)

Suggested tools needed

- Power saw
- Electric Drill
- 1/8" pilot drill bit
- 1/2 " Drill Bit
- Phillips screw driver bit
- Square
- Tape measure
- Clamp

The first step is to assemble the base.

With the 8 foot boards pre-drill two holes on each end on the edge on both ends. Attach to each corner one of the 46-1/2 inch boards to the 8-foot boards. You now have a large rectangle that will measure 4 x 8 foot. Take the remaining four 46-1/2 inch boards and space them evenly across the frame; pre-

drill and attach. (Note: see Help suggestion 1). At this point you can apply the plywood or homasote to the frame. (Note: see Help suggestion 2). Screw the top to the frame.

Next is the leg construction. The height of the platform is your choice. Some prefer a higher platform that is easier to work on. But in some cases, younger or shorter people prefer a lower view. Take the 4" and 3" x 32" (or cut the legs to desire height) boards and screw together to form an "L" shape leg. Once you made up four legs, clamp each leg to an inside corner of the layout. Note: The diagram shows that the legs are attached to the first support board from the each end. I

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

usually place the legs at the corners of the layout to add more storage space under the layout.

For each leg, drill a 1/2 inch hole to the top of each side corner and insert carriage a bolt, washer, and nut. If you opt for the corner placement, consider an extra support leg centered each side of the layout. If you have uneven floors, you can add leveling lumber to the legs. Cut a 2" x 2" x 8" inch boards for each leg. Purchase "T" nuts, drill a center hole onto the 2 x 2 board, insert "T" nut and screw the bolt in for leveling purposes; attach to each leg.

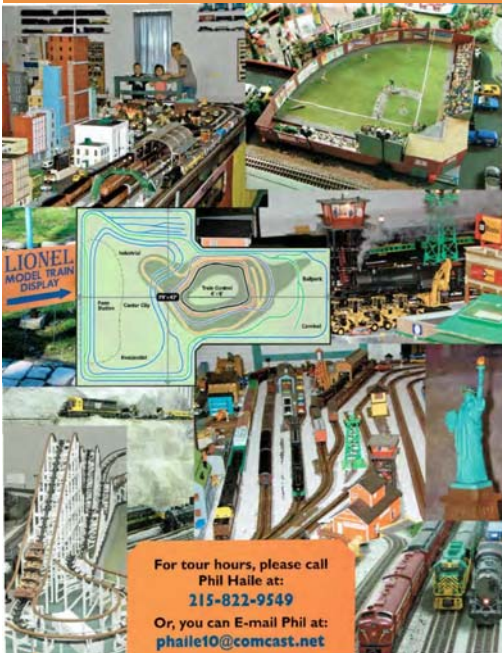
If you prefer the 'end of platform' leg placement, use a 4" wide board and drill two 1/2 inch holes for carriage bolts; add leveling bolt to these, too. Using leftover 4 inch and the 2 inch boards, make bracing to the legs by cutting to length as shown in the diagram. The bracing adds stability to the layout.

Help suggestion 1: I prefer a layout with about a 1/2 inch boarder around the layout. The boarder will keep your scenery and trains on the layout. No one wants a locomotive to take a plunge over the edge. The construction will be the same except for the addition of perimeter trim of 1" X 2" boards screwed (no glue here) into the 1" X 4"s (end and sides) with an 1/2" extending above each; just in case you want to enlarge the platform later. This should be added as the last step.

Help suggestion 2: I mentioned a material called Homasote or sound board. The homasote is a compressed moisture-resistant fiberboard that comes in a 4 x 8 x 1/2 "sheet. It is much easier to screw or nail into do there is no pre-drilling holes for your track as you would need for plywood. Also the running of your trains will be quieter than if you were to use plywood. You are now ready to do your track planning.

Any question or comments, call or email: 484-920-8129 or northernfinds@yahoo.com.

Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—February 28, 2020)



Post War O-gauge Layout and Wall Display-locally shown at 2014 TCA Philadelphia Convention layout tour and in *O Gauge Railroading*, Run 244, August/September 2010, pp 69-75, **For Sale and House Included** in Chalfont, Bucks County, PA.

Specifications and Features.

Size-1500 sq. feet, five levels, one-quarter mile of Atlas track, 72 steam and diesel engines, 275+ freight and passenger cars, operating underground subway and coal mine, 3000 miniature figures, 160 structures/buildings (many scratch built), MTH & Lionel transformers, landscape items, hobby tools, work bench/ wiring, countless animations/accessories, 24 carnival rides.

Contact .Phil Haile, TCA # 98-47717 at 215-822-9549, email, phaile10@comcast.net for price and details.

Send your listing to Bob Wittendorf (see below) for inclusion in the next issue. There is no charge for this service to members.

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