



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA Began



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

Spring 2020

Happy 50th Anniversary

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ADTCA.com



PHILADELPHIA



June 19-25, 1989, 35th National Convention, Sheraton, Valley Forge

**Three National Conventions,
More than 180 Train Meets/
Shows,
Displays at Children's & other Hospitals, Veterans & Retirement Homes, Airport & 30th Street Station, Churches, Museums, Libraries, Trade Shows, Good Friends and Lasting Memories**



President's Message

I hope this message finds each of you, our members, your families and friends in good health during the difficult times and challenges we are currently experiencing. The immediate future is unknown, but I believe that we will ultimately conquer this virus and our lives will return to some semblance of normalcy.

The Atlantic Division is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Eastern Division and I would like to recognize and honor the first officers of our division. (In 1978, the chapter was granted division status by the National TCA Board of Directors and became the Atlantic Division). The original officers of the Delaware Valley Chapter were: Bob Robinson, Jr. (Pres); David Allen (VP); Richard Robinson (Treas.); Nick Ladd (Secretary); Ed Pinsky (Express Editor); Stuart Bearn, John Boyle, Percy Rossel, James Singley and Glenn Stinson (Directors).

We owe a great deal for the efforts of our founders as well as all of the AD Board members that have guided the division since our beginning. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as president of the Atlantic Division for the past four years. Following in the footsteps of the original board has indeed been a humbling experience.

My term as division president ends on June 30th. At that point I will pass the gavel to Bob Lubonski. I appreciate the support our members have given your Board over the past years. I will continue to serve on the division's board as Past President, Meet Registration Chair and committees. It has been a great ride with more great things to come in the future. Stay safe. Sincerely, Russ Keil

50 Years of Activities — A Look Back

Introduction: Using archived issues of the Delaware Valley Local & Express/Atlantic Division Express (ADTCA.com/Resources/Archive) and at our NTTM Reference Library, a summary of our history over the last 50 years (albeit briefly stated)-- the places & activities, people, stories & articles-- will be featured in this and the next 3 issues of the Express. This issue and ones that follow are for those who have recently joined and those who remember being there as an active participant. Bob Wittendorf, Editor

The Beginning: The origin of the slogan on our newsletter "Where the TCA Began" recognizes a small group of model train hobbyists in the Delaware Valley in the 1950's who routinely met at member's homes to talk about model trains and accessories, their variations and variety, and where to find them for collecting and for their layouts. From these meetings and a similar one in California, a national organization was created with a main office in Strasburg, PA. The organization grew and in 1970, 20 members received permission to establish a separate local group--Delaware Valley Chapter (**DVC**) in the Eastern Division of the TCA. In 1978, the Atlantic Division was chartered by overwhelming vote of the Chapter's membership. For more details, go to ADTCA.com and click on 'About Us'.

50 Years of Places and Events (Part 1 of 4)

Train Meets

Train meets and shows have always provided a place where hobbyists can purchase/trade/sell items, establish friendships, and share their hobby with family. Initially the DVC held two 'major' Meets (only TCA members)-and two 'minor' Meets (for only families of Chapter members) divided equally between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The major meets were for studios collecting while the minor meets were for having fun (selling/trading, games, movies, seminars in a party-like scene. Later, the 'minor' meets were eliminated but the idea of four per year continued and occasionally, a fifth one was added for a special purpose.

The meets first were for members only (at one time, a member's business meeting preceded opening but was dropped). When attendance declined, the Meets were opened to the public, but the first hour was reserved for members only-this continues today. The contests for children (drag race, hill climb, and demolition derby) were continued with trophies-but only the drag race is offered (occasionally) today. Food and coffee were always available and, previously at one NJ location, even a full breakfast.

From 2000 to 2014, several members continuously provided displays of the variety and diversity of locomotives, rolling stock, and accessories, from their collections for educational purposes and to promote collecting and the hobby. With time and circumstances, the locations changed for a variety of reasons-poor service, unexpected cancellation, too expensive. Here is a listing of where Meets were held with many used multiple times and others, just a few or once:

Continued on Page 3

50 Years of Activities — A Look Back (continued)

Where Train Meets Held

*David J McDonald Labor Lyceum,
Conshohocken, PA*

Morrestown Grange, NJ

*Westover Country Club, Norristown,
PA*

Ivystone Inn, Pennsauken, NJ

Rutledge Fire Hall, PA

High Point Racquet Club, Chalfont, PA

Holy Cross High School, Delran, NJ

*National Guard Armory, Norristown,
PA*

Painter's Union Hall, Phila

Plumber's Union Hall, Phila.

Penns Landing Caterers, Phila

Traveling Layout Exhibits

In 1979 a modular O gauge layout (3 sections) was built by Phil Ritter with the purpose of providing children with some hands-on



operation. It was shown more than 80 times at a variety of places and was a great showpiece for young and old. In 2004, a new travelling layout, smaller but heavier, was built by Bob Zmijewski, son of President Chester Zemijewski, from a design by Paul Fenn. With front-mounted pushbuttons that activated the accessories, it provided a 'hands-on' feature for the kids while the trains rolled around the track. It was used until 2017 and magically grew heavier each year as judged by the layout crew. Today, the travelling layout is, once again, a modular layout with four 3 by 6-foot sections and outfitted with even more pushbuttons and some computer activated accessories for kids of all ages. The layouts have travelled to many diverse places-some many times. Here are places visited through the years..

Amtrak 30th Street Station	Kennett Friends Home	Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
Bryn Mawr Hospital	Lankenau Hospital	Rails and Rods for Ron. McDonald House
Cathedral Village Retirement Community	Martins Run Retirement Village	Rest Haven Nursing Care Center
Concord Villa Convalescent Home	Melmark School	Shriners Hospital for Children
Delaware Valley Veterans Home	Methodist Hospital	St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Franklin Institute	Montco Geriatric Center	St. John Neumann Church, Mt Laurel
Greenbergs Toy and Train Show	Norristown Library	St. Francis Country Home
Hadden Heights Library	Peter Becker Nursing Home	Variety Club Camp
Harston Hall Nursing Home	Phila. Civic Center Museum	Willingboro Library
Heritage Towers	Philadelphia Airport	World's Greatest Hobby on Tour
Inglis House	Quaker City String Band Club	

National Conventions

There have been three: at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia in 1976, the Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia in 1989, and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill in 2014. Each one required months of planning, on-the-spot resolution of issues and problems, developing and implementing diverse and entertaining programs and activities for members and guests of all ages.



The Welcoming banquet entertainment was provided by Philly's own string bands (left to right): Harrogate-1976, Ferko-1989, and Quaker City-2014. Each one a huge success thanks to the dedicated AD members and their spouses.

Division News

2020 Election Results

Term: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022)

President: Bob Lubonski
Vice-President: Mike Hudek
Directors: Chris Bogus.
Ron DeWitt
Bob Huppman
Tom Wagner*

Term expiring on June 30, 2021

Secretary: Bob Wittendorf (interim)
Treasurer: Mike Ramsey
Directors: Paul Fenn, Ed Kapuscinski,
Steve Stevens, Al Tuttle

(*Tom's position as a Director will be filled by John Halajko as provided in the bylaws.)



It is with deep sadness, that I have to inform you that Tom Wagner has passed away after a home accident in December.

His commitment and service to the Division's activities for 15 years in committees and as the previous Vice-President was appreciated by all.
Russ Keil, President

August 17, 2019, Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, *Model Railroading Days*

Atlantic Division Train Meet

The Atlantic Division Train Meet continues to be a popular event four times a year, but we are still in need of a Meet Registration Chairman. Russ Keil has been taking care of it as the interim chairman but his various activities with the National Board of Directors such as Executive Committee, IT Committee, National Convention Committee, etc. are almost a full-time job. We need someone that can take over the Meet Registrations.

Duties include: Receiving Table Registrations and Assigning Table Locations, Keeping track of Income from table holders, Making sure on the day of a meet that everything pertaining to table assignments is in place, and, re-booking tables for the next meet.

These duties are performed in conjunction with me as Meet Chairman and the other volunteers that help the day of the meet.

The Atlantic Division provides a Laptop Computer and printer/scanner/copier to keep track of Table Assignments, etc. Basic Computer skills are essential. The position pays \$150.00 per meet.

Anyone interested in helping with this should contact me – (856) 608-9265 or by email bklubonski@gmail.com. I can also be contacted between 8-5 weekdays at my office – (609) 265-0808. Thanks, Bob Lubonski – Atlantic Division Train Meet Chairman

Division Secretary Needed

The Division continues to need a member to complete the term (to June 2021) of Secretary. Bob Wittendorf has been taking care of these duties in addition to Editor of the Newsletter and co-chair of the Division's Fund-raising Cars Committee.

The duties are: Attend the BoD meetings (6/yr.), Take and write up the meeting's minutes, and, Manage the membership process for new and renewing members. Familiarity with spreadsheets and word documents is useful and assistance and laptop computer will be provided.

For details, contact Russ Keil, 609-320-3957, RussK@ADTCA.com.

Division Activities



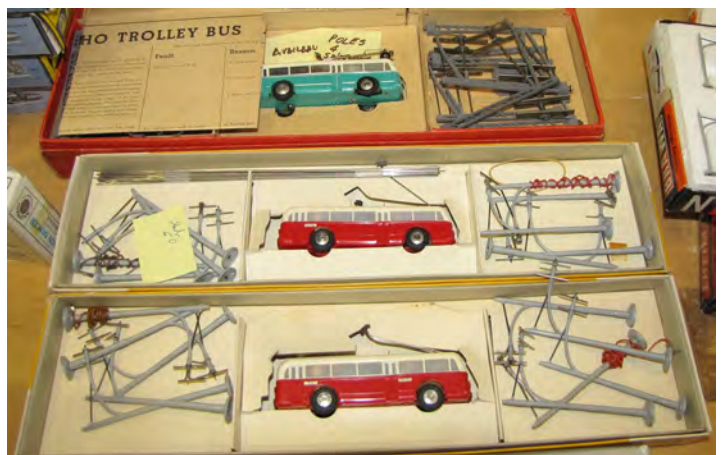
Display at Haddon Heights, NJ Library, December 7 & 8, 2019

The Division displayed our layout for the Library's Holiday event for the second year. Thanks to Paul Fenn, Bob Huppman, Russ Keil, Bob Lubonski and Mike Ramsey for their time and efforts.

January 5, & March 1, 2020 Train Shows at Penns Landing Caterers

The weather was perfect for both shows-sunny, not too cold, and no snow/ice-for a pleasant change. Attendance was great with visitors from the nearby neighborhoods in south Philly, the tri-state area and even from New York. The hall and lobby was full with families, Scouts (on a break from their merit badge workshop), eager collectors/operators and those looking to complete their holiday wish list. Once again, the food was delicious thanks to Chef Chris Rodgers and the catering staff.

The Division's layout and an N-scale by Matt Tanaka (2X7ft. base, 1955 era presentation) were surrounded all the time with kids of all ages. As always, the quality and quantity of items in all gauges (new, antique, foreign and lightly used) filled the tables (sold-out both shows). Here are a few examples of what was offered.



Railroading Merit Badge at the Division's Train Show



Scouts, Scout Leaders and parents attended the Railroading Merit Badge seminars at the January and March shows as our guests. In order to promote 'collecting' as a hobby, the Scouting Coordinator, Walt Waholek, displayed items that could be 'starters' ideas for collecting and a mini-layout with buildings. In the eight sessions held (2018-19), almost 140 scouts have participated. Many of these Scouts have never had the opportunity to interact with toy and model trains. "Introduction with hands on, changes perspective", WW.



January 11-12, 2020: Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Oaks, PA

This show is always one of the most effective ways to introduce our hobby to others. The interactive layout always draws a huge audience and provides the opportunity to introduce young families to our Museum, TCA publications and our Newsletter.

Thanks to the layout crew, Chris Bogus, Ron DeWitt, Paul Fenn, John Halajko, Bob Huppman, Russ Keil, Bob Lubonski, Mike Ramsey, and Bob Wittendorf.

Information about Coming Events/ Activities & Train Show Schedule

Members Luncheon and Meeting

Our planned Annual Members Meeting was postponed due to guidelines for COVID-19. It has been tentatively been rescheduled for September 20th. Advance notice will be sent to division members.

Train Shows, September and November

We have not discussed any alternate plans for the September Meet, assuming that things are back to normal. Plans will be announced in the newsletter and on our web site, ADTCA.com.

Regional Meets and Shows

For information on the other train shows usually displayed here, see the table below for their info.

SHOW	Web site
Allentown train show	allentowntrainmeet.com
Brick Train Show	eastcoasttrainparts.com/brick.htm
Cherry Valley Train Club	facebook.com/cherryvalleyrr
Great Scale Model Train Show	gsmts.com
Greenberg Train and Toy Show	greenbergshows.com
Hamburg Dutch Meet	briansmodeltrains.com/train-show
Keystone Division. TCA	keystonedivisiontca.org
Lehigh Valley Train Show	expohour.com/lehigh-valley-train-meet-show
Montvale Train Show	eastcoasttrainparts.com/98mar8.htm
Toms River Train Show	eastcoasttrainparts.com/tomsriver.htm
Wayne Train Show	eastcoasttrainparts.com/wayne.htm
York Train show	easterntca.com

Coming Events/ Activities & Train Show Schedule (continued)



As of April 30th, the 66th National Convention in Jacksonville, FL is to be held as scheduled, June 21st to 28th.
See the TCA.org website for the latest details.

News from the National Toy Train Museum

National Toy Train Museum Update-March 29, 2020

Due to the coronavirus situation the National Toy Train Museum as well as the Library and National Business Office are closed on orders of the Pennsylvania Governor. When we are allowed to enter the building again, we must finish the projects in the museum and library that remain incomplete. We could use some help with these projects so we can get the museum open to the public. The important issue at this time is to stem the spread of the disease.

Projects that are in the works are finishing the overhead lighting of the O and Standard Gauge Layouts and general cleaning of the exhibits. Also, the O Gauge Layout needs have its buildings put back that had to come off for us to install the new lighting.

Another project to complete is the display of a 'Live Steam' Engine and Tender that was given to us. This project consists of cleaning the Engine and Tender and painting the trestle that it sits upon.

We are hoping that everyone is staying safe and well so we can get back to our normal lives.

Watch for e-Blasts from TCA as to when we can re-open. In the meantime, if you can help, call and leave a message for Melody Rogers at (717) 687-8623 x103 and let her know that you can help us and what you can do.

At this time the most important thing is to protect yourself and family.

Thanks

Bob Lubonski – NTTM Committee Chairman

Member / Community Connection-Feature Article

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR TRAINS

By Terry Trickel TCA 79-13707

If you find your model engine is losing performance quality and you can be sure there is not an electrical problem, then the most likely cause is dirt and solidified lubricants. The fix is to disassemble, clean, and lubricate the engine. This process is a little messy and requires some degree of patience and care. However, it is not expensive, takes very little time, and will make a big difference in many cases.

There are several oils and grease available. Woodland Scenic sells a kit with various assortments of light oil and grease. Lionel, Atlas, and Labelle all sell lubrication kits. **Caution: Do not use 3-in-One Oil on your trains!** In the early 1940's, Lionel cautioned that it may affect the Lionel castings, and in the 1950's, they stated that *3-in-One Oil* would attack the plastic bodies as well as the paint. Most lubrication sold today is plastic compatible. Your locomotive usually comes with a diagram showing lubricating points. There are repair manuals for Lionel, American flyer, MTH for O and S scale and for HO and N scale that show various locomotives and cars how to service them.

Before starting, if you are not sure how to go about disassembling your engine, ask! At the Atlantic Division meets usually we have members on hand willing to show you the lubricating process. Also check your local hobby shop for some help.

To start, remove the engine shell by turning the engine upside down and removing screws or gently prying open the plastic tabs, and set the shell aside. Next with a quarter-inch flat brush, remove all visible dirt, fibers, dust and debris using short, quick strokes. Remove trapped debris with

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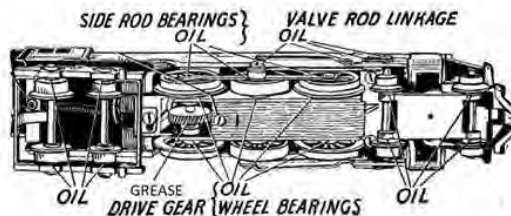
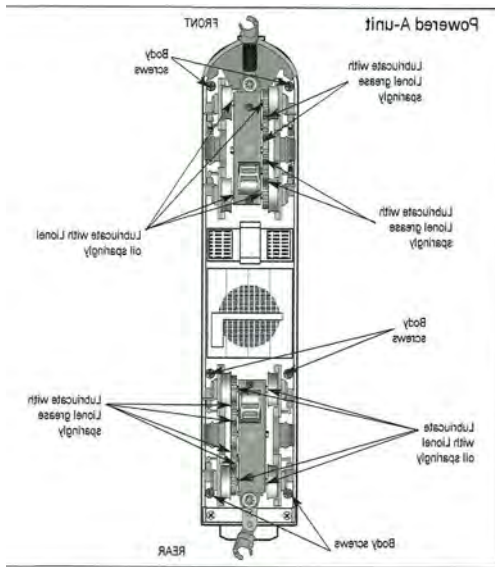
tweezers and toothpicks as necessary. Then apply a small amount of denatured alcohol to a clean cloth and gently wipe down the chassis, wheels, axles and motor to remove dirt, grease and grime; a cotton swab or toothpick will finish the job where necessary.

Now you're ready to begin. The recommended oilers typically have a needle point dispenser. If not, then pour a small amount of model engine lubricant into a clean bottle cap. Dip a toothpick into the engine lubricant and apply small amounts of oil to the wheel bearings, axle bearings, gear shaft and motor bearings; bearings are the points-of-contact that restrict motion of moving parts and are typically plastic, metal rings, or housings that hold a shaft or other part in place. For the gears, use a gear oil or grease. *Never over oil or things will get messy; a small drop of oil goes a long way.* Finally, test the engine on the track before putting the shell back on and re-lubricate as necessary.

Often overlooked are the wheels themselves; and this applies to your rolling stock too. Clean wheels signify clean track, which often is not the case. To clean these, *do not use steel wool*; Instead, use a Dremel tool with a brush attachment to make the wheel cleaning job faster or a small wire brush. Be sure to wear safety glasses when using your Dremel tool.

I found that grease used by Lionel on post war locomotives tend to harden over time and will need to be cleaned and re-greased. When I purchase a 1950's era Lionel F-3 diesels, these seem to always have a grease problem. The power trucks must be disassembled cleaned out of the old hard grease and new reapplied. These are just a few pointers to keep your fleet

moving. Any questions or concerns call or write us for the answers,



Sad news to report that TCA Life Member Richard L. Zipin, 69-2819, passed away recently. Richard was an early member of the TCA, Delaware Valley Chapter and the Atlantic Division. His collecting interests were varied and included Lionel Standard Gauge trains, Railroadiana, Pin Ball and Slot Machines. His love of trains and promoting the hobby was constantly shown through 50 years of engagement with the Kids Club, Boy Scouts and train races and hill climbs contests at our Meets. You could always find him passing his knowledge to old and young. (photo [right] at the Mark Newbie Elementary School, Collingswood, NJ, 2013)



Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—June 1, 2020)

There are no listings for this issue. 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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News/Articles/Stories/Help

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