



Atlantic Division Endless

Where the TCA Began



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

Winter 2021

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*'Tips to Avoid Missteps
in Building Your Layout'*

Wanted—Penn Line
Trains-Parts to Perfect,
Alexander Structures
For Sale—GarGraves O
Track

Find the latest information on
our train shows, events,
Newsletter archive and
Division media at
ADTCA.com



Layout photo from John Adamski. More pictures and story on page 5.

(Ed.) Easton, Pennsylvania erects the 'Peace Candle' each year as a glowing symbol of the holidays. It is 106 ft tall and is considered the largest non-wax candle in the U.S. Another in Schlitz, a small village near Hesse, Germany has one that is 138 ft tall. The first candle was built in 1951 and except for 2 years has been in the center of town every Christmas. It was rebuilt several times. Currently it has a steel frame and is covered with marine-grade plywood. When it is put up, it covers a monument dedicated to Civil War soldiers and sailors.

See <http://www.eastonmainstreet.org/peacecandlelighting/>

President's Message

Happy Holidays everyone. Although for a lot of us collectors, train season is a year 'round event. But I guess you would consider the Christmas season to be the official train season with people setting up displays for the holidays.

We did a small train show recently with the Atlantic Division Traveling

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Layout and heard many stories from those people in attendance about the trains they had years ago. Some said they still had them. Some said that they get them out for the holidays and others said that they have not seen them in years. One woman mentioned that her husband prefers a large tree, but she would rather have a smaller tree with a train under it. Since she saw our layout, I assume that she and her husband will be discussing that issue.

I remember when practically every home you visited had a train or layout at Christmas time. Various gauges were on display, HO, S, and O. Some were just a loop around the bottom of the tree, and some were fairly elaborate displays. What happened to those days? We always looked forward to putting the trains up just after Thanksgiving. It was a special time of year, Christmas, and Trains. It is interesting to see people's faces when they see the AD layout. They seem to have an interest in trains, some may even get their old trains out. The AD layout seems to bring this out in people. We can always use help with it so if you have some spare time and want to give us a hand and play trains, check out our schedule and let us know that you can help.

Speaking of help, we recently decorated the TCA's National Toy Train Museum for the holidays. Take a ride out there on a weekend and get into the holiday spirit—Christmas and Trains. You may even bump into Santa. We can always use help out there also. Right after the end of the year the museum will close until April. We have set our plans for new displays and improvements. Let us know if you can spare some time. No experience necessary.

So, I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday. Maybe Santa will bring the train that you have been looking for.

Bob Lubonski (h) 856-608-9265

Division News

Division Annual Membership

The dues remain at \$8.00 per member until January 31, 2022, then \$10.00 thereafter.

Note: The person and address to return your card to has changed to Mike Hudek (Division VP), 370 Three Bridge Road, Monroeville, NJ. 08343-1878. As before, your 2022 Member card is in the form of a postcard (to be cut out) with the address you provided on your renewal form. According to USPS rules, 1st Class mail (includes postcards) will be forwarded for 1 year from the date you submitted a 'Change of Address' form. If you do not receive this postcard, contact Mike Hudek at 201-294-7057, or email: 'mikeh0402@yahoo.com with your concerns.

Fall Train Show, September 26, 2021

Penns Landing Caterers followed the Philadelphia Covid guidelines. Attendance was good as it is for our usual Meets and bargains were there for the taking.



Annual Event Drawing-& Fall Train Show, Nov. 7, 2021

This year's winner is Fred White, TCA#73-5439. Congratulations. He selected the Lionel Pennsylvania Y3, Cat.# 6-11447, O scale with Lionel Legacy Control System



The hall and foyer (where our layout is setup) were filled with sellers/buyers and visitors. The mask restrictions remain in affect per the caterer's and city's requirements.

(Ed.) Fred, send us a picture of your Y3 on your layout if you can. Thanks.

Nov. 20, 2021, East Greenville, [PA] Train Show

Displayed Traveling Layout and provided membership information. Thanks to the members who displayed the layout: Bob Lubonski, Chris Bogus, Ron DeWitt, Ray Nase, and Mike Ramsey.



The show had moderately good attendance which was not bad considering we are slowly coming out of the COVID awareness period. There were four layouts there, three of which, including ours, had push-buttons to the operated accessories. The HO layout featured controls to operate turnouts on a "switching" activity.

The two S-Gauge layouts were from *Toy-Trains in Motion* and *North Penn S-Gaugers*.

2022 Winter Shows Schedule— * TCA Buy/Sell Rules Applicable

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHOW</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Jan. 8-9, 2022	Greenberg's Train & Toy Show	Greater Phila. EXPO Center, Oaks, PA 19456
Jan. 16, 2022	*Atlantic Div. Train Show	Sheet Metal Workers Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila. PA 19147
Jan. 30, 2022	Hamburg Train Show	Hamburg Fire Dept Fieldhouse, Hamburg, PA 19526
Feb. 5-6, 2022	Great Scale Model Train Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD 21093
Feb. 12-13, 2022	Greenberg's Train & Toy Show	Chase Center, 815 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801-5156
Feb. 26-27, 2022	Spring Thaw Train show	Allentown Fairgrounds, 17th & Chew Sts., Allentown, PA 16104
Mar. 6, 2022	*Atlantic Div. Train Show	Sheet Metal Workers Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila. PA 19147
Mar. 12-13, 2022	Greenberg's Train & Toy Show	New Jersey EXPO Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ 08837
Mar. 13, 2022	Toy Train Show	Keystone Steam Fire Co. No. 1, 240 N. Walnut St. Boyertown, PA 19512

Have some spare time and want to help? Our modular traveling layout is assembled about 7 a.m. before the opening of the Meet. Disassembly starts after the Meet closes-about 1 p.m. and takes about one hour. Contact Mike Ramsey if you can help out.—610-324-6770

Tuckahoe Transportation Heritage Festival, Saturday 9/25/2021

By: Mike Hudek, 90-32044



What is better than real trains, toy trains, classic cars and BBQ? At our ages not much. The annual Tuckahoe Transportation Heritage Festival was well attended on a perfect fall day.

Held at the Tuckahoe Train Station attendees were treated to Trains rides on restored Pullman Coaches, a Classic car Show with over 35 cars, G Scale Trains running outdoors, tours of historic railroad cars Blue Comet Observation "Temple", PRR Parlor Car "Mineral Spring" and BBQ. The highlight of the day was a ride on a vintage track maintenance car. The 2-mile round trip on a sidetrack was thrilling. You could feel every bump, dip and joint in the track and there were a lot of them. Next year I am going to bring an extra pad to sit on.

The event sponsor is the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township. The event takes place every Fall and the cost to attend is \$10.00. You can visit www.capecmayseashorelines.org for information on future events.



Memories

John Adamski TCA #08-63003
Tel 610-438-2694

After reading Bob Lubonski's article about his first layout, I began thinking about my old layouts. I am a retired Air Force officer and I served 18 years in total in Europe. It all started with my father. He had an old three rail American Flyer loco with three passenger cars. He would bring it out each Christmas and put it under the tree. By the time I was six or so, we added some buildings. When I was ten, I had enough money saved to buy my own train set. It was an AF loco with four freight cars and caboose. It was added to dad's train set at Christmas. The buildings, trees and people kept growing.



At about sixteen, Mom did not want the trains anymore. So, I got some plywood and sawhorses and moved to the attic. I built a 4' by 8' empire after acquiring an American Flyer diesel. Constructed some mountains out of crushed wet paper and chicken wire. We had a lot of paint in the basement as leftovers and I used a lot of it to paint the mountains. I had a paper route, so I had some money to buy more buildings and trees, etc.

Fast forward a decade or so and I was in England and had my trains, etc. boxed up and with me. I was lucky to find a house for my family that had a small garage attached. So, I started to build another layout. It went well until I plugged the transformer in - England has a 50 cycle 240-volt electric system - and even though I was using a step-down transformer to get U.S. current, the transformer started to smoke after a while and that ended my layout in the United Kingdom.



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A few years later I found myself in Germany. I left my U.S. collection in storage and started a HO layout. My job allowed me ample time to work on it. I travelled a lot for my job and was able to amass a sizable collection from Italy, the U.K., and East Germany. I had a basement room about

12 by 14 feet and had constructed my own little empire. When my time was up in Germany I retired from the USAF and returned to the good old USA.

By this time age was interfering with eyes and hands. So, I gave my HO collection to my grandson and pulled out my U.S. trains, bought new transformers and attended a lot of train shows and swap meets. I am not a true "collector", I am an operator. So, I built a 13 by 22-foot layout with six separate lines each with a siding. I scratch built my version of Bethlehem Steel and placed south mountain (City of Bethlehem) behind it and placed the "Star of Bethlehem" on it. I modeled Lehigh Foundry and off to the side is a coal mine like the one I remembered from my youth (my father was a coal miner in Nanticoke).

At Christmas time I decorate the layout for the season. The city of Easton, PA has a "Peace Candle" in center square, so I modeled my own and placed it on the layout. Hobby Lobby supplied a lot of the wreaths and other symbols of the season. After Christmas I remove the decorations and get back to

normal. I have a few bits of whimsy; a flying saucer, a converted passenger car for "Mimi's Trackside Diner" in honor of my wife and John's "Bar & Grill" which is a trolley that broke.

All businesses are named after our grandkids. My neighbor is also in the hobby and gave me his version on the Clinton Station Diner, which is diner on I-78 near Clinton, N.J. complete with a converted Blue Comet passenger car.

Construction took about two- and one-half years. I operate the layout at least weekly. We have lots of fun with the layout.

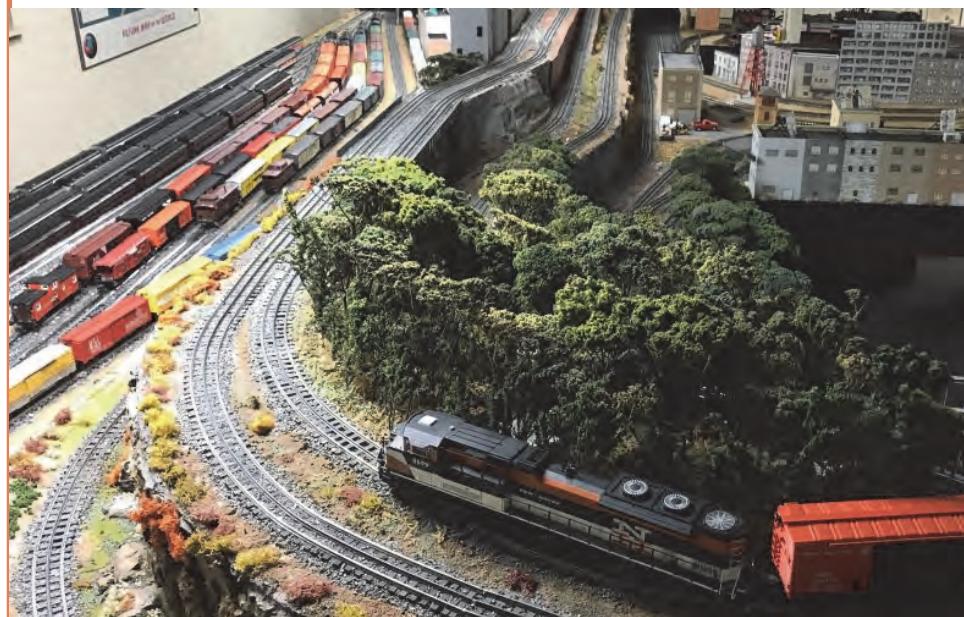


Feature Article—Some Tips to Avoid Missteps for Building Your Layout

By: Bill Erskine, 86-24379

Here are my tips from years of modeling that have worked for me. Not included below is the choice of where you will spend hours building your layout. It should be dry, warm, as dust free as possible, accessible with your construction materials—you are building a large and strong platform, and how to store your rolling stock - shelves or ‘on-the-table’. I prefer the latter. Finally, have fun,

this is a hobby not a job.



1. The first thing you must do is to decide the theme of your railroad. Are you modeling a specific era, or railroad? Is it a working railroad with industrial sidings? Or is it simply a railroad to run several trains to re-live your childhood?
2. Once you have completed step 1, you can begin to develop your track plan. Keep copies of each of your attempts at a track plan as you may decide to incorporate some features of several drafts in the final plan. If you have several loops of track, are they interconnected? Do you need reverse loops? How large a radius is required for your engines? How long are your sidings? How close to the edge of the table is the track? How close can parallel tracks be, especially around curves? Remember, that a track plan is not just track. It is buildings, scenery, rivers, roads, sidings, etc. You also must consider accessibility, i.e., how far can

you reach to re-rail a car or work on scenery?

3. Laying the track is obviously the most important part of building your railroad. Take your time. Do not rush it. You think are building a permanent railroad; but before you finish you will probably have re-laid some sections and sometimes more than once. Use blocks of wood when laying parallel tracks to keep the right distance between the rails. Use a mallet (gently) to tap the rails for a snug fit.
4. Wiring: Run a bare 12-gauge wire under your layout for a common ground. Run wires from the

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- ground to the outside rails. Run a wire from each terminal on your transformer to a corresponding terminal strip. Feed the rails from the strips. This way, if you have to replace a transformer you will have just a few wires to deal with.
5. If you have multiple transformers, you must ensure they are in phase. Three prong plugs are automatically in phase. With two prong plugs, you have to do a test.
 6. If you use tortoise motors for your switches, solder six-inch pieces of wire on each contact before mounting them under the table. The two outside contacts are for the motor and the other circuits can be used for lights, etc. In some cases (e.g., crossovers), one motor can power more than one switch.
 7. Re-read number 3 and, yes, you will re-lay some tracks. That's why the last thing you do is add the ballast.
 8. Make sure you have access to the track inside tunnels.
 9. When you start to do scenery, go to YouTube and search for "Dave Frary". He covers a lot of ground from rock walls, water effects, making your own trees, and many other aspects of scenery.



10. You can also grow your own trees (use sedum plants). All you must do is let them dry over the winter, paint the stems (optional), spray them with a cheap hair spray to serve as an adhesive, and sprinkle different shades of green shredded foam. They are fragile, if you break one, it becomes a bush. If you step on it, it becomes ground cover—nothing goes to waste. You can also shop at Produce

Junction as they sometimes have decorative bouquets for \$2-5 that are suitable or buy bags of lichen. Most important—Have Fun.

Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—January 31, 2022)

WANTED — Bob Robinson, Contact at carolsfancy@gmail.com
Penn Line Trains from parts to perfect, Alexander structures, Kits

FOR SALE — John Halajko, 84-20653: Contact at 609-372-7848, or jshalajko@comcast.net
GarGraves Track, all C7/C8: O72, \$80/circle, O108, \$100/circle , O-Gauge Straight Sections, \$3/section

Send your listing to Bob Wittendorf (see below) for inclusion in the next issue. AD members only.

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