



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA Began



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

Winter 2022

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



IN THIS ISSUE

Õ# President's Message

Õ# Division News

« Annual Dues

« Next Train Meets—January 8th
& March 5th.

« Traveling Layout—help needed

« NTTM—Last days open

« Newsletter content request

Õ# Shows Schedule

Õ# Pictures from the September Meet

Õ# Tuckahoe Festival

Õ# Visit to Chris Jones's HO layout

Õ# Feature Article

How to Light Up Your Layout

Find the latest information on our train
shows, events, Newsletter archive and

Division media at

ADTCA.com

President's Message

Here it is mid-December. Leaves have fallen to the ground, outdoor temperatures are dropping and Christmas items are on display in stores, although some started in July. The Atlantic Division just had the November Train Show. All signs are pointing to the upcoming holidays.

I remember years ago when this time of year also brought that years' train catalogs. The Lionel catalog used to show up in our house right around now. I would spend a great deal of time looking through it and deciding what I would like to have. A couple of weeks later the train layout would go up and time was spent putting the Plasticville structures on it, adjusting track and making sure everything worked properly. From that point through the next four weeks or so it would be operating for hours at a time with smoke billowing out (glad no smoke detectors in the '50s) and the smell of ozone and grease. To some, pine is the symbol of the holidays, to us it is the wonderful smells of toy electric trains.

I remember that people back then seemed to have a lot more time around the holidays to visit family and friends. It seemed like every night we would be visiting someone's home. During those visits everyone had trains in the home. They ranged from a loop around the bottom of the tree to very elaborate displays of HO, S, O, and some Standard Gauge. Trains and the holidays were linked together. What was more important, the tree or the trains. The tree was nice, but you couldn't operate it. We all had our own little villages to watch over and keep everything running. It was a peaceful time that a week off from school helped a lot and the trains were there every day.

I can't remember not having trains. The excitement that built up as it got closer to the time of year when they were set up for the holiday season. There were trains everywhere, Department Stores with elaborate displays, and even your local Hardware Store had them. I'm sure a lot of you carry this tradition on now and those that have small children around the house have something special to get them set up for. Even seventy years later we all can sit and watch a loop of track with trains running on it. There is something about these little machines that make them so special. The Holidays wouldn't be the same without them. It would be nice if we could get some of that back.

If you have some time before the end of the year, try to stop by the TCA's National Toy Train Museum. We just decorated it for the holidays and it will get you into the spirit of the holidays.

From the Atlantic Division Board of Directors, we wish all of our members and their families a Joy filled and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. We will see you at the next show.

Bob Lubonski
Atlantic Division President

Division News

2023 Division Membership Dues

The 2023 Division's Membership dues remain at \$8.00 per member until January 31, 2023, then \$10.00 thereafter. Send to Mike Hudek at 370 Three Bridge Road, Monroeville, NJ. *Note: Division membership requires that you are also a current TCA member.* For Division membership, send check (payable to Atlantic Division-TCA) or cash.

Continued page 3

Division News (continued)

If you have misplaced the Renewal Card, you may download one from <https://adtca.com/download-forms/> or write your TCA number, name, mailing address and a phone number, or email address (if you use one) on a separate piece of paper along with your payment and mail to Mike Hudek (see address above). On receipt, a postcard containing your Membership Card (to be cut out) will be mailed. If you do not receive your card, contact Mike Hudek at 201-294-7057, or email him at: mikh0402@yahoo.com.

Atlantic Division Train Meets (Winter & Spring 2023)

Polar Bear Train Show, Sunday, January 8th and Spring Fever Train Show, Sunday, March 5th

Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 S Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia, Doors open 8 am-1 pm. Food service (Breakfast/Lunch) available.

Traveling Layout Help Needed

Displaying our layout is a tradition from the beginning of our Division. If you have the time, please consider helping with setting-up and taking-down. Contact Mike Ramsey if interested at 610-324-6770 or mdramsey@comcast.net.

National Toy Train Museum

Our museum is open until **the last week of December** from Monday through Saturday, the 26th to 31st. It closes for cleaning, maintenance, layout upgrades & repairs from January to mid April. See the <https://www.tcatrains.org/museum/museum-visit/> for details.

Content for the Newsletter

Working on a train project, visited an interesting place? Send your story and pictures to Editor (see

2023 Winter & Spring Show Schedule— * TCA Buy/Sell Rules Applicable

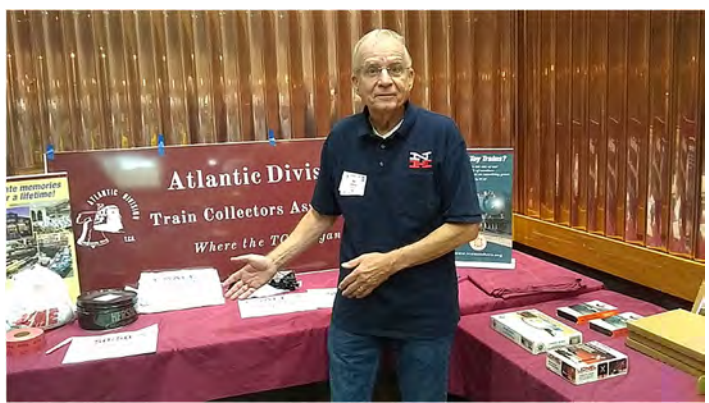
DATE	SHOW	LOCATION
Jan. 8, 2023	*Atlantic Division – TCA	Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila., PA
Jan. 8, 2023	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk's Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Jan. 14-15, 2023	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	Greater Phila. EXPO Center, 100 station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456
Jan. 29, 2023	Hamburg	Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, Pine St., Hamburg, PA 19526
Feb. 4-5, 2023	Great Scale Model Train Show	MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD 21093
Feb. 11-12, 2023	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	Chase Ctr. Riverfront, 815 Justison St., Wilmington, DE
Feb. 12, 2023	Toms River Train Show	Elks Lodge, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753
Feb. 25-26, 2023	ATMA Spring Thaw Train Meet	Allentown Fairgrounds, 1925 Chew St., Allentown, PA 16104
Mar. 5, 2023	*Atlantic Division – TCA	Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Phila., PA
Mar. 11-12, 2023	Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show	Garden State Expo Center, Edison, NJ 08837
Mar. 19, 2023	Brick Train Show	Brick Elk's Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, NJ 08723
Mar. 19, 2023	Toy Train Show	Keystone Steam Fire Co. 240 N. Walnut St. Boyertown, PA 19512
Mar. 26, 2023	Wayne Train Show	Wayne P.A.L. Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470

September & November Meets

September Meet



November Meet



Bill Erskine at the Membership Table, (See his article, page 7)



September Tuckahoe Festival

Tuckahoe Transportation Heritage Festival. Saturday 9/24/2022

Mike Hudek, 90-32044

This is my second year attending the festival. What is better than real trains, toy trains, classic cars, BBQ, and Ice Cream? At our age, 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 train 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", and PRR Parlor Car "Mineral Spring", Mister Softy Ice Cream, and BBQ. The highlight of the day was a ride on a vintage track maintenance car, or Speeder. 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.

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.capemayseashorelines.org for information on future events.



Member's Layouts on Display

HO Layout Franklinville NJ owner Chris Jones TCA #20 74704

As a follow up to an article in the *Fall 2021 AD Express*, Chris is well on his way to completing his dream layout. From its humble beginnings as an 8x14 foot layout it is now over 35 feet long. Long runs of freight cars pulled by three diesel engines travel the multiple mainlines. The layout is DCC, most of the engines have sound. Scenery is about 80% and Chris has plans to be 99% complete before the end of 2022. Anyone that has a layout knows you are never 100% complete. It took Chris about a year to get to the point you see in the pictures. If you are in the Franklinville, NJ area, Chris always welcomes visitors. Mike Hudek, 90 32044



Bill Erskine, 86-24379

Buildings on your layout can come alive when you light them up. One effortless way is to put wax paper over the inside walls and plop a 12V light inside. But the authentic way to add more life in a building is to decorate the inside with people and interior walls.

Step one is to search the internet for pictures of the type of interior you want, e.g., “pictures of office interiors,” factory, etc. Download them, crop, and scale them to 1/48. Knowing that a typical door is 3 x 6’ 8” you can use a scale figure to help you out. While you are at it, download some tile patterns and rug patterns as well. I printed mine on card stock.

Go to Amazon or Hobby Lobby (close to Christmas) and buy LED light strings. You can cut the strings to the length you need and scrape off a small bit of the coating on the ends of the wires so you can solder it to the power supply. These lights operate at around 2.5-5 V DC, so a good power supply is an old DC power pack (usually \$1-5) at local meets. I use a *Buckboard* converter to control the voltage. There is an adjustment screw on the *Buckboard* so you can dial down to the appropriate voltage. You can feed several boards from one source and several strings of lights from one board but if your lights exceed the amps coming from your source, the output voltage will drop to zero to protect the board. I have one power pack whose output bounces around from 6-13 volts (it is the \$1 one) but the output from the board is a steady 4.5V DC. If your lights do not light up, reverse the wires on the *Buckboard*.

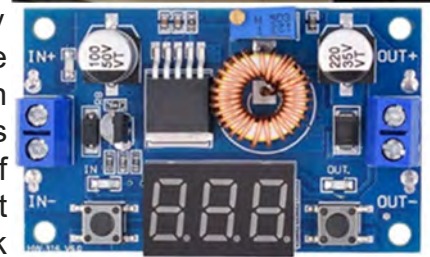
Putting interior walls, floors, and people inside a building is like building a ship in a bottle – you must plan ahead. You can only assemble three walls. The last one (usually blank) will be put on last and it will not be glued but just ‘basted’ with a few dabs of Walther’s *Goo* which will give you access to fix anything later.

Cut and fold your interior walls and figure out where they need to be glued to the outside walls. If you have a second story building it helps to put in supports on the inside walls to hold up the floor. The second floor (stiff cardboard) should be just below the bottom of the windows. Any higher and you will only see the tops of the people.

Warm up your glue gun and get ready to go.

(1) You need to drill a hole in your tabletop where the wire from the lights will exit the building to get to the power source. Glue the end of the light string on the wall where it exits.

(2) Glue the light string around all the walls with windows. (See Fig. 1) Notice the paper tab sticking out. I had to glue two interior walls together on the outside wall. This building had two adjacent blank walls, usually there is only one.



Input

Output

Adjustment screw is in the middle on the top. Push button bottom right toggles the voltage display between input and output



Fig. 1

Continued on page 8

(3) Stand the building up, glue it onto the floor.

(4) Put the walls in place. Make necessary adjustments, e.g., trim to fit around a wire, etc.

(5-A) When satisfied, glue the interior walls to the outside walls.

OR ---(5-B) When satisfied, glue the interior walls to a thin sheet of stiff plastic and then glue it to the outside walls.



(6) Place people on the bottom floor and glue them in place (see Fig. 2)

(7) Rest the second story floor on top of the walls and see if it is sturdy (see Fig 3-end view & Fig 4) and then repeat steps 4, 5 and 6.

(8) Place it on the layout, thread the wire down under, put a few dabs of Goo on the fourth wall and put it in place. (See finished project below)



Fig 2

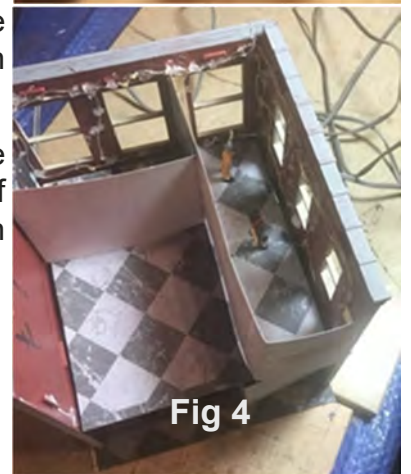


Fig 4



Wanted / For Sale / For Trade Advertising (next issue deadline—March 15, 2023)

No items were received for this issue. When submitting items for sale, use the TCA's rating system.

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

The newsletter welcomes your articles on any subject related to trains for sharing with our members. Email these with and pictures, charts, drawings, spreadsheets to the Bob Wittendorf at the address below.

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