



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Hello to Spring!



President's Message

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and the many train shows that took place across Western New York.

The results are in and our membership overwhelmingly approved the changes in our by-laws related to elections of officers. Now every member will have an opportunity to vote in our elections. Not just a small number attending a local meeting. Our membership covers a huge part of upstate New York and it's not feasible that all can attend a general meeting. Our by-laws now reflect our Eastern Division sponsors and our National organization. **Forty three members of our local membership voted (53%) with only 2 ballots not supporting the change.** Membership participation is important

to the health and well-being of our organization. I thank all those who took the time to vote.

Membership continues to grow. At last count we are up to 82 members. To those receiving this newsletter and not a member of our local chapter I encourage you to join us. The membership fee is only \$10 and it more than pays for itself with free entrance to our sponsored train shows and discounted vendor table space! A membership application is attached to this newsletter. We hope you will join us.

The Chapter's **next train show is scheduled for May 10, 2025** at the Dunkirk Fairgrounds. This show is becoming a favorite on the west end of the state. Vendor tables are only \$20. As an additional perk of membership in the Upstate NY TCA Chapter, members will receive a discounted rate of \$17 on tables. A nice \$3 savings! This show is unique because in the pavilion located next door, a huge Dunkirk, Fredonia and Jamestown Craft show will be taking place. Think about bringing your significant other with you to our train show. He or she, can attend the Craft Show while you overdose on trains! A win- win situation.

The year is quickly moving forward and in no time we will be looking at Chapter elections. Your Board is looking for 4 to 5 Chapter members to coordinate the election process. Please consider volunteering your time to be a part of this important committee. For more information contact me directly at (716)208-5842, or send an email to tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com.

Finally, I want to thank Mike Michalczak, John Ptak, Pat Lepsch and the “Old Guard” of volunteers that showed up to help us put together our Train Show on March 8th at St. Mary’s of the Lake in Hamburg, NY. It was once again financially successful for the Chapter and attendance was one of the best on record. Vendors were happy and many have signed on for our Dunkirk Show.



“OLD GUARD”

David Kaczor, President

Vice President/ Meet Chairman Report

We just had our first train show for 2025 at St. Mary’s Hall in Hamburg, NY on March 8th. The show went very well. The event was profitable, attendance was one of our best and all our vendors appeared happy with sales. Our next show will be Saturday May 10th at the Fairgrounds in Dunkirk, NY. A flyer is attached for your information. Get your table reservations in as soon as possible. Keep in mind that a very large Craft Fair will be going on in one of the Fairground Buildings next to our show at the same time. Bring along your significant other and enjoy the day together.

I am pleased to announce that all Upstate NY TCA Chapter members who take a table at **any** of our sponsored shows, including Dunkirk, will be eligible for the \$17 discounted table rate. Chapter members who have already paid the \$20

per table will receive a refund at the show. See you at the show!

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

April 12-13 Lockport Kenan Center
 April 21-23 York Train Fair
 April 24-26 York Train Show
 May 10 Dunkirk Fairgrounds – Upstate TCA Chapter

Eastern Division TCA
 Announces *Spring 2025*

York Train Fair
 Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday
 Whole Week of
 Train Shows & Activities

PRE-SHOW
 Come Early
 Monday-Wednesday
 Selling Tables Available – All Gauges
FREE Admission to the Public
 Indoor on the Fairgrounds
Purple Hall

Sunday	Apr 20 - EASTER
Monday	Apr 21 - (Set-Up 7:30-10am) Open 10-4
Tuesday	Apr 22 - Open 8:30-4 (Seller Entry 8am)
Wednesday	Apr 23 - Open 8:30-1 (Seller Entry 8am)

Paid Table Reservations > Due Apr 1, 2025

York Fairgrounds
 334 Carlisle Ave
 York, PA 17404

PRE-SHOW Table Reservation

Mike Michalczak, Vice President and Show Chairman

Membership Opportunity

Are you a member of the Train Collectors Association? We would be happy to have you join our local “Upstate New York TCA Chapter! Your support of our chapter and events insures the continuation of our great hobby. Dues are minimal (\$10) and it gets you admission to all our Chapter Train Shows. (Add \$10 if you want hard copy information mailed) It also gets you our

Newsletter packed with great information. Chapter members who reserve tables at any of our scheduled shows, will also receive a \$3 discount on table costs. An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **We hope you will join us.**

Announcements

Sponsorships

If you are interested in helping to sponsor any of our events send an email to tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com. Great way to promote your business and help the hobby.

Volunteers Wanted

We are always looking for and need volunteers to help us set up the day before meet events. Send us an email at tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com or call Mike at (716) 913-4195. We would love to have your assistance.

Board Openings

Board Secretary and Director

Your Board of Directors are looking for members to fill the position of Board Secretary and Director. Th are very important positions in our organization. If interested please contact us at tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com.

Election Committee Members Wanted!

Your Board is looking for 4 to 5 Chapter members to coordinate the election process. Please consider volunteering your time to be a part of this important committee. For more information contact me directly at (716)208-5842, or send an email to tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com.

Guest Contributor

John C. Ptak

With warmer weather and brighter days on the horizon, many people turn from running their

model trains to working in their gardens, and other outdoor activities. One great way to stay involved with the hobby could be to support a local train museum. There are plenty of organizations across Western New York that offer fantastic scenic rides, along with large collections of model and real-life trains.

The Arcade & Attica Railroad has a robust schedule set for the season, beginning with Maple Weekend, which is set for March 29, 2025. Take a tour of the Kibler Maple Sugar Shanty and learn about the rich WNY maple production (it's been a great season for maple syrup). The trip lasts a total of five-and-a-half hours and departs at 9:00 AM. The railroad will feature many other events, including the season opening steam train rides, May 24-26. Step back in time aboard one of the last operating steam train rides in New York! There are events for everyone, as the Easter Bunny Express runs April 12-13 and April 19, as well as Mother's Day brunch train rides May 10-11. To learn more about these events and many others offered, visit aarailroad.com.



The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad kicks off its excursion season on April 12, with the Livonia Avon & Lakeville (LA&L) 60th anniversary train rides. Trains run between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, with special train rides featuring vintage LA&L diesels. Along with similar Easter Bunny and Mother's Day train rides, the museum also has Rails & Ales train rides on May 24th, and Donut Day train rides on June 14th. For more information on these and other events, hosted by RGV, please visit rochestertrainrides.com.

To update a previous article from our last newsletter, the Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum recently agreed to purchase former Bath & Hammondsport diesel #5. The museum is working with the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency and the LA&L to bring the 75-year-old diesel engine to Rush, NY. The museum is excited to play a part in preserving a historic diesel locomotive, and bring it back closer to the Rochester area, where it also worked at Dispatch Shops. The move is scheduled for later in the year. To help fund the move, please visit the GoFundMe page, which

can be found on the RGV Museum Facebook page.

What's the value of my trains?

There are several resources that can be utilized for determining the value and worth of your model trains. This includes published price guides, eBay, on-line auctions, TCA's "Interchange Point" published in the TCA National Headquarters News, and the TCA's on-line buy-trade-sell **X-change** web site. The best and most effective method for figuring out the value that your toy or model trains have attained is to attend train meets and shows where these items are bought and sold to see the actual prices being paid. The Upstate New York Chapter conducts several of these shows or 'train meets' each year.

Board Members

David Kaczor, President
Mike Michalczak, V. President/Show Chair
John Ptak, Treasurer
Frank Patti, Eastern Chapter Rep.
Patrick Lepsch, Director

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com

Upstate TCA
PO Box 222, West Falls NY 14170

We are now on Facebook. Come follow us!
Visit us under **“TCA Upstate New York Chapter”**



Upstate NY TCA Chapter Renewal/Membership Application 2025

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

TCA National Expiration Date _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 Check # _____

(Check made out to: Upstate New York Chapter, TCA, Inc.)

Mail Checks to: Upstate New York Chapter, TCA, Inc. P.O. Box 222, West Falls, NY 14170

Signature _____

NOTE: Add \$10 to cost of membership if you are not providing an email address and wish your newsletter and chapter updates mailed via USPS.

***** ALL LINES MUST BE FILLED IN *****

1. Chapter Members will receive free admission to all Upstate New York Chapter sponsored Train Shows.
2. Vendors who are Chapter members, will receive a discounted table rate at shows sponsored at our St Mary's of the Lake location.
3. Membership dues are \$ 10. If you join now your dues will expire December 31, 2025
4. All Applicants must currently be a TCA National Member in good standings.
5. If a Chapter member allows their TCA National Membership to expire, their Chapter Membership will expire on that same date.
6. Applicants Must Agree to Support our TCA Upstate New York Chapter Mission and Objectives.



TOY TRAIN SHOW



Brought to you by the TCA UPSTATE NY CHAPTER

Saturday May 10th, 2025

Location: Dunkirk Fairgrounds

1089 Central Ave. Dunkirk, NY 14048

SHOW HOURS: 9:00AM to 3:00PM General Public
TCA Members allowed in at 8:30 AM

**A VARIETY OF TOY TRAINS, ACCESSORIES
AND RELATED COLLECTABLE TOYS**

We have operating Toy Trains for your enjoyment

Admission: Adults \$5.00 / Children 12-17 yrs. \$3.00 Upstate
Chapter Members & Children under 12 yrs. FREE

CRAFT SHOW *at the Fairgrounds on May 10th & 11th*

TABLE RESERVATIONS: Mike: 716-913-4195 / Dave: 716-208-5842

Table Registration Form for May 10, 2025 Show

Tables are 8ft. and cost \$20.00 / Setup: 7:00AM of Morning of Show

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Number of tables _____ X \$20.00 per table. Total Enclosed \$ _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: TCA Upstate NY Chapter

Mail to: MIKE MICHALCZAK 8393 Evelyn Dr.
Eden, NY 14057-1021

