



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukah to all our TCA family and friends. On behalf of your Board of Directors, we wish you and your family a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. We thank you for your incredible support over the last year and look forward to an even better year in 2024!

President's Message

Hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season with friends and family. Shortly the year 2023 will be in the record books. Your Board of Directors continues to work hard to re-energize and place our Chapter on firm footing for the years ahead. Two years ago, the Chapter was on the verge of folding. Thanks to individuals who genuinely care about this organization and our hobby, we have turned the corner and see greater things ahead for our Chapter and our community. We ask for your continued support and

participation. Together we can continue to grow and prosper!

Sadly, after a spike in membership, we have once again dipped below the 100 total member number. To become a member of our Chapter you must be and maintain membership in the national TCA organization. A recent audit of membership showed that a number of our members dropped their national membership. Included in this mailing, is a membership form to renew your membership. We hope everyone will renew. For those receiving this newsletter and not a current member, we invite you to join us. Dues are only \$10. If you opt to have newsletters and updates mailed rather than emailed you need to add \$10 for first class mailing. The total would be \$20. Your dues help cover administrative costs to maintain the Chapter, support our mailings and newsletters and allow us to improve our outreach to the community. Of course members get free entry into the shows we sponsor and they receive a discount on table rentals for shows held at our home base St. Mary's of the Lake. Dues are officially due by January 15, 2024. Membership card will be mailed. Your dues and support keeps our Chapter in business. Please notify us of any address, or email change.

This year we had planned on sponsoring 3 shows, but only held 2. Scheduling conflicts

with other shows and many vendors participating in shows out-of-state put a

monkey wrench into our planning. The two shows we sponsored were well orchestrated and very successful. Mike Michalczak our Event Chairman did an outstanding job. He has a report later in this newsletter. We have already scheduled 2 shows in the spring. Our first will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at St Mary's of the Lake (flyer attached) and our second will be once again held in Dunkirk during the month of May. Last year's show in Dunkirk was a huge success. We are looking at a third date and possibly a fourth. Our entire Board is committed to running Train Shows for the right reasons. There are a number of established shows currently scheduled across upstate and many of the "choice" weekends are booked. We will never schedule a show for the sake of filling our calendar. We are committed to scheduling at a time that is beneficial to our members, our vendors and our chapter.

Our Chapter once again hosted a trip down to the Eastern Divisions Train Show held in York, Pa October 19-21, 2023. Dubbed "the Explorer's" the group of 8 visited numerous Bandit Meets & the pre York meet at the York Fairgrounds. The group then visited Henning's Train shop and Nicholas Smith Trains. Both outstanding shops. The remainder of the trip was spent enjoying the York train meet. We returned home late Friday evening and were extremely happy with our York purchases. In November, 6 Chapter members took a ride to Ohio to visit several train related venues. But first, the group felt an obligation to first stop at the Krispy Kreme's Doughnuts in Erie Pa for an early morning pick me up. After downing far too many delicious donuts, the group was off to visit Menard's in Mentor Ohio.

Menard stores have a nice selection of train related items, especially their light up buildings which are amazing. Afterwards the

group moved on to Cornerfield to visit the Cornerfield Model Railroad and Museum. Their HUGE O-gauge layout, Wow what a sight! It took 8 years to build. It's enormous and has every train, accessory and building you could imagine. Leaving Cornerfield, we realized that there was another Menards in Warren, Ohio, so we headed there. The store had a larger inventory than the previous Menards and proved to be a favorite. A great time was had by all and everyone is excited to join in on future trips. This is strictly an "On You" trip and is not subsidized in any way by the chapter. Keep your eyes open for the next TCA Upstate New York Chapter Newsletter, as we have some great ideas.

Jerry Lepsch, President

Meet Chairman Report

Happy Holidays to all! I am happy to report that this year we sponsored 2 profitable Train Shows. One was held in Dunkirk, New York on Mother's Day weekend and one this past September at our "home" location of St. Mary's on the Lake. Total profit for the chapter was \$1082.35. This coming year we will be doing 3 shows, one at St. Mary's of the Lake in Hamburg, NY on Saturday March 23rd along with a second show May 11th, 2024 at the Dunkirk Fairgrounds. A fall show at St Mary's on the Lake is being planned for the fall. Below are listed some of the upcoming Club sponsored train shows in the area. (2024)

January 21st Utica NY Train Show
(TTCS)

February 20th Buffalo Snowball Express
Depew (TTCS)

February 17-18 WNYRHS, Hamburg

March 23rd **Upstate TCA, Hamburg**
 April 14th Batavia Train Show
 April 18-20 York PA Train Show
 TCA Eastern Division
May 11th **Upstate TCA, Dunkirk**

Michael Michalczak, Meet Chairman

Announcements

Chapter Elections

On Friday October 13, 2023 the Elections and Nominations Committee of the Upstate New York Chapter of the Train Collectors Association, met to validate and count the ballots received related to the chapters 2024 - 2025 election. All ballots received were postmarked as required by October 11, 2023. The total number of ballots received was 58. Two submittals received did not meet the required membership criteria of being a member of the National and local organization. As such 56 ballots were deemed valid submittals. The number submitted equates to approximately 62% of our membership submitted a ballot.

At an Upstate New York Train Collectors Association Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 the Elections and Nominations Committee submitted the election results to the Board. The Board of Directors accepted the Committee's report and certified the election of candidates as presented and documented. The following individuals were elected to office for the 2024 -2025 fiscal years.

President	Jerry Lepsch
Vice President	David Kaczor
Treasurer	John Ptak
Secretary	Two write-ins. Both withdrew from consideration.
Chapter Representative	Frank Patti
Director/Meet Chairman	Michael Michalczak
Director at Large	Patrick Lepsch

The Upstate New York Train Collectors Association Board of Directors and the Elections and Nominations Committee wish to thank all its members for their participation in the election process. The 62% participation rate was outstanding for a **Chapter** election. Your continued support and participation is essential to the future growth and success of our great organization.

The winners of the Nicholas Smith boxcars for completing and submitting a valid election ballot are: James Delucia, Brenda Luther, Daniel Pace and Harvey Tremper. Each will receive one of the Nicholas Smith Special Run boxcars. Boxcars will be available for pick-up at the March 23rd Train Meet in Hamburg, New York. Congratulations to our winners.

Chapter By-Laws

There is a need to update our chapter by-laws. We are working with the Eastern Division of the TCA to adopt many of the comprehensive elements of their by-laws to establish consistency. We are looking for 4 or 5 members to set up a By-law revision committee. Please contact us if you are interested in serving your chapter. You can contact us at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com.

Sponsorships

If you are interested in helping to sponsor any of our events send an email to tca.upstatenychapter@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@gmail.com or call Mike at (716) 913-4195. We would love to have your assistance.

Board Opening – Board Secretary

Your Board of Directors are looking for a member to fill the position of Board Secretary. This is a very important position in our organization. If interested please contact us at

tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com.

Become an active member of your organization.

Membership Opportunity

Are you a member of the Upstate New York Chapter of the Train Collectors Association?

We would be happy to have you aboard!

Your support of our chapter and our events insures the continuation of our great hobby.

Our dues are minimum (\$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 that

is packed with great information. Chapter members who reserve tables at our home

based meet location at St Mary of the Lake, will additionally get a \$3 discount on their

table cost. This does not apply to any other scheduled venues. An application with all

the pertinent information is attached. **We hope you will join us.**

Board Members

Jerry Lepsch, President

David Kaczor, V. President

John Ptak, Treasurer

Mike Michalczak, Director/Meet Chairman

Frank Patti, Eastern Chapter Rep.

Patrick Lepsch, Director

Thomas Unverzart, Director

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com

Upstate TCA

PO Box 222, West Falls NY 14170



"Making the Chapter Great Again" 2024

TCA Upstate New York Chapter Membership Application

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

TCA National Expiration _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 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 renewal if you are not providing an email address and wish your newsletter and chapter updates to be mailed via USPS.

Your dues will give Chapter Member in Good Standing free admission to all Chapter Train Shows.

- 1. Membership Dues are \$ 10.00 , if you join now your due's will expire December 31, 2024**
- 2. All Applicants must currently be TCA National Members in Good Standings !**
- 3. If A Chapter Member allows their TCA National Membership to expire, their Chapter Membership will have to expire on that same date. No Exceptions !**
- 4. Applicants Must Agree to Support our TCA Upstate New York Chapter Mission and promote Fellowship to all TCA Members for which our Chapter was founded.**

Please take a minute and answer questions on Page 2

What are your interests?

All About You

What are your favorite road names _____ ?

What scale do you collect or model _____ ?

Do you or model a specific era _____ ?

What are your favorite Manufacturers _____ ?

Do You Operate, Collect or both _____ ?

TCA York Meet

Have you ever been to TCA York Meet in York, Pa _____ ?

How often do you go to York _____ ?

Would you be interested in finding a ride to York _____ ?

Train Shows

As for Chapter Train Shows what's more important to you. Quality / Quantity

Have you attended a Chapter Event _____ ?

How far would you travel for a Chapter Train Show _____ miles

Would you be interested in being a Co-Chairman of a Chapter Show _____ ?

Please share your thoughts or comments



TOY TRAINS



AND

COLLECTABLE TOYS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TCA UPSTATE NY CHAPTER

Saturday March 23rd, 2024

at

St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall

4737 Lakeshore Rd. (Rt. 5)

Hamburg, NY 14075

SHOW HOURS:

9:00AM to 2:30PM Open to General Public

TCA Members Allowed in at 8:30AM

Admission: Adults \$5.00 / Children 12-17 yrs. \$3.00

Upstate Chapter Members & Children under 12 yrs. FREE

TABLE RESERVATIONS:

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

Tables are 8ft. and cost \$20.00

Setup: 7:00AM to 8:30AM morning of show



**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
UPSTATE NEW YORK CHAPTER**

SHOW TABLE RESERVATION

Saturday March 23rd 2024

**Location: St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall
4737 Lakeshore Rd. Hamburg, NY 14075**

Tables: \$20.00 per 8' table

Setup: 7am to 8:30am the morning of the show

call Mike: 716-913-4195 / Dave: 716-208-5842

Reservations need to be in by March 20th to ensure a spot at the show

***** **Detach Here** *****

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

Your E-mail _____

Table holders will be expected to stay set up until the end of the show.

Number of tables _____ X \$20 per table \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: TCA Upstate NY Chapter

Return application with payment to:

MIKE MICHALCZAK

8393 Evelyn Dr.

Eden, NY 14057-1021