



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

August 2024



Vice President's Special Message

The summer train season is wrapping up and unfortunately is filled with a number of disappointments. Your Board had many ideas for Chapter sponsored activities, but due to a shortage of volunteers and unfortunately a diminishing membership, those activities never materialized. Over the past year, we have aggressively reached out to current and past members to solicit support. Every newsletter promotes chapter memberships, volunteers for train shows and individuals willing to actively take a role on our Board of Directors. (Chapter Secretary and Director). Our newsletter is emailed to over 900 TCA members and train enthusiasts across Upstate New York.

Despite this outreach, our membership remain stagnant, our Board positions remain unfilled and every show relies on a small group of dedicated chapter members to ensure its success.

We are a volunteer organization with a mission to develop and enhance an appreciation of model railroading and preserving an important segment of history. An active chapter offers more than just train shows. It offers opportunities to socialize with like-minded Train Buffs, access to train related resources, social events, learning opportunities through clinics and operating sessions and – of course - show discounts to members, to name a few. The bottom line of this message....are we ready to change course and fulfill our potential as a Chapter, or are we destined to join the many other train organizations that have gradually ceased to exist? **We need your support and participation. Please consider becoming a member and/or volunteering to assist us! Share this newsletter with friends and family and consider being a vendor at one of our shows. Let's get our organization back on track!! A membership applications is attached for your convenience. Thank you.**

David Kaczor, Vice President

Meet Chairman Report

TRAIN SHOW NEWS

This past May our Train Show in Dunkirk New York generated a Profit of \$403.56 after expenses. Vendors and attendees alike were extremely happy with the facility and offerings. Was great to see our friends from PA in attendance. Special thanks to our volunteers that helped setup the day before the event and hung around after the event to break down the tables. You are truly appreciated!



September 28th will be our next show at St. Mary's of the Lake in Hamburg New York. **It's time to reserve your tables!** A flyer promoting the event with a vendor application is attached for your convenience. Please share with family and friends!

We have been notified that St Mary's is one of the parishes subject to consolidation by the Diocese of Buffalo. Your Board will be looking at optional locations if St. Mary's closes.

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

9/21 - 9/22 Hemlock/Rochester
9/28 TCA Upstate/St. Mary's, Hamburg
10/13 Batavia Train Show
10/17 - 10/19 Eastern TCA/York, PA
10/20 Polish Falcons/Depew
10/27 Knights/Cheektowaga
11/1 - 11/2 Syracuse Show
11/23 - 11/24 Hamburg Show

Mike Michalczak, Meet Chairman

Membership Opportunity

Member of the Upstate New York Chapter of the Train Collectors Association? Would be happy to have you aboard! 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 our home based meet location (St Mary of the Lake) will also get a \$3 discount on table cost. This does not apply to any other scheduled venues. An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **Special! Apply now and get we will include 2024 and 2025! We hope you will join us.**

Announcements

Chapter By-Laws

We are still looking for volunteers to work on updating our Chapter By-Laws. There is a need to update our chapter by-laws. 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.

WNY RAILFAN TRAIN RIDE on the BC&J Scenic RR

On Sunday September 29th ride the old Erie Lackawanna Route from Hamburg NY to Buffalo and back. For information & details go to: bcjrailroad@gmail.com Tickets are now available on-line.

BC&J Scenic RR are currently looking for volunteers to help out on the rides. If you are interested in volunteering go to: bcjrailroad@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 and Director

Your Board of Directors are looking for members to fill the position of Board

Secretary and Director. This are very important positions in our organization. If interested please contact us at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com.

Guest Contributor

John C. Ptak

Here are some quick updates on a local museum and restoration project that chapter members might find interesting:



(Pictures courtesy of the R&GVRRM Facebook Page)

The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, located at 282 Rush Scottsville Rd, Rush NY. Is the largest operating railroad museum in New York State. The museum rosters more than 40 pieces of historic train equipment, including nine operating diesel-electric locomotives, two steam locomotives, six cabooses, seven freight cars, as well as other passenger cars and rolling stock. There are monthly meetings every third Thursday of the month.

During the summer, the organization meets at the museum at 6:00 PM. Tours of the restoration shop follow regular business meetings. All meetings are free and open to the public. Other than monthly meetings, the museum also hosts various train-ride events throughout the year. Upcoming events in August and September include the following: Trains and Trolleys at Twilight (August 3), Pizza Day Train Rides (August 10), Diesel Train Rides (August 17), Boxcars, bands & Barbecue Train Rides (August 24), and Oktoberfest Rails & Ales Train Rides (September 21). More information can be found at: rochestertrainrides.com.



(Pictures courtesy of Facebook and Go Fund Me Pages)

The Flour-by-Rail Legacy Project is a local effort to bring back some of the beautiful Buffalo rail history back home. The project is currently in the midst of two projects – restoration of a Buffalo Creek flour boxcar #1424, as well as the purchase, moving, and hopeful repainting of Buffalo Creek Alco S-2 Bicentennial engine. The organization is currently in possession of the boxcar, and is

in the process of purchasing and moving the Alco diesel. Further information regarding the projects can be found on the organization's Facebook page, as well as the Go Fund Me pages (facebook.com/flourbyrail & gofundme.com/f/55f8d-save-the-buffalo-creek-46?cdn-cache=0)

Board Members

Jerry Lepsch, President
David Kaczor, V. President/Newsletter
John Ptak, Treasurer
Mike Michalczak, Director/Meet Chairman
Frank Patti, Eastern Chapter Rep.
Patrick Lepsch, Director

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com
Upstate TCA
PO Box 222, West Falls NY 14170



"Making the Chapter Great Again" 2024 - 2025

TCA Upstate New York Chapter Membership Application

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 September 28th 2024

at

St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall

4737 Lakeshore Rd. (Rt. 5) Hamburg, NY 14075

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

Operating Toy Trains

SHOW HOURS: 9:00AM to 2:00PM 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

Table Registration Form for Sept. 28, 2024 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

