



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024



WE WANT YOU!

President's Message

Over the holidays, we were sad to learn that yet another national train collectors group the Toy Train Operators Society (TTOS) is ceasing operation. Falling under this group is our own local Niagara Frontier Division Chapter. An outstanding group of model railroaders, collectors and operators, the local organization has had a huge impact on the hobby across New York State for many, many years. Our Board of Directors would like to wish all its current and past members the very best and thank you for your many years of service to our model train community. You will be greatly missed.

Unfortunately, across the United States, we are seeing a greater number of local train clubs and associations close their doors each

year. Almost all cite member participation and support as the ultimate killer.

In this newsletter, which has a distribution of over 900 in upstate New York, we will be again reaching out to our members and our non-member railroading friends seeking your help in keeping our Upstate Chapter viable. In previous newsletters we have reached out, but despite our postings we haven't had any responses from our membership. As it stands the entire burden of managing and maintaining our chapter has fallen on your 5 Board members. Members have asked for increased programming and the only thing stopping us from expanding our offerings, is the lack of additional members to help out on our shows and projects. **Will you step up to help ensure the future of our Chapter and organization?** Here is a list of opportunities:

- Chapter Secretary
- By-Law Review Chairman and/or Committee member
- Web Page Developer and Manager
- Train Show Volunteer for Set-up and Break down

At this writing only 50 members (62%) of our membership have renewed their dues.

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. Attend 2 shows and your dues are covered. Membership card will be mailed, or available for pick-up at our March 23rd show. Stop by...pay your dues and get in for free!!

Membership renewal forms are attached to this newsletter. Please complete the application in full. We will not accept a renewal without the completed form. Remember you must be a member of the National TCA organization to join our local chapter.

Jerry Lepsch, President

Meet Chairman Report

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. We are currently taking table reservations for both shows. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible to prevent any disappointment. The March 23rd show in Dunkirk has the added bonus of having a major Craft Show and Flea Market being held in the adjacent building. Great opportunity to bring along your wife and/or significant other to enjoy both shows all in one location. A fall show

at St Mary's on the Lake is being planned for the fall.

Attached to your newsletter are flyers for our March 23 show and our May 11th show. Please share with friends and family.

Also attached are vendor applications for both shows. Please note that we welcome individuals to participate in our show who are selling toys and collectables.

Below are listed some of the upcoming Club sponsored train shows in the area. (2024)

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

Mike Michalczak, Show Chairman

Announcements

Reminder: 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 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 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



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



**"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

TOY TRAIN & COLLECTABLES

SHOW

Brought to you by the TCA UPSTATE NY CHAPTER

Saturday May 11th, 2024

Location: Dunkirk Fairgrounds

1089 Central Ave. Dunkirk, NY 14048

SHOW HOURS:

9:00AM to 3:30PM General Public

TCA Members allowed in at 8:30 AM

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

TABLE RESERVATIONS:

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

Tables \$20.00 per 8' table

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

On Display at the Fairgrounds

*Boston & Maine Steam Locomotive No. 444
along with a D & H Boxcar and NYC Caboose*

Craft Show

at the Fairgrounds on May 11th & 12th