



UPSTATE NY TCA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

Happy St Paddy's Day



With St Paddy's Day just around the corner, it can only mean one thing. The Upstate New York Train Collectors Association Train Show is right around the curve! This year's show is scheduled for March 28th at St. Mary's of the Lake in Hamburg, New York. **A flyer with all the particulars is attached to this newsletter.** Come out and enjoy a fun day with your fellow train enthusiasts. Always great to see old friends, brag about your latest find, get your electrical question answered by our resident train expert Frank Patti and just have a relaxing day browsing our vendors tables. We hope you will come out and support YOUR local train chapter. Vendor tables are available for the show by contacting Chuck Janiga at (716) 390-8216, or you can visit him at his train store in North Collins. **Information is also included on the attached flyer.**

Our Vice President Michael Oher has taken a lead in developing our chapter web site. His expertise in the IT field has opened many new opportunities for our chapter. We are hoping that by late spring, or early summer, to roll it out to the membership. This new membership tool will allow for better communication, more in depth train related articles, a better one-stop source for upcoming train events and an on line portal for joining our chapter, renewing memberships and reserving your table at upcoming train shows All of us on the Board are extremely excited.

On March 27th at 4:00 PM we will be meeting at St Mary's of the Lake to set up the hall for the next day's train show. We could really use help in this this endeavor. It normally takes under 2 hours to set up the tables and they are all fiberglass folding. Not too heavy. If anyone could lend a hand it would be GREATLY appreciated. Please give Chuck, or myself a call.

We are finalizing plans to hold a General Membership meeting sometime in April. Keep your eyes open for an announcement. We will have a guest speaker and of course refreshments will be provided. Plans are for a Saturday afternoon to help out members who live a bit further away.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't remind members that the York Train Show is not too far off. (April 20-25, 2026) Seven buildings, thousands of trains and one great tradition. If you have never attended, you are really missing out on an incredible adventure. If you want more information, grab (gently) one of the Board members at the March 28th show. WE would be happy to fill you in on what to expect if you

decide to attend. You can also visit easterntca.com for additional information.

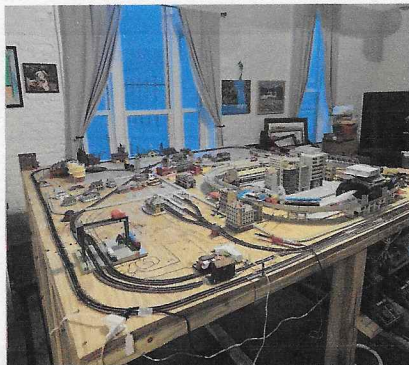
Have an idea? Want to volunteer for a committee, or just provide feedback? Email us: (tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com)

David Kaczor, President

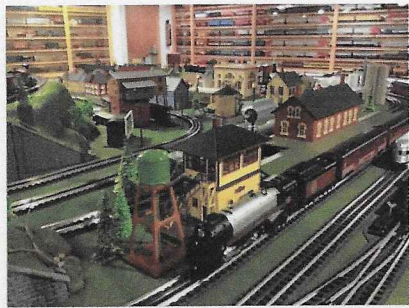
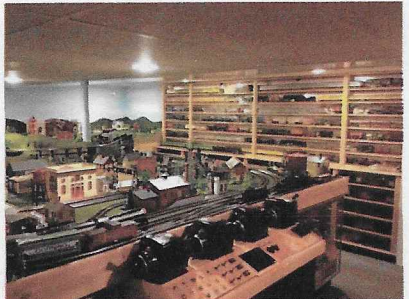
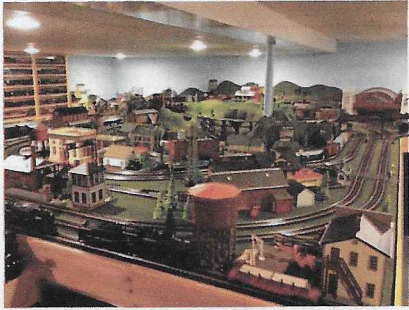
Layouts That Tell a Story: From Family Legacy to Old-School Operation

This quarter, we highlight two chapter members whose layouts remind us that model railroading is about far more than track plans and rolling stock; it's about legacy, family, friendship, and personal expression.

Michael Oher's 8x8 N scale railroad, built in what was once his dining room, has become the nightly heartbeat of his home. What began as a personal project quickly grew into a family tradition, with brothers, sisters, and friends contributing everything from bench work and wiring to scenery and detailing. The layout is deeply personal, incorporating many pieces from his late father's collection: locomotives, buildings, and even an operating Aurora Postage Stamp Bus System that glides through the miniature towns. Blending vintage equipment with modern digital control, Michael's imaginary world bridges generations. Still very much a work in progress, the layout stands as a living tribute to family, creativity, and the joy found in building something together.



In contrast, yet equally rich in character, Marc Slye's O gauge train room, constructed in 2006–2007, showcases a lifetime of collecting and operating across eras. Centered primarily on Prewar and Postwar Lionel and American Flyer, Marc also runs newer MTH and Atlas equipment, creating a layout capable of handling O gauge from the earliest years to current production. With a strong Northeastern railroad influence, the layout features a wide variety of structures and operating accessories spanning decades. True to an "old school" philosophy, Marc relies on track blocks and relays rather than heavy electronics. Visitors are even challenged to locate various figures hidden throughout the layout, (some engaged in humorous and mischievous activity) adding an interactive layer of fun.



Together, these two layouts reflect the diverse spirit of our chapter: one built nightly through family collaboration and remembrance, the other a carefully developed operating showcase rooted in tradition and hands-on control. Both remind us that no matter the scale, digital or relay-driven, what truly powers our hobby is the passion behind it.

If you are interested in having your own layout highlighted in a future Chapter newsletter, please reach out to me at jcptak@upstatenytca.org.

John C. Ptak
Board Director

Upcoming Shows

March 8 – Sanborn Fire Hall
April 12 – N. Tonawanda (Erie Ave) TTCS
May 9 – Dunkirk Fairgrounds
Upstate NY TCA

Membership Opportunity

Not a member of our Upstate TCA Chapter? Are you a member on the National Train Collectors Association? We would be happy to have you join our local 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. More benefits will follow. Stay tuned! An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **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 2 or 3 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 Dave at (716) 208-5842. We would love to have your assistance. You don't need to be a member to participate in our activities.

Board Openings

Board Secretary and Director

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

Board Members

David Kaczor, President
Michael Oher, V. President
John Ptak, Treasurer
Chuck Janiga, Director
Ethann Browne, Director
Patrick Lepsch, Director
John C. Ptak, Director
Frank Patti, Eastern Representative

Contact Information:

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



Upstate NY TCA Chapter Renewal/Membership Application 2026

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

TCA National Expiration Date _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 Check # _____

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

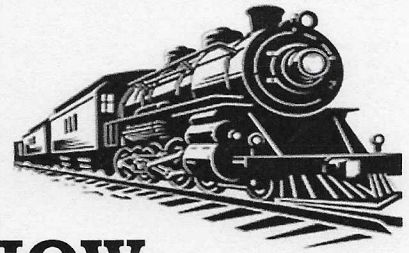
Mail Checks to: Upstate New York Chapter, TCA, Inc. P.O. Box 222, West Falls, NY 14170

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, 2026
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.



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Saturday March 28th 2026

at

St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall

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

**A VARIETY OF TOY TRAINS, ACCESSORIES
AND COLLECTABLE TOYS. ON SITE OPERATING TRAIN LAYOUT.**

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: Chuck (716) 390-8216 / Dave: (716) 208-5842

Table Registration Form for March 28, 2026 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: Upstate NY TCA
PO BOX 222, West Falls NY 14170**