



ALL ABOARD!!

Winter 2017

Newsletter

Music City Chapter TCA

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Music City Chapter Spring Show

Saturday, March 25, 2017
Donelson First Baptist Church
2526 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN

Registration Form Enclosed

President's Message

The Christmas Toy Train Show was enjoyed by all. Our first show in the Creative Arts Building worked well for dealers and attendees as they had extra room. There were approximately 800 in attendance with dealers reporting good sales and trades. The parents and kids enjoyed the layout room with play area and a photographer taking Christmas pictures. A special thanks to all the members who helped to make our show a success. We have already started working on the 2017 Christmas Show. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Our next show will be at the First Baptist Church in Donelson on March 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As in the past, we will have donuts and coffee plus sandwiches and drinks for lunch. TCA members will get in for free. Come join us!

I am attending the monthly meetings at the Nashville Fairgrounds. Plans are being finalized for the renovations of the buildings. I am excited to hear what they have in store.

Ron Hirst
President

Spring Show

March 25

First Baptist Church, Donelson

Board members will have a meeting at the close of the show.

Fall Show

Date TBD

First Baptist Church, Donelson

Board members will have a meeting at the close of the show.

Mt. Juliet Library

October Date TBD

Club members will run trains on Thursday. Friday and Saturday are for children visiting the library.

Christmas Toy Train Show

December 9

Nashville Fairgrounds

Dates of our Chapter events will be provided as soon as they are determined. Check the TCA website for other shows and events.



Editor's Note

The 2016 annual Christmas Toy Train Show presented some new challenges last year. Let's begin with the location. Early in the year, we learned that the Gun Show had reserved the Agricultural Building on the same day as our show. The Fairgrounds offered us the Creative Arts Building, a larger building, for a small increase in price. We accepted.

If you came to the show, you saw that the interior of the building presented some logistical issues. Vic, Ron, Carol, and I measured, taped, and walked the floor for several hours. Following that, Vic created the semantic for the tables and we were on our way. Two days before the show, we checked the location of the tables and made some adjustments. It all worked the day of the show.

In prior years, we had purchased the parking facility from the Fairground so that our attendees could park for free. However, because the Gun Show would be there on the same day, that was not an option. Consequently, it cost \$5 to park on the day of the show. As it turned out, the Gun Show was held the week-end prior to our show. A little confusion on the part of the Fairgrounds.

The building itself allowed for better participant access. The entrance was improved as well as the location of the sign up boxes for the door prizes. The crowds moved easily between the rows of tables and the dealers were satisfied with their space. All in all, the reaction to the new building was generally positive.

We were able to put three of the operating train layouts and the children's play area in one section of the building. Additionally, refreshments were available in one corner of the building.

These shows generally bring out the best and, sometimes, the worst in people. For example, there is a woman who comes to the show with several children. She pays her entry fee. She spends several hours walking through the show and then complains that the show is not kid friendly and wants her money back. In addition, dealers have observed several small items taken from the tables without payment.

On the other hand, two of our dealers turned in both a wallet with cash and a debit card. Fortunately, the owners of the lost items were still at the show and were happy to get the items back.

The Christmas Toy Train Show is always an adventure. Last year was no exception.

Joseph R. Marabeti
Secretary



Train Trivia

Submitted by Joseph Marabeti

What was the fastest steam train ever?

Answer: The English locomotive Mallard reached 203 KPH (126 MPH) in 1938. It was a world record.



Officers Meeting

On Saturday, February 4, the Officers met at Ron's residence in Nashville. In addition to Ron, Vic Petrone, John Blake, and Joseph Marabeti were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Spring and Summer train shows as well as to review the results of the 2016 Christmas Toy Train Show.

The Officers agreed that we would continue mailing the postcard announcements for these two shows. This marketing approach was initiated in the Summer of 2016. While there was some increase in participation, it was too early in the process to make an evaluation necessary to justify the additional expense.

Several dates in August were selected for the Summer meet. Ron will make the final selection based on the availability at the church. In addition, Ron will schedule the October dates for the train display at the Mt. Juliet library.

There was a very positive response from our dealers to the Creative Arts building, the new location for our Christmas Show. The building is larger by about 3,000 square feet resulting in an additional cost of \$375. The Officers believed that this expense was appropriate for the space and amenities. This building will be used for the 2017 Show.

Admission to the 2017 Christmas Toy Train Show will return to \$7 for adults and the parking cost if any would not be paid by the Chapter. The marketing approach for the Show will be reviewed and discussed at the March 25 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Compliments to Ron's wife Carol for the homemade soup and corn bread followed by a delicious homemade apple pie!

*Joseph R. Marabeti
Secretary*

23rd Annual Christmas Toy Train Show



Ready To Run Lionel Train Sets

*Daniel Reynolds
Brentwood, TN*

*Robert Grove
Charlotte, TN*

*John Ross
Russellville, KY*

*Kristen Thomas
Brentwood, TN*

*Doug Noel
Murfreesboro, TN*

Congratulations!!!!

Music City Chapter 2016 Statement of Operations

Bank Balance 12.31.15	\$20,954.89
Spring Show	\$ (133.14)
Summer Show	\$ (217.60)
Christmas Toy Train Show	\$ (1,832.90)
Other Expense/Income	\$ (407.65)
 Bank Balance 12/31/16	 \$18,363.60