



ZERO MILE POST

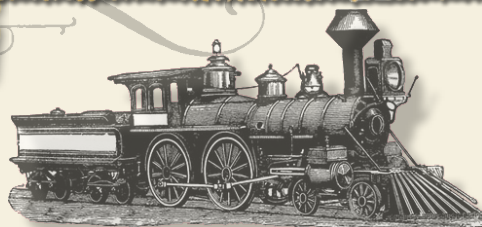
Newsletter of the Terminus Chapter - Train Collector's Association

JAN/FEB 2016

VOL. 2 • NO. 1

This Newsletter Is On-Line

OFFICERS:
PRESIDENT
ARNO BAARS
VICE-PRESIDENT
BILL FREY
SECRETARY
TOMMIE TURNER
TREASURER
RICK HEMER



MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve an important segment of history - Tinsplate Toy Trains

Through research, the establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach and fellowship, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.

Our Newsletter Enters Year Two!

It's hard to believe, but the Zero Mile Post is now (over) a year old. Our attempt was to bring the membership an update of what's happening in our little train world; I think it has worked well to this point. But that doesn't mean we are happy. No sir. We plan to make it even better!

Of course, I can't thank those of you who have taken the time to let us know how much you are enjoying the newsletter. Whether in person or via email, the message has been well received. Thank you. And feel free to get involved with an article or some photos.

TERMINUS CHAPTER NEWS

FIRST QUARTER TRAIN SHOWS

We're in the middle of the silly season for us train folks. Most of the upcoming shows are in the neighborhood but not hosted by the T-C.

GREENBERG BOOK OFFER

Bruce Greenberg offers his latest Standard Gauge book to the T-C and helps out along the way. ~ Page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAIN SHOWS

Bill Frey updates us on area train shows and events. Look for his write-up. ~ Page 6

'IN-TRAINING' WITH RICK HEMER

This issue, Rick kicks back and enjoys the trains on his 'bigger' holiday layout. ~ Page 7

Also, the registration form for the May Meet is included!

Terminus Chapter

Next T-C Train Meet: May 14th 2016



Joe Ray filled all six of his tables with plenty of trains.



Bill Vaughn and Dave Rodgers preparing to serve lunch.

Join fellow TCA members for all the fun, camaraderie and new treasures found at a TCA sponsored train meet!





The Prez Sez...

Well, to be brief, I must first apologize as this newsletter is off to a late start. I could

state it was because it had something to do with an unnatural consumption of egg nog, or the New Year's Eve party turned into an excessive New Year's Week. Sadly, it is not nearly as glorious (of course I'm not sure how 'glorious' drinking a lot of egg nog would be anyway).

While many of you are familiar with my ongoing medical challenges, this was to be an easy part of the year. Having finished chemotherapy treatments in mid-November, I was on a good course to prepare for the next step. But, as luck would have it, my cancer-related back pain slowly trickled back into the picture by mid-December. I was taking it easy with my day-to-day activities, even with returning to work. But as the weeks progressed, so did the back pain.

The holidays were a little slow around here, but I had many things to distract me like filling train shelves, eating cookies and my brother was in town for Christmas. I had a lot of good distractions, but at the end of the day, the pain was still there... and getting worse. I guess I figured at some point it would just get better, but that was not to be. The biggest problem was I am not able to sit in front of the computer for very long. Some sittings last only a minute or two. This greatly reduces the amount of writing I can do for the newsletter among other things.

So, that's the reason the newsletter is a bit tardy and also explains some of the limited material

which is included within the pages. I just couldn't sit and do it, so I decided to make it as bare-bones as possible. Better to have a lighter newsletter which is slightly delayed, than to have no newsletter at all. I'm not asking for permission, but just letting you know what was going on. I appreciate your understanding.

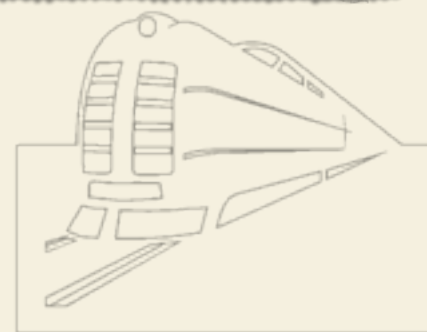
UPDATE ON SOME TRAIN SHELVES

As many of you have been following my antics of the new train room, I can happily say that all the shelves I brought home are mounted on the wall. The slight bad news (if there can be bad news) is that I will need more shelves to finish up what is needed for the train room.

I am happy with how everything came out. Now the long and slow process of removing trains from boxes has begun. I have filled up about 70-80% of the shelves already and I have many more boxes to go. The other bad news would be, I need a bigger train room! But that's a battle everywhere. I am so happy with my new shelves and actually being able to see some of my trains on those shelves. Maybe I will have some pictures to share by the next newsletter.

'GIVING BACK' TO TWO OF THE ATLANTA RONALD MCDONALD HOUSES

December 2nd marked our date this year for the Terminus Chapter to volunteer lunch service. As many of you may know, this is the fifth year we have been donating to the Ronald McDonald House Charities - Atlanta. It has become our own little tradition to do something for them during the holiday season. This year, we continued with the lunch service that we started last year. This is where we provide the food and



service for guests who are staying in the house at that time.

We had another great year of donations and partnerships from local businesses that helped defray the costs of the venture. Of course, our own Dave Rodgers and Bill Vaughn did a smash-up job organizing the event and getting the food and volunteers to the right place and on time. Their efforts in this endeavor are hard to duplicate.

The food service went on without a hitch with T-C members setting up the buffet and serving the food. From what I saw, some of them may have a future in the food service field!

Now, I did mention we gave back to two of the area's Ronald McDonald Houses. No, we didn't serve food to the other house. In fact, it wasn't even open for operation when we visited. They were scheduled to open just a few days later. What we were able to do was donate a Thomas The Tank train activity table and all the fixings to go on it.



Barry Lewis and Reed Dickerson "co-engineer" a plate of goodness. Tommie Turner is there to make sure nothing goes awry.



The volunteers who helped serve food at the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House. Those who showed up got a cool T-shirt.



A look up into the massive man-made tree with tree house playrooms

Prez Sez ~ Continued

First thing we noticed when we walked into the brand new facility, was the massive indoor Healing Tree that was constructed on the opposite side of the foyer. The structure was very impressive and cool on all levels (pun intended). The tree house had play rooms on every level of the tree, connected by rope-lined planked walkways. It is to serve as a place for healing, play and reflection.

We got a quick tour of the new facility and took a few minutes to set up the train play table. It was a good day all the way around, at both locations. We look forward to doing more in the near future.

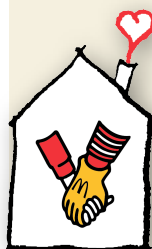
just the beginning of the thanks, and I could only thank those that attended.

If, for some reason, you do not feel as involved as you wish to be or you just want to be more connected, let us know. We can easily find something for you to do. Whether it is helping out getting a train show together, hosting an open house or by volunteering your time to promote the TCA and the Terminus Chapter. We

can easily find you something to do to help us out. Plus, we will both benefit and enjoy your involvement.

Hopefully the next newsletter will be a little easier for me. Thanks for taking the time to read it.

President,
Terminus Chapter
(and Newsletter Editor)



**RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
ATLANTA**

WRAPPING IT UP

I want to be sure to thank each of our members for all their help during the year. The lunch we served at our December Holiday Train Meet was



The Terminus Chapter board members putting the new train play table thru its paces!



No shortage of orange boxes here and I saw plenty of trains head off to new homes for the holidays.



Torres Marshall shows off the newest centerpiece to his layout.

Terminus Chapter Holiday Train Meet - Recap

DEC. 5TH - AMERICAN LEGION POST #201, ALPHARETTA, GA

It may sound like a broken record, but our Holiday Meet at the American Legion Post #201 was a great success. It is in part due to the many members who get tables and to the members who attend. But it couldn't happen without the great support and efforts of a few good men.

The T-C Board (consisting of myself, Bill Frey, Tommie Turner and Rick Hemer) along with Dave Rodgers and Past-President Bob Kettel have pulled together once again to make this happen without a hitch. We have had some trying times in the last year or so, but we have overcome many obstacles. I am amazed at the amount of work that is done by these fellows in preparation for the meets. Thanks to all for your efforts, they speak for themselves.



The Atlantic S-Gauge Modular Group was pulling double duty that day with two layouts, but that didn't stop them from operating their 2-rail trains at our meet. Many thanks to Bob Lacheen and his crew for setting up and bringing the trains to run. Roger Branka, as usual, supplied his kid-friendly layout for all to enjoy at the meet. Thanks to Roger and his wife for making it happen for each and every one of our meets.

The holiday spirit was in attendance as we gave away a great number of door prizes to the membership and guests. Winners were greeted with a table full of train related items, all worthy additions to the train room. From rolling stock to books to building for the layout, they were all there.

Our grand prize for the meet was a special limited edition Southern Railway Ives Water Tower that was just delivered by MTH. Made for the TCA Southeastern

Division, the sharp looking water tower was limited to just 100 pieces. We were able to obtain one at the Fall York meet from the Southeastern guys. These look great and I don't expect these to hang around for very long.

When it came time to pick a winner, I saw a lot of people very eager to take it home. One of those was Torres Marshall, the eventual winner. He was over in the corner of the hall getting ribbed by his wife saying "come on, let's go..."



There were lots of trains to choose from scattered across all 60+ tables.

T-C Holiday Train Meet ~ Continued

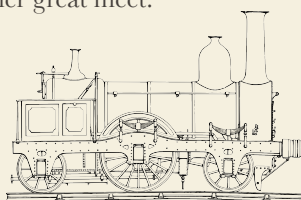
you never win". Well, it was Torres' lucky day! He won!!

I spoke with him afterwards for a minute and he was thrilled. When he first saw the SR water tower sitting on the table, he knew he wanted it. Torres is new to the train hobby, but was very happy with the people talked with and met at the meet. I think we may have gained a new member. He says the water tower will be the center of his new layout.

One of the highlights of the Holiday Meet, at least for me, is the ability for us to give back to all of you who have supported us all year long. This comes in the form of the Chick-Fil-A lunch and is always a good meal. Even better is the chance for me to

thank each and every one of you for your support. Thanks again.

Overall, the meet was fantastic. I enjoy speaking with many of you throughout the day and getting your thoughts. I think everything I heard was positive which makes it all worth it. I'm glad we have the ability to get together every few months and surround ourselves with two things that matter: good friends and toy trains... and some food! Thanks for another great meet.



Some serious Standard Gauge for sale.

Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains

STANDARD AND 2-7/8" GAUGES ~ 1901-1940 ~ BRUCE C. GREENBERG, PH.D.

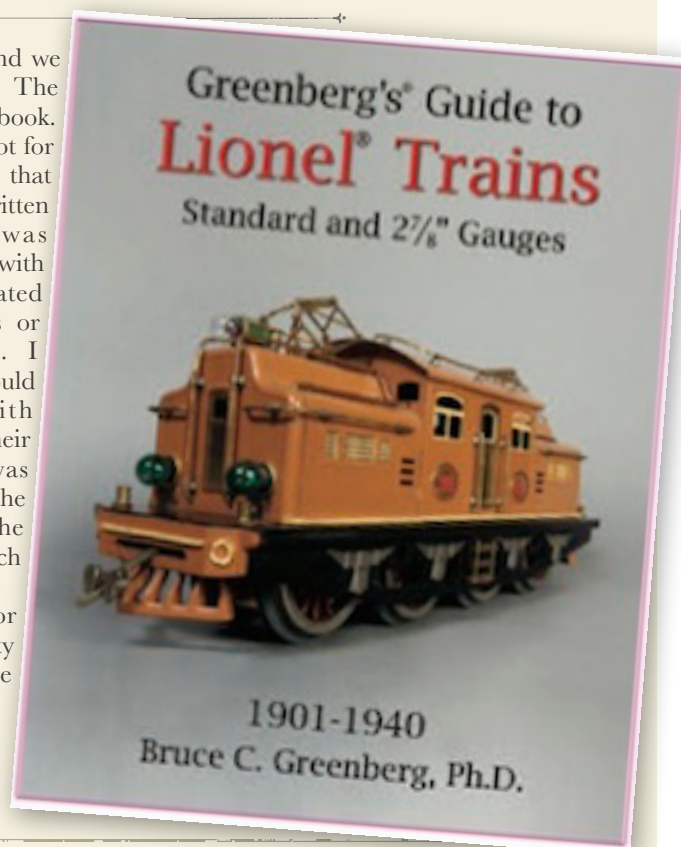
A few days before our December meet, we received a note from long-time train book publisher, Bruce Greenberg. In the letter he asked if we would like to have a few copies to sell at our train meet on commission. We agreed it would be worth it as it is the best, most in-depth book written on toy trains. We also felt the 60/40 split commission rate was quite favorable for our efforts.

So a couple days later, I received a box of two books. These books are over 400 pages and chocked full of information for Standard Gauge collectors. It is not the same old Greenberg book you might have sitting on the shelf, this one is filled with very informative photographs and variations.

The two books we had out on the table for sale at the show did not last long. Both were gone in minutes. I know there were other people interested in obtaining a copy so I contacted Bruce and he sent me some more books. If anyone is interested in getting one of these books, please let any member of

the T-C Board know and we will fulfill your order. The cost is \$100 for each book. This may sound like a lot for a book, especially one that had seemingly been written previously, but it was completely gone thru with the information updated and many prior theories or thoughts investigated. I don't believe anyone would be disappointed with adding this book to their library, I know I was happy to do so. Plus, the extra money helps the club out a bunch, which is a good thing.

Thanks Bruce for giving us the opportunity to share your part of the hobby with our chapter.



'Round Town with Bill Frey

AREA TRAIN SHOW RECAPS & UPCOMING EVENTS ~ JAN-FEB, 2016

Hey You All,

For those of you all who were not aware, December 5, 2015 was National Lionel Train Day here in the United States of America. The Fox News Channel had the President of Lionel Trains on their Sunday morning show on December 6th with a Lionel toy train layout where he displayed and operated it. December proved to be quite a month for Toy Trains as it is an American tradition to enjoy toy trains during the Holidays. I hope that you and yours all had a great and fantastic holiday season.

Well there were some very nice TCA train shows last month. On December 5th, the Terminus Chapter TCA had a well attended train show in Alpharetta, GA where we provided a free Chick-Fil-A lunch to each TCA member present. A super crowd enjoyed a lot of trains and chicken. On December 12th, the Music City Chapter TCA hosted a fantastic train show in Nashville, TN at the fairgrounds south of the city. Loads of folks enjoyed the vast selection of fine items and many TCA members from Atlanta had an amazing time. Then on December 19th, the Magic Valley Chapter TCA hosted a superb train show at the Pelham Convention Center in Pelham, AL just south of Birmingham, AL. The convention center also has an indoor ice skating rink that attracts folks from all around. That is an ideal venue for a train show and we all had a great time.

January 16th plays host to the Golden Spike Model Train show. Here, we will have a table set up to promote the TCA. Please stop by and help fellow members talk about toy trains with the general public in attendance to encourage new members. The next local TCA train show scheduled is on March 5th up in Ringgold, GA which will be a TCA Dixie Division Train Show. I always have a great time in Ringgold and it is just south of Chattanooga, TN where you can find a lot of things to do there to really make your trip worthwhile.

The next TCA York, PA train week will be coming up soon in April. So, now is a good time to start saving up for a trek up there to enjoy the finest toy train hunting grounds in the world. Please let me know if any of you all would have a serious interest in wanting to put a number of us together to go up there. We can share travel and lodging expenses and that could make it easier for a number of us to make it happen. Talk to me and let me know.

In the meantime, please remember to renew your TCA membership if you have not already done so. And, please consider joining the TCA if you are not already a member or have not been an active member in a while. The TCA is a fine national organization that is steadfast in supporting model and toy train enthusiasts that I support and recommend very highly. Please talk to me if you should have any questions. I appreciate.

I wish each and every one of you all a very happy, healthy, prosperous, and productive New Year!! All the best to you and yours!!! Thank you, *Bill Frey*



Here is a list of all of the nearby upcoming train shows:
(You can also access train shows at www.railserve.com)

- January 16, 2016 - Golden Spike Atlanta Model Train Show - Norcross, GA - North Atlanta Trade Center
- January 23-24, 2016 - Coastal Rail Buffs Model Train Show - Savannah, GA - National Guard Armory
- February 6-7, 2016 - CRM & HA Easley Train Show - Easley, SC - Owens Recreation Complex
- February 13, 2016 - Golden Spike Jacksonville Rail Fair - Jacksonville, FL - Prime Osborn Convention Center
- March 5, 2016 - TCA Dixie Division Train Show - Ringgold, GA - Catoosa Colonnade
- March 12-13, 2016 - NMRA Piedmont Division Model Train Show - Marietta, GA - Cobb Galleria
- May 14, 2016 - Terminus Chapter TCA Train Meet - Acworth, GA - VFW Post #5408
- June 25, 2016 - Golden Spike North Carolina Rail Fair - Charlotte, NC - Metrolina Expo Center
- September 24, 2016 - Terminus Chapter TCA Train Meet - Acworth, GA - VFW Post #5408



One of the many layouts on display at the 22nd Annual Christmas Train Show in Nashville. Our friends in the Music City Chapter TCA do a great job

Fun Christmas Layout IN-TRAINING ~ WITH RICK HEMER

Like many of you, I enjoy running trains around the Christmas tree. Since I don't have a permanent layout, Christmas is usually the only time I run trains at my house. Each year I try to focus on a different type of train from my collection. Last year was O gauge wind-ups, this year we're going BIG!

This year I had big plans... Standard Gauge plans. I don't have a room in my house big enough for a large standard gauge layout, but I do have enough track to go



room to room, and most importantly, an agreeable wife. The initial plan was to go all through the house. Around the Christmas tree, thru the foyer, into the office, around the desk, into the kitchen... Ok, a mostly agreeable wife. Let me start over. I will stay out of the kitchen and her office. But still around the Christmas tree, thru the foyer, under the hall table and curve into the living room. Then past the piano, around the chair, in front of the couch, turn past the fireplace, cross a Flyer 4220 trestle bridge, under the chair and along the straight back to the tree. There can be a small village around the tree with tin buildings, an industrial scene with a Sunset Models tin litho Ives factory

over by the piano. Adding an airport in front of the fireplace with an operating prewar Lionel 55 airplane would be cool.

With the planning phase done, it was time to lay the track. First I put down some old towels and a drop cloth for roadbed so I don't get the carpet dirty. After the track was laid I figured I better check operations. As fate would have it, I almost got stuck on this step of the process. Not because it wasn't working right, but not enough was going wrong! I mean, just because the 380E runs good doesn't mean the 3243R will run just as good or even the 400E. Right? And what about the cars? I was surprised that with almost 80' of track and just a single track lock-on from the ZW, that voltage didn't drop on the far side of the layout causing the train to slow down. But, I still had more questions. Important questions, that I simply couldn't answer when I was running trains confined to a circle around the Christmas tree like in previous years. Not that a simple circle around the tree is bad, you just need a little more room to do certain things. Like stretching out a Blue Comet and get it up to full speed. I never realized all the fun I was missing out on until I took it to a larger scale. I was able to learn some good stuff along the way, like: Which locomotive was my fastest. Which loco will pull the most cars. And, just how long it actually does take to get a double-motored #42 pulling the big passenger cars slowed down for the next curve. I had to check that one out a lot! Like I said, important stuff that you just can't find out running a small circle of track around the Christmas tree.

I was having so much fun running trains that I almost forgot about the scenery. Putting out some of the accessories added to the realism and the fun... okay, more to the fun. I hope everyone had (and maybe still having) as much fun with their trains this holiday season as I did.



Standard Gauge trains made a big impact under the tree this year... and in the foyer... the living room...



The large Ives factory gets a good view of its own 3243R passenger set as it sits on the siding. On the mainline, the Lionel Blue Comet has the right-of-way.

Future Events & Train Meets

~ CLICK THE SHOW NAME FOR MORE INFO ~

GOLDEN SPIKE MODEL TRAIN SHOW

January 16th • 9am-4pm
North Atlanta Trade Center • Norcross GA

27TH ANNUAL MODEL RR & TRAIN SHOW

January 23rd-24th • 10am-5pm
National Guard Armory • Savannah GA

TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS

January 30th-31st, 2016 • 9:30am-5pm
Southern Museum of Civil War & Loco History • Kennesaw GA

2016 ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

February 6th-7th • 10am-5pm (4pm Sun.)
J.B. Owens Sports Complex • Easley SC

DIXIE DIVISION TCA MEET

March 5th • 9am-1pm
Catoosa Colonnade • Ringgold GA

MUSIC CITY CHAPTER SPRING TRAIN MEET

April 2nd • 9am-1pm
Donelson First Baptist Church • Nashville TN

EASTERN DIV. TCA YORK MEET

April 14th-16th • York PA



Terminus Chapter

Train Collectors Association - Terminus Chapter

TOY AND MODEL TRAIN SWAP MEET

MAY 14TH 2016

V.F.W. POST #5408

4764 Cobb Parkway NW | Acworth, GA 30101

Operating Train Layouts

**New and Antique
Toy & Model Trains**

Parts • Appraisals



ADMISSION:
General Public - \$7.00/person
TCA Members - \$3.00/person
Children ages 16 and under are FREE

**Show Hours: 9am-2pm
OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC**

Note: No trading or selling outside the meet hall. Table holders are asked to abide by the show hours and not leave early so all patrons can be served. Attendees agree to comply with all rules and regulations of the TCA.



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FROM:
TERMINUS CHAPTER • TCA
1459 Highway 54
Moreland, GA 30259

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MAIL TO:

Member
4321 First Street
Anytown, State ZIP

