



Music City Chapter TCA

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ALL ABOARD!!

Winter 2022

Newsletter

President's Message

After cancelling the 2020 Christmas Toy Train Show, this year's show got off to a very challenging start. However, in spite of the global pandemic and a tornado that ripped through Tennessee and neighboring Kentucky. The 27th annual Christmas Toy Train Show was well attended. While masks were not required at the Fairgrounds, they were recommended and many attendees chose to wear them. With the emergence of the omicron variant, I believe this will be a consistent theme throughout 2022.

The tornados that came through spared Nashville and the weather cooperated the day of the show. Vic received many calls that morning regarding the opening of the show.

I hope that those of you who attended the show were able to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. I know I did.

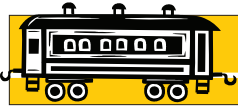
I want to thank the members who helped with the administration of the show, especially Ron and Carol Hirst, Doug and Sherry Roberts, John Blake and his entire family, Ralcon Wagner, David Gray, Dick Page and Vic Petrone. Their support was essential to the operation of the show.

As we have been reporting, the 2022 TCA National Convention will be held in Nashville. The convention is scheduled for this summer from June 25 through July 2 at the Music City Sheraton off Elm Hill Pike.

Dixie Division President Bob Keller will be leading the convention events. Volunteers are needed to help guide the attendees to the various locations on the tours. Those having an interest in participating are encouraged to contact any of the club officers or Bob Keller at bkeller046@gmail.com.

Have a very happy and healthy New Year!

Joseph Marabeti
President



Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors September 11, 2021

Members Present: Joseph Marabeti, Vic Petrone, Ron Hirst, Doug Roberts, John Blake.

Vic presented a report detailing the results of our August Train Meet in Gallatin stating that the show produced a profit of \$396.73. Much discussion followed with topics ranging from: Should we plan to hold our March and August shows in Gallatin going forward? Should we (at any show) allow dealers to sell non-train related merchandise? John Blake stated that the running layout was a hit particularly with the addition of the additional new loop on the floor. It was agreed that we should contact the Baptist church in Donelson to see if their gym would be available for next March while recognizing that we will likely return to Gallatin given its success.

Joseph opened a discussion regarding our upcoming Christmas show at the Nashville Fairgrounds. Vic asked if we should consider a "cancellation" policy for vendors who cancel their tables at the last minute. Doug offered to forward via email a copy of the cancellation policy for the show held in Helena, AL.

Vic Petrone recommended that the club make a \$100 donation to the Nashville Steam Preservation Society in remembrance of Virgil King. All agreed.

Joseph put forth the name of Ralcon Wagner for membership on our Board of Directors. All members present were in favor.

Vic put forth the question "Should we plan for a Train Meeting in August of 2022 given that the train meet that the TCA National Convention will be held in Nashville." Doug mentioned that the LCCA National Convention will also be in town shortly after the TCA Convention. He felt that we would draw a more local crowd at our shows.

Doug stated that he would begin exploring advertising costs for the Christmas Toy Train Show and John Blake added that he thought presenting door prizes by the operating layout would be a good idea. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Doug Roberts
Secretary



Christmas Toy Train Show Winners

Each year we have a drawing for RTR (Ready To Run) Lionel train sets for children 12 and under. The Club purchased four sets for this year's drawing. And the winners are:

Pennsylvania Flyer
Marty Dahlberg
Lewisburg, TN



Construction Railroad
Walker Reynolds
Nashville, TN



Mickey Mouse & Friends
Felix Schuck
Nashville, TN



Lehigh Valley
Beckham Henderberg
Nashville, TN



CONGRATULATIONS
to these young
train enthusiasts!



Editor's Note

As is my custom each year, I take a moment to reflect on the events of the past year and provide my perspective.

Let me tell you about a conversation I had some years ago with Gerald White at one of our Christmas Toy Train Shows. For several years, Gerald and a group of G gauge enthusiasts would bring a G gauge layout to run at our show. That year he advised me that this would be the last time that they would be coming to the show. Naturally, I was disappointed and inquired as to the reason. Gerald told me that without any support, it was just too much for him and the handful of aging volunteers to set up and dismantle the layout before and after each show. That was the last year he attended our show.

Later on, he offered to sell our club the bench work that they had built for their mobile layout. It was a fair price so we bought it. That was over ten years ago.

Over the years, we made many improvements to that bench work including new table legs, track, accessories, operating systems, etc. We purchased and outfitted a trailer to haul the layout to and from various venues. Currently, it is the O gauge layout that we've set up each year at our Christmas Toy Train Show.

I tell you this story because we are at the same place with our club layout and the aging volunteers that Gerald spoke of many years ago. The time will come, sooner rather than later, when it will no longer be feasible to continue this tradition. If there are no members willing to support this effort, the layout will be dismantled and the trains, accessories, and the trailer will be sold. And that may be the Christmas of things to come.

Joseph Marabeti
Editor

Train Trivia

Many loaded trains in the United States are assembled using one or more locomotives in the middle or at the rear of the train, which are then operated how?

Answer: Remotely from the lead cab



*2022 National
TCA
Convention*

*June 25
through
July 2, 2022*

*Sheraton Music City
777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN
Reservations
855-516-9090*