



This is the Official Publication of the Fort Pitt Division, Inc.

## Fort Pitt Board

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Secretary Bill Livolsi  
Treasurer Matt Irvin

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Bob McDowell  
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Duane Schulte  
Anthony Kulfan  
Vince Giovannitti

### Imm. Past President:

Bob Hazlett

### Education/TinPlate Talks:

George Starz

### Key Contacts:

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## Ft. Pitt News: President's Report:

A new Website is ready to be unveiled! Much work has been completed since the last issue of the Lockon. It has been in an effort to streamline and make information more accessible to our members, while attempting to decrease expenditures. Please check out the website [www.hobbytraincollectors.org](http://www.hobbytraincollectors.org).

While our initial thoughts were to create a website based newsletter and eliminate the paper version, comments from our members indicate that many members do not use the internet. We spoke of a cost to our members requesting printed copies and the feedback received indicates that those members expect to receive a hard copy without cost. This may or may not create an issue for the BOD to decide. At our recent board meeting, we found that over 500 members have e-mail addresses. Other's more than likely have the access but have not shared the address with us. Another portion of membership will never have this access.

With the costs of printed information combined with the costs of postage and operating the website, we may be able to provide printed copies for a portion of our members...with no cost...if and only if a majority of our members use the website for their copies. This may be able to be done but will be dependant on the numbers of hard copies requested. Remember, when we print, the costs of one issue has been about \$2400. With total dues being \$8600, the Lockon would be accounting for about 1/3 of the budget for one issue. Our members using e-mails can alleviate this issue, please help everyone in the organization by agreeing to use the internet if you have that access.

Finally, this is the last issue with me serving as your President. It's been a great five years with the Division as strong as it has ever been, thanks to a multitude of volunteers and our BOD. I really appreciate all of the support I've had during my terms, and want to thank every member for making my service very enjoyable. Yours in Training, Rick Baugh

# TCA National News

President McGinnis has announced that National has secured donations in the amount of \$25,000 from our Divisions and Chapters. The great news is that the Eastern Division matched the amount donated...which is \$25,000. This donation money will go directly into the operating budget. Congratulations and thank you to those who have donated.

By the time this issue is released, our Development Director, Jane Boyce, will have retired. Thanks to Jane for the work she has done over the past years. Enjoy your time with the new grandchild.

We sadly lost our Treasurer Bill Kotek. His interim successor has been Bob Mintz. He's finishing the time remaining of Bill's term. The election has taken place and the results have not been announced at this time.

If you were unable to travel to Atlanta last year, this year's Convention will be in St. Louis. Once again fine tours will be an attraction for you and your family. Tours are filling up fast so get your reservations now, if you are interested in attending.

The next two National Conventions are located in New Jersey, one South near Philly and one North near NY City. These are both drivable in less than 7 hours from Pittsburgh.

## **2013 Home and Garden Show**

The 2013 Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show was held at the David Lawrence Convention Center. It began March 1st and ended March 10th. We had a large presence at this event, possibly the largest square footage display at the show by any single entity, courtesy of member John DeSantis, who also happens to be the Show's CEO and Manager. Fort Pitt's area was co-ordinated by Sam and Jayne Merando. There were six displays. There was a circus themed fasttrack layout by Tom Garrity. Our Christmas Party Layout featuring multiple scales of track, allowed for the running of O-27, O-Gauge, O-Scale (3-rail), Standard Gauge, G-Scale, HO Scale, and S-Gauge trains. The center of this layout featured a collection of porcelain homes and businesses, which Jayne added. Bob McDowell's layout, a Christmas 50's styled multilevel layout with operating accessories, was interactive. One more layout featured fasttrack as well as a Disney monorail. The largest display was set-up and operated by various members of our Fort Pitt Hi-Railer's. They had a 50 X 60 area featuring 4 mainline O-gauge scened modules, a roundhouse, multiple track yard, and much more. They held a raffle for a train set. They had a camera-mounted train so you could experience a trip down the tracks around the layout. It was not unusual to see double-headed big steam pulling 60 or more coal hoppers or four diesels pulling 20-30 automobile carriers. I even saw a military train with a military consist that would make Eisenhower proud.

The displays definitely got the people to stop, which caused many of them to remember past experiences with trains. They talked about trains they had, have, or even wish they had. Last year, a very nice lady GAVE us her collection of trains to use for our displays. Our outreach is being noticed by the multitude of attendees and vendors. Hopefully this exposure is getting more people involved in toy trains, and the TCA. Over 400,000 attended this event.

We would like to thank the many volunteers and organizers of this fine event and hope we are able to keep this as part of our community outreach for many years to come. A huge shoutout to Sam, Jayne, Tom, the Hi-Railers, and numerous volunteers...Toot! Toot! Or Woo! Woo! Or in the case of a Lionel diesel... Beep! Beep!

**Future Meets:** Sheraton Four Points in Cranberry

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Fort Pitt TCA Summer Outing:**

Bob Hazlett is in the process of organizing our summer outing for 2013. Possibility of a trip to East Broad Top RR. Not finalized yet.

**Fort Pitt Christmas Party:**

We will be traveling back to **Saint Gerard Majella Church** 530 Hamil Rd, Verona, PA 15147 for our Christmas Party. This is usually held on the first Friday of December. A notice will be sent. Members are asked to bring cookies as always.

**Carnegie Science Center:**

The Science Center and the Fort Pitt TCA has developed a very successful working relationship over the past few years. Patty Rogers has been very appreciative of our efforts. Let's keep this connection strong.

**Home and Garden Show 2013:**

See the article on page 2 (bottom left).

**Layout/Collection Tours:**

We are attempting to take trips to member's homes to view Collections/ Layouts (with their permission). If you have a layout or collection that you would be willing to share with fellow members, please call Rick at 724-523-2967.

**Tin Plate Talks:**

More information to come from George Starz.

**2017 National Convention:**

George and Chris have been working on committees and organizing for our Convention. Keep your eyes and ears open for info regarding needed volunteers.

**Your Ideas:**

If you have an idea for an outing or get together, please let us know your thoughts. You can call the number listed in the paragraph above or let any Board Member know.

**Your Membership in the Fort Pitt Division:**

Think about becoming involved in our division by volunteering services, time, skill, or even as an officer of our organization. Elections should be "elections" and we feel that that means we should have a full slate of candidates for each open office. Think about becoming involved. Once again, we did not have a full slate of candidates for this election. Please get involved in your organization. It's 5-6 meetings per year.



These two shots are from our 2012 Summer Outing to Mill Creek Central RR in Ohio.

Fort Pitt Division Financial Report – April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Beginning Checking Balance		\$ 16,413.21
Income/Receipts		
Dues- 675 members	\$ 6,750.00	
Heinz Cars	\$ 220.00	
Meets	\$ 8,186.00	
Other Fund Raising	\$ 333.75	
PPG Corporate Donation	\$ 0.00	
Raffle	\$ 36.00	
Redman-Fraley Withdrawl	\$ 1,232.05	
Summer Outing	\$ 0.00	
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 16,757.80</b>
Redman-Fraley Donations	\$ 2,242.00	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 18,999.80</b>
Expense/Disbursements		
Advertising	\$ 1257.19	
Audit Expenses-2012	\$ 1000.00	
Bank Fees	\$ 11.00	
Christmas Party-2012	\$ 0.00	
Fort Pitt Division Website	\$ 85.00	
Ft. Pitt Hi-Railers Support	\$ 735.53	
Fundraising	\$ 681.36	
Homeshow	\$ 430.36	
Kid's Club	\$ 0.00	
Lockon	\$ 0.00	
Mailing Labels	\$ 75.47	
Meets	\$ 6,416.25	
Misc.	\$ 0.00	
Office and Administration	\$ 0.00	
PA Sales Tax	\$ 27.46	
Photography	\$ 0.00	
Postage	\$ 1,090.00	
Printing	\$ 1,535.98	
Redman-Fraley Fund Deposit	\$ 2,228.50	
Shipping-Fund Raising Items	\$ 57.40	
Summer Outing	\$ 0.00	
TCA Division Donation	\$ 0.00	
Tinplate Talks	\$ 289.88	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,921.38</b>
Revenue vs. Total Expenses	\$ 836.42	
Income vs. Total Expenses	\$ 3,078.42	
Checking Balance as of Check #1643		\$ 19,491.63
Redman-Fraley Account Balance as of June 30, 2012		\$ 72,803.03

**Fort Pitt Division Financial Report – Year End 2012**

Beginning Checking Balance		\$ 10,530.46
<b>Income/Receipts</b>		
Dues- 874 Members	\$ 8,740.00	
Heinz cars	\$ 430.00	
Meets	\$31,615.00	
Other Fund Raising	\$ 916.82	
PPG Donation	\$ 1,000.00	
Raffle	\$ 318.00	
Redman-Fraley Withdrawl	\$ 3,348.25	
Summer Outing	\$ 250.00	
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ 46,617.87
Redman-Fraley Fund Donations	\$ 2,228.50	
	<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 48,846.37
<b>Expenses/Disbursements</b>		
Advertising	\$ 5,197.43	
Audit Expenses- 2011	\$ 1,100.00	
Bank Fees	\$ 45.95	
Christmas Party-2012	\$ 1,622.46	
Ft. Pitt Division Website	\$ 1,250.00	
Ft. Pitt Hi-Railer’s Support	\$ 677.72	
Fundraising	\$ 85.56	
Kid’s Club	\$ 687.71	
Lockon	\$ 0.00	
Mailing Labels	\$ 303.91	
Meets	\$21,586.40	
Misc.	\$ 0.00	
Office and Administration	\$ 0.00	
PA Sales Tax	\$ 61.49	
Photography	\$ 125.45	
Postage	\$ 3,600.00	
Printing	\$ 2,617.93	
Redman-Fraley Fund Deposit	\$ 2,087.44	
Shipping-Fund Raising	\$ 137.60	
Summer Outing	\$ 250.00	
TCA Division Donation	\$ 500.00	
Tinplate Talks	\$ 1,026.57	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 42,963.62
Revenue vs. Total Expenses	\$ 3,654.25	
Total Income vs. Total Expenses	\$ 5,882.75	
Checking Account Balance as of Check # 1612		\$ 16,413.21
Redman-Fraley Account Balance as of Jun 30, 2012		\$ 72,803.03

# Fort Pitt News

## **Announcing Our New Fort Pitt Web Site**

This is more than likely the final printed copy of the Lock-On for a majority of our members. Many organizations, including ours, are finding that with the costs of printing and mailing it is not fiscally responsible to produce newsletters as done in the past. We do not want or like to raise dues, so we are asking that if you have E-mail availability, please let our secretary know your E-mail address and accept the internet Lockon option. If a majority of our members can accept this option, we can continue to print and mail the issues to the minority who do not have access to the internet, thus serving all of our members. By receiving the Lockon via the internet, not only are you getting information that is more current, but you are also keeping our dues in check. In order to print the newsletters for all members and print quarterly issues at today's costs, we would have to increase our dues by \$20 to \$30. This is not an option that our board, or this President, wishes to choose. With your help and understanding, we can succeed and produce more information than has ever been disseminated in our history.

The website is first rate and has been worked on by our internet guru Matt Irvin and his committee of Rick Baugh, Jim Burke, and Bill Livolsi. There is so much to offer presently and much more to come. In addition to presenting the Ft. Pitt Division to anyone new to the TCA or the Division in the *Home, About Us* and *Join Club* sections, you will find that the rest of the web site is set up for YOU the division member. You will be able to quickly look at upcoming events, or view a calendar of future events on the *Activities* pages, look at pictures and videos of events from the past or recent events in the *Photos & Vids* section, visit other train related websites, look at train collecting tips, review the TCA Standards, and other areas of interest in the *Resources* section, buy Fort Pitt products in the *Gift Shop*, find Kid's Club information along with games and activities for kids in the *Kid's Corner* section, get the latest information for the Ft. Pitt hosted *2017 National Convention*.

In the *Member* only section, you will be able to enter buy, sell, trade, or wanted ads into the classified section, contact board members and officers directly by phone or emails, read the TCA or Ft. Pitt By-Laws, search for other Ft. Pitt members for their address, phone and email address, maintain your own membership information, read the latest issue or research old issues of our Lockon newsletters, participate in division member only surveys, and look at budget and financial records in the Treasurer's Report and Board Minutes.

All of this is available to members using the site. We hope to update and get information out to the membership quicker than ever and cut costs at the same time, a win-win for all of us.

One of the toughest issues Rick had as President was when a well-respected life long active member passed suddenly, and his funeral services were held within 48 hours. There was no way to convey the information to members of his passing and funeral arrangements. Although Rick traveled and represented the Division, many members were not aware of his passing until months later at our Meet when he held a moment of silence. In today's information age, not only the announcement of his passing but the arrangements and directions can also be posted, instantly.

Together, we can make these changes and improve our communication avenues to members. I want to thank you in advance and for your continued support to the Fort Pitt Division, Inc. and the TCA.



# TCA - Fort Pitt Division

Dear Fort Pitt Division Member,

Your TCA – Fort Pitt website is now active on the Internet StarChapter system.

## What Your Fort Pitt Division Website Can Do:

Your Fort Pitt Division's website comes with tools that allows for:

- Promoting the Division by telling the purpose and history story "**About Us**" including a link to our Facebook
- Explaining the benefits and procedures for "**Join Club**" for both the national Train Collectors Association and the local Fort Pitt Division
- Listing upcoming Division "**Activities**" as well as a Calendar of Events
- Signing in to a "**Members**" only area where you can maintain your member profile information, search the member directory, review Division Newsletters, participate in Division Surveys, and much more
- Looking at actual Division "**Photos & Vids**"
- Using on-line "**Resources**" for Links to other train related web sites, looking up the Index of Manufacturers, reviewing Train Collecting Tips, reviewing the TCA Standards, and much more
- Eventually purchasing Division "**Merchandise**" on-line using PayPal and other major credit cards
- Using the "**Kid's Corner**" to promote the TCA Kid's Club by explaining the purpose and procedures for joining, to provide games and other activities for kids to use, to find the requirements for the Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge
- Reviewing all of the related information in regard to the National TCA "**2017 Convention**"
- Communicating with board members in the "**Contact Us**" feature

## How To View And Login To Your Fort Pitt Division Website

Please take the time to explore the new site at [www.hobbytraincollectors.org](http://www.hobbytraincollectors.org)

To login to your "**Members**" only area, please use the following information:

**Username:** [your email address](#) OR [your TCA number](#)

**Password:** [eggplant](#)

## Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions?

If you have problems please contact the webmaster via email at [info@hobbytraincollectors.org](mailto:info@hobbytraincollectors.org)

Sincerely,

TCA – Fort Pitt

**Board of Directors Meeting  
TCA, Fort Pitt Division  
January 18, 2013**

A regularly called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fort Pitt Division of the TCA was called to order at 6:55 PM in the Board Room at Automated Card Systems, Inc. in Canonsburg, PA.

Present were Board members, Bob MacDowell, Sam Merando, Bill Livolsi, Carl Abinanti, Rick Baugh and Anthony Kulfan. President Rick Baugh presided; Secretary Bill Livolsi kept the minutes. Ex Officio members in attendance were, Bob Hazlet, Dan Glover, Tim Botti, Bob Coon, Jayne Merando and Ray Ruszkoski.

Committees Reports/Old Business

Secretary Report

Minutes of the November 9, 2012 BOD Meeting was submitted by Secretary Bill Livolsi and was received and amended.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Matt Irvin was unable to attend so Rick Baugh presented the financial report.

The Division showed a profit of \$304 in 2012 and the Redman Fraley Memorial Fund received \$2,534.50 in donations in 2012.

Bob Coon made the approved withdrawal from the RFMF of the maximum of 6% to be set aside for the 2017 Convention Committee. However the money is still in the Division accounts.

The Division year end checking account balance is \$16,413.21.

Redman Fraley Memorial Fund

Bob Hazlett RFMF member reported that the special non-profit American Funds had been folded into standard American Funds mutual funds, specifically, The New Capital US Equity Fund, the Bond fund and the Growth Fund of America. The balances respectively are \$53,328.57, 17,762.00 and \$1,640.00.

The withdrawals from the RFMF for 2012 were as follows: \$3,348 from the New Capital Equity Fund, \$1,130 from the Bond Fund and \$101 from the Growth Fund.

A motion was made and approved to take a maximum of 6% for 2013 and set it aside for the 2017 Convention Committee. The money to remain in the Division Accounts.

Fundraising

Anthony Kulfan reported selling \$390 in Polo and Tee shirts.

### Meets

The meet report is deferred due to the fact that the Steeler Schedule has not been announced.

### Kids Club

Sam Merando Kids Club Chairman reported that the Home and Garden Show will be held March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sam also reported that he had purchased a 7 foot by 14 foot trailer for \$1,500 to be used for the Kids Club layouts. The trailer needs to be inspected, in order to pass it needs insurance, brake repair and the roof needs resealed.

Sam also reported that the Xmas Party was a success. The total attendance was 200 people, the families of 80 members.

A Mrs. Brand donated her late husband's trains to the Kids Club to be used by the children at Kids Club events.

The Secretary was asked to send a thank you letter to Mrs. Brand.

### High Railers

The High Railers reported that they are also preparing for the Home and Garden Show.

### Historian

Bob MacDowell reported that he had given 2 CDs of images to be used on the new website.

### Special Projects

Bob Hazlett reported that he was considering a trip to the East Broad Top Railroad for the summer outing the first weekend in August. If a success the East Broad Top Railroad could also be a tour for the 2017 Convention.

### Tinplate Talks

George Starz reported that Locomotion weekend at the Carnegie Science Center was a success. The participants were the Kids Club, the High Railers, Joe Mania from New Jersey, S Gaugers,

George wanted to thank the 40 volunteers that helped out at Locomotion weekend.

Total attendance was 3,700 people. The TCA gave away 4 Heinz Reefers and 2 Polar Express sets. Lionel donated one set and The TCA, Fort Pitt Division donated the other set.

The winner of one Polar Express set on Saturday was Jack Reck, the winner Sunday was Shelle Pronko.

In addition 2 subscriptions for Classic Toy Trains were given away.

A motion was made and approved to sign an Memorandum of Understanding between the TCA, Fort Pitt Division and Kalmbach Publishing to share the names and addresses of the attendees who signed up for the drawings. Kalmbach Publishing agreed to pay for entering the attendee information into an electronic list and providing a copy to the TCA, Fort Pitt Division.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> the Carnegie Science Center Miniature Railroad and Village hosted an event for the TCA Fort Pitt members including a presentation by Patty Rogers about the creation of the layout and the latest improvements.

200 TCA Fort Pitt Division members participated in the event, 14 kids ran trains on the Carnegie Science Center layout, assisted by the Hi-Railers.

A Carnegie Science Center limited edition Submarine car (the 250<sup>th</sup> of 250) was donated by Patty Rogers.

#### 2017 Convention Committee

Bill Livolsi agreed to be the Convention Car Committee chairman, they will meet soon.

The Convention committee is working on a logo.

#### 2013 Budget

The last item of business was the development of a budget for 2013 with total income of \$45, 125. And total expenses of \$45,312.

Future BOD meeting dates, April 5<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup> September 6<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM.

# Fort Pitt Division Pictures



Train Doctor Joe Mania and Patty Rogers of the Carnegie Science Center. (Locomotion Days-2012)

Mini Live-Steam at Our Summer Outing



Luna Park on Carnegie Science Center's Layout.



Mr. McFeeley, Patty Rogers, and a CSC Volunteer Present a young fan with a CSC submarine car.



A fairly recognizable couple...don't they look joyful?



Joined TCA at the Science Center. Welcome!

## Fort Pitt Division of the TCA

C/O Rick Baugh  
708 Scott Street  
Penn, PA 15675

[Recipient]

Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
Address Line 3  
Address Line 4

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Tom Garrity's circus layout has graced our shows and events for a few years but it is growing each time we see it...at York he mentioned an amusement park in the future. Thanks Tom for all you have done for the Division and kids of all ages.

If you have a layout or even an interesting photo shot to put into a future issue, please submit it with a short description to Rick Baugh at [ricbau936@verizon.net](mailto:ricbau936@verizon.net). Dealers are welcome as well.

