

2021 Division 7 Flea Market Cancelled

After exhausting all options, we regret to inform you we had to cancel our 2021 Spring Flea Market. See below for elaboration on this decision. Our attention now focuses onto enabling our large and more public two-day Fall Train Show to resume this Fall. We are also looking into conducting one or more smaller train sales-oriented events yet this summer. We're also pleased to announce arrangements are already in place for our 2022 Spring Flea Market to be held on March 12, 2022.

The school where we normally conduct our Spring Flea Market is technically not accepting outside group activities. They have been willing to work with us with the hope that the rules might change by our target date. However, they also have a rather conservative interpretation of the number of people who are allowed to attend events in their facility, and that would likely be applied to us. The combination of those barriers, with the unfortunate change in the direction in the number of COVID cases in the state; make any favorable rule changes pretty unlikely between now and June. To be fair to our guests, our vendors, our Lakota Schools hosts, and to all of our members; we need a period of time to complete preparations and pull off this event and we have run out of that time.

Besides delaying this decision for as long as feasible, we also explored whether a backup facility might be chosen. Even assuming that hosting the event as a service to our members and the community is a higher priority than breaking even on expenses (the direction we elected), there are precious few locations that have the space we need and the most likely candidate - Tri County Mall - does not really have available spaces that are large enough, currently open, and have the access control and security that we would need. So, we also rejected that thought.

Changing the date was also considered. The school is not available after the window we have been targeting due to planned remodeling that has to happen over the summer to be ready for the fall start of school. And changing to late summer to be after COVID rule changes are still hoped to occur (everyone vaccinated by July 4, leading to lifting capacity restrictions - for example) simply puts the Flea Market too close to the Fall Train Show, whether at Lakota or elsewhere.

I want to thank both Peter Weiglin and Roy Hord for juggling our options for as long as possible in the face of the uncertainty that we are all living with. I am convinced that there was plenty of due diligence behind the recommendation and that we did our best for our members who deserve some good news and opportunities for a more normal enjoyment of our hobby.

That is still our goal. While our Fall Train Show in October is always our best means of delivering those objectives, and we fully expect that event to be possible this year; our dedicated volunteers have shifted gears to try to create one or more smaller sales-oriented events yet this summer. Please stay tuned for a possible announcement of these events. In addition, arrangements are already in place for the 2022 Flea Market to be held on March 12, 2022. The Cincinnati Division 7 website is always the best source for the latest news on all such matters.

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