

Apr-June
2012

Vol. 34
Iss. 2

**Coffee With Stu!
Show News!**

2015 Convention Update!



KID'S CLUB!



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METROPOLITAN DIVISION
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION™
Webmaster!

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Metropolitan Division Waybill Train Collector's Association Vol. 34 Issue 2



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TCA MISSION STATEMENT

To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history~ Tinplate Toy Trains~ through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model, and scale trains.

CONTACT METCA

Website - www.METCA.org

Webmaster – METCA and 2015 Convention

Jeffery Corrick: <mailto:clint@clintjefferies.com>

Discussion - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/METCA/>

METCA Kid's Club

Co-Chairs – Steve Musso, Mark Ranzie

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Correspondence, membership and mail issues:

METCA Secretary 2023 Coyle St. Brooklyn, NY 11229

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Talk to me directly

Stu Rankin, President, 917-593-3990

Train Collector's Association Application

www.tcamembers.org/membership/application.pdf

Metropolitan Division (METCA) Application

www.metca.org/join_metca_membership.shtml

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jluppino@traincollectors.org

TCA National Website

<http://www.traincollectors.org/>

The views expressed by the contributors to this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the Waybill editor or of the Train Collectors Association.

Inside This Issue:

President Stu Rankin has a few things to say in "Coffee with Stu"; Don Brill updates us on the 2015 Convention and get the latest on METCA shows. Meet the METCA Webmaster; check out what's going on at the METCA Kids Club. Plus, we have a new show venue in 2012; registration inside. So... grab a cup of coffee, thumb through and enjoy!

Coming in the next Waybill:

Report from the Clinton Diner and the Riverhead Railfest.~ Details on our first-ever METCA college scholarship~ We gear up for the 2015 convention, articles from MIGS? Oh Yes! The Annual Banquet

Asking for your help!

...This is your Waybill when it comes right down to it. We want to hear from our MIGS about what they are doing in this hobby. If you have some news, a photo(s), or a story for us send it on in. I want to see your name in the byline! Send your story to me at laskowsl@optonline.net

On The Cover:

METCA's Kids club had its first event of 2012 and they had a great time. It was a perfect day and the Central Operating Lines club was a gracious host. Be sure to check out OTHER photos and get MORE information about upcoming METCA activities at www.metca.org

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This issues' "Coffee with Stu" isn't going to talk too much about upcoming METCA activities. The guys in charge of those events have done a great job with their articles that are elsewhere in this issue of the Waybill. However, please do go to www.METCA.org and browse around. You'll learn about things that aren't mentioned in this issue.

You know that your METCA Board of Directors represents YOU on both a national and a local level, but do you really know your BOD? Well, we're a bunch of guys elected by you. Some of

us are retired and some of us are still working. Some of us only have kids but some of us have grandkids. Some of us are young and some of us are ... um, er ... let's just say "not as young". As diverse a group that we all have one thing in common. That's YOU. We want to hear from you. We want to meet you. We want you to tell us what we're doing right as well as when we do something wrong (hopefully more of the former and not so much of the later). Maybe, you can even tell us how you are willing to give us a hand running the Division. You don't have to be on the BOD to lend a helping hand. We have several active non-BOD members that are great assets to the Division.



However, YOU have to take the first step. Call us, email us, or better yet come to any METCA event or a show where we have a recruiting/information table set up. We can't improve our great Division without YOU.

...



From The Editor's Desk

~ Larry Laskowski

... Welcome to the summer 2012 Waybill. Ever wonder about the Website's "behind the scenes?" Well meet our webmaster Jeff Corrick in this issue! Jeff has a fascinating story to tell about train collecting and the METCA Website. Expect more in the future about METCA people like you. Check out the progress on the 2015 National convention which we are hosting and METCA's initiative with the Kid's club activities. The E-Waybill has some great photos from the April Kid's Club event. These are two great areas for you to be involved with METCA. Call Don Brill or Steve Musso to help out!



In coming issues we will have a column focusing on **Layout building**. This is your chance to tell all our MIGS about the layout you are building or have built or would like to build. Send me plenty of photos and layout story and let's share your experience. Let's make it your Waybill. Please consider submitting articles that we can include in the Waybill. Send it to me at laskowsl@optonline.net. In the meantime, enjoy this edition of the Waybill. I hope you like it.

Mt. Arlington Mini Meet

~ Scot Kienzlen

What a great day! The sun was shining, and it was just a bit too cool to go swimming up at nearby Lake Hopatcong. With a dozen or so vendors and nearly 30 tables filled to capacity, METCA's Mt. Arlington Mini-Meet (MAMM) made its debut on Sunday, April 29 at the Elks Lodge on Howard Boulevard. Bright orange signs showed folks the way off Route 80, and show they did! Well over 200 people crossed the threshold to the delight of our table holders; many of whom were asking about a Fall MAMM! Congratulations to our door prize winners; Frank Spinnot, Jim Castellmos, Lou Read and Rey Maconi; and thanks to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this show the success it was. Don Brill pulled the first of our Hudson Raffle tickets and gave away \$100.00 to the winner! With a bunch of new METCA MIGS signing up and several new TCA members coming on board, we will "do it again" on December 9th. Watch for those bright orange signs- and join us at our next MAMM! **METCA MIGS get in for FREE!**

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METCA KIDS CLUB

METCA had its first KIDS CLUB DAY at the Central Operating Lines Club at 90 Raynor Avenue, Ronkonkoma NY on April 14, 2012. COL couldn't have been a more gracious host. They had trains running as the kids arrived and let some kids run trains with the help of a club member. They also supplied Scavenger Hunt sheets with a long list of things to find on the layout. Check out their website for Open House dates at www.centraloperatinglines.com.

METCA's Kids Club Co-Chair Mark Ranzie with his family did a great job getting the train drag races up and running. A Big Thank you to Mark and family. Thanks to Nassau Hobby Center in Freeport for donating prizes for the races. www.nassauhobby.com It would be our luck that the event date conflicted with the Little League Opening Day at many LI towns so our turn out was a bit light but the kids that attended along with METCA and COL members had a great time. We will be running train races at the Riverhead Railroad Festival on Aug 25-26. Go to <http://www.rmlj.us/RMLI/Welcome.html>

Great news! TCA's "Night at the Museum" is going on the road and METCA will be the first stop. This event will be Friday night into Saturday Aug.17-18th at the NJ Hirailers and will be limited to the 1st 25 youngsters, ages 8-12 and parent/guardians to sign up. The Lionel folks will be there and expect a visit from JLC himself. The kids will build an operating train layout during the night. Price is \$75 per youngster. More details at <http://www.metca.org/>.

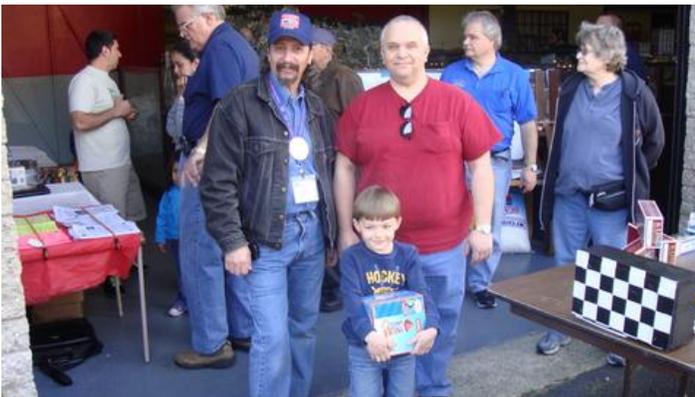
METCA's Kids Club email address is KidsClub@metca.org. Visit the TCA National Kids Club web site at <http://www.tcamembers.org/kids/index.htm>. Join the Kids Club <http://www.tcamembers.org/kids/join.htm>.



And there off!!!!



Come on Go Faster!!!!



Kids Club Co-Chairs Steve & Mark with one of the winners



Their smiles say it all.



Don Brill

In the last issue of the Waybill, I explained the benefits of sponsoring a TCA National Convention. Let me say that we are all un-paid volunteers who come from all walks of life. We contribute because we care about our organization and want to further help educate others, including children, about the benefits of our hobby. This update explains the structure behind the scenes of our convention.

At the top of the convention committee is Dannie Martin, who resides in Arizona. He represents the interests of TCA National and has responsibility for convention site selection/inspection and signing of contracts. His position is long standing and is appointed by TCA National. TCA National has placed monetary deposits along with signing contracts for the Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center and adjacent Garden State Exhibit Convention Center in Somerset, N.J. for the dates June 20-28, 2015. Next in line is myself who oversees all aspects of convention committee activities, and who like the rest of the volunteers are METCA members. Here are the committee Chairmen and some assistants:



-----President Stuart Rankin-Chairman of the Welcome Party, it's silent auction, Banquet, it's auction which follows and Convention Car Committee. He is assisted by Rich Levow.

-----Vice President Steve Musso-Chairman of the Kids Club, Security, Public Displays, and Layouts Committee. He will be assisted by Mark Ranzie and Dennis Callen.

-----Past METCA President-Scot Kienzlen will be our Convention Ambassador

-----Past METCA Secretary Rem Hunnewell-Chairman of the Registration/Trading Pits Committee will also oversee the Treasurer, Sam Deo, and his assistant Jack Lightholder. Additionally Rem Hunnewell will oversee the Trips/Tours Co-Chairmen Fred Hunt and Jeff Corrick. He will also oversee Bernie Callen and Marty Horning who are responsible for METCA Convention Publicity and the METCA Convention Store respectfully. Rem Hunnewell is assisted by Bob Amling and they are awaiting new registration software from TCA National. Registration will be available starting January 1, 2015. Even though the convention is a few years away, three of the committees are already at work planning for our Kids Club Activities, Trips/Tours and Convention Cars.

Many thanks go to our METCA Division Webmaster Jeff Corrick who is responsible for our METCA Website www.metca.org. and our convention website www.metca.org/2015convention.html. I have contacted representatives of all major train manufacturing companies and have invited them to participate with us in the convention public display area and there is much interest. We still need more volunteers for our various committees. If you are interested, kindly contact me at ernabuck39@verizon.net or 1-973-361-0723, or go to the convention website and contact one of our Committee Chairmen directly, identified there. Official Committee Meetings will start to take place in January 2013. As I have said before, this is a big deal, A REALLY BIG DEAL!!

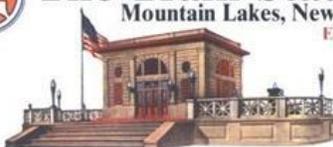
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It is, after all, the 21st century, and every going concern from Microsoft and World Bank to the tiniest startup or non-profit has a presence on the World Wide Web. In the last decade it's gone from a maybe to a must. If you want to make your case, to attract members or customers, to disseminate your schedule in nanoseconds – or just to tell your 457 best friends what you've been doing for the past three minutes – the web is the only place to be. For better or worse, for any organization, a web presence is a must. METCA is extremely fortunate that two years ago, Mario Ciliotta created for us a truly awesome website. When I first encountered the 'back end' of the site – stuff that's not visible to users – I was honestly amazed: at the sophistication, the clean code, the organization – heck, just the incredible amount of hours and effort that had gone into creating a first rate website for the division. So... big thanks from everyone in METCA to Mario for a job REALLY well done. So what does it take to become a webmaster? The only absolute requirements are a minor amount of web-tech knowhow – and a congenital inability to say "no."

I got (back) into toy trains following the death of my partner of 20 years – just as a way to keep busy and get myself into a better head-place. I had some old Lionel from the 50s that had been favorite toys as a kid. And my stepfather had recently come back from cleaning out his old family home with several boxes of MUCH older Lionel that had been his as a kid. I've always loved tinkering with old mechanical things – and antiques... The idea went something like this: "Put together a little layout using my old treasures and adding his – maybe treat myself to a new engine – that should kill two or three weeks, maybe spend a couple hundred dollars..." Yeah... Right... Any TCA toy-train-addict would have seen it coming a mile off... The two weeks stretched into seven years (and counting). The 'couple hundred dollars' stretched into... well, more than my best friend spent on two Harley-Davidson's and a new Mustang during the same period. I got bit – hard. And I wouldn't change a thing. I'm having a fantastic time – and found that train folk are some of the greatest in the world. I first stumbled across this "Standard Gauge" (what's that?) on-line discussion group, where I suddenly found myself trading train photos with some dude named Clem from Virginia. He mentioned this strange thing called "York" where (he assured me) I would find toy train nirvana. Only thing was, you had to be a member of this TCA train club thing. And becoming a member? "No problem" he told me. "Just go to the next 'train show'" (Trains on display? Movies? What?) "Put on by this group called METCA." I went... Bob Amling met me at the door and handed me a membership form and signed it. Then he hollered across the room, "Hey Scott, sign this!" And I was in. Little did I know... 6 or 8 Yorks and a couple of conventions later, and my train addiction has grown from Lionel, through AF and Marx, and landed somewhere around Carette and Elektoy. My layout and collection has now morphed from one room to engulf the entire basement and a large outbuilding at the old homestead in Kansas. And thanks to an innocent lunch with Scott and Stu, my single visit to a METCA show has turned into co-chair of the 2015 TCA Convention Activities Committee, creating the convention website, and – oh yes – somewhere in there, "METCA Webmaster" happened. I'm still not quite sure how.

So what does this new "Webmaster" duty entail? It started with putting up a page for tours and events ideas for the 2015 Convention. Next, I was asked to put together a web page for Convention Info. Believing that anything worth doing is worth overdoing, I volunteered to create a convention website. Now my duties include development and completion of the convention site over the coming months. Give the convention site a visit (<http://metca.org/2015convention.html>). There's a page on how to get involved, and even a spot to offer YOUR suggestions for convention events. For the rest of the job, I build on Mario's excellent work and expand and maintain the regular METCA pages. The BOD sends suggestions, corrections, updates, etc. – and a couple times a month, I finally get around to taking care of it all. OK, I'm not always fast, but eventually, I get the job done. So, aside from the fact that it's the accessory de rigueur for the well-appointed non-profit, what are we really hoping to accomplish with this investment of time and a few METCA dollars to the company that hosts the site? I feel the METCA website serves two complimentary purposes: To provide benefits to members, and to aid METCA as an organization. With that in mind, anything 'belongs' on the site, that serves those goals. My job as webmaster is to manage the behind the scenes 'nuts and bolts' to accomplish that in the most effective way possible. The BOD, of course, provides the direction, the goals, and much of the content. But the users – the MIGS – also have much to contribute. And believe me, your humble webmaster wants, and needs, those contributions. Did you snap some pix at the last METCA event? Send them to me – we'd love to post them and share with the rest of the membership, and show the rest of the web world what a fun bunch we are! Do you have pix, or even videos, of your layout or collection? We have a special on-line spot for those. And what toy train nut (myself included) doesn't love the chance to browse our fellow TCA member's treasures and track? Have a favorite website – or your own web pages? Our site has a links page and we'd love to expand it. And since links are usually reciprocal, linking to another train site, and their linking back to us, is one of the best ways to get to the top of search engines, and attract new folks to METCA. And if you have anything you'd like to see on the METCA website that's not there: just shout. Keeping the site fresh with new ideas and new content is the only way to make it a REAL long-term asset for the organization and the members. Yes, my journey to Webmaster has involved a fair amount of 'mission-creep,' but I'm actually rather glad. The work's really kind of fun. And I thoroughly enjoy getting my hands dirty with METCA. Where else could I meet so many like-minded folk and play trains with such a truly great group of people?



Much is happening on Long Island these days. Don Fischer at RMLI tells us that the Layout Committee Members at the Railroad Museum of Long Island in Riverhead have performed a tremendous amount of work on the Historic Lionel Layout this winter. In April 2011 the Museum opened the Freeman North Exhibit Hall with only white primer on the walls. Finish painting of the room was put off as the grand opening date quickly approached. In January 2012, master painter and TCA Member, Rich Walker gave the hall its final two coats of finish paint and dressed out all the woodwork in green trim paint. The historically accurate railroad station paint scheme adds to the wow factor as visitors enter the room. All the Lionel operating accessories on the layout have received attention this winter. Accessories get a six hour workout every day the Museum is open for visitors so after the first season of operation, some repairs and replacements had to be made. Thanks to the Eastern Division York Meet everything we needed to replace was found, right down to the rubber



feet of the freight station baggage men! In addition to working on the accessories themselves, Committee Members replaced all of the operating buttons with heavy duty push switches along the sides of the layout. The new buttons will better take the repeated finger touches and the location makes it easier for little fingers to reach. Finally, the layout control tower received a major overhaul. Keeping with the original Lionel design from Chesterfield, Michigan - the tabletop holding the



ZW transformers can once again be raised and locked in place for system wiring and maintenance. All five transformers are easily maintained Classic Lionel ZWs. Transient voltage suppressor diodes and circuit breakers were installed on each ZW output to protect the electronics in today's modern locomotives. The Museum and the Historic Lionel Layout opened for the 2012 season on Saturday, April 14th. Beginning Memorial Day weekend the Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer until Columbus Day. Please visit our website at www.rmli.org for information and friend us on Facebook for the latest breaking news from Museum. If you would like to volunteer to operate trains this season, please e-mail Don Fisher to sign up at dfisher@rmli.us

From Bob Trnka, we hear that The Nassau Lionel Operating Engineers have begun to scenic the south end of the layout. The steam service area is under construction. They are in the process of restoring a roundhouse that was built 60 years ago. The turn table and several buildings are already installed. We are also laying the ground work for the city that will be located in the same area. And you thought that Railroad restorations occurred only in the prototype. NLOE will be participating in the METCA September meet in Freeport. They are looking forward to their second fall open house on the 26th, 27th and 28th of October and invite all to come down and visit and check out their progress. This Open House will be in addition to our annual December Open House. Mark your calendars folks!

The folks at Central Operating Lines tell us that Urban Renewal is underway in their downtown area with new tall buildings, a new street layout and a relocated "Great Central Terminal" building. This magnificent structure will be much closer to public viewing areas to allow visitors to view all the interior details and vignettes that are located within. Visit these folks this fall.

I would like to hear from members of other LI clubs for news and happenings at these clubs. Send news items to laskowsl@optonline.net

Upcoming METCA Events~ Be Part of Them!



Clinton Station Diner5th Summer Mini-Meet **AUGUST 18, 2012 CLINTON HILL NJSHOW**



Space Reservations ONLY! First paid first reserved! Sorry No Drive up
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Please reserve ____ 7'x15'space(s) at the **Clinton Station Diner Mini-Meet Clinton Hill N.J.Show** @ \$20.00 ea. \$ _____

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Name: _____ Phone (required) (_____) _____

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Complete this PRE ~ REGISTRATION coupon; please return with check and L.S.S.A.E. to:

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TCA Standards Statement: I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Train Collector's Association (TCA) and its Divisions and Chapters in effect from time to time, specifically including all the rules and regulations of all TCA committees and any actions and rulings of all TCA Committees. I also agree that all items sold by me to any TCA member or at any TCA sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent all such items are authentic and in the manufacturer's original condition unless I have caused item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction. **DIRECTIONS TO THE EVENT WILL BE PROVIDED UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR PAID REGISTRATION**



Brand new METCA Show...CHECK IT OUT **SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 FREEPORT NY SHOW**



Table Reservations ONLY!

Please reserve ____ 6' table(s) at the **ALL NEW Sept 15th Freeport, NY Show** @ \$20.00 each (admission incl.) \$ _____

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November 17, 2012 HOWARD BEACH NY show **Table Reservations ONLY!**



Please reserve ____ 8' tables at the **November 17 2012 Howard Beach NY Show** @ \$25.00 each (admission included) \$ _____

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Save the date ---- The Annual Banquet----November 3rd 2012. Great in 2011, even better in 2012. Details next Waybill.
Atlanta TCA Convention runs from June 24th through July 1st. Still time to register and get in on this great event.
Taking orders for the 2013 release in METCA mint cars. A pair of Jersey Central cars. Don't Miss It!!

Get all the latest METCA info by visiting the website: www.metca.org.



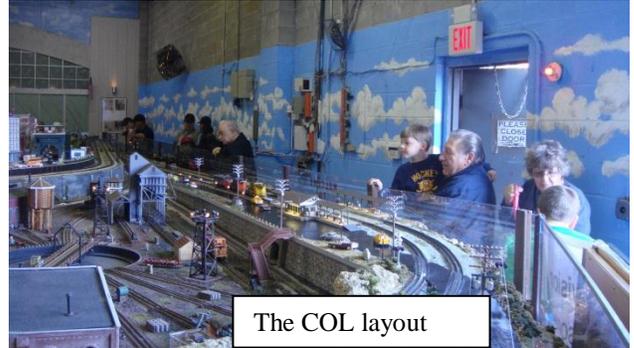
Our COL Hosts



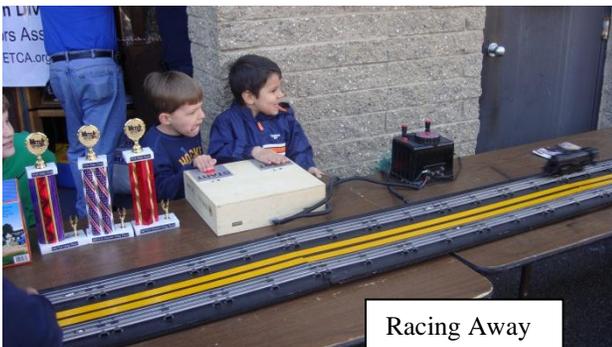
The layout Builders



Steve and Mark Planning the train race



The COL layout



Racing Away



The Judge's Decision!



MIGS Running on the layout



Bob, Mark and a Prize Winner

