



President's Perspective

"Who's Next"

If you're just joining METCA, WELCOME

METCA is at an exciting time in its nearly fifty-year history. You see lots going on in the division – four shows in NY and NJ; highly successful, desirable and collectable division fundraising cars (with a few more to come!); Meet'n'Greets (next one in January); mini-meets; our growing modular group; and other activities.

You may have heard about plans for the division's future-hosting a National TCA Convention; our METCA Division 50th anniversary (2011) celebration; more shows in more locations; closed (TCA only) meets; METCA-branded merchandise; trains under the Rockefeller Christmas tree and these are just some of the ideas your current METCA Board of Directors has kicked around.

You may know of some of the things we've done as a division—a monetary donation to the TCA's national Oral History Project; helping PBS TV station WNJN with a membership drive; a canned food donation and participation in a train display for the Open Door Food Bank in Freehold, NJ.

You may think this has always been "business as usual" for the division. It hasn't.

Your current Board of Directors has worked diligently to find innovative and fun ways for METCA MIGS to make "The TCA Experience" more than just a semi-annual trek to York. Much of what METCA is today is, in large part, due to their efforts. Do we have fun? Of course we do. It's part of what makes METCA one of the most active and fastest-growing divisions in the TCA. Ideas and thoughts become suggestions; suggestions become plans; and plans become reality. As a METCA member, you'd like this all to continue. As your leadership, so would we. But the truth is, my friends, we ain't gonna be around forever.

Don't get me wrong-this BOD is, in my opinion, one of the finest that has ever served this division—a great group of guys. There's harmony, camaraderie, and genuine appreciation for each other's talents and dedication to METCA, and I fully expect us to hang together for a few more years. But, we will all inevitably move on.

Where will that leave METCA? What happens to your division? That depends on you. Sitting on the sidelines and letting "the other guy" do it usually results in no one actually being "the other guy". Just thinking about getting something accomplished gets nothing accomplished.

As we wind up 2008 and look ahead to the fun we'll have together in 2009, I want to thank all of you who have shown your support for this division, whether by attending one of our shows or by just paying annual dues. Everyone, EVERYONE who supports the division is, in fact participating.

But, if you feel like you have more to offer, or if you want to expand your circle of train friends, come to a METCA show and talk to us-introduce yourself! If you think you want to continue METCA activity; or have ways to make it better, consider that your help is welcome and give any member of the METCA BOD a call.

So, who's next? Is it you? Are you the next METCA Treasurer? Can you help plan a National TCA Convention? How can we expand our Kid's Club activity with your guidance? Who will be the Election Committee Chair this coming year? Could we have a greater community presence if you show us how? Is there a Long Island Chapter in METCA's future? Where does the next METCA BOD come from? Are you my replacement?

We have questions-only you have the answers.

Scot Kienzlen

METCA 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."

Long Island Sounds

By Bob Amling

As I sit here and contemplate METCA's growth here on Long Island; I can only imagine where we can go in 2009! Our friends at Central Operating Lines and TMB Train Club have been very supportive of METCA's efforts on Long Island. We have had some discussions around some joint activities and continue working to that end. I have heard from some folks that we should look at Hofstra as a show venue. Our current location at St. Helen's Church in Howard Beach served us well on November 15th and has room for expansion, (more on this in another column and later here). There was some talk this past summer about a METCA barbeque for METCA families. Our secretary Rem Hunnewell likes to say that I am the one with the boots on the ground on Long Island. Well folks, you get out of an organization what you put into it. I for one would like very much to see METCA in Hofstra as well as a METCA family barbeque on Long Island. How about a Train Ride and Barbeque in conjunction with LI Train Museum activities? WE can do this! METCA is gaining new members every week and I am sure that there is plenty of talent out there to make METCA even greater.

The November 15th show at St. Helen's in Howard Beach was fantastic. I have heard from many people about how good of a show it was. METCA President, Clem Clement drove up from Virginia to attend the show and deliver a welcome to the show participants. It couldn't have happened without the help of James Baglino, one of our newest METCA members and a member of the St. Helen's Holy Name Society (HNS). James enlisted the HNS to handle the setup and breakdown of the tables for the show. They also ran the necessary electric for our needs and provided a PA system for our use. The HNS also staffed the kitchen and put out some really great food! I would also like to thank METCA member and my friend, Bob Del Castillo for his help with the table layout and setup. Mario Ciliotta wears many hats; he is the editor of the Waybill and the METCA Webmaster; but he is also the friendly face at the door when you arrive at our Long Island shows. Mario needs help, the door is a three person job and he is alone most of the time. I couldn't have placed all those road signs if Mario hadn't chauffeured me around Howard beach. TWICE! Once to put them up and again to take them down.

Speaking of Hats; did you see our METCA President Scot Kienzlen sporting his vintage conductors hat, not to mention the whole uniform? Once in uniform, Sir Scot of METCA read to the children out of a treasured Thomas the Tank volume. Ahh, the children, did you see all those smiling faces at the Drag Races. Metca member, Mark Ranzie did a fantastic job setting up the race track and handicapping the engines to ensure that the races were fair and entertaining for all the children. We were very fortunate to have door prizes donated by Lionel, TM Books and Videos, Lionel Nation, Project Roar, Even Designs and Clem Clement. I especially want to thank Stu Rankin, METCA Treasurer for arranging for many of the door prizes. Once again, all this could not have happened without the vision of our METCA leadership Team and METCA BOD.

Thank You gentlemen

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Editor's Notes

By Mario Ciliotta, 05-58732

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**METCA dues – still just \$5.00 for 2009!
Pay yours today!**

Notes From National

Jane Boyce, our TCA's National Director of Development, has some great news for METCA members... a fun and exciting way to **participate** by sharing your layout.

She explains: "In a nutshell, we are asking that members who have wonderful train layouts in their homes to photograph them and submit those photographs to us for consideration. We'll have an independent panel choose their favorite **12 photographs which we will use in a calendar we're putting together for 2010.**

"These calendars will be made available to the membership at a very reasonable price and will also be available in our gift shop at the National Toy Train Museum. We know that there are many really spectacular layouts out there!!!"

So, if **you've** got a great photo that you'd like to have considered for this 2010 calendar, contact Jane at the National Business Office; or any of your METCA Division officers.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Get your layout photo to Jane by January 15th!

Also, **Jane's planning an all-new FUN-raising trip** – right on the heels of the TCA's successful cruise to Nova Scotia!. Read on as Jane fills us in: "We have planned another for 2009 – but this time, **a rail trip through the Canadian Rockies!** This 7 night/6 days land tour features 2 full days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train with upgrades to the dome car available. And – we'll spend one night at the world famous Chateau Lake Louise and attend a specialty dinner at the Maple Leaf Musical plus much, much more! Cost is \$3,829 person based on double occupancy. "All land transfers, taxes and Canadian GST are included. And, as with the 2008 trip, a portion of your fare goes to the TCA Endowment Fund.

"Come and join us for what is called, "**The most spectacular train trip in the world!**"

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There's lots of new items for Winter and a great clearance sale, too!



"**Cuboose**" is the official TCA mascot. This soft and cuddly Boyd Bear is a real hit with the kids – and available right now! Order yours from the National Toy Train Museum today – makes a great "anytime" gift – for anyone!

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The Metropolitan Division's First Ever Member of the Year **Rem Hunnewell**



Rem has been a TCA member since 1975 and has always been supportive of the division. In 2005, Rem was one of the core members who shaped the division and helped move it in a new and dynamic direction. Since that time, Rem has been involved with the “business” of the METCA Division. As a member of the Division’s Board of Directors, he helped to develop the current METCA Division Bylaws and Policies. As your Division Secretary, he has made great strides for the division by introducing MemberTies, to keep an accurate accounting of the division’s membership. He has done the paperwork to make the METCA Division a charitable, not-for-profit 501-c(3) entity; donations to the division are tax deductible. It was through his efforts that the division was able to again run shows at the Boys and Girls Club in Garfield. He has done the mailings needed to not only keep METCA members informed, but has done mass emailing on which some members rely. Rem has worked diligently to keep postage and printing cost down, even with our continuing membership expansion; including

doing the legwork to get our non-profit postage certificate! He has worked to improve the quality of METCA Division membership cards which now include the dates of our annual shows. His “behind the scenes” efforts on behalf of all METCA members have greatly enhanced the benefits of being one of our METCA MIGS! As a self-professed ‘collector, not operator’, Rem is currently working on a combined meet with our neighboring Atlantic Division and serves our shows as the official METCA “Train Doctor”.

Be sure to stop by at any of our METCA shows and say “Congratulations and thanks” to Rem!

Historian’s Corner

When reading most articles, you start at the beginning. Just take a moment and glance at the bottom of this one and look at my TCA number. As you can see, I’ve been a member of the METCA Division and of the TCA, for over 45 years.

During those years, I had the honor of being a Director, Vice President and President a number of times. I have attended many conventions; Orlando, FL in 1975, Philadelphia in 1976, New Orleans, LA in 1986, Raleigh, NC in 1987 and Oakland, CA in 1998. While attending these conventions as the Metropolitan Division President, I sat in on the National BOD meetings. It was a great opportunity to become involved with the many decisions to operate the TCA for the upcoming year.

One of the most memorable national meetings I had attended had been to decide on the construction of our National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, PA. Many hours of deliberation had been put in by all the division Presidents and National officers on the pros and cons of building the TCA National Museum. Needless to say, when the final vote came it was YES to build the museum. The museum is a monument to those who had the foresight, support and hard work of the membership to make the dream of a

museum a reality.

If anything, without support, we can’t move forward – whether at the national or division level. So, support your TCA... and most of all, YOUR division

Pat Scuorzo
TCA #62-651

METCA Board of Directors

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METCA meet in Howard Beach



Happily, the opportunity for Frank Heiss and me to visit METCA in action came again. St Helen's Church Hall facility is a nice venue to hold a train meet. Rubberized gym-type flooring made things quiet and walking easy. The hall was full of trains, happy people and train layouts. Traffic flow was continuous through our entire time there. Did I mention the kids?

Scot Kienzlen, Rem Hunnewell, Stu Rankin, Bob Amling, Mario Ciliotta and all were most gracious in meeting us and showing us the important stuff: where the kids would race and use their wind sails, where the kids would be gathering to hear Scot's train tales, where the kids

would watch the several train layouts and where the kids could find something to eat. Golly that huge egg, bacon and cheese on a Kaiser roll was delish+ free coffee too. I'm acomin' back. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit. Did I mention the kids?

Emblazoned on my mind is a snapshot that I witnessed about noon. I had just finished a talk on the homemade trains I brought with me. I looked toward the stage and it is filled with happy kids racing trains, cheering and laughing while waiting for the train stories to begin. Scot was with me, straightened his conductor's neat outfit and joined his flock. Golly that was neat.



The exciting METCA efforts are spearheaded by a few hard chargers working very diligently to making things happen. Exciting events and increased participation are the results. Rem managed the Loco Doctor function along with everything else he does. This is the first time I have seen a loco doctor work on digital stuff at a meet. Tough job and well done. The "Flat Car Sailers" were a big hit. Simple thing with an MPC flat car with a telegraph pole mounted in it. The kids makes a paper sail to fit on the pole. He/she uses a straw to blow air unto the paper sail and down the track she goes racing against another on the parallel track! I watched Scot use some of his hot air and the "Sailer" really flew down the track!

This was a meet of friends enjoying their hobby, having good times, trading some trains and expressing pleasure about finding this lovely hall on the Island. It was great to see trainiacs filling gaps in the age levels from grandpa to the very little.



Clem Clement
TCA President

What They're Saying About METCA

"I think it would be great if you would include some articles about METCA members' collections in The Waybill" says **Allen Leon** of Commack, NY. "I'd be happy to help take photos!" From our METCA discussion group, **Grace** writes, "Had a great time today at the show! Would like to take this moment to say Thank you to all of METCA for making me feel so welcomed. Looking forward to future shows and events!" And **Bob Taylor** was at our Mini-Meet in August: "I was going up north to a supplier and remembered the show was today and me and my son swung by and we picked up a super nice AHM Big Boy from **Al Galli**. My son has been pestering me for one of these for the last four Yorks and we found one today at a great price, and it runs and looks great!"

**Tell a friend about the TCA
and METCA!**

**Come join in all the FUN that
METCA has planned for
2009 and beyond!**

Garfield - That's a wrap for 2008!



Once again METCA 's Garfield show was a success. We had over 200 people / vendors attend our October 26th show. There were trains of all gauges and eras spread out over 60 tables. We had our friends from the Garden Railroaders of Northern New Jersey set up a G scale Layout. **John Mikish**, Metca member and rep from Aristo-Craft was on hand displaying some of Aristo-Crafts's product. **Joe Mania** ran his layouts of 2 7/8 trains for us. **Frank Duke** and **Bob Dobrowolski** brought their loops of O gauge and last but not least METCA's President **Scot Kienzlen** had another layout at the show. This was the same layout that was featured on TV when we assisted WJNJ-TV with a pledge drive.

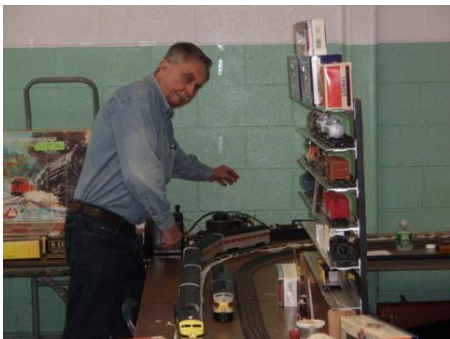
I know the kids that came to the show enjoyed the layouts. Thank you, for attending and making our show that much better. We also had a past METCA President attend the show. **Mr. & Mrs. George Feyh** were walking thru the aisles admiring the tables, layouts and chatting with friends. It was good to see you George.



METCA did some other advertising other than flyers this time. We ran an ad in the Bergen Record and other local papers, which did well for us. METCA member **Grace Grootenboer** did some unique advertising for us and I believe this is another METCA first. She got METCA and the show mentioned on Q104.3 radio during Breakfast with the Beatles show by Ken Dashow.



I said our show was a success, not only a financial success but also a success for our hobby. Our hobby is an old and great hobby and there are a lot of factors that make our shows successful. Some of them are: our loyal vendors, our membership, friends of METCA, and mostly the public. As our shows grow so will our hobby. Thanks to all of you. I would be remiss in my responsibilities if I didn't **thank the Garfield Boys and Girls Club and the Garfield Coaches Association** for their continued support.



Our next show at Garfield is Sunday January 11th, 2009.

See everybody there.

Thank you!

Kevin Quinn,
Garfield Show Chairman



METCA Modules Group Update!

The METCA Modules Group is making progress as a new organization. There are several straight modules nearing completion. Two members have started planning curved sections. At this writing discussions are taking place to have a shakedown run using all the modules currently under construction. Bill Osburn would like to start having a monthly or bi-monthly meet or conference call to discuss the progress that each member is making. Interested parties should sign up for the METCA Modules Group and provide email and telephone contact information when signing up



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These new TCA members' names have appeared in the "*National Headquarters News*" since our last Waybill. If they live in a town near you, why not call them and welcome them to the TCA and METCA!

Ted Bell.....Fair Lawn, NJ.....201-376-0077
John Belpanno.....Brooklyn, NY.....718-331-8434
Waldron Bishop.....Eatontown, NJ.....732-542-9331
Joseph Conroy.....Saddle Brook, NJ.....201-843-0633
Don Dempsey.....Newtown, CT.....203-512-8301
Alfonso Diasparra Jr., ...Dumont, NJ.....201-694-7863
Peter Fiotti.....Croton Falls, NY.....845-621-1184
Carl Fratello.....W. Babylon, NY.....631-669-0746
Steve Gambale.....Marlboro, NJ.....732-409-2914
Timothy Henkler.....Glen Rock, NJ.....201-857-4569
Donald Howarth.....Allentown, NJ.....609-259-8255

Jason Jeffers..... New York, NY.....646-747-4655
Dennis Kasprzyk..... Buffalo, NY.....716-818-9790
George Klett.....Lloyd Harbor, NY.....631-421-5379
Thomas McCarthy.... Ware, MA.....413-967-6925
Barney Moore.....Watchung, NJ.....917-686-6184
Thomas Neidhardt....Lodi, NJ.....201-638-5712
John Nicchio, Sr.Ronkomkoma, NY.....631-672-1708
Philip Patti.....Staten Island, NY.....718-227-2419
James Sablano..... Westbury, NJ.....516-334-0853
Alan Spero.....Howell, NJ.....732-840-1294
Robert Wagner, Sr.,...Freehold, NJ.....732-252-5741

From the Division Secretary's Desk

As we close out 2008 I would like to start this column by first wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. METCA over the 12 months has moved forward at a pace that was unthinkable just 2 years ago. METCA has reestablished itself as a contender within TCA. We have issued new Division cars, we have brought TCA and METCA into NY for our members there, we have been recognized by the State of New Jersey and the USPS as a 501c3 organization, and we now offer 5% or better discounts at select hobby shops in the NY/NJ area. Our membership rolls now hover around 500 METCA MIGS (Members In Good Standing) and I fully expect membership to reach 800 paid by December 2009. We are currently working on establishing train shows in the Southern Monmouth county area of NJ as well as one in the Rockland county area of NY. And for you operators out there, METCA has formed its own modular group. Out of all this, the only thing we are missing from most of our MIGS is active participation. Why not for a News Year's Resolution promise yourself to attend one of our events? It will be fun, and after all, you deserve it.

2009 division membership dues are due now. Renewal notices were sent out 2 weeks ago. Those of you who have already paid your 2009 dues will find your membership cards included with this newsletter, unless you have already received them from me. Mailing labels from me always show your membership status as well as the date that you are paid up thru. If you have any questions concerning METCA business or your membership please call me at (732) 660-7062 or email me at Secretary@metca.org

Merry Christmas
Rem Hunnewell

An Open Letter From the New York Show Chairman

Fellow NY METCA Members,

In November of 2007 we put a stake in the ground, and launched the first METCA show in NY. Now a year later we have found a home at St Helen's in Howard Beach. St Helen's was our third venue in three shows; but has proven to be the best for several reasons. The space, it is the largest venue that we have been in. The venue staff is a willing, able body of men that did everything they could to make us welcome. The proximity to major highways for easy access from the East, North and West; as well as ample lighting, and parking.

The success of this past show, November 15, 2008 has proven that we have pounded that stake deep. At the end of the show, your METCA BOD, and I took a tour of additional available space at St. Helen's. We have room to grow and offer even more of a good time to fellow TCA members and all those kids that we need to get interested in our hobby.

So we have a great venue, we had a tremendous turnout, and we have room to grow. Sounds perfect, right?

Wrong, something is missing; YOU. METCA needs you to be a part of this! We need help with the setup and tear down as well as help during the show. We need at least two additional people at the door, one or two additional people at the drag race and if we acquire the additional space, I can envision the need for one or two people to run with that..

Regards,
Bob Amling
NY Show Chairman

Visit your website at: <http://www.metca.org>

METCA's Youth Club Presents – The “Flat Car Sailer”

Scot Kienzlen – TCA #90-30653

Here's a Kids Club project that's fast, way fun, inexpensive and easy to do. It's a great activity for parents and kids to work together... and when you're done, requires no electricity to play with your train! Let's build a “Flat Car Sailer!”

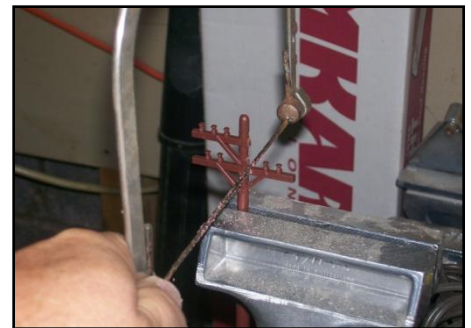
We started with the three items you see in photo 1. Any newer flatcar will be fine. We used one from Lionel's NASCAR series (thought it might be faster). The thing is to make sure it has the newer, fast-angle wheels. You'll see why soon.



Next, we used an inexpensive plastic Lionel telephone pole. Actually we think any O gauge pole will do, but we chose the Lionel one for a couple of reasons~ the removable base, and we also saw that the pole might be a little stronger than others.

Now, make a sail by taking a piece of letter paper and folding it into quarters. Then cut (or tear if you're really good) one of the folded sections from the paper... and you're all set!

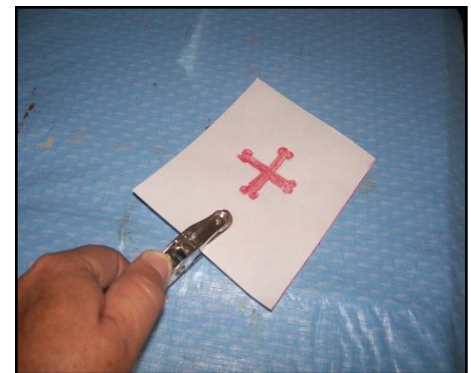
Start making your mast from the telephone pole by carefully cutting away the crossmembers, as seen in photo 2. We used a coping saw, but we think you might be able to snip them off using a pair of diagonal cutting pliers. Let your mom or dad help with this! Be careful not to cut into the pole! Then, if you want to with some sandpaper, finish sanding off the molded part of the crossies of your mast.



Now our Sailer is ready for the sail! Place the mast anywhere you choose on your flatcar. We screwed the removable telephone pole base to the flatcar using some small screws, but you can glue yours right on if that's easier. Use a strong glue that's used for building plastic models. Hot glue is good too, but make sure your parents help!

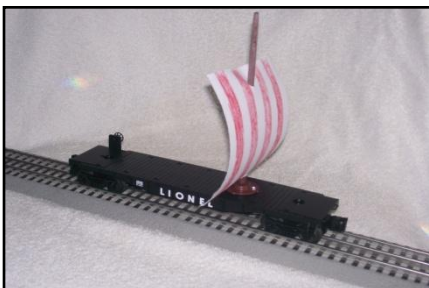
And now here's the FUN part where YOU can get creative! Using colored pencils, pens, markers, or any other medium you choose, have fun coloring and making a design on your sail. You can even decorate the flatcar just the way you want! How about some Lego pirates? Or some O scale race car drivers? Use your imagination and make yours different from everyone else! When you're done, put two holes in the top and bottom of your sail. We used a hole puncher (photo 3), but if you don't have one, we bet you can figure out how to get those holes in there!

Now, slide the sail all the way down over the mast. The sail should just touch the flatcar. Square it up and add a piece of scotch tape to hold it in place at the 'touch' point.



Our Sailer is now ready to go; it should look something like the one in photo 4. Now let's have some racing fun! Rail the car on your track, and using a straw, blow into the sail and watch it go! Those fast-angle wheels are way better than the old, flat ones. Put a couple of long straight tracks side by side and race with your friends! Blow on it again if you have to. No pushing! Make a loop of track and see who can get around it the fastest! If it derails, the race is over.

But what I want to know is, who's faster? You... or your parents?



Ahoy, Conductor! Now you have your own “Flat Car Sailer”, and you're a “Flat Car Sailor!” See you at the races!



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To sign up, visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/metca/>

Let's hear your thoughts. Get the up to the minute latest news as it happens.