

This issue of the Waybill is dedicated in Memory of Hal Carstens

President's Perspective

“For Your Friends Are My Friends...”

You remember the kiddie song? The more we get together, together, together... for your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends... the happier we'll be”.

It sounds simplistic, but that's the basis of the TCA. It's been our drum beat as we've worked to improve and make METCA better for our members~ ALL of us.

Your Board of Directors is working to try innovative and creative ways to make this great hobby more accessible and more fun; the successful Meet'n'Greets and our upcoming mini-meet at the Clinton Diner (2nd annual!) are just a couple of examples. Your division has hit the bulls-eye TWICE now on very successful and collectible division cars. Your division now offers FREE admission to METCA events for members In Good Standing (our faithful MIGS).

The great thing about being a TCA member is getting meeting hobby-knowledgeable guys in a train-comfortable environment; that's not the case at every train show. At every METCA show we have our own National Standards Committee members on hand to try and answer your questions or concerns about a particular piece. The good news is that if they can't, they know someone who can!

When was the last time YOU invited a friend to come with you to a train show? It's something you can do that's easily overlooked in the excitement of getting ready for a show, but give it some thought~ your buddy would make an excellent 'navigator'! Maybe you have a question for him; maybe he's got a question for you. After all, if he invites you golfing, or out on his boat, why can't you invite him to a train show?

Opening up your mind to new areas of collecting or operation is another way to make friends or gain new knowledge. Or, are you afraid of learning something new?

Join us online. METCA has our own discussion group linked to our website~ www.metca.org You never know what you'll discover until you try.

“I have a propensity for friendship. I try to see the good in people”. That quote from former President George H.W. Bush very much applies to this hobby. Think of it~ when you come to a train show, you're surrounded by trains and friends... it doesn't get much better than that!

Check out your new Waybill~ and I'll see you at the shows!

Scot “You betcha I'm METCA” Kienzlen

Division Election

The METCA Division of the TCA is currently accepting nominations for the following positions of Division President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and (4) Director(s) for the 2010-2011 term. Candidates must be members in good standing with the TCA and METCA Divisions. Voting for the upcoming 2010-2011 election will be held in October.

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please send your resume with letter of intent to the METCA Election Committee for review. Nominations will be accepted until 7/30 either via email at mario_ciliotta@yahoo or via US Mail to Mario Ciliotta 159-18 100th Street Howard Beach, NY 11414.

If you want to make a difference in your Division and bring new ideas to our growing Division, why not run for a position, or volunteer to work on the Election Committee but at least make sure to vote in the upcoming election and have your voice heard.

Mario Ciliotta TCA # 05-58732
Election Committee Chairman

Editor's Notes

With spring coming to an end and summer starting, not only is the temperature getting hotter but so are things at METCA. There is an upcoming election, the Division is growing and membership and show attendance is on the rise. The Waybill has been growing but still needs your support. We will be offering a Buy/Sell/Trade section in the next issue of the Waybill. If you have an article to contribute or a listing for our Buy/Sell/Trade section, please email me at newsletter_editor@metca.org. The deadline for publication is September 7.

Interested in having your voice heard, please fill out one of our surveys. They are located under "Surveys" on the METCA home page (www.metca.org).

The next issue will contain an election ballot and the biographies of your Board of Director candidates.

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."



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!

Anthony Bonacci, Staten Island, NY (718) 757-2417
 Andrew J. Brusgard, Union, NJ (908) 686-4856
 Michael Caruso, Wyckoff, NJ (201)848-1018
 Don Chiappetta, Stamford, CT (203) 329-3005
 Richard Dalli, Clifton, NJ (973) 916-0121
 Robert N. DeRonde, Poughkeepsie, NY (845) 452-8253
 John G. Delia, North Bellmore, NY (516) 783-4046
 Matthew Ferraro, West Islip, NY (631) 338-1430
 Joseph Fiumano, New Hyde Park, NY (914) 497-0235
 Michael Fritschie, Parsippany, NJ (973) 285-9525
 Jeffrey Wayne Gardner, Newburgh, NY (845) 561-1056
 Geraldine Geber, Syosset, NY (516) 921-0141
 Felix Guadalupe, Hillside, NJ (908) 687-9590
 William Kanyuch, Raritan, NJ (908) 722-0979
 Robert Kerekes, New York, NY (646) 747-4654
 Dennis J. Klym, West Milford, NJ (973)728-8136
 Lawrence P. Lease, Greenlawn, NY (631) 291-0278
 Michael S. Lombardi, Kinnelon, NJ (973) 283-6410

Harold L. Mackins, Hanover, MA (781) 826-4742
 Larry Mailloux, Huntington, NY (631) 525-3193
 Juan Martinez, Hillside, NJ (908) 687-9590
 Richard O'Rourke, Brielle, NJ (732) 292-2838
 Richard Ochler, Somers, NY (914) 649-8609
 Joseph O. Polidora III, Rocky Point, NY (631) 744-0049
 Edgar Ramirez, Hillside, NJ (908) 687-9590
 John G. Regit, Randolph, NJ (973) 895-7877
 Stephen A. Russell, Pine Bush, NY (845) 744-3759
 Paul Rypkema, Wyckoff, NJ (201) 670-7376
 Len Schafer, New York, NY (646) 515-4306
 Anthony Sirico, East Patchogue, NY (631) 714-4365
 Dennis Skinner, Melville, NY (631) 249-1055
 Mark V. Spadaro, Belle Harbor, NY (718) 318-2121
 Jeff Stern, Suffern, NY (845) 368-4824
 Robert P. Thomas, Bayside, NY (718) 225-8257
 Joseph Zarnowski, Manville, NJ (908) 304-5051

Meet Update

The October 11th show in Garfield, New Jersey is just over 3 months away.
 Table registrations are coming in early so please reserve your tables now.
 Buy 3 tables at \$20.00 and get the 4th free. Speaking of free, all METCA migs get free admission to the show. You should start to see show flyers appearing at your favorite hobby shops, future shows or visit the METCA website at <http://www.metca.org> and look at 'Shows and Events'.
 If you have any questions, please call me at (201) 712-9481 or email at kquinn@njtransit.com.

Kevin Quinn
 Show chairman

METCA Board of Directors

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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.

Largest TCA Shows in the Metropolitan, NY Area!!!!



METCA Train Show Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009

Highballing into the future by honoring our past

**Garfield Boys' and Girls' Club
490 Midland Ave, Garfield NJ**

Free admission for TCA members with a valid METCA membership card!!!!

METCA/TCA members admitted at 8 AM ~ General Public at 9AM ~ Show Runs until 2 PM

All table holders must be TCA members, no exceptions. Pre-registration (non-refundable fee) received 10 days prior to the show with S.S.A.E. will be mailed out; all other tags will be available the day of the show. Reserved tables held until 9AM only. Table holders admitted at 7:00 AM for set-up. **Please bring your own handcars.** (Limited quantity available at Boys Club)

We invite TCA members to stay for the METCA business meeting immediately following the show!

New Vendors! Door prizes! New Friends! Great trains! Come see our popular INTERACTIVE display layout!

Contact Show Chairman – Kevin Quinn at (201) 712-9481 for more information and table reservations.

Directions to the Garfield Boy's Club: Parkway South to Exit 159. Bergen Toll Plaza. Stay to your right follow exit for North Midland Ave Saddle Brook. Stay on North Midland Ave going south 2 miles. Boys Club on left. **Garden State Parkway North to exit 157 RT 46 EAST to Outwater Lane. Top of ramp, make right. Go 1 light make left onto Midland Ave. Boys Club on left.** RT 80 West to Exit 62 Midland Ave. Saddle Brook follow signs around to the right for Midland Ave. Saddle Brook onto Phele Ave. at light make right. Go 1 block, make left onto Midland Ave. Take Midland Ave 2 miles to Boys Club on the left side.



METCA Train Show Saturday November 21, 2009 Now with 100 tables

**St. Helen's Church Hall
8309 157th Avenue Howard Beach, NY 11414-2625**

Free admission for TCA members with a valid METCA membership card!!!!

Come and meet Santa Claus!

METCA/TCA members admitted at 8 AM ~ General Public at 9AM ~ Show Runs until 3 PM

All table holders must be TCA members, no exceptions. Pre-registration (non-refundable fee) received 10 days prior to the show with S.S.A.E. will be mailed out; all other tags will be available the day of the show. Reserved tables held until 9AM.

Table holders admitted at 6:00 AM for set-up.

**PRIZES! Locomotive Drag Races are for kids 5 – 15 years old PRIZES!
FREE SIGNUP! Bring your favorite engine or use ours!**

Contact Show Chairman – Bob Amling at (718) 541-8619 for more information and table reservations.

Directions: East Bound Belt Parkway Exit 17 - Take exit 17 toward Cross Bay Blvd/Woodhaven/Rockaways. Turn right at Cross Bay Blvd -proceed 2 blocks to 157 Av. Make right on to 157 Av. Proceed to 83-09 157 Av. Hall is on corner of 157th and 84th St. Westbound BP use 17S, Rockaways follow Cross Bay Blvd S. as above. **BP excludes Commercial Traffic. Call/email directions.**

“What is it like to have Joe Mania as a dad?”

By Danielle Mania

“What is it like to have Joe Mania as a dad?” is the frequently asked question. All I can say is that having Joe Mania as a dad is nothing but the best. I’ve grown up living around trains for sixteen years, and I have been attending train shows since before I can remember. We have always had a train around the Christmas tree and when I was old enough to have my own miniature tree in my room the first train I set up was a Mickey Mouse Handcar.

In the articles in the Asbury Park Press over the past two years, many teachers as well as students in my high school have asked me about what it’s like living with trains. My Biology teacher, my sophomore year, read the article and out of interest looked up the video published on <http://www.app.com>. Everyday the class began with a PowerPoint presentation, therefore seeing the projector on was nothing out of the ordinary. When we took our seats and my teacher pulled a video clip up. Catching me completely and utterly off guard, I see the video of my dad, our basement train layout, and the garage 1949 Showroom Layout. From that day forward someone always shouts “Train Mania!” through the hallways.

Contrary to popular belief I enjoy going to train shows. From attending the shows I have met an extensive amount of people. I was blessed with the opportunities of meeting elaborate people such as Frank Pettit, Tom Pagano, Esther Gambacorta (Charles Giaimo’s daughter), Lenny Dean, and Neil Young just to name a few. Before Frank Pettit passed away I was able to visit him with my dad and I learned how the Waving Flag operated. Tom Pagano, who recently turned 97, graces us with his presence once or twice a year. I always enjoy listening to his stories of working at the Lionel Factory. Esther has been nothing but a sweetheart with a vibrant personality. Her stories about her childhood and growing up around the factory workers fascinate me. At the Brick train shows Lenny would give me a hug and ask me how I’ve been doing. Meeting Neil Young could have been the most intimidating situation of my entire life. At the April York of 2005 I was playing guitar at our booth in the orange hall somewhat diagonal from Lionel and Neil stopped at our table. I looked up in complete shock thinking “oh wow Neil Young, one of my favorite musicians was watching me play guitar!” I stopped playing and he told me what a great job my dad does on his trains and continued to tell me I had talent. When my mom returned I told her what happened, still shaking like a leaf, and she asked me if I wanted his autograph. Together we walked over to Lionel’s booth and I saw him there. By the time I walked over I was so nervous that my mom had to ask for the autograph for me.

Having a life filled with trains has made me very fortunate and having Joe Mania as a dad has made it even more fulfilling.



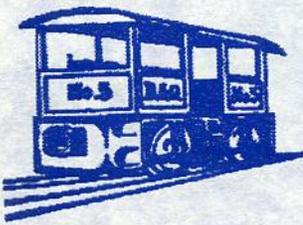
Danielle and Tom



Danielle at Murray Street



Danielle and METCA at NJN



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In Memoriam
Hal Carstens TCA 60-441
June 20, 1925 ~ June 24, 2009

It is fitting and proper to acknowledge Hal Carstens as a Pioneer and great inspiration to Model Railroading and Toy Trains. Hal was a Life Member and Past President of TCA (1964 – 1965); and a Charter Member of the METCA Division.

Hal was also the President & former Publisher of Carstens Publications Inc., which publishes three internationally, distributed monthly magazines: Railroad Model Craftman, Flying Models, and Railfan & Railroad. He was also a past president of the Model Railroad Industry Association, a manufacturer's trade association, now the Model Railroad Division of the Hobby Manufacturer's Association. He was a past chairman and secretary of the Eastern Model Railroad Manufacturer's Association.

Many comments have been noted that Hal's writings were always worthwhile and most rewarding. Some noted that Hal usually took a different path than the travelled road; which led to great columns in his. "Notes on an old timetable".

I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Hal personally; but those that did wrote how much he will be missed even though he leaves a great legacy behind. Still others refer to Hal as an ICON in the hobby.

God speed Hal, may all your signals be green!

Bob Amling



METCA's Standard Gauge Display

Sam Deo, TCA #05-59610

As most of us know, O gauge didn't come around until 1915 and even then it took a few years to really take off. Model trains started with much bigger trains, and it was Lionel that came up with Standard Gauge. Today Standard Gauge trains are still a big part of the hobby but mostly as a display piece in a collection. Well, leave it to METCA to bring back this great part~ the operational history~ of our hobby.

METCA is trying to do something new and different with the display of standard gauge trains. Our idea is to build a layout on the floor at our shows with indoor/outdoor carpet and the overall size of the layout will be 10'x16' to start. If things go well and space permits we plan to go BIGGER! The entire layout will be viewable from this position... on the floor, the way standard gauge SHOULD be appreciated!

Keeping with the history of standard gauge we are going to do something different. Instead of a couple large loops, the plan is to recreate those famous prewar catalogue covers for which Lionel was so famous. The first layout will be based on the 1924 Lionel catalogue which features two young children playing with their massive floor layout while chasing their dog off the tracks!

Along the lines of keeping this display period correct we plan to run the accessories available during the 20's and 30's as well as those massive, colorful trains from that period, considered Lionel's "Golden Age" of standard gauge. This also brings up the most important part of these displays~ many of us, including myself and our President, have a few standard gauge pieces but no where to run them.

We encourage our fellow METCA members to bring along their standard gauge pieces to the shows and let them run on our layouts, see them the way they were meant to be used. The plan for this display will unfold in future Waybills so look out for updates!!!!

Email: islandtrainsNJ@aol.com	0 / 27 / G / HO / N Trains, Toys & Access.
ISLAND TRAINS II <i>"A Theme Park for Model Railroaders"</i> www.islandtrains.com	
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Advertise in the "Waybill"

\$25.00 per issue for a business card sized ad

2nd Annual Summer Mini-Meet

Our 2nd annual summer Mini-Meet will be at Clinton Station Diner in Clinton, NJ on August 15 from 9AM to 1PM. Upon conclusion of the mini-meet at 2PM, there will be a business meeting held in Blue Comet observation car, Biela. All are invited to attend. For space reservations or more information, please contact Don Brill at 973 361-0723 or via email at ernabuck39@verizon.net

Visit the Clinton Station Diner at www.clintonstationdiner.com

You can also get directions and additional info at the division's website, www.metca.org.

Long Island Sounds

By Bob Amling - 80-15029

What are you / We doing to grow our hobby?

As you may be aware, we have had operating layouts since the First METCA show on Long Island and have been running locomotive Drag Races since the second METCA show on Long Island. The interest in these activities has grown at each METCA NY meet since that time.

If you have ever stood by as the races were taking place and saw the joy and delight on the kid's faces as they raced; or the attentiveness and interest on the parent's faces, you understand why these races must continue.

The same interest and awe can be seen around the operating layouts. If these activities hook one child for life or instill one parent to get their trains out of Mom's attic, I feel that all our extra effort is worth it.

Some may argue that from a collector's standpoint, we should have closed meets and not look to entertain young families. While that has merit; I must ask a question. If we don't attract young people to the hobby; then who will buy your collection?

Speaking of collections; **Equipment is Needed For Howard Beach Drag Races .**

We started out with 3 castoff plastic steam engines that were donated by "The Train Doctor", and 1 derelict 2025 cast steam engine donated by yours truly. None of them were anything to look at; but they have functioning motors and drive wheels. They have taken a beating and 2 of them may have to retire before the November 21 METCA Show at Howard Beach. The other 2 will be tuned up once again to race down the tracks.

If you have any engines (preferably diesels) with cracked shells or other cosmetic problems that could be good runners once tuned up; perhaps you could donate them to METCA for use in the Drag Races. Contact me at nyshows.metca.org to arrange for dropoff / pickup / or shipping.

Lionel Visitor Center Layout in Long Island

Larry Laskowski, TCA #91-33858

The Lionel Visitor's Center in Chesterfield, MI closed in June 2008. The Lionel Visitor's Center showroom was located down the road from what was once the Lionel factory. Opened in 1992 with the help of Lionel employees, the showroom featured a 14-foot by 40-foot layout with seven running trains and 37 operating accessories. In early February 2009, volunteers from the Railroad Museum of Long Island went to the closed Lionel Visitor Center to review how to disassemble and move this layout to Long Island. Everything would have to go through a 36 inch door and travel back to Riverhead, NY. It was decided to purchase a 40-foot container, install 68 eight foot 2 by 4's for shelving and have it loaded on a truck to bring the layout back to Riverhead in fifteen pieces.

In early May a group of eight volunteer's went back to Michigan and accomplished this task which took about a week. The total weight of the layout was a little over seven thousand pounds.

Future plans are to bring the Riverhead building interior renovation up to code and then to install the layout. We are looking to have this accomplished by the summer of 2010. The critical path for this plan is to raise funds for the interior building materials.

The Museum is looking for both volunteers to contribute their time and/ or funds to help bring the building and layout reassembly to a successful completion, for what we know will be a major attraction for the Museum, the town of Riverhead and for METCA members as well as those interested in model railroading. Visit the Museum's website www.RMLI.org for membership applications or donation information. Any contributions should indicate that the funds are "dedicated to Restricted Funds for the renovation and installation of the former Lionel Visitor Center Layout". You can contact and/or send contributions to George Faeth at the Railroad Museum of Long Island, 440 4th Street, P.O. Box 726, Greenport, NY 11944-0726 or email George at gfaeth@rmlj.us.

Visit the Museum when you are out east on Long Island, The Museum has two locations in Riverhead and Greenport NY. Same day admission covers both sites and there is a lot to see and do



14 foot by 40 foot layout



Lionel Showroom Layout



Truck to Chesterfield



7000 Pounds of Layout

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ANNUAL Report, 2009

The TCA's Metropolitan Division continued its rebuilding successes in 2008. Through communication, teamwork and friendship, the METCA BOD has made more inroads at improving the division and keeping the needs of division members at the forefront of its actions. I am pleased to say the membership has responded; and I am blessed to be surrounded by such a fine team.

In 2007, we introduced our short-run division car series with a single innovative mint-style car in a NYC Pacemaker paint scheme, limited to 500 pieces, which sold out in a very short time. Based on that success, METCA decided that a collectible two-car "matching set" would be available in 2008. Again using Lionel's very popular mint-car styling, the division offered Pennsylvania GG-1 paint schemes in Tuscan and Dark Green; both have gold 5-stripe patterns on the sides. Even in the face of a suddenly struggling U.S. economy and doubling our first year order with Lionel, the division is nearly sold out of all these cars; our treasury continues to grow.

The advertising budget has increased significantly for METCA. Through free hobby magazine ads, local newspapers, and even an ad in the New York Daily News, METCA's profile within the metropolitan area continues to be raised; awareness of the division continues to improve.

Division leadership is pleased to announce that all METCA shows saw increased participation in 2008. Our Garfield, NJ shows in January and October increased in size and stature. Our newer and very well-received New York show, since its inception in late 2007, has been moved to a larger venue three times to accommodate its growth. Another big first for the division was that, through negotiations, we are pleased to announce that Lionel lent its support to the division by making an appearance at our first Howard Beach show. Under the supervision of Mr. Tom Nuzzo, Lionel factory reps demonstrated the new Legacy control system and other very well-received Lionel products. Our current location at St. Helen's church in Howard Beach, NY offers the potential of a 2-floor show!

We have made changes at our shows to reflect the desires of our membership. We have tried to create a focused and relaxed shopping/trading environment for vendors, TCA/METCA members and the general public, on whom we depend to draw future TCA members. We offer multiple door prizes, popular train drag races, a "Train Doctor" and a storyteller dressed in a full Conductor's uniform. Known as "Sir Scott", he reads "Thomas the Tank Engine" stories to our very young show-goers. Our promise of "Free coffee all show long" continues to be popular; surprise.

METCA also tried the division's first-ever outdoor show in the parking lot of the Clinton Station Diner. This restaurant, very visible along the busy Interstate Route 78 in Clinton, NJ, features the "Biela"; one of three original observation cars from the New Jersey Central's famous "Blue Comet". With good weather shining upon us, everyone seemed pleased. We plan to present the Second Annual show there this August.

We continued our popular "Meet'n'Greets", wherein members of the METCA BOD visit local hobby stores or other venues (one was held at the club headquarters of the Central Operating Lines in Ronkonkoma, NY) to give METCA members an opportunity to discuss ideas and offer suggestions. TCA members, who had never joined the division before, have used the Meet'n'Greet opportunity to become known as one of our "METCA MIGS" (Member In Good Standing).

So successful has been our division enrollment, having grown to 465 paid members, the METCA BOD decided to offer free admission to our expanding METCA shows. Previously, METCA dues-paying members had merely gotten an admission discount only. METCA is looking into the possibility of a joint, open-to-TCA-only meet with one of our geographically-adjointing TCA divisions.

Increased division membership has brought new ideas. In 2008, METCA embarked on the development of a METCA Modular group. Complete with an online presence, the group has adopted standards as used by Tinsplate Hi Railers. The group's first flush of excitement seems to have waned; however, METCA leadership continues to search for ways to stimulate interest.

Our year-long quest to become the first group to ever run trains under the world-famous Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree came to an end just weeks ago. Despite equipment commitments from G scale manufacturer AristoCraft and local political support, the real estate management group in charge of the tree and its location turned down our volunteer offer in favor of a corporate sponsor/partner. We have kept open the possibility of working together in the future.

METCA's division newsletter, The Waybill, posted a first-ever year end wrapup. The largest Waybill ever at 12 pages, it was the first division publication to feature 8 pages of color photographs. We look forward to more of these. We began 2009 by introducing our first-ever Member of The Year, our current Division Secretary Rem Hunnewell. Rem's tireless efforts and exciting ideas helped shape division policies and bylaws, and his organization and development of division records made him the clear choice for the recognition.

As the METCA BOD heads into 2009, we look forward to a well-attended division election in the Fall. A new division car (4th in the Limited Series) will be forthcoming. Looking to improve member benefits (still paying only \$5.00/year in division dues) will be another focus of the METCA BOD. And, we will begin planning for METCA's 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Scot Kienzlen
President, Metropolitan Division

METCA MODULES GROUP

Bill Osburn, TCA #91-33858

My name is Bill Osburn and I love trains! Real ones, model ones, toy ones. N, HO, O, Garden, it doesn't matter. I've had layouts in each of these scales at one time or another. My current layout in my basement is set up as a "Holiday" layout with my wife's Dept. 56 buildings, some of my kids Disney toys, a monorail and anything else that "fits" the theme. I would say that 95% of my trains were purchased through the various train shows in the area. One of the shows that I especially liked to attend was the METCA Show when it was held in Parsippany. It was only 25 minutes away. But it was a "different" kind of show. These guys really liked their trains and to talk about them.

I first met Scot at the METCA Garfield show a few years back. I didn't know anything about him or METCA. Scot has a great "Modular" train layout set up with push buttons for kids to play with. It was a real hoot watching the faces on these kids as they pushed a button to make a train go or activate one of the many accessories. And the smiles were just as big on their parent's faces as well. That layout speaks to young and young at heart. I know it made a big impact on me. Those kids were doing circles around the layout trying to keep up with the trains.

After attending several METCA shows and making a point to visit Scot and his layout and with some gentle prodding on his part he convinced me to join the TCA and METCA. At one of the rare quieter moments at the show Scot and I started talking about how he made the layout for kids to play with. It still amazes me that those pinball buttons never wore out. Some of those kids got very enthusiastic about making that train go or starting up that accessory. So if that little 8 x 8 can bring that much joy to folks could it get any better if it was a little larger? And maybe a couple of members could get involved and make a couple of additions to it and help Scot set it up at shows.

The METCA Module Group was born! Several e-mails and some input from many members have led us to where we are today. We have adopted the modular standards of the Independent Hi Railers. This will allow our modules to "mate up" with another club or visiting member at a show. The individual module is small enough to be put in a car for easy travelling to and from shows. And the METCA BOD has recently approved the purchase in bulk of Anderson Power Poles for the electrical connections between modules. These will be made available free of charge to MIG's. Stay tuned for updates on the Power Poles. Several members have made straight modules of 4 feet. To complete the oval Scot is in the process of making a half circle with the outside diameter at 144 inches. That's big - real big. I will be making up the other half of the circle along with a couple of straight modules. We have the goal of having an operating modular layout at the October METCA show in Garfield.

Would you like to join in on the fun? Have a loco that's too big for you home layout? Maybe you don't have a home layout at this time but have that "itch" to run trains. Maybe you are that "lone wolf" tucked away in your basement with your railroad empire. Here's your chance to build a module or two or three, run some trains and meet a great bunch of likeminded folks. The modules are simple to build and are light weight depending on the material. The specs provided by Bill Parkinson, can be found at <http://www.hirailers.com/StandardStraightModules.pdf>. Bill has been and continues to be a great supporter for us. Since we are spread out over a decent sized geographical area it's a little difficult to meet apart from the shows.

I envision getting together in small groups to help each other. I'm comfortable doing carpentry but not so good with the electrical end of it. And here's where we help each other and maybe pick up a new skill.

What a great way to promote the hobby and help METCA grow!

Hope to see you at the show - and bring a train to run

CENTRAL OPERATING LINES MODULES

Larry Laskowski, TCA #91-33858

Members of *Central Operating Lines* are moving along with building their modular layout. At the moment, the club members have eight modules in various states of construction. At the start, the club decided to follow the module standards of the *Liberty Hi Railers*. These are the standards also being followed by the METCA modular group which will provide the ability for COL modules to be interchanged with METCA modules in the future. Bill Parkinson of the *Liberty Hi Railers* has graciously advised us and corresponded with COL during this process. His advice and counsel has been priceless for the club's effort.

The basic framework and table top are constructed using a combination of laminated luan frame members, 1 x 4 and luan plywood for the table top. This makes for a rigid, strong but lighter weight module suitable to withstand the rigors of travel and multiple setups and teardowns but light enough to make them easy to handle. There are 4-six foot straight and 4 corner modules. The corners are trapezoidal in shape and designed to provide a 90 degree curve for each module.

Currently, the club is installing track on the modules. Gargraves track including track donated to METCA by the NJ *Hi Railers* and Ross switches are being used. The modules have three mainlines with radii of 072, 081 and 090. Track spacing is per the *Liberty Hi Railers* standards and the track ends are flush to the module edge, using the Gargraves track pins to mate the track to an adjacent module. The module legs have leveling feet and modules are joined with C Clamps. The one six foot straight modules has crossovers between mains with the Ross Turnouts using manual throws. Module wiring is as per the *Hi Railers* standards. Each module is equipped with 9 wires and these interconnect by means of Anderson Power Poles.

The Members are hoping to have this effort far enough along to operate trains for the first time some time this fall. Initially, conventional control will be used and TMCC/Legacy and DCS will be added down the road depending on favorable experience with these technologies on modules in a typical display environment. At some point, a meet with those modelers building modules in METCA is envisioned; maybe the Howard Beach show if all goes well.

For the most part, the club experience with this project has been good. There was a brief challenge to the laws of Geometry in the initial design and construction of the corner modules and track systems. Members now understand the science more thoroughly. The fabrication of a flex track bending jig has also helped tremendously. The use of the laminated luan framework was found to be of minimum benefit and future modules will likely rely on clear pine 1 x 4's for these members. Most important has been the advice sought out and provided by other Modular groups and sharing the experience through the METCA modular group and the Waybill.