

Metropolitan Division - Train Collectors Association





METROPOLITAN DIVISION TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION,



THE WAYBILL

Vol. 41 Issue 2

METCA Officers and Board of Directors 2024 - 2026

President~ Andrew Hibell
Vice President~ Mike Hofmann
Secretary~ Doug Schembs
Treasurer~ Stay Tuned!
Director~ Jim Battista
Director~ Sam Deo
Director~ Pete Fenzel

CONTACT METCA

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Letters to The Waybill Editor:

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METCA Secretary 321 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090-

4738

Email: Secretary@metca.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/METCA-128942873789498/

Train Collectors Association Membership Application

https://www.tcatrains.org/become-a-member/jointca/apply-online/

METCA Membership Application

http://www.metca.org/documents/2017-2018%20METCA%20DIVISION%20Application%20with %20logo.pdf

Train Collectors Association National Officers

President Kevin Quinn. #98-47167
Vice President Allan Szirony #93-38401
Secretary Katie Elgar, #HE94-39348
Treasurer Craig Kasmin #17-72483

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

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.



Inside This Issue:

President Andrew's Message
Mystery Motor Challenge
METCA Kids Club Modular Layout
Christmas Train Rides Edition
News From the METCA Store
METCA-NYSME Train Show November 1st

Coming in the next Waybill:

Stay tuned for details on METCA officers and directors elections; read about local METCA "Meet-and-Greets" and train show opportunities; find exciting buying tips from the METCA Store; and announcements from our new METCA Kid's Club Layout team!

Asking for your help!

This is your Waybil, Folks! We want to hear from our MIGS about what they are doing it this hobby. Send us news, a photo(s), or a story. See your name in the byline! Send your info to pdfenzel@gmail.com

On The Cover:

It's time to plan for your family excursions with Santa and to enjoy the warm glow of the Season as The Waybill offers you a guide to local Christmas Train Rides within a day trip of your home.

Has your contact information changed?

Please submit any changes, or pending changes in E-Mail, Phone, or Physical Address to the METCA
Secretary at secretary.metca.org (Please include your full name when emailing) or
METCA Secretary
321 Lamberts Mill Road
Westfield, NJ 07090-4738



October 2025 - Andrew C. Hibell

President's Message:

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and are well rested for the many different trains shows in the Tri-State area over the next few months. Hopefully many of you are aware that the TCA's current President is our very own METCA member Kevin Quinn and TCA's current Treasury is our very own METCA member Craig Kasmin. I attended the 71th TCA National Convention in Jacksonville Fl.

METCA has a new website. I would like to thank our new webmaster, METCA-A member, Michael Oher. Michael, along with Samson Hofmann. They have taken on a tall order to creating our new website.

In the spring, METCA will be holding their elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Directors. Please consider helping out your organization and run for office.

Over the next few months, METCA will be out in full force. We will be attending the Fall York Train show with tables in the Orange Hall on October 23rd, 24th and 25th. We will once again be holding our joint NYSME/METCA show on November 1st at St. Joseph's Church in East Rutherford, NJ. We will be attending the Fall Frost Train Show in Allentown, at the Allentown Farmer's market on November 8th and 9th. To wrap up the year, we will be attending the Edison Greenberg show on November 29th and 30th.

TCA Headquarters and the museum has been open for the public all summer. The museum is now open 7 days a week through January 20, 2026. They will be hosting an open house during York week, October 22nd. Keep the dates open for the 72st National Convention in Grapevine, TX from June 21st to June 27th. Registration will now open after the first of the year on the TCA website, www.tcatrains.org.

Our division could not be the best it is without you. Many members help out in their own way. One member for example is Stuart Rankin, besides being Past National President and the Chair of National convention cars, still finds the time to be involved in METCA, he tirelessly continues to design, manage sales, pack and ship METCA cars and engines to make this Division one of the best in the TCA. Kevin Quinn besides being TCA President, he continues to keep METCA social media up to date with past and present events, Mike Hofmann, METCA VP is our liaison with the Somerset 4-H Trainmasters keeping the youth involved in trains. The Division would not be complete without the help of our Division officers and Directors, Doug Schembs; Secretary, Sam Deo, Peter Fenzel (our new Waybill editor) and Jim Battista. Each one of them adds their own special expertise and knowledge to make your Division stay on track.

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer with either family and friends and I am looking forward to seeing all of you at one of our upcoming train shows this fall. When you our at a train show and you see the big orange METCA logo, stop by and let us know you are a METCA member, together we can make this Division the best it can be.

Riding the rails together,

Andrew



Unlike most layouts, where children are admonished, "Do not touch," the METCA Kids Club team encourages other kids to operate the layout, going so far as to approach kids and their parents at the shows, and offering them the opportunity to run the trains. The #1 rule of the Club is to have fun. This keeps the Kids Club team busy teaching others how to operate the layout, and then to have fun running the trains. What better way is there to instill a love for our wonderful hobby?

The new METCA Kids Club Modular Layout team is up and running! Under the guidance of Kids Club chairman and METCA Vice President, Mike Hofmann, the team of kids has already staged and operated the layout at three train shows. The team's efforts have paid off by the delight in, and enthusiasm for, the layout from folks of all ages.





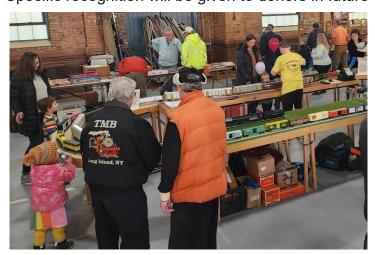
The modular layout itself features 2 Lionel Fastrack lines and a staging yard, 21' x 9' running on the Lionel Cab 2 system. Past METCA president and current TCA president, Kevin Quinn and Kevin Davis of the Kids Creek Railroad donated the bare modules to the Kids Club in November 2024. Since then the Kids Club team has painted and decorated the modules, built the rail yard, and installed a push button train horn/whistle building. Now they are working on a hinged bridge module so no one has to crawl under the modules to get inside the layout.

The Kids Club welcomes donations from wire, to Fastrack, to scenery supplies. Many thanks go out to the many who have already donated materials. Specific recognition will be given to donors in future

editions of The Waybill. Special

thanks go out to the many who help to transport, set up, and break down the layout at train shows! Thank you, all of you. Keep it coming!

Would you like the Kids Club Modular Layout set up at your train show or event? Email the team: METCAKids@gmail.com. Would you like to join the team? Just be between the ages of 6 and 17, and sponsored by a TCA/METCA member.



MYSTERY MOTOR CHALLENGE

On the back page of this issue of The Waybill you will see four (4) photos of a model train engine motor. The photos show the same motor from the top, bottom, right side, and left side. There is enough information in these photos for you to identify the motor itself and the model train engine it powered.

If you can identify the motor and the engine it powered, you are definitely **awesome!** Accordingly, all METCA members who successfully identify the motor by its model number, and the name of the engine it powered, will have their names inscribed on a "Certificate of



Awesomeness," which will be published in the next issue of The Waybill, and emailed to them.

You may submit as many guesses as you want, but it is best to be truly awesome with one guess. Email your submissions to Pete Fenzel, Editor of The Waybill, at this address: pdfenzel@gmail.com.

Place "Mystery Motor Challenge" in the subject heading of your email. The deadline for this Challenge is January 31, 2026.

Last issue's motor was the 1666E-25, which powered the pre-war

1666E, shown in gunmetal in the photo to the right. The 1666E was produced from 1938 to 1942.

Good luck this time around!



The Election of the METCA Board of Directors will be held in 2026. The Deadline for nominations is fast approaching.

Voting for the METCA Board of Directors will be coming soon. All nominations from the membership will be considered by the Election Committee. The 8 positions to be filled are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Directors. All candidates must submit a resume with a photo using the following suggested format:

Objective: To serve as (name of office) of the Metropolitan Division, TCA.

Work Experience: METCA Experience: Organizations: METCA Goals:

All resumes must be received by January 31, 2026, to be considered.

Candidate bios and photos will be published in the Spring /Summer issue of "The "Waybill."

Qualifications for Office as Specified in the METCA Constitution & By Law Manual

The officers shall all be age 21 or over and members in good standing (MIGS) of the National Train Collector's Association (TCA) and of the Metropolitan Division (METCA).

President

Has served on the METCA Board of Directors for at least one term before the beginning of the term for which nominated.

Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

To be eligible for the office of Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, a candidate must have been a member of the Train Collector's Association for at least 3 years immediately before the beginning of the term for which they are nominated and a Member in Good Standing of METCA for 1 year.

Directors

Candidates for Director shall be at least 18 years of age, a current member in good standing of TCA and METCA and a member of METCA for at least one year prior to beginning the term for which nominated.

Candidate's Photo and resume should be sent to the METCA Secretary by January 31√2026. Email:

> secretary@metca.org or **USPS** mailed to

METCA Secretary, 321 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090-4738



Welcome Aboard NEW METCA MEMBERS who joined since the last issue of the "Waybill." We hope to welcome and greet you formally at one of our upcoming shows. Please stop by the METCA table and introduce yourself. Look for our orange sunburst banner with the METCA logo.

Zacharias Alvarez Jack Bartman Nicholas Costa Brian Faruol Steven Flanagen Mason Gamble Patrick Gawkins Alexander George Bryce Hammell Dennis Heban Yassin Heneidy Rem Hunnewell* LeoJay **Brian Jones** Randall J. Kurie Ethan Lees Robert McCrann, III Patrick Sawyer Andrew Scelba George Sneed, Jr.

Adam Storch
Michael W. Sudlow
Robert J. Taffin
Tom Van Cleat
Michael Wilson
Raymond York

MMLC-KC Regular Regular Regular Regular KC

METCA-A Regular METCA-A KC Regular KC Regular METCA-A KC

Regular Regular METCA-A Regular Regular Regular METCA-A METCA-A Regular Bridgewater, NJ Walden, NY

New Hyde Park, NY
Valley Stream, NY
Niller Place, NY
Monroe Township, NJ

Haymarket, VA Far Hills, NJ

Mountain View, CA Swanton, OH Hillsborough, NJ Eatontown, NJ Bound Brook, NJ Newton, NJ

Sparta, NJ
Flemington, NJ
Bloomfield, CT
Cranford, NJ
Rockaway, NJ
Decatur, GA
Piscataway, NJ
West Babylon, NY
Lyndhurst, NJ
Leonardtown, MD

Ocean, NJ Annandale, NJ

^{*}Reinstated



Fall foliage has just begun its dazzling display, yet seats on Christmas Train Rides already are being filled. So, to help you book your family's holiday excursions, here is your guide to the most notable Christmas train rides within an easy day trip of the METCA region.

CONNECTICUT

Essex North Pole Express

One Railroad Avenue Essex, CT. 06426 (860) 767-0103

Enjoy a musical performance of "The Night Before Christmas," with carol sing-a-longs, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate, sugar cookies, and a small gift from Santa to each child on this 1.5 hour train ride in Western Connecticut. Children are encouraged to wear their PJ's! Call for dates, fares, and tickets.

Winterfest and Tunnel of Lights

Connecticut Trolley Museum 58 North Road East Windsor, CT. 06088 (860) 627-654

Dates: November 28 - December 21

Both open and closed trolleys take you on a magical passage through the Tunnel of Lights, with thousands of Christmas lights delighting you, and the singing of carols warms your heart. Dress for the cold if you ride the open-air trolley! After your ride, enjoy the visitor center's model train layouts.

NEW YORK

Catskill Mountain Railroad – Polar Express

Westbrook Station 55 Kingston Plaza Road Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 332-4854

www.catskillmountainrailroad.com

Email: reservations@catskillmountainrailroad.com

November 14 - December 30

This 60 minute excursion will take you to Santa's Workshop at the North Pole. On the open-air train (dress



appropriately) your conductor will punch your "golden ticket." Dancing chefs will serve hot chocolate and cookies, as you read together "The Polar Express." Each child receives a sleigh bell keepsake.

Riverhead – Polar Express

96 Main Road Riverhead, NY 11901 (631) 904-0580

www.northforktrolley.com/polarexpress

November 28 - December 23

Take the North Shore Trolley to meet Santa on the north fork of Long Island. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the North Pole as you read along together, "The Polar Express."

Port Jefferson – Polar Express

Route 112 & Route 347 Port Jefferson Station, NY. 11776 (631) 821-1313

Children will enjoy watching the Christmas movie, "The Polar Express," while savoring hot cocoa, cookies, and popcorn, all within a stationary rail car.

NEW JERSEY

DiDonato's Magical Holiday Express

1151 South White Horse Pike Hammonton, NJ 08037 (609) 561-3040

www.didonatofuncenter.com

November 15 - December 23

Take a miniature train ride through millions of Christmas Lights, meet Santa and his Elves in Santa's Workshop, chat With Mrs. Claus, enjoy free hot cocoa and cookie, free photo opportunities with Santa and the snowman, and stroll through the Holiday Village.



Woodstown Central Railroad

www.woodstowncentral.com

EMAIL: info@woodstowncentral.com

Candlelight Limited

67 East Avenue

Woodstown, NJ 08098

Friday, December 5, 2025

A 75 minute evening round-trip train ride including a stop at Woodstown Station for Christmas festivities in a beautifully

decorated passenger train from the 1930's. Santa spends ample time with each family and child.



650 Alloway - Woodstown Road

Woodstown, NJ 08098

November 29 – December 23

Similar to the Candlelight Limited, with old fashioned Christmas music and station stop with photo ops.



Seashore Lines – Santa Express & Starlight Express

Richland Valley Station Tuckahoe Station 1272 Harding Highway 31 Mill Road

Richland, NJ. 08350 Woodbine, NJ 08270

(856) 263-2675

www.seashorelines.org/the-santa-express

EMAIL: conductor@capemayseashorelines.org

November 29 – December 23

Departures from both Richland and Tuckahoe stations. Experience an 85 minute excursion with Santa, who spends time with every child on-board, and Christmas music.

Santa Trolley Ride

1048 Washington Street Cape May, NJ 08204 (609) 884-5404

November 30 - December 23

Mrs. Claus leads a trolley tour through Cape May telling stories and singing carols, with Santa joining the festivities at the end.



The Santa Train – Tristate Railway Historical Society

Route 23 South & West Belt Parkway Wayne, NJ 07040

(973) 656-0707.

Saturday, December 13, 2025. Four 1 hour trips

Ride with Santa, costumed characters and musicians singing carols. Each child receives a candy cane, activity book, and a small gift from Santa.

Whippany – Polar Express, Morristown & Erie Railway

I Railroad Plaza Whippany, NJ. 07981 (973) 419-6255

www.whippanypolarexpressride.com

November 1 – December 30

An enchanting 1 hour trip to the North Pole with Santa, who gives each

child a sleigh bell. There are a cast of characters and dancing chefs serving hot chocolate and shortbread cookies, singing carols, leading story time, and other holiday activities. Children are encouraged to wear their PJ's



Pine Creek Railroad Christmas Express

Allaire State Park 4265 Atlantic Avenue Wall, NJ 07719 (732) 938-5524

Frequent train rides with Santa, who talks with every child. Call the New Jersey Transportation Museum for fares and schedules.

Phillipsburg – Polar Express, Delaware River Railroad Excursions

38 Market Street Phillipsburg, NJ. 08865 (877) 872-4674

www.877trainride.com/polarexpress

November 28 - December 21

Get you golden ticket punched on this 1.5 hour excursion with Santa. Children will delight to singing hobos, juggling and dancing chefs, and hot

chocolate with cookies. Story time includes a reading of "The Polar Express." Each child receives a sleigh bell from Santa as the "first gift of Christmas."



North Pole Express – Black River & Western Railroad

80 Stengl Road Flemington, NJ. 08822 (908) 782-6622

www.blackriverrailroad.com

November 23 - December 28

Board the North Pole Express at Flemington and ride with Santa to Ringoes Station, where children are treated to hot chocolate, cookies, opportunities to operate model trains, receive a sleigh bell gift from Santa and golden train ticket.

Northlandz Santa Claus Train

495 U.S. Route 202 Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 782-4022

www.northlandz.com/santa

Outdoor open-air train ride on miniature train with Santa (so dress appropriately). Hot chocolate and cookies are served with opportunity to visit indoor model train layouts and gift shop.



PENNSYLVANIA

New Hope Railroad -Santa's Steam Train Ride

32 West Bridge Street New Hope, PA 18938 (215) 862-2332

www.newhoperailroad.com

November 28 - December 28

A one hour round-trip excursion with Santa to the North Pole in festively decorated cars powered by a steam locomotive. Riders are encouraged to wear their PJ's, mingle with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy wandering musicians singing carols, and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. After the ride, passengers may browse the Christmas gift shop at New Hope Station.

Strasburg Railroad – Santa Christmas Trains

301 Gap Road Ronks, PA 17572 (866) 725-9666

www.strasburgrailroad.com

EMAIL: srrtrain@strasburgrailroad.com

November 11 – December 24

Santa Paradise Express — Join Santa on-board a steam powered train on a 45 minute excursion to Paradise, PA. Enjoy wandering musicians and carolers, meet Mrs. Claus and write a letter to Santa, and enjoy a Christmas review show at the Town Square Stage. Young children receive a small gift from Santa.

Santa Claus Limited — A 45 minute steam train ride through Amish country accompanied by Santa.

Night Before Christmas Train — An hour-long steam train ride, as "The

Night Before Christmas" is read and performed in your rail car. Enjoy milk and a cookie, and a brief visit from Santa.



- 1. Book your trip early! Seats sell out quickly.
- 2. Arrive at the station early. You will miss your train if you are late.
- 3. Anticipate the weather and dress accordingly. Not all rail cars are enclosed.
- 4. Buy tickets online. Often tickets are cheaper when bought online. Tickets may be sold out if you wait to buy them in person.
- 5. Call ahead to learn policies on bringing food and drink.
- 6. Mind your children. You are responsible for them, not the railroad.
- 7. Get into the Spirit! Polar Express trains are perfect for kids wearing warm pyjamas.
- 8. Learn about Santa photograph policies. Some may charge for Santa photos.
- 9. Be prepared to spend in the Christmas shops at many stations.
- 10. Relax, slow down, and savor the experience with your children and grandchildren. It will be a lifelong memory.



Introducing METCA's New Webmaster Michael Oher

Many thanks go out to Michael for taking on the responsibilities as METCA's new webmaster.

Michael is a legacy member whose father was active in TCA for many years as well.



METCA Dues Reminder

Please Check Your Member Card to See if Your METCA Membership Expires on December 31, 2025.

If so, your METCA membership dues for 2026 are now due. Please take a moment to bring your membership up to date.

1 Year dues with emailed "Waybill."	\$5.00			
5 Year dues with 6 th year free & emailed "Waybill."	\$25.00			
1 Year dues with paper "Waybill." 5.00 + \$10.00 postage	\$15.00			
5 Year dues with paper "Waybill." \$25.00 +\$50.00 postage with 6 th year free	\$75.00			
Payments can be made via Paypal on our website www.metca.org or by sending a check made out to METCA) to METCA Secretary, 321 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090. f you have any questions, please contact me at secretary@metca.org or 908-208-8134.				
Name				
Address				
TCA Number				

Thank You,

Douglas Schembs, Jr.

METCA Secretary



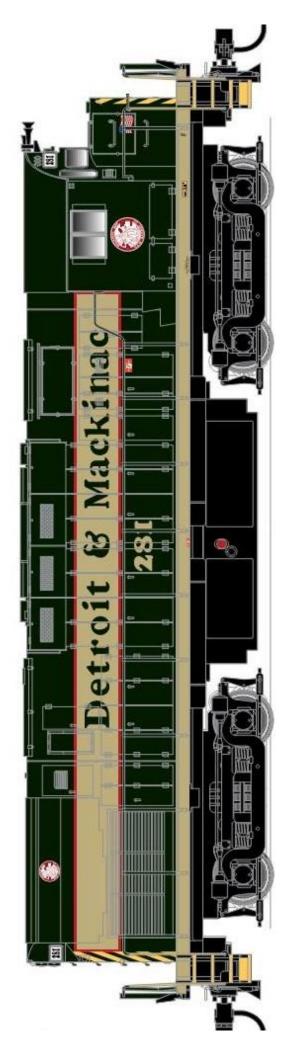
This Year, METCA acted to help secure the future of the TCA by donating \$25,000.00 to the TCA Endowment Fund. The Fund is an investment, created to generate future income for the TCA without spending the Endowment's principal. Pictured are TCA President, Kevin Quinn (left), accepting METCA's check from METCA President, Andy Hibbel.





Custom Run Lionel Legacy Locomotives
Limited Reservations Spots Remain – Due mid-2026
Pre-order now at https://metca.org/the-metca-store/

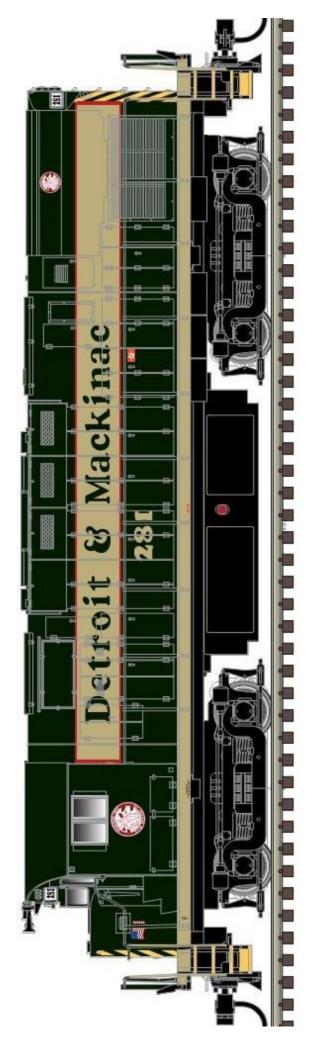




Custom Run Atlas O Detroit & Mackinac C425

2 Road Numbers – Deco Unique for each Road Number VERY limited quantities – first come, first reserved







METROPOLITAN DIVISION

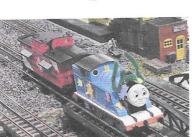
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

* Membership Application *



Please PRINT	DATE:
APPLICANT:	
First Name MI Last N	Vame
ADDRESS:	
CITY: COUNTY:	STATE: ZIP: -
PHONE #: (TCA #:	Valid TCA # is required for processing
EMAIL:*	
I can help with (circle all that apply): Membersh Standards – METCA Kids Club Other:	ip - Shows & Meets - Election - Newsletter - Fund Raising -
This application will be accepted on the condition that the Natio	nal TCA Application for Membership has been accepted.
METCA DIVISION dues for the year are \$5.00, Pay your dues forward, pay for 5 years and g	payable to METCA and must be sent with application.
	mes a year via email. Your email address will be safeguarded by a paper copy of the Waybill, there is an additional charge of \$10
Prior to receiving your METCA identification card yo	u are most welcome to attend METCA Meetings and Meets.
Teens aged 14 - 18 are accepted as Associate N	
	dember or at any TCA sponsored meet all such items are authentic and in the manufacturers the item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction.
Note 3: I understand and agree that should I let my Torefund.	CA Membership lapse; My METCA Membership is revoked without a
ADULT Applicants Signature	I certify that I am over the age of 18.
Teen Signature Parent/Gua	ardian Name Signature
	: [Paying 6 years saves printing costs and postage in both directions.] (\$50), TEEN has free membership till 18. ddress
Make Checks payable to METCA.	
SEND APPLICATION TO:	METCA Secretary
	321 Lamberts Mill Road Westfield, NJ 07090-4738













Metropolitan Division
METCA Youth Club

4-H Annual Winter Train Show

<u>Sponsored by the Somerset County</u> 4-H Trainmasters

Ted Blum 4-H Center

310 Milltown Road Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Saturday - Jan 31st: 12pm - 7pm Sunday - Feb 1st: 10am - 5 pm

Admission \$4.00 Adult \$2.00 Children under 12 Children age 2 and under FREE

Over 1,000 feet of track with more than 30 unique displays

All types of vendors and crafters each day Fun, hands-on play stations and crafts





















METCA & NYSME All Gauge Train Show Saturday, November 1, 2025

St. Joseph's School

120 Hoboken Rd., East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Less than 1 mile from MetLife Stadium



Coupled up for a Great New Jersey Show



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

New Vendors! Door prizes! New Friends! Great trains!

Entrance to School and spacious parking lot off Hoboken Rd. (Road signs will be posted)

Easy access from Rt. 17 north & south

Going south on Rt. 17, make right onto Hoboken Rd., three short blocks to school on left. Going north on Rt. 17, take exit for Rt. 120, make left at top of ramp, cross over Rt. 17, make 1st right towards Hoboken Rd., make left onto Hoboken Rd., three short blocks to school on left.

Added attraction: NYSME Club layouts will be open (at 12 noon) FREE to attendees.

	at the Show @ \$25.00. Each paid to			\$
	s) @ \$5.00 each. Children under 16 able for FREE!! Pay for 3 tables and			\$
	=	Total of Check of	r Money Order:	\$
NOTE: RESERVED TABL	ES MUST BE PAID FOR TWO WE	EKS PRIOR TO S	HOW	10-1-046
Waiting list will be filled	from unpaid tables. Contact NY	SME Office 201-	939-9212 for av	ailability.
E-Mail - contact@mode	elengineers.org Table reservat	ions will be conf	firmed once red	ceived.
Set up be	egins at 7:00 AM. "Reserved	tables" held until	9:00 AM.	
N/-1	and the second s			
Make registration check	1			
Mail to: NYSME, 341 F	Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ	07072		
Name:		Phone: ()	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip+4:	
Email Address		Т	CA#	

Standards Statement: By applying for tables, I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Train Collector's Association (TCA).

MYSTERY MOTOR CHALLENGE!

(SEE PAGE 5)



