

# Keeping Track Newsletter



If you have a better email to use or would like to be removed from these emailings, please send an update to [membership@traincollectors.org](mailto:membership@traincollectors.org).

In addition, if you have a story and pictures you would like to share with the rest of the teen train world, please submit them to the same email address.

Volume 14: Issue 3 Fall 2017

## 2017 TCA National Convention Kids Club Activities Recap

Tom Garrity 10-65383

When planning for the 2017 National Convention began some 3 years ago the Kids Club Activities Committee came up with a simple goal – Let's throw a party and make it FUN by getting the kids involved and make this the best Kids Convention ever, setting the standard for future conventions. Based on the response from the 45 youth registered for the convention and the adults who brought their 'caboose' to The 'Burgh it was a successful venture.

The Convention started for the Kids at the Welcome Party where they had their own Chinese Auction with 4 baskets filled with Pittsburgh themed train cars.

Thursday morning was the Kids Club Tour when we boarded WWII era amphibious vehicles better known as Just Ducky Tours and saw the sights of Pittsburgh, quacking along the way. We then went off roading and took to the river where many of the kids were able to try their hand at driving the boat. Our next stop was the Carnegie Science Center where Patty Everly, the Curator of the Model Railroad and Village gave us a tour of the layout, telling us about the origin and history of the display, pointing out several of the historic Western Pennsylvania buildings on the layout, We were then treated to a visit in the workshop where we were shown some of the old buildings in storage and we also got to see the 3-D scanner and printer used in creating this year's addition to the display – the Westinghouse Atom Smasher! A short walk from the Science Center took us to the home of 2 of our Fort Pitt Kids Club members where we were treated to lunch in their beautiful home and also saw their train layout and collection.



We then walked to the 'T' ( Pittsburgh's Light Rail Transportation System ) and rode it back to the hotel, going underground and under the Allegheny River. Back at the hotel, Jim Elster of Scenic Express did a workshop teaching the kids the basics of adding scenery to their layout and the dioramas the kids came away with were amazing.





## 2017 Convention continued...

Trains? Of course there were trains! The Fort Pitt Division Kids Club had 4 operating layouts, a 14 x 20 Modular layout featuring a city street, a circus, an Army MASH scene, a farm scene, and a freight terminal area. (A LionChief train for the kids to run was on the layout), a Disney Layout complete with train, monorail, and tons of Disney characters, a switching layout where you could try your hand at putting together a train by switching cars from various sidings, and an HO layout that featured Bachmann E-Z App engines run by Bluetooth that kids could control via smart phone or tablets. Also in the Kids Club area were static displays showing the history of the cabooses, a comparison of scales, a 'types of rolling stock' display, and a caboose graveyard consisting of over 40 cabooses. There were also scavenger hunts where you searched for items on layouts throughout the hotel, and matched the rolling stock car type with the appropriate car on the shelves. We had a special treat when Clem Clement loaned us his green peacan engine to run on our layout.



All of the operating layouts and displays were open to the public free of charge and we had a fantastic time showing off the trains and talking to everyone who came. The Fort Pitt Kids Club gave away 75 cabooses, toy train videos, and Kids Club treat bags to the youth who came to see the trains.

Friday morning there was a workshop in which the kids made a special car out of a flat car and a Heinz ketchup bottle, and then used a Heinz Baked Beans can to make their own water tower. Later that day there was a workshop with Rick Baugh of Ogre Modeling when they put LED headlights and taillights into a die-cast vehicle. Saturday morning the kids learned the techniques of weathering structures.





## 2017 Convention continued...

The final activity for the Kids was the Banquet where they were treated to a great Pasta and Pizza dinner followed by many activities where they decorated hopper cars, played 'corn hole', watched the Lego Batman Movie, and were treated to a visit from a balloon artist who did a special balloon design for each participant. There were also door prizes – each youth at the banquet was presented with a special 2017 Kids Club Banquet caboose, a 2004 Kids Club Banquet boxcar, and at least 1 door prize.



In closing we would like to thank all who supported our efforts, and a special thanks to the members who brought their families to the convention. It has often been said that the youth are the future of our hobby and if the 2017 Convention in Pittsburgh was any indication, our future is bright. Pittsburgh threw a party – you came, we all had fun, we created memories, made new friends, and played with trains. THANK YOU !!!



## NATIONAL TEEN CLUB HEADQUARTERS NEWS ART CONTEST WINNER

Our National Teen Club sponsored an art contest for the cover of the TCA's National Headquarters News

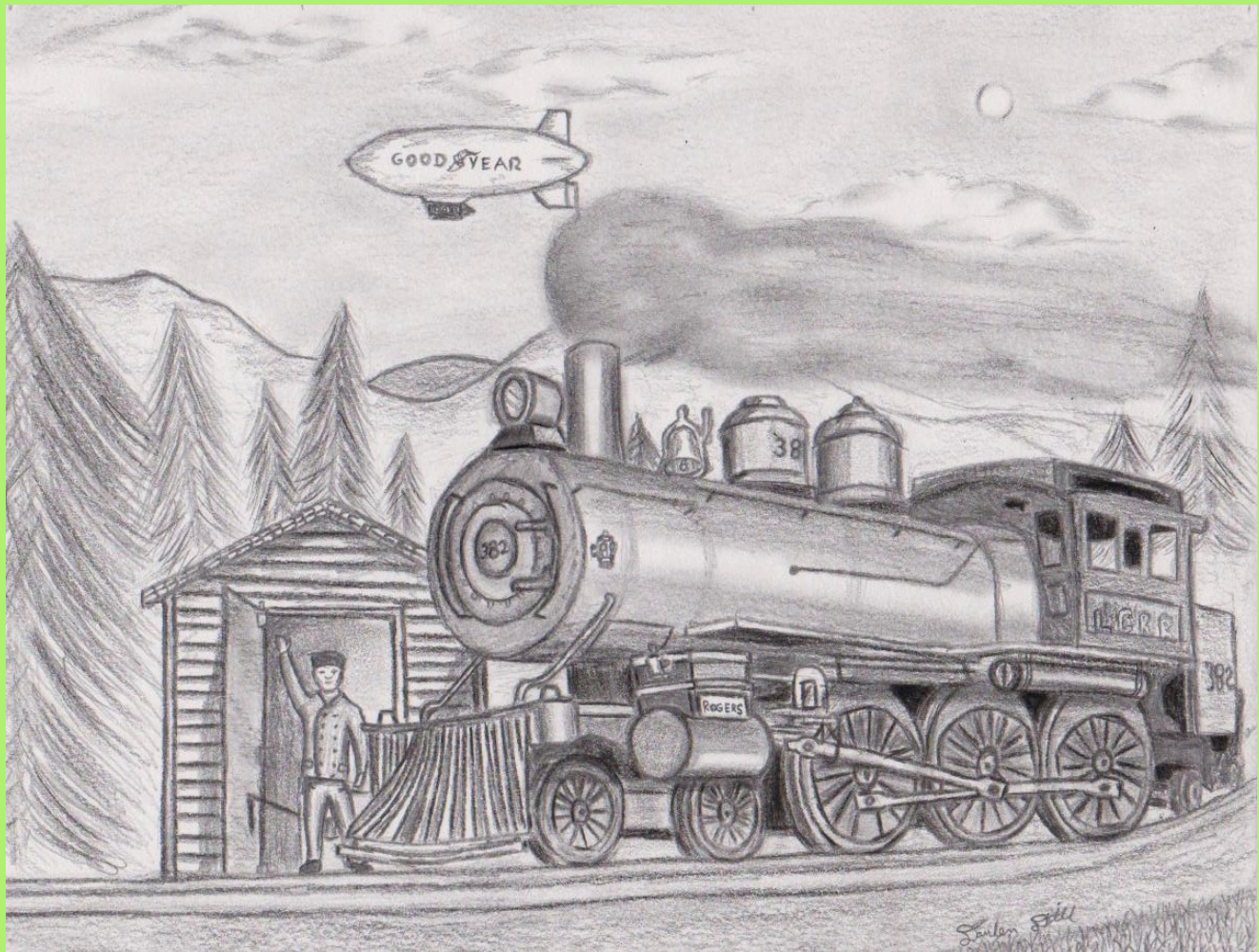
Our winner is: Darien Dill -15 years old

TCA# 16-7473

Division: Eastern

City/State: Ephrata Pennsylvania

Description: This is an original 8x6 free hand drawing done with a #2 pencil on heavyweight white drawing paper. The title is "The Rickety Ole' 382". It was inspired by a scene from our family's O Gauge layout. It depicts a vintage Steamer; a Rivarossi #382 Casey Jones model, passing a Colber Switchman as he throws a friendly wave. Floating above the scene is a Ravell Good Year Blimp, that is also part of our layout.



CONGRATULATIONS DARIEN ON YOUR WINNING DRAWING!





# NATIONAL TEEN CLUB ESSAY CONTEST

Write or type a one page essay about your favorite train related topic. Possible ideas are: building your first layout; your favorite model and it's history; a real train or railroad; a TCA function or trip to the National Toy Train Museum.

**The winner will be awarded a prize and their essay (with pictures if included) will be published in the next *Keeping Track Newsletter!***

- Essays should be mailed to the business office by **November 1, 2017**.

TCA TEENS PO Box 248 Strasburg, PA 17579

Or emailed to [membership@traincollectors.org](mailto:membership@traincollectors.org) (please include below information)

- One submission per person, please.

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## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TCA Teen # \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Submission Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## News and Events at the National Toy Train Museum

For a full schedule of 2017 fall events, check out our website at [www.nttmuseum.org](http://www.nttmuseum.org)



### Open House—Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Free admission all day! Prizes, food truck, scavenger hunt, presentations, balloons and kids activities!

## 2017 Holiday Fun at The National Toy Train Museum



November 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 5 pm – *Holiday Train Event Featuring Polar Express™*  
 \$5 admission for all guests / Polar Express™ movie playing all day on the big screen /  
 Scavenger Hunt with Prizes / Activity Stations / Special Prize Drawings All Day / Selfie Station /  
 Polar Express™ trains running on the layouts / Chance to win a Grand Prize!!



November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 3 pm –  
*Santa at the National Toy Train Museum!*  
 Free admission with each non perishable food item donation per guest!  
 Scavenger Hunt / Activity Stations / Candy Canes



## Just for Fun!

W A T H G I L D A E H G O T N  
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 C A B O O S E S Y A W L I A R

CABOOSE	HIGH-SPEED
COAL	LOCOMOTIVE
COMMUTER	MONORAIL
DIESEL	PASSENGER
DINING CAR	RAILCAR
ELECTRICAL	RAILWAY
ENGINEER	SLEEPING CARS
ENGINES	STEAM
FREIGHT	TRACKS
HEADLIGHT	WHISTLE