

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.

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 16: Issue 3 Winter 2019

It's the holiday season...

TRAIN season!



Send us pictures of your
Christmas train
layouts to be featured in the

next newsletter!

Send to

contest@traincollectors.org

(See contest on page 4)





Take a look at the first photo. Charlie Anyan (TCA Past President 2016-2017 and current Southern Division Past President) is having so much fun operating the SD's drag race with this child! It's a big hit at SD shows, and we thought you might enjoy the back story and perhaps even consider building one of your own. So we contacted the man from our division who built it, Tim Evert (second photo)



As Tim recalled, "In 2013, I was recovering from back surgery. When I started to feel better, I needed a project so I just thought up this drag strip - no blueprints. I'd work about four hours building it and then take four days to recover! But it was good therapy. For

the floor, I used particle board which you can get free from dumpster diving. The frame is 1 x 2 boards, and the sides are 5/8" plywood. It's 3' wide, outside edge to outside edge.

Now the length is a very scientific calculation! I went to the venue where the drag race was going to be set up during an upcoming show, looked at the space where I wanted it to go, eyeballed it and thought it was about 39'. (No tape measures were harmed in this calculation!) So I made the length in four 8' sections and one 7' section. I used two Lionel tracks and one American Flyer track, but you can use whatever you want and make it any length and width you want. It fit great in the venue. But in hindsight, I wish I would've made the sections shorter, like 6 1/2 - 7', because it would've been more "haul-around" friendly. The shorter sections would've fit better in a minivan or similar vehicle."

The drag race has no legs to make it lighter and easier to transport. You'll need a transformer with one handle. Of course, you'll need to modify track length to accommodate whatever length you build. We mainly use Marx engines, modified to only go forward. S gauge engines don't seem to be competitive enough. A "cushion" of some sort is needed at the end (or the kids will run it full speed right off the end of the track and into the wood!).



Photo Left: Michael Evert was at the controls of our Train Drag Strip throughout the day. This is a real 1/48 scale length 1/4 mile race track, and those trains were really, shall we say, doing the locomotion at the finish line! (We calculated 300+ scale MPH top speeds!) Of course the slow down lane was a little short for these intense speeds and the slow down was helped by a pillow at the end; in other words, they stopped with a dull thud! This only added to the fun of it all!

National Toy Train Museum NEWS!

National Toy Train **MUSEUM** Remaining 2019 Schedule

December 14, 15

December 21, 22

December 26-31





Looking for something cool to do with your trains this Christmas?
Why not play with trains and toy building blocks and enter the new Youth Contest!!

Trainscaping with Toy Bricks, 2020



Toy trains and building blocks are both iconic toys whose popularity has spanned many generations. Because they share such a common ground, it seemed that this would offer a wonderful opportunity for you to have fun using your imagination.

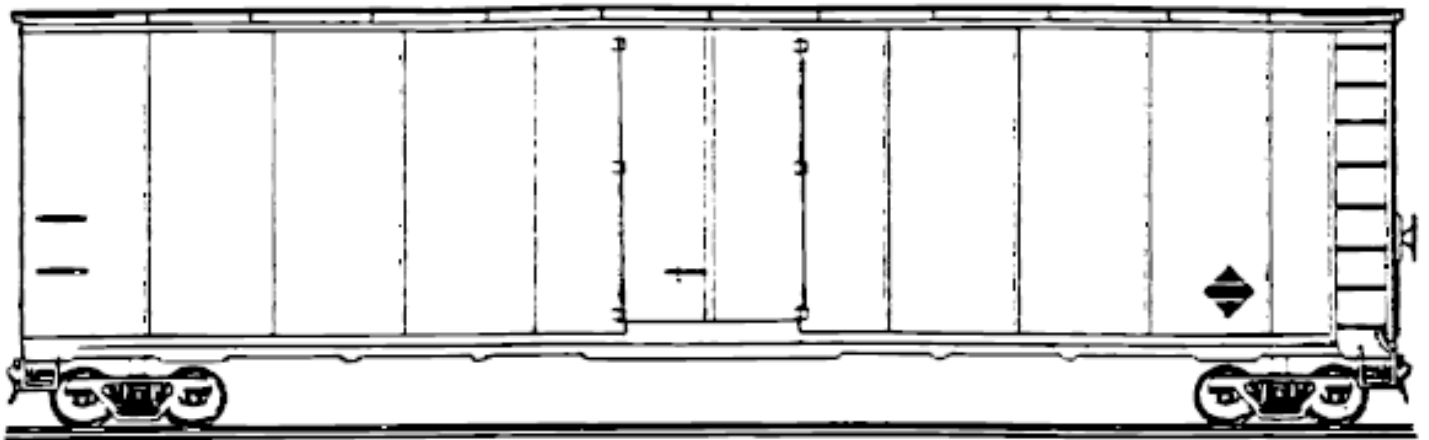
There is little, if any, cost involved. Just imagination and creativity are required!

Contest Rules:

- Only one entry per youth member will be accepted. Send entries to contest@traincollectors.org
- Your email entry must contain your name, your TCA Kids Club (age 0 - 12) or TCA Teens (age 13-18) member number and your T-shirt size.
- You are free to use all gauges and manufacturers of toy trains, all building block toys, including the big name brands and their "clones," and anything else you wish to support your adventure.
- The entry must be used with toy trains, a train layout or a train garden. Submitting photos of it actually being used on a layout or train garden is great! Trains around the Christmas tree make a great backdrop!
- A maximum of three (3) photographs of the entry will be accepted. Photo format must be able to be read by most browsers. Contest recommends using jpg. No videos please.
- **Entries must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. EDT on January 31, 2020.**
- Your eligibility will be verified against your member information on file.
- All entries become the property of the TCA and may be used in future publications.
- Two winners will be selected. One from Kids Club and one from TCA Teens.

Just for Fun

Design a boxcar and mail it into the National Business Office. Winner of the best boxcar design gets a free TCA Teen tshirt!



Name: _____ TCA Teen Number - KC _____

Tshirt size _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mail by January 31, 2020 to:
TCA Youth Clubs
PO Box 248
Strasburg, PA 17579-0248



TCA Youth Clubs would like to offer you a chance to show your love of toy trains and support the Youth Clubs in the process!

T-shirts now available!

Mail orders with payment to: TCA Youth Clubs PO Box 248 Strasburg, PA 17579
Make checks payable to TCA

Kids Club Heather Gray Logo T-Shirt—\$15 each



Youth Small Qty: _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____
 Youth Medium Qty: _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____
 Youth Large Qty: _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____
 Youth XLarge Qty: _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

TCA Teen Dark Gray Logo T-Shirt—\$18 each (\$20 for bigger sizes)



Adult Small Qty: _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____
 Adult Medium Qty: _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____
 Adult Large Qty: _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____
 Adult XLarge Qty: _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____
 Adult 2XLarge Qty: _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____
 Adult 3XLarge Qty: _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Ship to Name: _____
 Address: _____

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

Shipping: \$5 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Credit Card Information: Type of card - VISA MC DISC AMEX CVV # _____
 Number: _____ EXP Date: _____/_____/_____
 Signature: _____