

Keeping Track Newsletter



Volume 14: Issue 2 Summer 2017

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.

Kids Club Splits into Two Age Groups!

As we move into the new fiscal year of 2017-2018, some big changes are on the horizon!
Kids Club is splitting into two different age groups, 0 to 12 and 13 to 18.



This newsletter is just for the 13 to 18 crowd, now to be called the TCA TEENS!
The 0 to 12 group will remain the Kids Club.

Both memberships remain free to their participants! We will be sending out a confirmation letter in the coming months to verify your information and to determine which group you belong to.
Stay tuned for upcoming contests too! (See page 3!)



“The Oil Refinery” -Zach Ferreira KC 14-6380



Overview
So back in the start of year 7 in the Somerset County 4-H Trainmasters, Kevin Quinn presented me with a box of plastic tubes, tanks, pipes, cardboard, tape and an instruction manual. The box was overflowing with scrap parts. I had a little trouble getting the small IHC Brand box into my car for the BUMPY trip home. When I first got home, I got to work right away, laying out plans, and setting things up. Fast forward to January of 2017, and the finished product was a sight so see, wowing the crowd and pleasing all railroaders young and old.

Story continued on page 4

Convention Schedule for Kids and Teens

**The 2017 TCA National Convention is being held in Pittsburgh, PA!
See below schedule for all of the fun events and
activities scheduled for kids and teens up to age 18!**



Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Welcome Party – there will be Door Prizes for Kids' Club Members, operating layouts, and games.

Thursday, June 29, 2017

9:00 AM – Kids' display area opens

10:30 AM – Kids' Club Tour – We will board a Just Ducky boat for a ride around Pittsburgh followed by a visit to the Carnegie Science Center to see the Miniature Railroad and Village, next we visit the home of 2 of our Kids' Club members to see their layout and collection. We end the tour with a ride on Pittsburgh's light rail subway back to the hotel.

2:00 PM — Scenery workshop – Learn from the best how to make your layout come to life with scenery

5:00 PM – Area closes

Friday, June 30, 2017

9:00 AM – Kids' display area opens

10:00 AM – Build a car & water tower – kit bash a special 'Pittsburgh' car and build a water tower for your display

1:00 PM – Add LED lights to diecast cars workshop – add some sparkle to your layout by adding LED headlights and taillights to your vehicles

3:00 PM – Switching layout – test your skills as you assemble a train by switching cars from different sidings

5:00 PM – Area closes

Saturday, July 1, 2017

9:00 AM – Kids' display area opens

10:00 AM – Weathering workshop – take your buildings from that clean plastic look to ones that look like they have been altered by the forces of nature

3:00 PM – Area Closes

6:00 – 10:00 PM – Banquet – good food, the kid's area displays will be open to operate the trains, movies, surprises, special Kid's Club Banquet Car for all who attend the banquet.



NATIONAL TEEN CLUB *HEADQUARTERS NEWS* ART CONTEST



Our National Teen Club is sponsoring an art contest for the cover of the TCA's National Headquarters News! Get out those creative ideas and put them to paper! We want to see all of your creative skills put into your artwork. Submissions will be judged by a panel. The artwork should include a train or car, using whatever art medium you like (including the computer, sent as a pdf). Your submission should be 8" x 6" and can be horizontal or vertical. Last but not least you should sign and date your masterpiece!

- Winning artwork will be featured on the November *Headquarters News* cover and a prize awarded!
- Artwork should be mailed to the business office by **September 1, 2017**.

TCA TEENS PO Box 248 Strasburg, PA 17579

Or emailed to membership@traincollectors.org (please include below information)

- One submission per person, please.

SUBMISSION FORM

Name: _____

TCA Teen # _____ Division: _____

City and State: _____

email: _____

Submission Description: _____

Continued from page 1...

Putting It Together

When I finally laid everything out, I first decided on where everything would go. I made several permanent placement decisions and wanted to utilize as much space as possible, while still leaving some wiggle room in the end. After I found and marked permanent positions, I started to restore and reproduce sections of the refinery that were broken and not-quite put together. After the large sections of the refinery were finished, I started constructing and adding new custom tubes to the refinery by cutting and gluing many pipes to the already made tanks. To represent tubes going for the pipes to tanks I had to drill holes into the pipes so the tubes could just slide right in.



After all the tube and tank work was finished it was time for some scenery. First I applied some replica dirt and gravel around the ladders of each structure to make it look like a fully functioning walkway. Second I added a little bit of grass and shrubs to make the already existing blacktop look like it had an abandoned overgrown industrial touch, that you would mostly find today in some oil refineries. After that, I added several more coats of gravel, dirt and grass like textures. After that, the refinery was pretty much done, as the only thing left to do was to give the refinery the "SIRR Touch." And those are the Amtrak Logos.

Lessons Learned

To be honest, this "Refinery" isn't supposed to replicate, resemble, model, or be like anything that is already out there in the world. This in my opinion is an honest example of ongoing creativity, and something of an industrialist's imagination. Now I'm not saying I'm an industrialist, but what I am saying that it is good for your imagination to help you more creative modeling possibilities. Through these few months of making this module decoration I have learned that not everything has to be prototypical, and not everything has to be to scale. When people ask me for its purpose, or other very specific information I just don't tell them anything too specific at all. Instead I just say something simple, thoughtful, and tell the guests at each train show that it is what your imagination wants it to be. Because just think about it, every modeler has their own little twist of doing things, and turns out each and every single one of their creations turn out to be something you can tell they put their heart and soul into. I feel that modeling can be anything you want it to be, and that in regards to your own creation there are no true, "By the Book," rules of making scenery, custom painting, or making what you call your own model railroad. So to wrap up my call to action to you is, don't model by the book, just let your OWN imagination and your OWN thoughts of creativity take you down your own track of ideas, because in the end there is only one of you out of the entire 7 billion humans out there. so just jump on for ride of your life, and the only locomotive on that ride is your imagination.

A Big Thanks

Again, I would like thank Kevin Quinn of the Train Collectors Association, for giving me another great opportunity to let my imagination ride the rails of creativity. I am grateful for having the privilege of sharing information about this piece, and am looking forward to writing more articles like this to all young and old model railroaders, through the TCA.

News and Events at the National Toy Train Museum

The National Toy Train Museum is celebrating turning 40! Summer events kick off with a 40th anniversary day on Saturday June 4th from 10 to 5. We will have 40*cent admission all day with a wristband so you can come and go while enjoying the fun on the lawn, which includes bouncy house, photo booth, activity stations, balloons, live entertainment and door prizes. Inside there is a scavenger hunt and special 40th Anniversary Exhibit as well as lots of fun things to purchase at our gift shop in the lobby to commemorate your fun visit!



Kids of All Ages Welcome

For a full schedule of 2017 events, check out our website at www.nttmuseum.org

Just for Fun!

