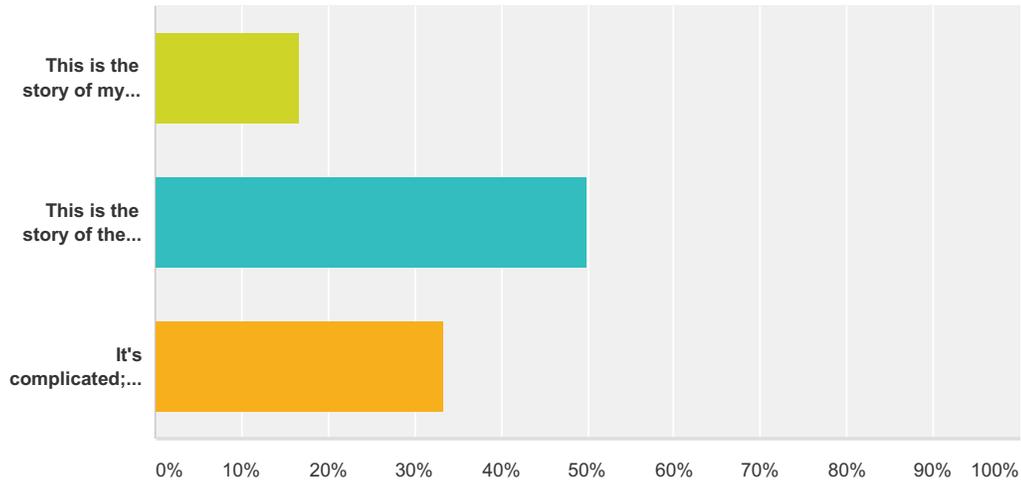


Q1 The birth--or rebirth--of my interest in toy trains:

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
This is the story of my initial attraction to toy trains.	16.67% 1
This is the story of the rebirth of my interest in toy trains after a hiatus from the hobby.	50.00% 3
It's complicated; this is sort of a mixture of my introduction to the hobby as well as my reinvigorated interest later on.	33.33% 2
Total Respondents: 6	

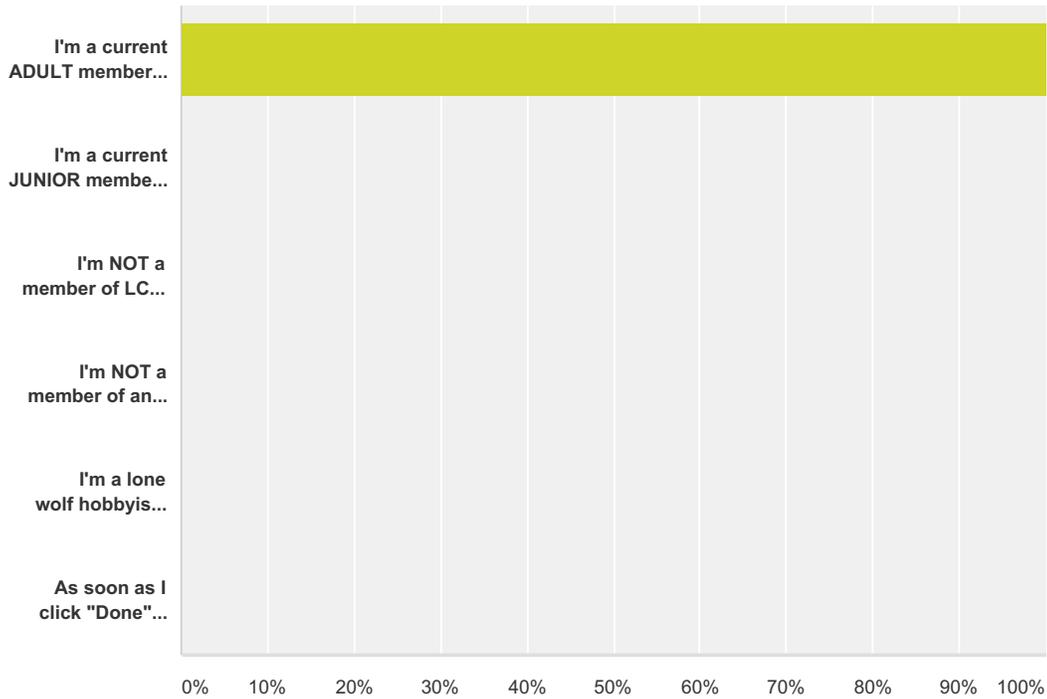
#	My incarnation (or reincarnation) as a lover of toy trains in 1,000 characters or fewer:	Date
1	I received my first Lionel set for Christmas at age 5. We moved 5 times in the next 6 years due to my Dad's work, but I always managed to find the Lionel and put it up. It just didn't seem like Christmas without it. That continued, with the exception of about 10 years during the High School - College years. I still had my set (luckily !), but just lost interest during that time. Then one year I remembered it, dug it out, and had it up and running just like the good old days. I started going to train shows and would buy a piece here and there that I always wanted. Can't remember for sure how, but I found out about the LCCA and joined right away. That was about 30 years ago and I'm still going strong today, thanks to my Lionel !	9/11/2016 5:30 PM
2	I am an older American now. I enjoy my wife and my extended family, but I need to find a way to connect. I am retired. I don't go into the office and I don't enjoy golf. In a way I am lucky.. sometimes this life can get lonely. I had Lionel trains as a young boy. My older cousin had a very nice "set" and my neighbor had a working layout then.. but then life happened. Good thing in my 60's now I feel right ay home with my LCCA friendships. I have memories but younger people don't want to hear them. Folks my age are "collectors" but the younger generation seems must less interested. Along with pretty good health, I have a bit of extra money now to travel and see places I had only dreamed about. Our LCCA annual Conventions are great fun and a well planned vacation. I get to do many things I really enjoy doing. I always enjoy the trains big and small. Most of all, I get to connect with people of all ages who are pretty much like me. The human element is worth far more than the bragging rights about my collection. I get to connect with others and share memories. That's very powerful and I thank everyone who takes time to meet and greet when they cross my path. Kind wishes.	8/22/2016 8:48 AM
3	It began all over again 30 years ago with the birth of my first son. What says Christmas better than a new baby, a Christmas tree and a Lionel train running around the tree. That little guy needed his own engine to run around the tree so off I went to Trost Hobby, the best train store in Chicago, and returned with a Burlington Northern switcher. Then two years later I returned for a second engine for my newest son, this time a Santa Fe diesel. Fast forward a few years and my wife purchased a holiday expansion pack with this "Fastrack" track. This is what got me started all over again and now every Christmas the holiday layout goes up with more than the previous. It was this reinvigorated interest that also had me join the LCCA and to enjoy several of the annual conventions.	8/16/2016 9:36 PM

LCCA TRAIN TALK #34 "The Best Toy Train Club on the Planet"

4	<p>My story is probably typical. Got my first Lionel train in 1946 when I was 12. It became a floor layout on the second floor of our house and ran in three bedrooms and a hallway but not in the bathroom. In 1949 I built a 5' X 10' HO layout. Now the usual. Stored everything when I went to college in 1952. It all disappeared. Was an armchair railroader until 2000 when my best friend gave me a Lionel starter set that spent too much time on the living room floor so my wife told me to get a building for it that could also be used for storage. Layout was started in 2005 and has had several modifications. I don't think I am a collector. I have nothing that cost over \$300.00 and I PLAY with everything. Before the gift to me by my friend, I looked at other stuff. Couldn't hardly see N. Fingers and eyes were no longer able handle HO. When he gave me the Lionel I knew that was it. By the way, he died two months later so he never got to see my layout.</p>	8/1/2016 1:52 PM
5	<p>One day when I was about six (my exact age having vanished into the mists of a 71 year old memory), my daddy came home from work carrying a fairly large cardboard box. Inside were several mysterious items wrapped in newspaper. As I extracted and unwrapped them, they turned into a Lionel 2026 steamer, a Marx SP A-A Diesel, a variety of Lionel and Marx freight cars, some O-27 track, and a Marx transformer. Everything was well used, and all the original boxes were gone, but none of that mattered in the least to this kid who, with a little initial help from his daddy, was soon racing Lionel and Marx freights down the track and around (and sometimes off) the curves! Later came a board for the track, after that legs to make a table, and finally an entire room that had begun its existence as a single-car garage. Daddy had no idea of what he had begun by bringing home that box of used toy trains, nor did I have any idea of just what a lucky kid I was!</p>	7/26/2016 1:00 PM
6	<p>The re-biting of the train bug in the 1970's was really the fault of my wife and of President Charles De Gaulle. Before going to Germany, we'd been in Pueblo, Colorado, where I'd gotten a position as an intern in the Civilian Personnel Management Division of Pueblo Army Depot. Although the salary was somewhat more than I'd made the previous year as a high school teacher in Las Vegas, New Mexico, the cost of living in Pueblo was a lot higher, and we were struggling financially. That was the situation that led me to sell almost all of my childhood trains and it really hurt, a fact of which my wife took notice. A couple of years later, we were in Worms am Rhein, Germany, where I'd gotten a Civil Service position as an education services officer for the Army. My wife found a position at the Recreation Services Library there as an assistant librarian. The library still had lots of stuff packed up following its move from France to Germany after President Charles De Gaulle invited the resident U.S. forces to find a new home. Helping to clear out some of that old stuff, she brought home a box one day after work. It was filled with Model Railroader magazines which I began reading. Soon I started visiting some local Spielwaren (toy and hobby stores) and was just blown away by the detailed German models they had, mainly in #1 scale, HO scale, and N scale. I started collecting Marklin #1 scale and several brands of N scale. The great dollar to Deutsch Mark exchange rate helped, too. When we came back to the U.S. in 1975, I could no longer keep on collecting the German brands because they were far more expensive over here than over there (and the exchange rate was no longer quite so helpful either). That's when I discovered that Lionel had been resuscitated under General Mills MPC ownership and was marketing some attractive models, so my attention reverted to O gauge. This turned out to be a long answer. I guess the short version is to say that French President Charles De Gaulle was highly instrumental in reawakening my interest in toy trains!</p>	7/26/2016 12:43 PM

Q2 Please let us know the nature of your train club affiliation. (This question allows multiple answers so that you can select the last one regardless of your other selections.)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I'm a current ADULT member of the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA).	100.00% 6
I'm a current JUNIOR member of the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA).	0.00% 0
I'm NOT a member of LCCA but I AM a member of one or more of the other national train clubs (such as TCA, TTOS, LOTS, etc.)	0.00% 0
I'm NOT a member of any national train club but I AM a member of an organized local club.	0.00% 0
I'm a lone wolf hobbyist and am not a member of any organized train club at all.	0.00% 0
As soon as I click "Done" at the end of this TRAIN TALK session, I'm joining LCCA or renewing my membership today!	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 6	

#	Do you have some connection to or interest in the toy train hobby that is not included above? Perhaps you have a history with full-size railroads? Let us know!	Date
1	I am also a LOTS member.	8/16/2016 9:37 PM
2	TCA & LOTS	8/1/2016 1:53 PM