



Western Division Newsletter



Volume 58, No. 7

<http://www.tcawestern.org>

December 2012

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2012 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California. This will be our annual Holiday Party & Pot Luck.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park Parking lot. The hall is located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign.

The doors open at 10AM for setup, trading, and selling. Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

The display theme for December will be 'Holiday Trains'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Please plan to bring a dish for the traditional pot luck meal at the Holiday Party. If your last name starts with the letter 'A' to 'O' please bring a side dish, and if your last name starts with the letter 'P' to 'Z' please bring a dessert for about 15 members. The club will provide the sandwiches and punch.

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held at the December meet, as well as a special raffle for the ladies, and the Lionel Hudson will be awarded to one lucky ticket holder.

Western Division's 2013 meet schedule is as follows: January 26th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, June 01st, July 27th, August 24th, September 28th, October 26th, and December 14th.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

Toy trains are such a great hobby that it almost seems silly to even say so. The fact is that whether it's merely a humble circle of track with a single car, a huge sophisticated layout with all sorts of goodies, or like most of us something in between, there is much to enjoy. Unlike other pursuits that by their very nature can limit, if not in practical terms exclude many, pretty much anyone can enjoy a toy train in one way or another. You can do as little or as much as you are able to; it can be seasonal or it can be continuous.

Not long ago, I wasn't very surprised when I came across a few thoughts someone had written. They were reminiscing about family ties and youthful adventures, and the lasting influences on their life. Looking back things may seem fairly obvious, but they seldom possess that kind of clarity in those moments. It's always easier to embrace a particular pursuit when it's associated with people that are significant to us. The favorable light that it casts is not only inviting, but almost irresistible. Have you noticed how often a story begins with "my father...", "my mother...", "an uncle...", "my friends and I..." "for Christmas one year...", "on my birthday..." (you get the idea). It's when we share these moments with others, I believe, that the memories are elevated to become a part of who we are. They appear warmer and richer and more special and they seem to stay with us throughout our lifetime. That's why toy trains were meant to be shared. They make us smile when we see them running. We connect with strangers if

they too are enthralled. They have a language and life of their own that everyone instinctively understands. In a world that increasingly seems unable to do that, it's a good thing.

Share a train or two with someone, it'll be that much more special – not only for you, but perhaps them also.

September Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



Special Layout Created for the September Kids Meet

September's WD meet was dedicated to kids. The display theme for the September meet was 'Trolley Cars'. There were many trolley variations displayed. Bill Clausen showed a one-of-a-kind



Bill Clausen

Herb Mayer

trolley kit-bashed from a Dorfan Standard Gauge observation car. Bob Spellmire displayed a very rare Pride Lines 24K Gold Scrooge McDuck trolley. Dave Mabee presented an 'O' gauge Lionel modern era trolley. Steve Eastman displayed a new Marx trolley. Herb Mayer showed a 25th Anniversary TCA Silver Plated trolley made by Pride Lines. Jim Kenney shared several trolleys built from E. Suydam kits.



September Display Theme 'Trolley Cars'

John Abbe displayed a San Francisco cable car on a rotating musical platform and an Old Spaghetti Factory trolley. John Parker



John Parker



Les Cochran



Steve Eastman and Bob Nord set up a multi-gauge layout a Marx diesel and caboose. Mario Liberatore displayed a BNSF GP9. C.A. Meyer presented a decorated Halloween flat car. John Abbe shared several SP cars and a TCA tank car. Bob Spellmire also displayed a Lionel #256 Set.

Raffle prize winners were Harry Chortanian, Ken Chan (\$100 Winner), Bob Spellmire, and Nancy Cochran.



Myron Moore



Robert Trimble



C.A. Meyer



Mario Liberatore



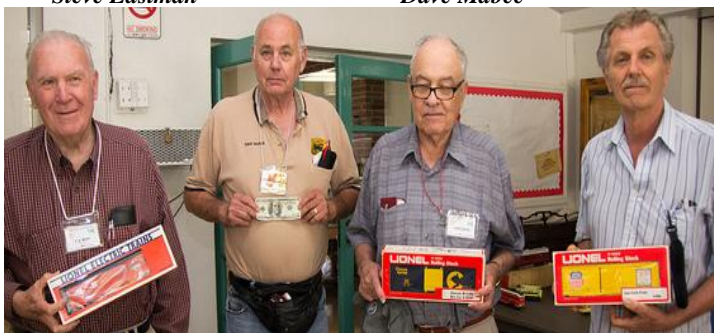
Steve Eastman

Dave Mabee



Bob Cesarone

Bob Spellmire



Prize winners: C. A. Meyer, Dave Mabee (\$100), James Hawley, Dave Gabay, and Herb Mayer (not shown).

presented a pair of Ives 'O' gauge trolleys. Les Cochran shared a pair of Corgi 'O' gauge trolleys. Mike Jenkins presented his collection of Corgi trolleys. Myron Moore shared his special Lionel trolley. Finally, Robert Trimble displayed an unusual trolley that was marketed by several different companies. Steve Eastman and Dave Mabee created a special 'O' gauge layout for the children to play with at the September Kids meet.

October Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

The October display theme was 'Orange and Black Trains'. Harry Chortanian brought his Lionel HO Daylight set. Bob Nord shared a Lionel Pre-war #256 passenger set. Bob Cesarone shared

In Memoriam

Long time Western Division member Russell S. Lange (HR-77-11829) passed away at 5:09 Friday, September 28, 2012. Russ served 3 terms as WD Membership Secretary from 1997 to 1999, then as Vice-President in 2000. He then became Division President in 2001, and served 3 years. Russ and his family moved to Idaho shortly thereafter, but he still remained a member of Western Division. He will dearly be missed by all. Our sincerest condolences go out to his wife Jane, and son Dale Lange.



It is also sad news to bring you that Gary R. Keck (78-12396), past TCA WD member, past TTOS National President, and past TTOS Southwestern Division President, passed away at 3:30 Thursday, November 15, 2012. Gary owned and operated the Train Shack in Burbank for many years. He will dearly be missed by all. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

