



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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February – March 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday March 25th, 2000** at the *Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006* (Santa Anita exit off of the 210 freeway, then head south).

A reminder that the doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables. Each seller is allowed to use a maximum of two tables for free.

The hall will be open for members and guests to enter and for trading to commence at 11:00 AM.

On March 14, 1864 John Luther 'Casey' Jones was born in Jackson, TN. Jones later became famous as the engineer immortalized in song for causing the historical train wreck at Vaughan, Mississippi. In celebration of Casey Jones' 136th birthday, March's meet display theme is "something wrecked". Show us your most beat up train or train item or bring a wrecking crew car. Here is an opportunity to show off whatever interesting junkers you have! Be prepared to tell us the story behind the train's misfortunes.

We will continue with the practice of awarding a special prize to the most interesting display.

The auction will begin at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting and the raffle will follow.

Western Division 2000 schedule of train meets:

March 25 th , 2000	April 22 nd , 2000
May 27 th , 2000	July 22 nd , 2000
August 26 th , 2000	September 23 rd , 2000
October 28 th , 2000	November 25 th , 2000
December 10 th , 2000 – Holiday meet	

January 2000 Meet Recap

There were approximately 53 members and guests on hand for the first Western Division meet of the 21st century.

New members William Douglas, Rick Tracton, and Harvey Tafel and returning member Mike Stella were introduced. The display theme was "something new for the new century".

Steve Waller displayed Varney scale models of the AeroTrain, a New York Central streamliner that ended up as a grand failure. Only three prototypes were ever produced. One of them, the "View liner" was at Disneyland in 1957 and 1958. Steve also displayed an Amtrak calendar with the Acela Train.



Steve Waller's AeroTrain display.

Bob Trimble showed a new Lionel key chain and a Hallmark yo-yo that has a pull chain that sends a loco around. Bob also had a display of the NY Central train "The 20th Century Limited" made by Williams in "O" gauge. He also had a variety of printed information published by the NY Central Historical society about this train that ran from 1902 to the 1950's.

Emmert Stouffer showed a shiny Millennium observation car, #2000, from K-Line, which he had received as part of a subscription plan.

Les Cochran brought his recent Christmas gift, a new item in his collection, as well as something new from Lionel: the 'Train Wreck Recovery' set.



Bob Trimble's '20th Century' display

Mike Stella displayed two trains and talked about his recent trip to Great Britain. One of the trains was bought at a model shop in Stratford on Avon, the famous place where William Shakespeare lived and wrote. Mike found a Hornby re-release, by Ace Vintage Trains, a 1930's electric tank loco, a 4-4-4 and two corridor coaches (C -574). He also perused a train swap meet and sounds like he is eager to return. He displayed a second train, also a British model, which was acquired via mail order.

The membership awarded Steve Waller a TCA book for "best display".



Emmert Stouffer's 'Millennium' car

Jerry Butler, Mike Jenkins, Ron Smith, Bob Trimble, Howard Bishop and Les Cochran each won a raffle prize.

The raffle featured a TCA Pacific Northwest Division 40th Anniversary lumber car, #195898 with Weyerhaeuser logo, a 1999 TCA Museum L. & N boxcar #6-52172 and a K-Line classic die-cast hopper CNW #547798.

On the sales tables we noted an American Flyer pre-war tinplate coach #1306, and a US Mail Railway Post Office, a unique 1950's loco and tender, a #1612 General set in the box, and a pre-war Lionel #262E.

Ward Kimball ran a Standard gauge #385E on the layout with a #211 flat, #217 caboose, #213 cattle car and a #215 green oil car. Ward did not even know he owned such an engine and had recently discovered it while cleaning out his garage.



Peter Searles and Lowell Jeans watch Ward Kimball run his #385E

February 2000 Meet Recap

This was the first meeting in which the new format for the order of business was tried, with an auction prior to the business meeting at noon. It was a resounding success and Bob Caplan our auctioneer sold an interesting variety of trains to an enthusiastic group of bidders.

This month's display featured "red and green" to celebrate both Valentine's Day and Saint Patrick's Day, with some members showing cars with both colors.

Bob Spellmire showed his TCA National 40th Anniversary F-3 ABA shells, which he had been able to mount on used bases after a lengthy but satisfying search.

Mike Olaerts showed us his recently acquired McCoy circus engine and tender which is green and red, purchased from member Ernie Wren. Mike noted in days gone by you could find this loco in the train shop at Knott's Berry Farm (the good old days!).

Peter Searles showed an American Flyer Standard gauge, "Century Set" which he had found on his second trip to York, Pa. He had restored them and notes the larger windows on the combine.

Chuck Brasher showed a pair of pre-war American Flyer signals that he and Clyde Easterly had recast in bronze, the self-destructing original pot metal bases, and now has them available for sale.

Artie Lazarides showed an American Flyer "O" gauge pre-war set in its set box. Made in 1937, the loco is un-cataloged but has a whistle and came with four #1223 sheet metal cars in red.

Bob Trimble brought several interesting displays in red and green, including an All Nation Yard switcher and an E.R. Alexander scale observation car found at the tinplate table at the recent TCA Nor-Cal Cal-Stewart meet.



Lots of action on the layout.

Mike Stella presented a most interesting and detailed explanation of why there are nine variations for the Lionel post-war gondola. He had examples of all 9 variations.

Exactly 55 members and guests were in attendance, including Cole Gibbs from the TCA Desert Division, and Malcolm Maloney, a new Western Division member.

There were a large number of sales tables with lots of action, including many Lionel post-war cars, some of which ended up in the auction.

Raffle prizes included a TCA Toy Train Museum L&N boxcar and a TCA Midwest Division 40th anniversary boxcar custom decorated with the Midwest division logo.

Respectfully submitted by Dave McCully