



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 45, No. 2

February, 1999

President's Corner

Our next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday February 20** 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).

The hall doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers to enter and begin their set up. Everyone else will be let in at 11:00 AM. Since February is the month in which we celebrate love by honoring St. Valentine, it is appropriate that we celebrate our love for toy trains by having a display theme of: items that are either red in color, or that bear a red herald or road name! Whatever you bring, be prepared to tell us the story behind it! I am expecting to see lots of colorful display table items, and to hear even more colorful stories about those items!

We will hold an auction after the business meeting, and there will be raffle prizes given away. Once again I ask for volunteers to assist with the setting up of the tables and chairs. We never have enough hands to help out! Many thanks go out to Dennis Taube, Bob Spellmire, John Parker, and Darrell Calvillo for their efforts at the January meet setting up and breaking down the tables.

The January meet was very well attended and enjoyable. Everyone especially had loads of fun running trains on the recently reinstated 'O', 'S' and standard gauge loops. For more meet details, see Dave McCully's meet recap that appears later in this newsletter. It was a nice kickoff to what I feel will be a great year for TCA Western Division! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call. Note my new telephone number: 818-986-9975. See you all on Saturday, February 20th.

Your president – *Harold Shapiro*



L. to r: John Parker, Dennis Taube, Russ Lange, Peter Searls, Robert Caplan, Kurt Bondi, and Harold Shapiro at January Board of Directors meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 1999 at Arcadia California: Meeting convened at 12:45 p.m.

Members Present: President: Harold Shapiro, Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Russell Lange, Past President: John Parker, Recording Secretary: Peter Searls, Board Members: Kurt Bondi, Robert Caplan, Division Members: Dale Lange, Dennis Taube.

Old Business: Russell Lange presented the treasurer's report showing a 1998 closing balance of \$8,090.56. There are 312 names on the division's mailing list, about 80 have not paid their current dues. John Parker presented the current lease agreement with the Arcadia County Park for use of the meeting hall.

New Business: Harold Shapiro reported that the Division's web site had been shut down due to lack of access to the host server. He proposed that the Division obtain a new web site and suggested several alternatives. Robert Caplan reported that he might be able to obtain a free website. It was moved by Kurt Bondi and seconded by Peter Searls that the division undertake a six-month trial of a new website. The Board unanimously asked Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Caplan to bring back proposed contracts for the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Caplan suggested that the Board needed to start planning for the 2003 National convention. Mr. Bondi agreed to discuss logo and car design with Gary Keck.

Mr. Shapiro requested that the Board members prepare to discuss fund-raising proposals for the convention welcoming party. Mr. Parker suggested the Orange Empire Trolley Museum and Pomona County Fairgrounds as two possible sites.

Mr. Shapiro asked the Board's pleasure on designating a Division meeting as a special children's event. On the motion of Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bondi the Board unanimously designated the May 1999, meeting as the children's event.

On the motion of Mr. Bondi, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board unanimously decided to have its next meeting on a weekday evening so that members with scheduling conflicts could attend. Mr. Shapiro

said he would notify the members of the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: *Peter Searls*, Recording Secretary

Our 1999 schedule of remaining train meets is as follows:

March 27th, 1999

April 24th, 1999

May 22nd, 1999

July 24th, 1999

August 28th, 1999

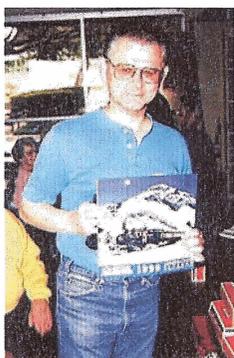
September 25th, 1999

October 23rd, 1999

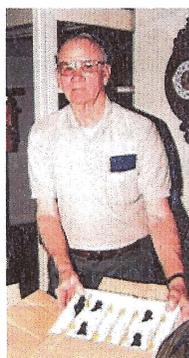
November 27th, 1999

January 1999 Meeting Recap

There were 50 members and guests attending. The drawing prizes were: a K-Line containerized transport 'O' gauge car set, won by Ernie Norris; a copy of the book, *Lionel Standard of the World*, won by Tom Hess; and a 1999 Train Calendar won by Gary Zarubick.



Gary Zarubick



Ernie Norris



Tom Hess

The display theme for the January meet was "A Train I received for Christmas or Hanukkah, or as a gift"

Part of the display consisted of a standard gauge coal train brought by Don Gatz. Don had assembled the set from pieces he had picked up over the years at various meets and from assorted collections. Also displayed was a post-war Lionel set brought in by Bob Spellmire. Bob told of the interesting way a stranger had heard of his train hobby and gave the set to him after they ran it on his layout for several hours.

Robert Caplan told us of a limited edition Lionel box car, a run of only 200 cars, ordered by Neil Young as a gift to his employees at Vapor Records, which was recently sold on the Internet for \$49.95 and quickly sold out. Robert estimates the car's value now at around \$500.

John Parker told the group about the sale of Bachman 'G' gauge Blue Comet sets at his local hardware store, at 50% off regular price after Christmas.

Sales Tables: There were 22 sellers. Interesting items for sale included: a 1949 Marx tin-plate Mickey Mouse

Packard wind up car that the owner had not decided on a price, a selection of standard gauge cars including a set of three passenger cars, one of which had been sat on. Roy Bell did a hands-on demonstration of how to pull the dents out of a damaged car.



Dave McCully and Darrell Calvillo running some trains on the loops.



Alma Caplan with a helper in the kitchen.

Bob Trimble set up a very interesting display of GG1's including two Lionel post war, and two full scale O gauge brass cast locomotives, one made by E.P. Alexander Toy Co., the other maker unknown. He also had blueprints of the GG1, catenary poles, etc. He had also put together a very complete survey of the literature on GMC streetcars and had several samples on hand, an effort of his to understand the history and variations of this car.

Announcements: John Parker informed the membership that the club had purchased an additional six 8 foot tables, to expand our sales capacity and as a donation to the Sr. Citizens Center for our use. We now can seat 100 people.

New 1999 officers and board members were introduced. Membership Secretary/Treasurer Russ Lange reminded members of the need to send in their \$10 annual dues by February. Robert Caplan of the TCA National Standards Committee told of that group's work on a pocket guidebook, which will be available free to TCA members, "Fakes and Frauds and How to Identify Them."

Guests were introduced. Fred Hunter, President of the TCA Desert Division was a guest of honor. Fred told the group of that division's upcoming March 13, 1999 Pizza Auction meet, as well as about their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Meet. The Turkey meets have been held in Scottsdale, AZ but are moving to larger quarters at the Mesa Centennial Hall where they will be able to set out 250 tables. The upcoming Saturday and Sunday all-day free pizza auction will be held at the Jaycee Hall in Scottsdale. For more information contact Fred at 602-947-3639.

Ernie Norris, a TCA member of many years was introduced, as was new member Don Stotts.

Auction: There was a brief auction with several mixed boxes of trains and a large collection of *Classic Toy Train* magazine back issues, which were donated to the club.

Submitted by *Dave McCully*