



# Western Division

## Train Collectors Association

### Newsletter



Volume 51, No. 2

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## Meet Notice

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, February 26th** in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Sellers: *Tables are free!*

To get to the meeting, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. Doors open at 10 a.m. for trading and selling. Please check our newly updated website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a detailed map!

Our display theme for February will be to bring anything that reflects "A train you love" in honor of Valentine's Day. Show off that prized toy train and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a prize presented for an item displayed!

**Important Notice:** The May meet date is changed to May 21, 2005, same place, same time.

## President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division



The Board of Directors has decided that since the Special Raffle for the Lionel Zephyr set held last year was so successful, that we will hold another this year with the Lionel Cab Forward as shown in the new 2005 catalog. In addition, we will have the \$100 cash drawing each month for ticket holders. Tickets will be on sale at the February 26<sup>th</sup> meet. As last year, ticket holders must be in attendance to be eligible to win the \$100.

The Board has directed that if you attend and sign in at all 11 meets during 2005, your 2006 dues will be waived. In addition, if members have a full table of train related items for sale, they will receive a California Super Lotto lottery ticket. Bob Caplan is writing ground rules for the monthly meet auctions. This is being done to help speed the auction along.

Board members are looking into having tables at public events such as Fullerton Rail Road Days, Nor-Cal, Cal-Stewart, Train Expo, etc. This is being done to advertise to the public who and what we are. The Board has started the process for the annual May Kids Meet that Harold Shapiro wrote about in the Last National Quarterly. Bob Caplan has been designated to head up that meet.

For those members interested in attending the TCA Annual Convention in Seattle this June, now is the time to submit your requests for tours and accommodations. The tours and rooms at the Convention hotel are going fast. Western Division is expected to have good representation at this year's convention.

A reminder that membership dues for 2005 are now due. 2005 dues renewal forms were sent out with the January newsletter.



*Jon Lang pondering a purchase from Chuck Stone's table at the January meet.*

Please make sure you fill it out completely and mail it in with your payment. Or you can bring it to the next meeting and give it to Harold Shapiro with your payment. Western Division dues are \$15 annually.

With the advent of electronic mail, and its proliferation amongst TCA Western Division members, we would like to send this monthly newsletter to members electronically in lieu of the US mail system. This would help hold costs down for printing and postage. It would also help in keeping annual dues at the same rates. If you would be willing to receive the Western Division Newsletter via e-mail, please let me, or Harold Shapiro know, at the meets, or you can e-mail me at [cnswws@mindspring.com](mailto:cnswws@mindspring.com).

Let's all keep fellow Western Division member Ray Sugg in our thoughts, Ray recently underwent surgery.

- Wayne Sheriff



## January Meet Recap

Report by Bob Lemberger, Recording Secretary

The January meet was held on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was the first meet of the New Year and the first presided over by president Wayne Sheriff. He introduced Membership Secretary/Treasurer Harold Shapiro who first introduced four new Western Division members: **Harry Harris, Andy Kolb, Calvin Smith, and Bob Cesarone**. Welcome aboard guys. Harold then announced that the

Board will be reviewing the bylaws, as many of them are out of date. He also discussed the wearing of badges at the meets and that the design has been changed and a color coding has been implemented. Members' badges are now yellow, Board members' and Officers' are blue. Ladies' badges will be pink and kids' will be green. The size of the names has been enlarged on the badges so they are much easier to read. Please wear them so we all know who you are. Harold also discussed the benefits of the newly created family membership program.

Wayne stated that there are two primary goals from your board of directors for this year, and that the membership's help is needed to reach them. Those goals are to increase Western Division membership and attendance at the monthly meetings.

There will not be a June meet in 2005, as the National convention in Seattle is on the West coast and many of our Western Division Members are planning to attend.

Steve Waller is in charge of choosing the monthly meet display themes and is open for suggestions from the membership.

Bob Spellmire reminded us all that in the old days, you were not admitted to the meetings without a name badge displayed. He stressed the importance of wearing badges for purposes of identification and getting to know each other. Bob also had brought in a box of OSH 2005 hardware store calendars. These calendars feature beautiful photographs of various railroad equipment in action. They were offered free to anyone who wanted one. Thank you Bob!

The display theme for January was "anything related to the new year or something new". The display tables were full of many interesting items. Jerry Johnson brought in a very nice collection of tinsplate windup by Bing, Flyer, and Ives. Bill Grove brought his group of early Lionel 'O' gauge electrics. Among them was the first production 'O' gauge made in 1915, distinguished by its gold vents. He also had the new Lionel S1, which is the first new train he has bought in 25 years.

Calvin Smith displayed a Lionel 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary paperweight. Mario Liberatore displayed a very hard to get 'Polar Express' set. John Abbe told some interesting stories about a calendar, a computer screen saver, a Kraft macaroni and cheese Polar Express box and a Lionel Rockwell Christmas set.

Rudy Felix displayed a Lionel postwar culvert loader that he was initially disappointed with until he noticed that the box was numbered incorrectly. Now he has an unsolved mystery. Jim Kenney brought in his, recently purchased for the New Year, Lionel Macy's special.



Bill Kluss showed the Lionel prototype smoke unit, circa 1940, installed on a 1937 Hudson. This was a very interesting piece of toy train history.

Bob Trimble displayed a number of pieces each with an interesting bargaining story. The most unusual of which was a Royal Scotsman carved out of a lump of coal.



Jerry Johnson won the raffle drawing for the best display and selected a nice Lionel Milwaukee Road caboose. Bill Kluss and Harry Chortanian also won raffle prizes of Long Island and Conrail cabooses respectively. Andy Kolb won a nice video.

President Wayne Sheriff closed the business meeting by reminding us that, "it's all about this" as he held up a tinsplate car. Lou Redman, CM-3, always used to say "this is why we are here". There were many trains on the trading tables. Among them were some nice items of Chuck Stone's, who comes all the way down from Grass Valley for the meet. Chuck had a Marx Disney set and a Lionel Donald Duck handcar. Chuck's long drive paid off as Jim Kenney took home a boxed Flyer set. If Chuck can drive all that way for the meets, what about the rest of you who live a lot closer?



As usual, Richard Keppel had a fine display of trains running in the back room; most special was the recent remake of the Ives Prosperity Special by MTH. Be sure to check his displays and if you have a favorite item you want to bring in and run, please do so. Also, he'll gladly show you how to use the Command Control remote if you just want to run some trains. Richard had a few guest engineers this day. Among them was Chuck Bradford who brought in his Lionel Veranda; John Pignatelli with an MTH GG1 with operating pantographs; Matt Jackson with a scale Hudson which he almost didn't run as he was too busy running Standard gauge; Jay Windley brought in a large loop of Atlas two rail on which he ran some beautiful refrigerator cars by Atlas. Jerry Johnson had a K-Line GG1 and Christopher Keppel ran his Polar Express set. If you missed the action, be sure to check it out at the next meet.

As many of you may have noticed at the January meet, Dennis Taube was wearing a cast having broken his wrist in a fall from a ladder in his house. Dennis is fine fortunately. You may have noticed he was featured in last month's newsletter fascinated by the upside down train. There is no truth to the rumor that Dennis actually fell trying to nail track into his ceiling!