



# Western Division

## Train Collectors Association

### Newsletter



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January, 1999

**H**appy New Year! 1999 is finally here. As your new Western Division president, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous year. Hopefully your Christmas or Chanukah presents included many new additions to your train collections! Whatever you received, we would all love to hear about it and see these new treasures at our upcoming January 23, 1999 train meet (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday). The theme for the display at this meet will be *'my most recent train gift'*. Now for those of you who were naughty this past year, and did not get any holiday gifts, you may bring your most recent acquisition. Let's see if we can fill the display table with lots of great looking items!

**A**s usual, we will be meeting 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. We will have an auction and a spate of terrific raffle prizes to give away. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the setting up of the tables and chairs, I would really appreciate it. We never have enough hands to help out! Feel free to give me a call at 213-876-6730 if you forgot where the hall is, or if you want to ask me any questions. I encourage those of you who did not attend any of our 1998 Western Division meets to come out in 1999. I am predicting that it will be a great year for TCA Western Division!

**O**nce again this year, Alma Caplan has agreed to provide her culinary expertise and handle the kitchen for us. We are all very thankful to Alma for volunteering her services in this respect, especially during the past several years. Thank you Alma! Keep those delicious tamales and refreshments coming!

**E**veryone agrees that 1998 was a superb year for the Western Division, and we all want to acknowledge and thank our outgoing officers and board members for a job well done. A very special thank you to John Parker for a great run the past few years serving as president and leader of our division.

**W**hile we are on the subject of officers and board members, I am proud to announce the results of our recently held elections. Our new vice-president is Roy Bell. Russ Lange is once again our Membership Secretary/Treasurer. Peter Searls is our Recording Secretary. The members of the 1999 Board are: Bob Caplan, Les Cochran, Vince Gargulio, Kurt Bondi, Jerry Blaine, and Gary Keck. Congratulations to all! And a big thank you to Election Chairman Robert Spellmire, for coordinating the balloting, and to Norm Lee for assisting with the tabulation.

**W**e all enjoy the great camaraderie that takes place at Western Division train meets. I have some high hopes for the coming year that this tradition will continue, and that perhaps we can take it to the next level. It would be fabulous if we used 1999 to build our club in numbers and encouraged the regular attendance of all TCA members and their families. As well, through the new *Kid's Club* being sponsored by TCA, we now have a mechanism in place to promote the fellowship and excitement of train collecting to a younger generation. Membership in the *Kids Club* is free to all children or grandchildren of current members up to the age of 18. One of my goals as Western Division president is to expand our membership base to include a new age group of train hobbyists. New technologies are being built into the current product cycle of this wonderful experience we call toy train collecting. I know that in the past 5 years as a club member, I have gained a wealth of knowledge about our hobby from a

*By: Harold Shapiro*

wonderful group of individuals who have been at this for 50 years or more. Now we will be presented with the opportunity to open our hobby to an audience that can teach us old timers a thing or two as well! For 1999 I would like to organize one of our regular monthly train meets as a special event for children.

**R**emember that TCA Western Division is the only Southern California based train club that provides free use of tables for trading and displaying toy trains and related items to its members. All of our meets are open to the general public to be our one-time guests, free of charge. I encourage each member to bring a guest along to experience the fellowship of our association. And TCA is the only major toy train club in existence that has a permanent committee available to review any redress of grievances.

**Our 1999 schedule of train meets is as follows:**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999**  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999**  
**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999**  
**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999**

Please note that there will not be a monthly meet in June of 1999. We highly encourage all Western Division member's attendance at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual TCA National Convention that month. The convention is being hosted by the Norcal Division, from June 20<sup>th</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup>, and is being held in the San Francisco Bay area (Burlingame, CA). The National Convention will afford Western Division members the ability to swap trains with other TCA divisional members from all around the country. As well, there will be a multitude of layout tours, day trips to popular bay area attractions and possibly an excursion train ride. If you have never attended a TCA National Convention, this is a terrific opportunity to take the whole family on an enjoyable summer vacation and at the same time obtain your regularly required dose of toy trains.

**A**s an added bonus, right around the same time, and in the same area as the TCA 45<sup>th</sup> National Convention, you will have the occasion to attend

Railfair '99. The California State Railroad Museum and Foundation will host Railfair '99 this June 18 through 27, 1999. This ten-day event held in Old Sacramento features display and operation of numerous visiting steam locomotives and other rail equipment from all across North America. As well, the Railroad Museum has a very large collection of toy trains and train memorabilia. If you would like more information on this event, call (916) 332-8485 and ask to be placed on the Railfair 99 mailing list.

**W**hile we are on the subject of conventions, TCA Western Division plans to be the proud sponsors of the 49<sup>th</sup> annual national convention in the year 2003. This event will be our division's chance to 'shine brightly' and show off to the rest of the organization what a marvelous group we are and how terrific Southern California is to live in! There is a lot of work to be done in planning this convention. And we need to begin soon, even though the event is more than 4 years down the track. In the coming years, we will be soliciting for volunteers from not only the Western Division membership, but any TCA member in the Southern California area, to come forward and help in the detailed preparation for this affair. We need people that will provide ideas as well as their time. Assistance is needed in the areas of budgeting, registration, security, publicity, logo design, souvenir design, activity planning and scheduling, transportation coordination, raffle/door prize acquisition, displays, auction, hall layout and table assignment, banquet planning, and most important, fund raising. Start giving some thought as to how you might want to participate in the planning for this convention.

**A** reminder that Western Division annual dues for 1999 are now payable. If you haven't already submitted your \$10 renewal, you may either mail a check, made out to the TCA Western Division, to Treasurer Russ Lange at 28 E. Dufaucek Drive, Wofford Heights, CA 93285, or submit payment at our January 23<sup>rd</sup> meet. Please write your TCA membership number on your check.

**B**ack by popular demand, once again we will have operating loops of 'O', standard, and 'S' gauge track set up at our monthly meets. Anyone who wishes to bring trains to run should feel free to do so. We will be looking into the feasibility of building our own club layout as well!