



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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“Special Happy New Year Edition”

January February 2004



President's Message

By Robert Caplan,
President, TCA Western Division

“Happy New Year to All” Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, January 24** 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. Doors open at 10 am. Our membership meeting begins at Noon. Please check our newly updated website, tcawestern.org, for more info and a map!

We will be having a very special **Auction** of recently uncovered trains from the collection of our late member John Thousand. For those of you who attended the auction in November, you know the high quality and great variety of these items. Don't miss out!

As you know TCA National is celebrating the 50th Anniversary for this great Association of ours! We too are celebrating our 50th Anniversary! In honor of our 50th Anniversary (to start the year right), the display theme for the January meet will be to share a toy train that was made 50 years ago (i.e. 1954). There will be a special prize for the most interesting display!

Our immediate past president, Russ Lange, did an “Outstanding” job leading the club through the highly successful 2003 TCA National Convention, which we hosted in Ontario, CA. Thanks to the hard work of our members, our treasury is in healthy shape.

Speaking of money, I just read in the January 2004 TCA Headquarters News (page 6) that Western Division was the Division that had the highest rate of increase in membership applications received by all divisions between Nov. 2002 and October 2003 – as a result, the National Business office will be awarding Western Division with the Membership Contest Prize of \$1,000!

We have some very exciting plans for 2004. You're invited to join us at our next Board of Directors meeting, which will take place on Saturday, January 24, 2004 (directly after our regular meeting), where we'll formulate our agenda for the coming year. I look forward to hearing your input and ideas!

Regards, Robert Caplan

Holiday Luncheon Review

By Steve Waller, TCA Western Div. Recording Secretary



There was good food and holiday cheer aplenty at last month's Holiday Luncheon, which was held on Sat. Dec. 13th, 2003.

The TCA Western Division ladies outdid themselves, serving a whopping 18 feet of submarine sandwiches (3 six footers) consisting of a delicious selection of turkey, roastbeef, and ham.

Jane Lange served some tangy grape punch, which must have been spiked with something, since everybody was laughing and carrying on so.

Jerry Butler told some great stories about his days in radio. John Abbe brought the whole family, including daughter Michelle, who took pictures with a new cell phone/camera. The Shapiro's kept everybody at their table in stitches.



There were some great door prizes, too, including boxed postwar train sets like the one above.



Greg Pulis brought his two lovely daughters, **Nellie** (age 5) and **Margaret** (age 7) to the Holiday Luncheon. They were fascinated by the MTH Digital Command System demonstration layout that was expertly set up by **Richard Keppel** and his son **Chris**. We're lucky to have such a great layout at our meets!

Upcoming Meetings

The TCA Western Division monthly meets in 2004 are scheduled for the Saturdays falling on 1/24, 2/28, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22, 6/19, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/20, and 12/11/04. Make a note of them!

Newsletters will be published bi-monthly, in January, March, May, July, September, and November (Postcards will be mailed in alternate months).



TCA National has adopted a new logo to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our organization. It depicts a Lionel Hellgate bridge spanning 50 years of toy train collecting. Be sure to register for the TCA 50th Anniversary National Convention

from June 20-27, 2004, which will be held in Monroeville, PA.

Western Division Election Results

Bob Spellmire announced the results of the TCA Western Division elections at the Holiday Luncheon on December 13th, 2003.

TCA Western Division officers elected for 2004 are:

President: Robert Caplan
 Vice President: Wayne Sheriff
 Membership/Treasurer: Dale Lange
 Recording Secretary: Steve Waller

Board of Directors:

Dennis Taube, John Parker, Harold Shapiro, Ray Sugg, John Abbe, Les Cochran, Don McCutcheon, Robert Lemberger and Russ Lange (Immediate Past President).

Thanks to everyone who ran. We look forward to a great year in 2004!



Immediate Past President Russ Lange happily hands the gavel off to incoming TCA Western Division President Bob Caplan.

Holiday Luncheon Report (cont. from p. 1)

Many of the door prizes consisted of train-related items. Among the winners:

Wilbur Douglas: K651-1051 Western freight cars
Jerry Butler: boxed postwar Lionel set 1577S
Harold Shapiro: Lionel MPC 75th Anniversary set
Mike Jenkins: boxed postwar Lionel set 1465
Bill Shepard: Lionel Angela Trotta Thomas boxcar
Martin Jorjorian: Lionel Christmas boxcar
Jerry Johnson: K651-1051 Western freight cars
Rudy Felix: Pennsy Merchandise Service car
Steve Waller: Lionel B&O 6464-type boxcar
John Parker: Allis Chalmers car
Chris Keppel: Lionel Pennsylvania RR starter set
Mary & Michelle Abbe: Hot Wheels

What a great way to end a memorable year for TCA Western Division!