



TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER



VOL 61, NO.1

JANUARY 2015

2015

MEET SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25*

May 30

June – no meet (TCA Convention)

July 25*

August 22

September 26

October 24*

November - no meet (Cal-Stewart)

December 19 - Holiday Party

*Board of Directors Meeting
at 9am before the meet



NEXT MEET FEBRUARY 28

SHOW AND TELL THEME IS "TRAIN I LOVE"

As always, the Division's train meets will take place at the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park Parking lot. The hall is located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. The doors open at 10AM for setup and trading. Show and Tell starts at noon.

Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

SHOW AND TELL THEMES FOR 2015

January – New Trains	July – Red White and Blue
February – Train I Love	August – Flatcars and loads
March – Clockwork Trains	September – My Favorite Year
April – "Why did I buy That?"	October – Military Trains
May – Union Pacific Railroad	December – Holiday Trains

2015 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

LIONEL NO.773 SCALE HUDSON AND NO.2426W TENDER

THE WINNER OF THE HUDSON WILL BE DRAWN AT THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY. THERE IS A \$100 CONSOLATION PRIZE DRAWING AT EVERY MEET!



4-6-4 Scale Hudson No. 773 with No. 2426W Tender (A)

A limited number of tickets are available at \$20 each. See Treasurer Jon Lang at our monthly meet for tickets.

DISNEY TROLLEY RAFFLE

Western Division is raffling off an **O-Gauge Disney trolley** by **Pride Lines Ltd.** Tickets are available at **\$10 each.**

This raffle is not connected to the Annual Grand Prize Raffle. There is no monthly cash consolation prize associated with this raffle.

We have already given away two trolleys and we need to sell a few more tickets to break even on this raffle. **BUY TICKETS!**



2015 TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION



For information on the 2015 TCA convention, visit <http://www.tcaconvention.org> or read about it in upcoming TCA National publications

ATTENTION STANDARD GAUGE FANS

The Standard Gauge Module Association (SGMA) has a big presence back east but has no West Coast chapters. This request is just a feeler to determine the feasibility of starting a West Coast chapter. See their website to get an idea of what they do. <http://www.sgma.us/>

If I get enough positive feedback, I will set up a meeting to discuss the pluses and minuses and determine if it would be practical to move ahead.

Contact me if interested.
Steve Eastman
714-970-0898
gigeastman@hotmail.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

JANUARY 2015

A new year is once again upon us. And while for many it simply represents the ongoing march of time, for some it marks a sort of reset – an opportunity to re-evaluate not just where we've been, but where we want to see ourselves headed. As the calendar reverts back to January (month-one), the cycle begins afresh, allowing us to try again at getting something right, or at least do it a little better.

All the while though, the world seems to keep changing. Almost a little too fast to keep up, it does sometimes feel a little unfamiliar if not strange. Sadly, this appears increasingly to be the case in our hobby today. The list of toy-train-world underpinnings that have fallen by the wayside may not bode well for the future. Not only do we continue to lose members, but we are not catching the interest of new ones. Though opinions vary, there are a variety of very real reasons for both; but it's also not

helping that toy train makers, and the outlets that sell them, continue to disappear. Please understand this is not a statement about what's wrong with the hobby - toy trains are at an unprecedented technical level, with arguably the greatest play value ever. It is however about some very real challenges that lie ahead for all of us.

As the place of real trains in our daily lives continues to evolve and change, so too does the role of organizations like toy train clubs need to adapt. After years of running a little on automatic, missteps and poor choices that once had little if any effect on the club, can now extract much more severe consequences. We must now start to rethink some of the little things that in the past we did not worry about.

Remember this is our club, yours and mine. What it is, and can be, is entirely up to us - as is what it ultimately becomes.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, and the warmest regards as always - I look forward to seeing you all soon.



2014 Holiday Party Prize Winners

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The club needs volunteers to take photos at our monthly meets that we can publish in the newsletter. Photos of smiling, happy train collectors and their trains. That sort of thing. Please help.

HELP NEEDED

Several members bring track and trains and build a running layout at every meet. We ask that members bring accessories or decorations for the layout. They could be tied to the monthly theme, or not. Please help and add to the fun.



**Smiling, Happy
Train Collectors show off
their “new” trains
at the January meet.**



Clock wise from the upper left:

Steve Eastman
Jim Kenney
Mario Liberatore
Harvey Taffel



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time again. A member renewal/application form is attached. Western Division membership dues are still \$15 a year. If you paid \$20 at the last meet, you are due a refund (we know who you are). Please note that we are forced to charge for hard-copy mailing of the newsletter. Publishing a paper newsletter is the clubs largest expense.

TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WESTERN DIVISION

A 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization

2015 Western Division Dues Notice:

January 31, 2015

Dear Train Enthusiast/Member/Collector:

Your Western Division annual membership renewal is due this month. The Annual Dues at this time, **have not increased**, however, due to the increase in costs of gifts, raffle prizes and general inflationary costs a possible increase is being considered. A ballot for this increase, will be mailed out later. We have attempted to hold our Annual Dues to a minimum over the past (8) years, but find we must now give thought to a slight \$5.00 increase.

This request is for your divisional dues only. TCA National dues renewals are not requested on a calendar year basis, and are sent separately, by the National Business Office. **Please fill out the form** below as completely as possible; cut or tear at the perforations. **Include this form with your payment**. Please note, the mailing address for this form has changed this year, and you should make your remittance payable to TCA Western Division.

The Western Division is again offering a family membership program. For an additional Five (\$5.00) **EACH**, a family member can be added for the year. You can now bring these members to as many meets as desired. Each additional family member will receive their own name badge and be allowed to participate in all meet raffles. Please indicate on the form below the number of members you wish to include in our family program for 2015.

Name: _____ TCA# _____ Ntl Expiration Date: (Mo/Yr ____/____)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Has your address, Phone or E-Mail Changed? _____ YES _____ NO

Primary Phone: () _____ - _____ Alternate # or (Cell) Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____ (Ck Below)

____ (CK) I prefer to receive **only** an electronic copy of the Mthly **Card or Division Newsletter** to save Expenses.

____ (CK) I request receiving the Post card/newsletter by mail only; an additional cost of \$5 per year (*See Below*).

Membership Type: (Ck for Membership type below)

____ **Regular Membership Only @ \$15; OR** ____ **Reg. Membership w/Family Members** (See 2 Lines Below)

____ Regular **Monthly Mailing of Card/Newsletter additional @ \$5.00** To assist in mailing costs.

Family Members Names: _____ Spouse/other; Child: _____

Child: _____ Number _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

Do you care/wish to offer a Tax Deductible Donation to the Western Division Growth Fund: \$ _____

[Please note you will receive a Personal Thank You Taxable Deduction (proof) Letter for your appreciation]

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Date: _____ Check # _____

Signature of Member: _____

Mail Your Payment and this form to: Jon M. Lang, Western Division Treasurer, 2932 Salmon Drive, Los Alamitos, CA., 90720-4655 (or bring completed form and payment to the monthly meeting).

2/01/2015R jml