



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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June & July 1999

Monthly Meet Notification

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday July 24th, 1999**. It will take place 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).

This is our annual 'fellowship event'. All members are encouraged to bring a guest to this meet, especially a friend or non-member who shares an interest in our hobby.

Senior Citizen's Center hall doors will be opened at 10:00 AM for sellors only to enter and begin setting up their tables. The hall will be open at 11:00 AM for members and guests to enter, and for trading and festivities to commence

So far this summer has been very hot and steamy. So what better theme for a display than '**Steam Power**'. Everyone has at least one steam locomotive in his or her collection. Bring one in to display that has a special story behind it or that brings back a childhood memory. Or is an engine that really makes you hot! Anyone have any live steamers?

A raffle will be held at the meet, with some terrific trains and train-related prizes to be given out. Some special items acquired at the recently held TCA National Convention in Burlingame will be included in the give-away. An auction will take place after the business meeting.



'Mr. TCA' Lou Redman & Kay Spellmire enjoy the banquet festivities at the 45th National TCA convention in Burlingame, CA.

TCA National Convention

Western Division was well represented at the 45th annual National Convention held June 21st thru 27th in Burlingame, Ca. Among those members seen on the many tours, in the trading hall or at the banquet were Gordon Wong, Chuck Stone, Kay Spell mire, David Otth, C.A.'Neal' Meyer, Artie Lazarides, Les Cochran, Nancy Cochran, Alicia Caplan, Alma Caplan, and Tony Alamia.

Harold Shapiro represented the division at the board of director's meetings and at the membership meeting. Our own



Thomas the Tank was a big hit with all the kids at Railfair 99, one of the many great tours offered as part of the National Convention.

Robert Caplan, a TCA National Past-President, and also a member of the TCA Standards committee, made a presentation to the B.O.D. Robert spoke to the motion put forth to have TCA issue a Pocket Guide for the membership. This motion was approved by the B.O.D. Another TCA National Past-President and Western Division Past-President, John G. Parker also made a presentation to the B.O.D. John conferred the plans and outlined the accomodations for the 2003 National Convention, which will be hosted by Western Division right here in Ontario, Ca. The board affirmed the selection of the site.

TCA National Election committee chairman and Western Division Past-President Robert Spellmire also made an appearance at the B.O.D. meeting. Bob conducted the 'official' drawing for ballot order positions amongst the nominees for the upcoming National officer's race.

One of the highlights of the convention was a trip to Sacramento to Railfair 99. The future and the past of railroading were on display in Old Town and at the California State Railroad Museum.



UP's #844



Harold Shapiro on SP's #4449

Among the 35 or so pieces of rail equipment presented, some of the standouts included Union Pacific's #3985 Challenger, UP's #844 Northern, Southern Pacific's #4449 Daylight, and Amtrak's high speed Talgo unit train.



Western Division members Bob Wall and Roy Bell pose in front of the 76" drivers of the UP Northern class loco displayed at Railfair 99.

Another highlight of the convention was an excursion train ride through the famous Napa Valley wine country. A gourmet meal was served in exquisitely restored vintage parlor and dining cars as the fantastic scenery consisting of wineries and grape vines passed by the huge windows.

An enjoyable banquet and peerless auction capped off the 7-day event. A gold plated Hell's Gate Bridge was just one of several unique items up for bid.

NorCal division did a superb job of hosting this year's convention. Congratulations and many thanks to Chairman Mark Boyd, Division President Bob Spivock, Karen Rodgers, Paul LeBrett, Cliff Jarrard, Bob May, Michael Andrews, Bev Thomason and all the rest of the 1999 convention committee members from TCA NorCal.

Western Division remaining 1999 scheduled train meets:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| August 28 th , 1999 | September 25 th , 1999 |
| October 23 rd , 1999 | November 27 th , 1999 |



The 'goodies' on display

foster care or abused children to participate. A group of about 35 children, consisting of kids and grandkids of Western Division members, and of kids from foster care, underprivileged and family care services organizations attended.

Western Division presented brand new train sets to attending faculty representatives and children from the following organizations: The Olive Crest Home & Services for Abused Children, The Masonic Foster Care Home in Covina, Hathaway Family Services, and the Santa Anita Family YMCA.



Carol Bradley from Hathaway Family Services accepts a Lionel Santa Fe Steam Loco set for the kids to enjoy.

Some of the sets were provided through direct donations from Lionel, K-Line and Bachman. And the club purchased some sets. The Elfun Foundation made a cash ontribution to the club. This contribution made possible the acquisition of two additional sets that were presented to the children's groups.



Sally Bartlett from the Masonic Home in Covina accepts a Lionel Coast Guard set from Bob Caplan & Harold Shapiro

May 1999 Meeting Recap

The special 'children's event' that took place at our May 22nd train meet was a huge success. Our goal was to encourage kids of all ages to become more familiar with this great hobby we all love. In addition to asking club members to bring their families to the meet, we invited organizations that care for disabled,



Each child also was a winner of a raffle prize. Board member Kurt Bondi donated some 3-D train jigsaw puzzles that were joyously carried off by lucky winners. And Board member Gary Keck, who also owns the Train Shack Hobby Shop in Burbank, donated Athern OO tank car kits that the kids loved receiving.



Mike Newton, Associate Director of the Santa Anita branch of the YMCA accepts a Lionel Santa Fe Passenger set for that organization

There was a huge cake, with train decoration, cookies, candy and punch served. All the children had the opportunity to run



The cake

trains on the club layout. Needless to say, the smiles on the faces were in abundance that day. All had a good time, and we hope to make this type of event happen again regularly in the coming years.



Lisa Harvey received a brand new K-Line set for the Kids at Olive Crest



*All the kids loved running the trains...
...and enjoyed the cake and candy too!*



The best part was winning the raffle prizes

President's Corner

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts of Western Division member Steven Waller. Steve recently made a special presentation to the kids at the Arcadia YMCA at their monthly Take 5 event held in May. He sacrificed a Friday evening to spend some time educating youths about the hobby of train collecting and operating.



*Engineer Steve Willer at the controls of his 'G' gauge railroad empire
(note the overhead catenaries and trolley operation)*

Steve brought some Pentrex videos and his portable 'G' gauge layout for the kids to enjoy that evening. He wound up spending several hours there, because the kids just didn't want to let him leave! Everyone was having just too much fun!