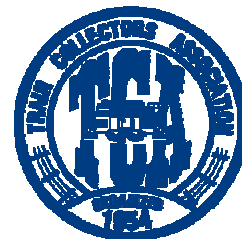




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

July, 2005

Meet Notice

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, July 23rd**, 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 Arcadia Park parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. Doors open at 10 a.m. for setup, trading and selling. Please check our newly updated Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a map!

The July display theme will be **Disneyland's 50th Anniversary/Disney trains**. Show off that prized toy train and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a separate prize drawing for all those who display items! Let's remember that there is a 2 minute time limit for sharing.

Remaining Western Division 2005 meet dates: **August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19 and December 17.**

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

The 51st TCA National Convention held in Seattle is now history. It was another great time for those attending. There were about 600 members registered with 29 from Western Division. The weather was great and the halls had lots of trains for trading. The Red Banquet car that Western Division donated to the Pacific Northwest Division went for a whopping \$325 in the special auction held at the Welcoming Party. Russ and Jane Lang and Dale Lang came over from Idaho.

Approved at the Board of Directors meeting was a new set of Standards for Train/Related items, and Paper/Boxes. New Grading for Restorations are in development and should be approved in the fall. Bob Caplan will be briefing us on the details at future meets and will be included in the newsletters.

Toy Train and Related Items It updates and replaces a system in place almost fifty years. It utilizes a numerical system in lieu of adjectives, as is being done by non-club commercial entities. It provides a more descriptive, flexible code that will serve our "Painted Tin" and modern era semi scale collectors. It is intended to be accepted as an industry standard for universal use.

Paper and Box Standards This is a companion to train grading standard. It is needed due to the importance and high values placed on these items by today's collectors. The Standards were researched and developed using existing similar grading standards for non-train related paper and books. The grading standard for boxes is new while there are revisions to paper standards.

New Grading for Restorations These are in final preparation and are needed due to the wide acceptance of restored trains and the range of quantity of workmanship and authenticity of detail evidenced in trains offered for sale at our show.



One of the unpleasant items on the agenda for the Board of Directors each year is the actions of members dealing with the ethics of sales between members such as condition, price, and shipping. The item for sale may not always be as advertised. These actions may result in members being disciplined up to and including losing their membership for a time or a lifetime.

With the understanding that membership is ageing and decreasing, that we at Western Division have also encountered, the Board of Directors has taken steps to create a position of Director of Development. This position will be charged with the responsibility of developing programs to generate membership; funds for budget short falls; Grants Programs for the Museum, Library, and Special Projects; Developing Bequests and Deferred Giving Programs; Donor recognitions programs; and support to Divisions. This position is full time, and National is looking for the right person.

The July Quarterly that is in the mail is the last issue that Bruce and Anna Manson will have prepared. They have been editor and chief for over two decades. Many thanks for a great job. The new Editor will be Mark Boyd of NORCAL Division. He has been involved with NORCAL as long as the Manson's have been involved with the Quarterly. Best of Luck to Mark on the new job.

Future Conventions will be in: San Antonio, 2006; Denver, 2007; Burlington, VT, 2008; Phoenix, 2009; Baltimore, 2010; Sacramento, 2011; and hosted by the Dixie Division, 2012.

As of the May meet, there are still some special 2005 raffle tickets left. Remember the \$100 raffle each month for those that have purchased the \$20 tickets.

While I was in Florida, I attended the Southern Division Meet near Orlando. They made me feel very welcome, had a great meet and it was very well attended.

- *Wayne Sheriff*



Some of the May Meet 'Southern Pacific' Theme Display Items

May Meet Recap

Submitted by Robert Lemberger



Kids from the Los Angeles Optimists Boys Home enjoy running trains.

The May meet was for kids and it was a rousing success. Special guest included kids from the Optimists Boys Home and The Swartzcott Cottage at Sycamores. Each organization was awarded a brand new train set and each individual kid won a prize in the drawing and went home with a train item. Special thanks go to Al Vargas who donated a toy train car to each and every kid attending. Thanks Al for your thoughtful gesture.

Richard Keppel could not set up his marvelous train layout. But we had the continuous 'O' gauge loops set up, which the kids really seemed to enjoy running the trains on. I set up a layout with an LGB train set and a couple of trolleys.



Jon Lang called the meeting to order and asked for hands of those going to the convention. There was a large showing of raised hands. Jon informed us about AB 1178, a bill before the state assembly that could have an impact on our hobby if passed. He urged all of us to get involved. For more info go to www.auctionsbythebay.com and follow the "legislative alert" prompts.

Steve Waller announced that the display theme for the meet was the SP railroad. He discussed how it was formed in 1865 as a holding company that owned the Central Pacific. It became just the SP for years until it finally merged with the UP in 1996.



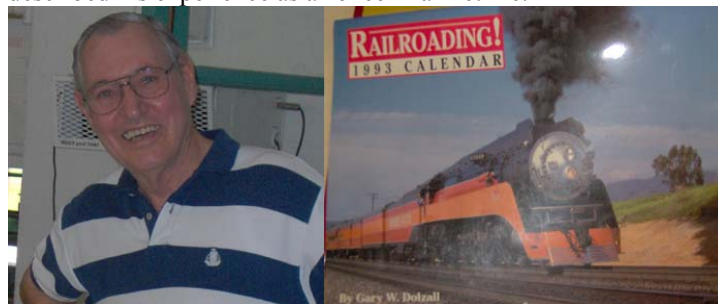
A sampling of the 'SP Display Theme' items

Mike Jenkins brought an assortment of lanterns. The most interesting piece was hooded to keep the light from being easily seen from aircraft during the WWII era.

Bob Trimble talked about the merger that never was between SP and SF. Bob brought many different items.

Bob Caplan had a Lionel transformer that was unique with an RWM designation. Apparently it was made in Mexico to be used with sets south of the border.

Ray Sugg had a calendar with the 4449 Daylight on it. The engineer who can be nicely seen is Ray. It turns out that Ray piloted the famous engine on it's way to shooting for the movie "Tough Guys" with Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas. Ray described his experience as a "once in a lifetime."



Our own 'Engineer' Ray Sugg left & right (waiving from the cab)

Ken Kemzura had, among other things, a plaque of wood dated 4-25-71. It came from a tool shack in Chatsworth.

Bob Spellmire talked about the meeting of the SP and the UP in 1868. It sounded as if he'd actually been there. Nah, he can't be that old.

Mario Liberatore had an American Flyer wide gauge Piper. Jerry Johnson had some unusual items including a timetable, general orders, and a union agreement. Harry Chortanian had a neat picture of the SP Daylight at Portland station.

Steve Waller brought in his K-Line Golden State set that ran from Texas to Chicago for the SP. Jon Lang brought in an I Love Toy Trains set which he managed to link to the SP theme. Bill Clausen had some nice Marx tinplate Southern Pacific flyer lines.

Al Vargas showed off a nice set of Black Widow engines and explained how they had been modified to run on two rail track. Mario Liberatore was the display drawing winner and selected a K-Line NYC car.

Cake and punch were served as a special treat for the kids (the big ones too!)

Winners in the raffle drawing included Bob Williams who won a K-Line Swift reefer, Mike Jenkins who picked up a K-Line B&O hopper. Winners of a Classic Toy Trains Magazine included Bill Shepard, Bill Corsello, Kay Lang, Bill Grove, Bob Cesarone, and Phil Zisakis. Don Stotts won a lottery ticket.

The BB1 special raffle monthly \$100.00 drawing was won by Dennis Taube.

Thanks to all who attended and helped out to make the kids meet a success. See you in July.



Sycamores kids took home a brand new Lionel 'Thomas the Tank' set