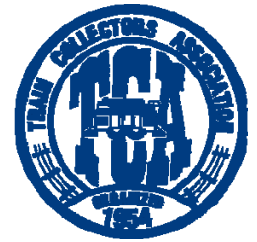




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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May - July 2008

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's July train meet will take place on Saturday, the 26th, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. 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 Western Division sign.

The doors open at 10 AM for setup, trading and selling. Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map!

The display theme for July will be, "Red, White, & Blue" in celebration of Independence Day. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. There will be a separate raffle prize drawing held for all those members who display items.

There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership. Tickets for this year's 'Lionel 1950 Hudson Special Raffle' are also still available for \$25 each. A crisp \$100 bill will once again be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2008 Raffle ticket for the Lionel 773, and is in attendance at the meet. **July is Auction month**; please bring your auction items.

Remaining Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2008 are: August 23, September 27, October 25, and December 13, 2008. There will be no meet in November.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

Western Division again this year participated in the Fullerton Railroad Days event held May 3 & 4. We brought along the interactive train layout that member Bob Lemberger built and donated to the division. This layout has been used for the past few years at several events, and has proven to be very popular, especially with kids, because they get the ability to push buttons and make the accessories function. Thank you very much Bob Lemberger for your kind donation and all the efforts you have made in the past years that have contributed to our club's success.



Western Division's Interactive Layout at the Fullerton RR Days Event

Many thanks also to those Western Division members that spent time manning the booth at the Fullerton RR Days event handing

out information and talking to the public attendees. This is always a great venue for TCA and Western Division to gain public exposure. Recently, I also had the honor to promote TCA and this fine hobby of train collecting, via invitations to speak at three separate Exchange Clubs in the Orange County area.

With the efforts of member, Bob Spellmire, we were contacted by The Make-A-Wish Foundation for a young boy wanting a train set. Western Division was able to donate a Lionel Flyer Set. Jon Lang was instrumental in getting some accessories. TCA National Museum also sent a special Make-A-Wish Foundation boxcar.

Thanks to the METCA Division's idea, we are pursuing the Meet'n'Greet program of having a table at local hobby stores' open houses. One hobby store is already signed up.

Well, if you missed it, we just had a great convention in Burlington, Vermont. The location and convention facilities were great thanks to the hosting New England Division's efforts.

The agenda for the Board of Directors was full and a lot of actions were dealt with under the leadership of President Chris Allen. The BOD has been attempting to address the issue of aging and declining membership which has impacted the financial bottom line. Some of the measures under consideration to build revenues are: increasing membership, implementing honor roll memberships, seeking endowments, and streamlining the TCA management structure. The BOD has taken the step of increasing the membership dues for the coming year. This will be explained further and the proposed measure will be included on the next election ballot.

Two actions taken by the BOD were: Expansion of Western Division's boundaries to include the state of Hawaii. We will be soliciting TCA National members living in Hawaii to become division members. Desert Division's boundaries have been expanded to include New Zealand and Australia.

Jane Boyce, our Director of Development, has been very busy developing income generating programs. This includes increasing the scope of the Museum store and putting the store on the Internet. She also arranged the first TCA Annual Appeal, and the first TCA sponsored cruise to take place in September 2008. She is working on a train excursion of the northwest via rail through Canada in 2009. Jane is extending an invitation for divisions to submit photos for a planned TCA Calendar.

The next TCA convention will be in Scottsdale, AZ hosted by Desert Division. It is expected to be well attended and it will be necessary to make your reservations by the first of January 2009.

My name is being placed on the National Ballot of Officers for the 2008/2009 year to become a member on the Investment Committee. This job is for a three year term.

April Meet Recap

By Steve Eastman, Recording Secretary

Standards Committee member Robert Caplan presented a slide show of the TCA Grading Standards pertaining to post-war era trains and accessories. The show detailed the gradings of C-10 through C-1 and showed picture examples of each grade. This very informative presentation is now available for viewing on the TCA Western Division website for those who missed it.

The display theme for this month's meet was 'Accessories'. Dave Gabay was first up and showed off a large custom built 4 light



searchlight tower in Standard gauge that was very similar to those 4 light towers made by Lionel for 'O' gauge trains. Dave also displayed a Marx R/R crossing. Steve Waller presented a nice display of Lionel pre-war era accessories, many

with the original boxes, including a #092 signal tower, a roadside diner, and two variations of the #93 water towers. Steve also showed a post-war era #137 station and Marx light tower.

Yours truly, Steve Eastman showed a Marx #567 dump car with the #1614 automatic dump shed. Mario Liberatori displayed a Lionel #3461 operating log car. Jerry Johnson presented a number of Marx lights and towers and a toy Marx tank that had been modified with the addition of Marx motorized train trucks.

Harry Chortanian showed an American Flyer water tower. Bob Lemberger showed an unusual Russian copy of the Lionel #45 gateman. Brad Davis showed a 72" 'G' gauge steel truss bridge that his company makes. Myron Moore displayed a Hafner semaphore. Harold Shapiro showed a Lionel manual #360 Twin Piggyback transportation unloading/loading trackside accessory.

John Abbe displayed a MTH crossing flasher/signal set, crossing arm and a Lionel dwarf signal. Bob Nord showed some Marx #615 track elevators. Calvin Smith displayed a boxed Lionel trestle set. Bob Trimble showed a Borax 20 Mule Team mail order set and 2 Marx #1340 pedestrian crossovers. Bob Caplan displayed a Hammer-Bell (Lionel subsidiary) mini carnival type strength tester. The display drawing winner was Bob Nord who selected a Lionel Lone Star Division boxcar.



Other raffle winners were Don Gatz - K-Line #5116 TCA boxcar, Manny Gonzales - #3001 Industrial Rail stockcar, Jean Henderson - #6515 K-Line gondola. The \$100 bill winner was Dave Mabee.

May Meet Recap

By Steve Eastman, Recording Secretary

It was announced that there will not be a Nixon Library train display this year. There is however, a possibility of the club setting up displays in the cases along the corridors at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County during the Christmas season.

Jon Lang offered advance placement of shirt orders for October delivery. Orders must be placed by September. Shirts are \$37 + \$5 for personalized embroidery. Colors are white, tan, dark blue & royal blue. A red ladies version is also available. An example of the shirt can be seen in the picture to the right in blue as worn by Bob Caplan.

There are still many raffle tickets available for the Lionel #773 Hudson at \$25 each.

The display theme for May was the Santa Fe Railroad. David



Gabay was first up again and presented a cook book from the Santa Fe El Capitan. Bob Cesarone displayed a 3/16 scale Daiwa Santa Fe A/A with Marx 3/16 scale cars. Bob mentioned that he is interested in figuring out how to put power trucks on these non-powered engines. Dave Mabee showed us a talking TMCC Lionel bay window caboose. Harry Chortanian showed a sharp looking Santa Fe conductors cap. Bill Grove brought a 2 rail Marx gray Santa Fe 2-8-2. Steve Eastman showed a New Marx Santa Fe Propsector set and a custom Marx ABA set up in freight colors.



Brad Davis showed a Lionel U-28 with TMCC. Myron Moore displayed a Hafner semaphore. Jerry Johnson displayed a K-Line AT&SF smoking caboose, a blue war bonnet F unit and a number of souvenirs from National Train Day. Arnie Tichian displayed a Lionel Santa Fe #3751 scale steam engine and tender.



Les Cochran showed a Lionel '027' gauge Santa Fe ABA plus an A unit from another passenger set. Jack Whitmeyer displayed 2 scale Santa Fe Budd RDC cars that he kitbashed by lengthening Lionel Budd units. John Abbe brought a Lionel 'O' gauge Santa Fe #616 switcher, Lionel REA car and a K-Line AT&SF container car. Al Vargas brought an MTH AT&SF NW-2 slug and cab unit.

Harold Shapiro displayed an MTH 'O' gauge Santa Fe Little Giant crane car and work caboose and explained the history of the Little Giant cranes and their incorporation into rail road right of way work. Bob Trimble showed a binder of AT&SF literature.



May monthly drawing winners were Mario Liberatore - K-Line Seaboard boxcar, Harvey Tafel - K-Line gondola, Bob Caplan - K-Line TCA tank car. The \$100 bill winner was also Mario Liberatore.