



# TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER



VOL 61, NO.4

JULY 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 JULY 25

### SHOW AND TELL THEME IS “RED, WHITE AND BLUE”

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

**BRING A TRAIN TO RUN OR ACCESSORIES TO DISPLAY ON OUR  
MONTHLY RUNNING LAYOUT.**

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Recently I was able to travel coast-to-coast aboard some of Amtrak’s finest trains. The Routes were Los Angeles-Chicago (Southwest Chief); Chicago-Washington DC (Capitol Ltd); Chicago–Portland (Empire Builder); and Portland–Los Angeles (Coast Starlight). The opportunity arose as I had the privilege of representing Western Division (WD) at the TCA National Annual Meeting, but more on that in a moment.

To start, I want to reaffirm what some of you already know all too well. When you travel any substantial distance by rail, it’s not necessarily about when as much as it is how you arrive.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Remember, often the real purpose was about taking a train to begin with - as you'll pretty much get there when you get there. The train is the journey – and a pretty amazing one at that!

We live in an incredibly diverse country, and the opportunities afforded by train travel to more fully appreciate some of that greatness are unmatched. While sometimes no longer relevant, it shows us where we've been. While at times only by the faintest of traces, too often it is in the glaring terms of abandonment and neglect that we are reminded of past glories and once thriving efforts. Whether industrial or agricultural, urban or rural, we encounter so much of what is at the heart of who we are as a nation and where we see our future.



What is it that we seek to build or pursue, that we aspire to be - and where will it ultimately take us? As simple as these questions seem, they aren't always so easy to embrace.



All of which brings us back to this year's meetings. It seems that the view from the tracks has some striking similarities to the view from the gallery. Whether we look at WD singularly, or alongside National, we both are facing challenges of past glories that can weigh us down, defining us rigidly in terms that may no longer serve us as well as they once did. In this newer, different world, we must venture into what feels unfamiliar and uncharted in reaching out to new as well as existing members.

We need to think more creatively in reaching out to new members and therefore have begun to explore how we might best utilize social media in promoting the club, as well as the hobby. In addition to encouraging the conversion of family memberships to individual ones, we might also advocate a more active pursuit of like-minded friends to join. The challenge is for all, not just those who claim leadership roles. As the saying goes: "The Future Is Now". See you all soon.

## MANNY GONZALEZ JULY 2015

### 2015 ELECTION RESULTS

President Manny Gonzalez

Vice President Bob Nord

Treasurer/Membership Secretary Jon Lang

Recording Secretary Ken Chan

Directors at Large Steve Eastman, Jim Kenney, Harold Shapiro

Honorary Board Members John Parker, Bob Caplan

All ballot measures passed



**A special THANK YOU to all past officers and members of the Board of Directors for your service to this club!**

**2015 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE  
LIONEL NO.773 SCALE HUDSON AND NO.2426W TENDER**



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

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



The Western Division would like to thank the following individuals for contributing to our Growth Saving Plan.

(Effective as of June 30, 2015)

D. Mabee	J. Parker	F. Bailey	G. Pulis
J. Jackson	S. Yamamoto	S. Eastman	M. Stein
F. Perez	L. Pearson	B. Nord	J. Bowman
J. Henderson	M. Gonzalez	M. Donovan	D. Smith
G. Owens	L. Lehman	J. Lang	K. Lang
W. Otto, Jr.	A. Huegli	R. Rowe	



## In Memory of C.A. (Neil) Meyer

We are extremely saddened to report the passing of a long standing member, C.A. (Neil) Meyer #74-6615. Neil passed away suddenly on the morning of Friday June 26, 2015. Neil was well known among many long time Western Members, but also by many National Members.

Neil was born in Chicago on October 12, 1935. Like many of us, his father purchased his first Lionel train for him and he had kept it all these years. He served in the United States Air Force for four (4) years and had the AFSC (Service Employment Code) as an air mechanic. His interest was in flying and earned his flying wings through an Air-O-Club. He moved to Glendale, California in 1962. In 1966 he was hired as a flight engineer for Western Airlines, and worked his way thru to the rank of pilot. The airline was sold, and he continued his flight career with Delta who purchased Western and retired as a Captain flying 727's. He retired after 30 years in the aviation industry. He met his wife Erika, on a blind date, in 1966. She had recently arrived from Switzerland and at that time lived and worked in Paramount, CA. They continued dating and were married in May 1968. On their first Christmas together, December 1968, Neil remembered his old train long packed up and thought it would be nice to have it under their first Christmas tree. Neil and his wife Erika had no children. He is survived by his wife of forty-seven (47) years.

Tina and I lost a very dear friend. We met Neil sometime in the 1970's after a referral from another train club member in regards to a locomotive I had for sale. The rest is history! He continued his interest in trains and in 1974 joined TCA.

We became close friends with Neil and his wonderful wife Erika. We will truly miss our friend and the numerous dinners and other gathering we enjoyed at the Meyer's home for over forty-five (45) years. I know other friends from Train Collectors Association, Western and National, the Scrabble players he played with will also miss him, along and the many others he touched with his smile and kindness.

No official service was scheduled as both he and Erika believed in the Celebration of Life is truly completed during your full lifetime.

Our condolences and prayers are with his wife Erika.

Bill and Tina Corsello #72-4854

Jon M. Lang #02-54092 (historical info.)



## 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.