



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 48, No. 1

June 2002

TCA 49th National Convention Ontario, California

The Train Collectors Association's 49th annual convention will be hosted by the Western Division. It will take place June 23rd through the 29th, 2003 at the Ontario Convention center just outside Los Angeles in sunny Southern California.



The Ontario Convention Center

Western Division has planned many exciting activities to take place during the 7-day event. These offerings include layout tours, excursion train rides, day trips to popular Southern California attractions like Disneyland and Universal Studios, as well as providing access to some of the finest shopping in the world! And don't forget that there will also be a huge 40,000 square foot trading hall filled with the greatest toy trains from all over the country! And another 30,000 square foot hall filled with modular layouts and displays.

Schedule of Events for June 23rd - 29th, 2003

Monday: June 23rd, 2003

9:15 AM first bus tour departs to visit TCA Charter member Ward Kimball's "Grizzly Flats" Railway & extensive toy and toy train collection at San Gabriel, CA. There will be a Lunch stop and a layout tour of a Pasadena, CA 'S' Gauge Collection. Return at 3:30 PM.

10:45 AM second bus tour departs - same as above. Return at 5 PM.

1:15 PM third bus tour departs - same as above. Return at 7 PM with a stop for dinner at Soup Plantation Restaurant.



Named for an 1800's opera star, the "Emma Nevada", an 1881 Baldwin 'Mogul' 2-6-0, was the pride of Ward and Betty Kimball's backyard Grizzly Flats Railroad.

Tuesday: June 24th 2003

8:00 AM bus tour departs to the Nethercutt Collection & San Sylmar. This museum features over 200 antique autos, mechanical musical instruments, musical pocket watches, and some pieces of original railroad equipment. At Sylmar, CA - lunch stop and return at 3 PM (there is a dress code at the museum). More info can be obtained by visiting <http://www.nethercuttcollection.org> on the Internet.

9:00 AM bus tour departs to Disneyland attractions: Disneyland Theme Park, Downtown Disney, and Disney's California Adventure (You will purchase your tickets when you arrive there or you can visit the new Downtown Disney attraction for free).



The Nethercutt Museum has on display a 1938 Canadian Royal Hudson Locomotive and a 1912 Pullman railcar

Wednesday: June 25th 2003

8:30 AM bus tour departs to the Orange Empire Railway Museum where you can view TCA Charter Member #2 Evan Middleton's train collection and Ward Kimball's Grizzly Flats Locomotive and Narrow Gauge Rail collection. Also on display are the famous Los Angeles Red Car streetcars and Yellow Car trolleys. Rides on the streetcars, interurban cars and trains will be available. Box lunch will be provided at the Trolley Museum. Return at 3 PM. For more information on the Orange Empire Railway Museum visit <http://www.oerm.org> on the Internet.

9:00 AM – The TCA National Board of Directors Meeting begins at the Double Tree Hotel.

6:30 PM The Welcome Party commences at the Ontario Airport Marriott Hotel (South side of Convention Center) A hotel shuttle bus will be available for transportation or you may walk the short distance across the street from the Doubletree Hotel.

Thursday: June 26th, 2003

8:00 AM another bus tour departs to the Nethercutt Collection (limited to 50 persons each day) same as above as shown for Tuesday - Lunch stop and return at 3 PM (dress code enforced).

9:00 AM Bus tour departs to the Universal Studios attractions – the Universal Studios Hollywood Theme park, and the Universal CityWalk via central Los Angeles (You may purchase your admission tickets to the theme park when you get there, the CityWalk attraction is free). For more information on the Universal Studios Hollywood theme park attractions visit <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com> on the Internet.



Red Pacific Electric cars and Baldwin steam locomotives are just a few of the pieces of equipment on display and running at the Orange Empire Railway Museum.

9:00 AM The TCA National Board of Directors Meeting resumes at the Double Tree Hotel.

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Sellers may commence loading into the Trading Pits in the Ontario Convention Center Exhibit Hall A (No Trading!).

12:00 Noon- 8:00 PM modular layouts may be installed into Exhibit Hall B.

Friday: June 27th 2003

8:00-8:45AM sellers may commence loading to the trading pits (Ontario Convention Center Exhibit Hall A).

9:00 AM the trading pits open for registered TCA members and badged family members (only): for trading, socializing, viewing prize trains on display and finding a great piece to buy and add to your collection. Hall to close at 7:00 PM.

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM modular layouts & dealer displays load-in and are readied for the 10:00 AM opening to the public.

10:00 AM Exhibit Hall B opens for manufacturer's displays and a great display of modular layouts operating in 'O' gauge, 'S' gauge, Standard gauge, 'G' gauge, HO and a special new super LEGO train layout that you've got to see. Hall will close at 7:00 PM.

Saturday June 28th, 2003

9:00 AM the trading pits (Exhibit Hall A) open for the day to all TCA registered members and their families. Hall to close at 4:00 PM (Auction to commence at 10 AM).

9:30 AM another bus tour to the Disneyland theme park, Downtown Disney & The California Adventure departs. Return at 5:00 PM. For more information on the Disneyland theme parks visit <http://www.disneyland.com> on the Internet.

2:00 PM TCA National MEMBERSHIP MEETING in the Convention Center Auction Area.

Exhibit Hall B - modular layouts and dealer display will close at 3:00 PM (displays need to be removed by 8:00 PM).

6:00 PM Pre-banquet gathering & socializing at the Double Tree Hotel's banquet room in the north side lobby area.

6:30 PM Banquet at the Double Tree Hotel and the 49th TCA National Convention celebration - begins with an excellent dinner, socializing with good friends, awarding of table prizes and a super auction of choice train items.

Other activities are being planned, including:

A 'Murder Mystery Dinner Train' ride on the Fillmore & Western Railroad (<http://www.fwry.com>). This railroad owns most of the equipment used in the making of major Hollywood studio movies. Including 'Nixon', 'Broken Arrow', 'Money Train', 'Bubble Boy', 'Joe Dirt', 'Chaplin' and 'O Brother, Where Art Thou' just to name a few.

A visit to Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park (<http://www.sixflags.com/parks/magicmountain/home.asp>). If you like roller coasters, this is the place to go. There are 15 different ones to choose from.

A trip to the Los Angeles Live Steamers (<http://www.lals.org>) where 7½" gauge model trains are operated and Walt Disney's famous train barn is located.

A trip to Griffith Park's Travel Town Museum that houses 16 retired locomotives, 11 restored freight cars and cabooses, 9 different passenger cars and 4 interurbans. For more info visit <http://www.cityofla.org/RAP/grifmet/tt/index.htm>

While in the Los Angeles area, TCA members will also have the opportunity to ride on the MetroLink rail system (<http://www.metrolinktrains.com>). This commuter rail system links downtown Los Angeles with all outlying points, including Oxnard, Lancaster, San Bernardino, and Oceanside via the world famous Union Station. There is a MetroLink station located within 1 mile of the convention hotel in East Ontario.

Western Division looks forward to seeing you and your family at the 2003 National Convention in Southern California. For more information on the 49th Annual TCA National Convention, please visit the Western Division's Internet site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tcawestern.org>.