



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

March - April 2007

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on **Saturday, March 24th**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Trading tables are 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 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 display theme for March will be '**Green Trains**'. Show off that prized toy train or train related item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a separate prize drawn for all those members who display items.

There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership, and raffle tickets for this year's 'Special Raffle' are still available. The item offered for 2007 is the 50th Anniversary Hudson Set as displayed in the Lionel 2002 catalogue. Another \$100 bill will also be raffled to anyone purchasing the 2007 Raffle tickets for the Hudson set. Coffee, donuts, and sandwiches will be available at the meet as usual.

Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2007 are: March 24, April 28, June 2, June 2, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, & December 15. There will be no May or November meets.

DUES REMINDER!!!!!! March is the last month you can participate this year with out paying your Western Division dues. The club has held the dues to \$15 for several years in hopes to keep them affordable.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

TCA National has created a brochure to promote the organization. It also contains a membership application form. This is something that has been much needed in the past. The brochure tells the story of TCA and outlines the advantages of membership. The brochure is the idea of Jane Boyce, the new Director of Development for TCA. The brochure will be a key tool for Western Division to utilize for promotion and recruitment at public gatherings such as the Fullerton Rail Road Days weekend and the Nixon Library Train display.

The 53rd TCA National Convention is scheduled to be in Denver, CO this June. As of March 10th, the primary convention hotel is full. National is suggesting that you use the Omni Interlocken Resort at \$139.00 + tax or the Double Tree Denver North at \$119.00 + tax. Both hotels are only 5 minutes away from the Convention Hotel. I have more details on each hotel if you contact me. In addition to the formal activities and meet, there are some

exciting tours planned by the host Rocky Mountain Division. Hope to see you there.

A few notes from the TCA Standards Committee: They are in the process of making improvements to the display containing standards category grading examples that was shown at a few Western Division meets over the last 2 years. National has requested that when displaying trains and boxes with a manufacturers name on it, TCA members must identify that they are genuine. Lionel is concerned about the "sale of counterfeit Lionel boxes and unauthorized use of Lionel's trademarks". If you have any questions, please contact Bob Caplan, WD's representative to the Standards Committee, or myself.



The Grading Standards Display

Headquarters is making possible a one time opportunity. At the National TCA Toy Train Museum, the store needs more room and is planning to use the two baggage carts currently on the grounds to be used for the store. There is an opportunity to have your name on the carts or parts of the carts by donating to the refurbishing of the carts. See me for more details.

National is requiring that all members sign the following statement:

I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of Train Collectors Association (TCA) and its Divisions and Chapters in effect from time to time, specifically including all rules and regulations of all TCA committees and any actions and rulings of TCA committees. I also agree that all items sold by me to any TCA member at any TCA sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufactures original condition unless I have caused any such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction.

Signature

Date

The above statement has been approved by the TCA BOD and is necessary in preventing and addressing potential problems.

Bob Lemberger and I met with the Nixon Presidential Library folks to start discussions for the next display. They were very happy with the previous layouts and displays. It has been reported that the exhibit attracted 80,000 people vs. a normal 8,300 during the same 57 day period. We will be getting back with them in the near future with some suggestions and requirements.

The next quarterly auction will be at the April 28th Meet. Check your collections to see if there are any items that you want to auction off.

Western Division will be participating in the Fullerton Rail Road Days event coming up this May 5 and 6, 2007. There were 40,000 people attending this event last year and it could exceed that count this year. This is a great opportunity to promote TCA and Western Division. Jon Lang is heading up the project. Help in manning the booth for a two or three hour period on Saturday and/or Sunday is needed. Please contact Jon if you are interested in participating.

— *Wayne*

January Meet Recap

By Robert Lemberger, WD Secretary

The January business meeting began with President Wayne Sheriff reading an excerpt from a letter from TCA National President Jim Burke. Jim congratulated Western Division on the effort to create the Richard Nixon Library Holiday Train display. Jim described his initial reaction to the display as "Wow!" One of the things that Jim detailed was regarding the looks on the faces of the children and how they were enthralled by the exhibit. All of us who worked on the display were hoping for just such a result. After all, it was for the children.

Bob Caplan announced that the Standards display that was presented last year will be remade to better reflect grade samples. There is also a new TCA directive that all reproduction parts or paperwork must have a certificate of compliance effective October of this year.

Jon Lang asked for volunteers to man the booth at Fullerton Railroad Days May 5th and 6th

Your Board of Directors has directed that WD auctions will now be held quarterly. The next one will be at the April meet.

For the monthly display, Robert Cesarone showed off his Hiawatha '027' tinsplate from 1937 or 38. Mario Liberatore brought in his Flyer water tower. Harry Chortanian had his electric 'O' gauge engine. Bob Caplan displayed a 1950's era Lionel Santa Fe A & B Unit and also his #1423 set from 1927. The box reminds him of an orange crate.

Bob Spellmire showed us two fine examples of the same item in both Standard gauge and 'O' gauge. "Back then you could be the same style in both gauges." He also displayed his favorite Railway baggage car which is a rare double stamped error. Bill Grove showed 3 different sets that came in red, blue, and chrome. The engine is a scale Atlantic with a square tender.

Jerry Johnson presented his gorgeous clockwork engine and tender with tinsplate cars. Jerry is the second owner of this fine piece, which explains the condition. Jim Kenney exhibited his Legionnaire set which has the longer passenger cars in the beige and green scheme.

John, call me Jack, Whitmeyer had his 'O' gauge electric with tinsplate passenger cars. Bob Trimble presented his collection of Hudsons. John Abbe had his steam engine and Sante Fe F-3's by Lionel. Bill Clausen showed his SP tinsplate caboose and a diecast gondola with a Marx searchlight. Less Cochran brought in his favorite Flyer train which also is his first.

Bob Caplan was a double winner. He won the display drawing and picked a Lionel Route 66 flat with autos, he also won a Reading box car in the raffle drawing. Other drawing winners included Jerry Johnson who picked a Lionel Wabash trailer car, and Ron Nelson, who picked a Lionel Penn Central well car. Jerry Johnson was also a double winner for the day, taking down the monthly \$100 drawing.

February Meet Recap

By Robert Lemberger

Wayne opened the meeting asking for help with putting the chairs away at the end of the meet. Jon Lang is taking sign ups for Fullerton Rail Road Days the 5th and 6th of May.

Jim Kenney let everyone know that you have one more month to pay your 2007 dues or be dropped from the division.

Mike Donovan introduced February's Valentine's theme of "Trains I Love". First up was Les Cochran showing off his K-Line SP E8's with dual motors. Harry Chortanian had his 'O' gauge Lionel #252. Wayne brought in his brand new 'G' scale Fess Parker Limited edition engine made by Hartland. Only 50 were made to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Walt Disney's movie "The Great Locomotive Chase". Each engine was signed by Fess Parker. Bob Caplan showed us his Flyer Observation car presentation piece plated in gold. It was given to him for excellent service as TCA National President from 1994 and 1995. Bob also had his #6464 Rio Grande boxcar which is missing its stripe. John Abbe showed us four operating cars from the 50's; a radar car, helicopter car, Minute Man car, and a gondola.

Jerry Johnson had his MTH Daylight set, a K-Line TTOS crane car, a Lionel Girl's set and a salt and pepper shaker. Bob Trimble has a serious collection of trolleys which he brought in. I mean serious.



Bob Caplan won the display drawing and chose the Lionel model shop Mint car. Bob Trimble won the Pennsylvania caboose. John Parker won the Lionel Flat with PFE trailers. Yours truly, Bob Lemberger, won the Lionel Route 66 flat with sedans. And C. A. Meyer was the lucky \$100 drawing winner.



Wayne made a few closing announcements which included mentioning that Harvey Houck, 93-37775, who moved to Delaware, still wants to remain a member of WD. And that Nick Mayer, 82-17352, is retiring from business and TCA. Clem Clement, TCA National Vice President, has had surgery recently; we all hope he is doing well. It was also announced that Al Ruocchio, 70-3293, recently passed away. Al is a past TCA National President. Our thoughts go out to his family.