



Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

March 2012

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, March 24, 2012 in 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, trading, and selling. Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

The display theme for March will be **"Your Favorite Caboose."** Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Our display themes and scheduled TCA Meets for 2012 are: April 21st (Accessories); May 19th (New York Central RR); July 28th (Convention Cars); August 25th (Streamliners); September 22nd (Trolleys); November 3rd (Orange and Black Trains); and December 15th (Holiday Trains).

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held. The Board of Directors has ordered that to participate in the monthly prize raffle, each member must wear their membership badge. This year's "Grand Raffle Prize" will be a 1950 Lionel #773 Hudson engine with matching tender. Raffle tickets are priced at \$20 each.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

Over the years many have tried to explain how and why children play as they do. Some thoughts have consisted of mere anecdotal observations in passing, while a few have tried to be a bit systematic in a more academic-type analysis. The theories range from the exploring of adult roles; to replicating in miniature a more manageable larger world; to simply taking whatever is at hand and being creative. In fact, toy companies latched onto this very concept in designing toys that fit neatly or comfortably into a child's hands. This was referred to as "hand scale", much like "box scale" was used to describe toys which were scaled to fit into "some" standard-size packaging box.

But as children eventually grow into their larger worlds, they start to leave behind many of their cherished playthings. Figures and dolls give way to adult relationships. Toy cars are traded in for full-size real ones. Building forts turns into acquiring real houses. But toy trains are different. They're different to begin with because very few people will ever possess the resources to pursue the real thing. But even if they could, the challenges have always been rather monumental (consider the difficulties museums face). The option then for most of us is to grab at what is within our reach, and hold on. These miniatures then become fixed in time and it is that much harder to outgrow them. They are the old toys we love and treasure, and just like The Velveteen Rabbit, they become real.

***Vote for Western Division's own
Wayne Sheriff for National Vice-President!***

January Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



Steve Eastman's January layout using ETS (Czech Republic) trains

The display theme for the New Year was: **"Newest Purchase"**. There were many colorful items presented. Dave Mabee showed a pre-war Lionel scale freight set. David Gabay showed a very nice tinsplate train station. Les Cochran shared his switcher and #8119 UP diesel loco with matching cars. Steve Waller presented a train themed shopping bag, a MTH flashing signal, and #1689 Lionel loco. Herb Mayer displayed a #347E set circa 1926.



Leslie Cochran

Dave Mabee

Jim Kenney displayed a papier-mâché castle. John Abbe showed some boxed Lionel freight cars. Larry Pearson presented a late Ives motor assembly with eight ball bearings and a cast iron Ives loco. Mario Liberatore showed Lionel remakes of Pre-war scale freight cars. Robert Spellmire displayed a passenger set consisting of a #254 loco, #607 passenger cars and a #608 observation car. Jerry Johnson showed some cast iron soldiers. Steve Eastman displayed a reproduction Ives Set. There was a lively auction held.



Jim Kenney

John Abbe



Jerry Johnson

Larry Pearson



Steve Eastman

Auctioneer Robert Caplan



January Raffle Winners Joe Farino, Dave Gabay, Herb Mayer and \$100 Winner Wayne Sheriff

February Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

The display theme was: “**Trains I Love**”. Dave Gabay showed his New York Central SW1200 locomotive. Dave Mabee showed his #254E Lionel locomotive. Greg Pulis showed off a passenger car that went with his live steam locomotive and a live steam locomotive that was made in New Jersey. Harvey Tafel showed a rebuilt #241E Lionel locomotive. Mario Liberatore showed his first locomotive, a Lionel #248 electric. Steve Waller displayed a Lionel #1668E locomotive. Steve Eastman displayed a Spanish made metal train station. Bob Spellmire presented a trolley.



The February layout was created by Steve Eastman and Bob Nord



Steve Waller created a Valentine display

Bob Trimble showed some trolley castings. Jim Kenney showed a New York Central electric locomotive. John Abbe displayed a Lionel F3 Santa Fe locomotive. Les Cochran showed a pair of custom painted SP locomotives. Richard Keppel presented a Lionel Brute and accompanying passenger car.



Greg Pulis

Mario Liberatore



Richard Keppel's Lionel Brute & accompanying passenger car



Door prize winners: Dave Mabee, Bob Spellmire, Jerry Johnson and guest Dave Barton

Photographs by Herbert Mayer