



TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER



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MARCH 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 MARCH 28

SHOW AND TELL THEME IS “CLOCKWORK TRAINS”

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

I once heard an ‘economist’ defined as “One who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing”. But in all fairness to them as a group, the same could probably be said about a few other professions. However, this is beside the point. While often used interchangeably, the fact is that “price” and “value” can and often do mean very different things. We constantly hear how value, much like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. If we accept this, it would make sense that the first thing we should be asking is “What is the value to me?” As we determine that for ourselves, we then need to weigh the cost – “Is it worth the price to be paid?”

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

In that spirit, a few years ago there was a series of credit card commercials that gave the price of acquiring several ordinary items and the resulting opportunity; they all go on to declare the experience as being “priceless”. They were cute and very charming - oh, if only that could always really be the case in life.

Then there is a great tale about Charlie Watts of The Rolling Stones (yes, as in the rock band). He has some beautiful and rather expensive collector cars at his home. The story goes that he was so taken by each as it was acquired, that he had a custom suit made that matched that car's characteristics. But there's a catch though – you see Charlie doesn't drive. He has absolutely no intention or desire to do so. In fact the cars never leave the garage. What he does is put on the appropriate suit and gets in that car; he then fires it up and simply sits listening to the incredible sounds of the engine run. While this is perhaps not how most of us would prefer the experience, does anybody doubt the joy he derives? Which brings us back to where we began: Is it worth the price? Is it a good value?

In truth this can be quite a tricky proposition. While often only a matter of degrees, it does vary from person to person. Some pursuits can be ‘pricey’ and complex. But for anyone who has seen a child play with the simplest of toys - with a love and devotion that belie its meager or humble origins - this idea is reasonably self-explaining. We don't always get the biggest ‘bang’ for the biggest ‘buck’, but there is an irony in how often it appears we get so much mileage from the most basic things.



It follows that we are constantly re-evaluating where we choose to expend our resources as individuals - as well we should. What once didn't merit a second thought can become a painful choice between competing interests, if not of heart-breaking priorities. This seems even more so when it involves shared experiences. There can be emotional elements that cloud our judgment when friends and family are involved. But in the end, as in so many of life's pursuits, the question comes down to: “Am I better-off with or better-off with-out?”

Since Value is where you find it – this becomes our challenge going forward. As we assess our involvement as members of the TCA in the larger sense, and Western Division in particular – what will each of our commitments be? Will we sit back passively, hoping for the ‘good ol’ days’ to somehow cycle back? Or will we participate actively in setting a course that helps take us into the future?

In the end, this may be only part of the Price we need to pay in order to create a greater Value - not just for each of us as individuals, but for everyone as a community. It is an important step as we move forward and redefine the TCA for a new era.

MANNY GONZALEZ MARCH 2015

2015 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

LIONEL NO.773 SCALE HUDSON AND NO.2426W TENDER

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



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

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!**



2015 TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION



For information on the 2015 TCA convention, visit <http://www.tcaconvention.org> or read about it in upcoming TCA National publications

PHOTOS OF THE FEBRUARY MEET



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.

ALL PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE BY ROGER HILL

SHOW & TELL THEME WAS “TRAIN THAT I LOVE”



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time again. A member renewal/application form is attached. Western Division membership dues are still \$15 a year. Please note that we are forced to charge for hard-copy mailing of the newsletter. Publishing a paper newsletter is the club's largest expense.

TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WESTERN DIVISION

A 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization

2015 Western Division Dues Notice:

January 31, 2015

Dear Train Enthusiast/Member/Collector:

Your Western Division annual membership renewal is due this month. The Annual Dues at this time, **have not increased**, however, due to the increase in costs of gifts, raffle prizes and general inflationary costs a possible increase is being considered. A ballot for this increase, will be mailed out later. We have attempted to hold our Annual Dues to a minimum over the past (8) years, but find we must now give thought to a slight \$5.00 increase.

This request is for your divisional dues only. TCA National dues renewals are not requested on a calendar year basis, and are sent separately, by the National Business Office. **Please fill out the form** below as completely as possible; cut or tear at the perforations. **Include this form with your payment**. Please note, the mailing address for this form has changed this year, and you should make your remittance payable to TCA Western Division.

The Western Division is again offering a family membership program. For an additional Five (\$5.00) **EACH**, a family member can be added for the year. You can now bring these members to as many meets as desired. Each additional family member will receive their own name badge and be allowed to participate in all meet raffles. Please indicate on the form below the number of members you wish to include in our family program for 2015.

Name: _____ TCA# _____ Ntl Expiration Date: (Mo/Yr ___/___)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Has your address, Phone or E-Mail Changed? _____ YES _____ NO

Primary Phone: () _____ - _____ Alternate # or (Cell) Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____ (Ck Below)

____ (CK) I prefer to receive **only** an electronic copy of the Mthly **Card or Division Newsletter** to save Expenses.

____ (CK) I request receiving the Post card/newsletter by mail only; an additional cost of \$5 per year (*See Below*).

Membership Type: (Ck for Membership type below)

____ **Regular Membership Only @ \$15; OR** ____ **Reg. Membership w/Family Members** (See 2 Lines Below)

____ Regular **Monthly Mailing of Card/Newsletter additional @ \$5.00** To assist in mailing costs.

Family Members Names: _____ Spouse/other; Child: _____

Child: _____ Number _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

Do you care/wish to offer a Tax Deductible Donation to the Western Division Growth Fund: \$ _____

[Please note you will receive a Personal Thank You Taxable Deduction (proof) Letter for your appreciation]

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Date: _____ Check # _____

Signature of Member: _____

Mail Your Payment and this form to: Jon M. Lang, Western Division Treasurer, 2932 Salmon Drive, Los Alamitos, CA., 90720-4655 (or bring completed form and payment to the monthly meeting).

2/01/2015R jml