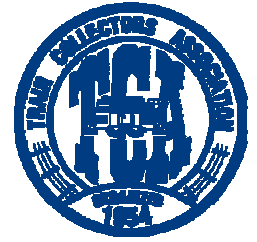




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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May - June 2006

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next regular monthly train meet will take place on **Saturday, May 20th**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Tables are free!*

There will be no June WD meeting. We encourage all WD members to attend the TCA National Convention. The July meet will be held on Saturday the 22nd

To get to the meetings, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. 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 May display theme will be **Operating Trains/Accessories**. The display theme for July will be **Convention Cars**. 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 drawing for all those members who display items.

The remaining 2006 Meet dates are: May 20, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, & Dec 16.



President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

March and April are now behind us. Both of those WD meets were very well attended. Despite other activities taking place at the Arcadia Park the same day as WD's April meet, which limited available parking, members were still able to bring a vast array of trains to the meet. Coffee, donuts and sandwiches were consumed in abundance. Thanks to all who helped with taking down the hall and resetting the tables and chairs after the meets.

The recently held WD Board of Directors meetings dealt with finalizing the details for WD's participation at the Fullerton Railroad Days event held on May 6 and 7.

The preparation was well worth the effort, with over 40,000 attending the Railroad Days event, per the Orange County Register. There was an endless stream of kids and parents visiting WD's booth, using the buttons to run the train and accessories on the layout that Bob Lemberger brought. We also had toy trains in

all gauges, brought by Dave Otth, Jim Kenney, and Jon Lang, on display. Dave Otth also provided large format pictures of famous scenes from motion pictures depicting Hollywood stars with trains. These kept the adults guessing who, what, and when.

Volunteers from WD manned the booth and handed out club information and business cards to a lot of people. 47 people filled out the drawing cards for the K-Line Freight train set. This set is valued at \$209. It will be given away at the May 20th meet. Thanks to Jon Lang, who organized WD's participation in the Railroad Days event and to Jim Kenney, Bob Lemberger, David Otth, and Mike Donovan for volunteering their time.

Based on the quantity of raffle drawing cards submitted and the volume of information given out regarding Western Division, we can expect visitor attendance to increase greatly for the May meet. WD members may want to bring some extra items for your sales and trading tables. The invitations stated that the doors open at 10:00 am.

Many thanks to Harold Shapiro and Bob Caplan for performing the auctioneer duties at the March and April WD meets respectively. The meets have been further enriched by the sharing of the theme items by the members. Most all of the items shared come with very interesting and informative stories.

According to WD Treasurer Jim Kenney, half of the raffle tickets for the Lionel GG1 (\$20/ticket) and the Lionel Balloon (\$5/ticket) have been sold. These raffles are designed to be fund raisers for Western Division and need your support.

TCA National is asking for anyone interested in running for National office to submit your name for consideration for the 2007 slate. Nominations will be accepted for the following offices: President-Elect; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; and National Investment Committee Member.

The next WD Newsletter will be issued after the 62nd National Convention, San Antonio, Texas that is held the 18-25th of June. It is not too late to make reservations to attend the National Convention. It looks like a great time for all. See you there.



March & April Meet Recaps

Submitted by Robert Lemberger, Secretary, TCA Western Division

John Abbe won the \$100.00 bill at the March meet, where very interesting items were displayed for the theme of 'green' items related to St. Patrick's Day.

Richard Keppel had his large floor train layout in full operation in the back room. As usual, it attracted everyone's interest to see what unique pieces were running on the 'O' and Standard gauge loops and v-8.

At the April meet, the display theme segment was all about 'fools' – buyer's goofs, mistakes, odd-ball items, etc. First up was Bob Caplan who brought in a #110 bell toy carnival type miniature 'ring the bell' item that was made by Lion-Eds, an educational toy made by Lionel PreSchool Toys in the 1930's. He also had a copy of the TCA Quarterly magazine from 2003 that featured the item in an article.



Mario Liberatore presented a pre-war operating stand with box that Lionel built for a locomotive that allowed the engine to be run on the stationary base – part of the 'build a loco' set. William Grove showed us an old rusty engine that he convinced himself was a Dayton Dinky even though he knew it wasn't.

Bob Spellmire showed us two American Flyer

Standard gauge Pullman cars that had a mysterious and unusual seam down the middle of each roof. Bob did not notice this anomaly until after he had purchased them and brought them home and took them apart for cleaning. It appeared that someone had welded the roofs from each car together from two half pieces of roofs. This is a big mystery item. When Bob stated that he could not figure out why anyone would do this, or where the other half of each roof was, the crowd responded that the other half from the first car was probably the remaining half of the second car and vice-versa!

Dave Gabay displayed a Santa Fe engine that he modified by installing TMCC only to realize sometime later that he had gutted a number 2 item in rarity according to the Greenberg guide. John Abbe brought in four engine shells missing the frames. Anyone who may have the frames can make a deal with John.



We goofed! - William, Bob & David

John's guest Robert Tiller told a story about building a layout in a specific space that would accommodate a V-8 that required a 90 degree crossover – he showed a 45 degree crossover that he was trying to make fit before he realized the mistake. Harry Chortanian displayed a cute little tin locomotive made in China.

Harold Shapiro brought in a Lionel 'O' gauge #2430 Pullman from the late 40's that he bought believing it was a factory error with numbers stamped only on one side - it actually turned out to be a bad repaint. It can happen to the best of us. Bob Trimble showed three boxes he bought that were the wrong boxes. He also had some GG-1's good for parts and he told us about bidding on a \$.99 item on EBay that cost \$4.00 shipping and a \$1.29 bid that cost him \$3.00 shipping. It seems like the Post Office is doing well with postage for EBay sales. Bob also had two Kusan catalogs that he got for a bargain only to discover after receiving them that they are printed in Spanish. Anybody got a deal for Bob on Spanish language tapes?



Robert Tiller was a raffle prize winner choosing a Lionel poultry car, Jim Kenney also won, and selected a Lionel flat car with Wabash trailer, another winner, Mike Spears picked the Lionel Delaware & Hudson boxcar and Vince Garguilo won the Penn Central well car. Yours truly, Bob Lemberger, won the \$100.00 bill.

Jon Lang let us all know that the K-Line take over by Lionel is approved and that all the paper work has been completed. J Keeley added that it will take about 60 days to sort things out before Lionel resumes shipping K-Line products. There are also a lot of goods in China at the manufacturer. Lionel intends to honor all orders of K-Line products.



I attended the Kids Club meeting at the Spring York meet on behalf of Western Division. At that meeting it was mentioned that one of the divisions had discovered that kids who came to the club meetings quickly became bored. They concluded that the kids were not being allowed to play with trains despite being surrounded by them. A method was explored to combat the kids' boredom: a collection of 'O' gauge track that the kids could assemble and then run a donated train on was put together. That approach seems to be working fine and more parents are bringing kids to the meets now. WD President Wayne Sheriff has now asked for donations of 'O' gauge track, an old train set, a transformer or whatever anyone wants to bring to the meets which will go in a toy box for the kids to play with during our meetings. It is anticipated that the box of train stuff will be available for the May meet.

In Memoriam

Long time Western Division member Peter Searls passed away on Saturday April 22nd. A memorial service for Peter has been scheduled for Saturday, May 27th at 11:30 AM at the Inglewood Cemetery/Mortuary, 3801 W. Manchester Ave., Inglewood, CA 90305. For more information, contact Patti Whitcher at 626-472-5121. Our sincerest condolences to Peter's family.