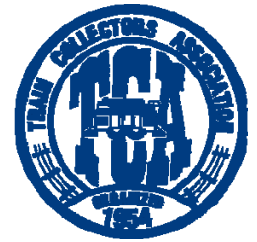




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 53, No. 6

<http://www.tcawestern.org>

November - December 2007

Upcoming Meet Notice

Western Division's **Holiday** train meet will take place on **Saturday, December 15**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Once again in the usual holiday tradition, a 'pot luck' style meal is in the offering. The club will provide submarine sandwiches and beverages. Western Division members are asked to prepare and or bring either a side/salad dish or a dessert dish to share.

Members whose last names begin with the letters **A thru L** are requested to provide a **dessert** dish and members whose last names begin with the letters **M thru Z** are requested to bring a **side dish or salad**. Please prepare dishes sufficient in size to accommodate a large group and please also bring serving utensils. The club will be providing plates, napkins, and plastic ware.

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 11 AM for setup, trading and selling. (One hour later than usual). Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map! The display theme for the December meet will be "**Holiday trains**".

New TCA National President, Chris Allen, will be present at the December Holiday meet. This is the time and opportunity to interact and ask Chris questions about National and his plans for the upcoming year.

Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2008 will be January 26, February 23, March 22, April 19, May 31, July 26, August 23, Sept 27, Oct 25, and December 13. June and November are dark.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

The results of the recent WD election of officers and Board of Directors for 2008 is as follows: President - Wayne Sheriff, Vice-President - Manny Gonzalez, Treasurer - Jim Kenney, Secretary - Steve Eastman, Board of Directors - John Parker, Robert Caplan, Harold Shapiro, Bill Corsello, Michael Donovan, Steve Waller, Herbert Mayer, Jon Lang, and Bob Lemberger. I would like to thank the outgoing officers and board members Ray Sugg, Howard Bishop, David Otth, and William Clausen for the great work performed in 2007.

I would also like to acknowledge Richard Keppel and his crew for the tremendous effort they exert in putting up the operating layout at each meet. And I would like to acknowledge Harold Shapiro, who in addition to serving as a board member is also the club's web master, and editor of the newsletter. The new officers and Board of Directors will meet in early January to map out the 2008 plans and activities.



The WD designed and built 'A **Holiday Festival of Trains**' exhibit opened at the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library on November 16th. The huge display will run through January 6, 2008. The team headed by Bob Lemberger worked for many hours since October 10th on building the display and operating layouts.

Manufacturers and supporters such as Milepost 38 Hobby Store in Anaheim Hills provided much of the supplies. The membership of WD was again very generous with loaning trains for the 'wall of trains' portion of the exhibit. Thanks to all those who provided effort, trains, blood, sweat, tears, etc. The hard work has really paid off, and the outcome is a first class exhibit that only the TCA could have created. Please get by the Library to see the trains. One of the benefits of the division's providing the display this year is that the Nixon Library Foundation is making a contribution to TCA WD for Education and Membership.



John Bowman & Bob Lemberger in front of one section of the huge operating layout they helped create at the Nixon Presidential Library

January 12th and 13th, 2008, WD will participate in the "World's Greatest Hobby on Tour" show being held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This will be another opportunity to promote TCA and inform the community.

September & October Meet Recaps

Bob Lemberger, WD Recording Secretary

The September business meeting was called to order with an announcement by President Wayne Sheriff that Western Division had received a 'go' from the Nixon Library after months of haggling over many issues. Wayne asked for volunteers to help with the project. Wayne also mentioned that there is some interest in starting a TCA chapter in Hawaii.

Jon Lang reported that he still had WD logo emblazoned shirts available and was taking orders. Also, Jon informed the group that Williams Trains was acquired by Bachmann.

Bob Caplan filled us in on the status of the lawsuit brought against TCA by Paul Ambrose. The official and only response to the lawsuit is "We do not comment on matters that are in litigation". He also reminded us that certificates of compliance have to be on file as of October for anyone selling reproduction Lionel parts.

Mike Donovan introduced the September display theme as 'kits and scratch built items'. First up was Bob Caplan who brought in an original Ward Kimball prototype, pictures of the Erector set engine, Merry-go-round set, parachute jump set and a Model-T set. He also had with him an original Lionel stock certificate from 1937. Steve Waller had his home made power station grid with transformers that he found on EBay. He also showed us a 'G' gauge 'Grizzly Flats' Station kit by Piko and a Lehman 'Toytrain' water tower.



Steve Eastman displayed some beautifully painted KC Southern Marx cars that were scratch built from old cars. He also had his Marx Canadian Pacific rebuilt for Hiawatha with cars from Cleveland Model wooden kits. Jon Lang brought in his un-catalogued little Lionel 'O' scale "Best of Charleston" old time engine. John Abee showed a scratch built NW tender, a crane that had been attached to a flat car and a tank car with bottle cap ends.

Harold Shapiro showed his K-Line 'O' gauge undecorated tank car that was a gift, hand decaled by his employees that featured an uncanny likeness to Mr. Shapiro. Dave Gabay believes his scratch built light tower may have been done by Ira Keeler. Les Cochran showed us his crane car that was home built. Bill Shepard displayed his Lionel Milwaukee Road gondola.



Les Cochran won the display drawing and chose a K-Line TCA 2000 convention reefer. Monthly meet raffle prize winners included Bob Caplan, John Abee, Howard Bishop and Bill Shepard. John Parker won the \$100 monthly bill drawing.



Wayne opened the October business meeting reading results of the WD election as stated above in the President's article. The results of the TCA National elections were also announced. Sadly, Sarah Reed Lavinus, who was re-elected as national Secretary, passed away. Based on this, the National Board of Directors will vote on a replacement. Sarah was a valuable contributor and outstanding member of TCA and will be sorely missed.

Jon Lang announced that the litigation between Lionel and MTH had come to an end with an undisclosed settlement.

Long time WD member Shoji Yamamoto sold everything on his table and put items in the auction and donated all the proceeds to Western Division. Thank you Shoji! Fred Farias, a new WD member, was introduced. Welcome Fred.

Mike Donovan announced the display theme was 'Halloween'.



Dave Gabay was first up with a Lionel Halloween box car that "talks". Mario Liboratore showed a nice orange Lionel 8E. Calvin Smith brought in a Marx steam shovel purchased by his wife at a recent York meet. Harry Chortanian's engineer hat featured a button with a skeleton on it from the 1997 Cal-Stewart meet. Bill Grove brought in an Ives cast iron engine from 1930, 2 Standard, 2 'O' Gauge and 3 small Lionel box cars. John

Abee displayed a cute little spook house he bought for \$1.00 from a Goodwill store, a Lionel post war parts catalogue, orange girder cars and a semi-truck decorated in orange Madison Hardware. Steve Eastman showed us his New Marx Chippewa and Pumpkin Express and a home made caboose. He also informed us that the new Marx Company has ceased production.



Calvin Smith won the display drawing choosing a Lionel TCA Museum 'Mortgage burning' car. Bruce Lazarus won a Lionel Christmas box car. Jon Lang won a K-Line Lone Star Division Convention car. Michelle Abee won a Lionel New Hope Ivy Lane car, and Alex Tan won the \$100 bill.

