



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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President's Message

Well fellow train collectors, I don't know how to express such a fantastic gesture of goodwill on the part of one of our members during our October meet; for those of you who missed it, you sure did lose out on a good opportunity to add to your collection and I know that some of our members who were not there would appreciate the opportunity to bid on items they were looking for.

Mr. Shoji Yamamoto, a long time member of Western Division, came to our meet and offered his collection to be sold at auction with all of the proceeds going to our Western Division. What a neat collection it was and needless to say, sold out completely to the members in attendance. There were many valuable items available, such as original paper, catalogs, accessories, ZW and VW transformers of the later versions plus too many other good items to mention. Thanks again Mr. Shoji Yamamoto from all of the Officers, Directors and Members of Western Division.

November Meet and Display

Your next meet is Saturday, November 23rd at the Senior Citizens Center in the Arcadia Community Park, 405 S Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, Ca. Tables for the sellers are free and set up is from 10:00 AM.

For our display, let's bring your streamline passenger train or a streetcar for the display.

We will also vote on our Holiday lunch - Pizza, Pot Luck, Subway sandwiches or just cake and punch.

Notice to our Convention Volunteers.

Please make it a point to attend our November meet for a short meeting on planning and assignments for our upcoming convention.

TCA-Western Division October Meet

The TCA Western Division's regular monthly train meet began at 10 am on Saturday, October 26, 2002 in the Arcadia, CA Senior Citizen's Center. There were many highlights, including a great layout, Lionel trains for sale that came straight out of the attic and an auction with some truly incredible no-reserve bargains, with the proceeds donated to the club.

Richard Kepple Jr. and his son Christopher did a magnificent job setting up their fabulous layout.

Richard has added digital controls, so that the layout will have the maximum number of trains running at our June, 2003 National Convention to be held in Ontario, CA. He is using both the MTH Digital Command System (DCS) and Lionel's Train Master Command Control (TMCC). Richard has custom designed and built a carrying case to hold the transformers and other electronic gear.

The layout boasted a Standard gauge figure-8 track in the center, two "O"-27 loops in the middle and a Std. gauge loop on the outside. Using the digital controls, two trains were able to run on each of the outer loops, for a total of six trains moving at one time. Spotted racing by were:

- MTH Std. gauge 9E in orange
- An original American Flyer Pocahontas Std. gauge set
- MTH Ives-style 3245
- MTH silver Burlington Zephyr and an armor yellow Union Pacific M-10,000
- MTH Milwaukee Bipolar and matching Hiawatha cars with a Skytop observation

Several of the locomotives belched smoke like you wouldn't believe!

There was quite a stir as a non-member arrived with some wooden boxes filled with Lionel trains for sale. This included his original 671 steam turbine set, plus prewar and postwar trains that he had collected as a teenager, with money earned from mowing lawns. He had heard about our meet from the website www.tcawestern.org, set up by Harold Shapiro. No sooner had he announced a selling price, than the fast-moving Bill Rolak purchased the whole lot. This is why you shouldn't be late to a Western Division meet!

There were plenty of great trains for sale on the tables as well. Al Vargas had a No. 45 US Marine locomotive and a pair of 2033 ALCo diesels. Mike Jenkins had a Canadian Pacific SD-24 diesel with matching cars, plus a big pile of like-new Lionel T-rail track from the 1940s. John Abbe had a B&O RDC and a Great Northern EP-5 "Little Joe". Jim Nelson was selling a boxed LGB set and some beautiful HO brass (a Big Boy and Cab-Fwd). John Parker had a nice pair of 2353 Santa Fe F3s, a 1615 steam switcher and a Std. gauge 384 2-4-0 steam locomotive. (John purchased a large Fandor depot from another table that seemed to make his day.) Ray Sugg was selling a nice set of aluminum Speedliner cars and "O"-72 switches. Many more desirable trains were spotted, too numerous to mention.

In the kitchen was Jane Lange, who served a morning pick-me-up of coffee and doughnuts. Jane's lunch special featured hot dogs and her famous chili, with cold soft drinks in the fridge. Cheryl Shapiro and Kay Spellmire were on hand to supply Jane with moral support.

TCA Western Division President Russ Lange called the business meeting to order at 12 Noon sharp.

TCA National Convention co-chairmen John Parker and Wayne Sheriff reported on the recent TCA train meet held in York, PA. An attendance record was set with over 15,000 members registered to buy and sell trains. Along with Bob Caplan, John and Wayne manned a booth promoting the National Convention that Western Division is hosting in Ontario, CA from June 22 thru 29, 2003.

The Convention Cars are selling very well. Past President Harold Shapiro recommended that Division members get their orders in now, because the items are strictly limited edition. The Western Pacific 6464-style boxcar is especially hot and will go quickly. Contact Bob Caplan at (213) 382-5266 or email rmestrains@aol.com.

Steve Waller reported that an article he has written on our late member Ward Kimball and the ceramic Grizzly Flats Depot model will appear in the January TCA Quarterly. All proceeds from the sale of the model support the Western Division and the 2003 Convention. Due to popular demand, Jim Spellmire has graciously consented to make another run of the die-cast Ward Kimball figures, which will be included with the next batch of depots produced. We expect these to sell out after the Quarterly article appears. Please get your orders in now. Contact John Parker at (714) 637-0952 or email JGPtrain@aol.com.

The theme of the display table was "something orange", since this was the October meet and Halloween was only a few days away. The clear winner was Mario Libertore who brought an orange 4U Bild-a-LoCo with four passenger cars that he purchased recently, plus his first train, an orange 248 with three cars, given to him at age seven. Mario told us how he used to visit the Lionel Showroom on 26th Street in New York as a child and got friendly with the workers there. He didn't tour the Irvington, NJ factory until 1945, at the end of World War II. For bringing the most popular display pieces, Mario was given a Lionel 6-16958 orange flatcar with Ertl New Holland Loader in the box.

Other notable orange railroad items on display included:

- Ray Nelson's orange 4564 Am. Flyer Std Gauge boxcab electric
- Dick Wheeler's orange Ives 3255 from the mid-1920s with three passenger cars
- Bob Trimble's Lionel ZW box (late version) in orange and black
- Bob Caplan's Lionel No. 50 gang car in orange with rare gray bumpers
- Steve Waller's Lionel No. 76 prewar Whistle Shack with an orange roof

The display was framed by the haunted tunnel from a Black Cave Flyer set made by Lionel in 1982.

Elections Chairman Bob Spellmire opened the floor for nominations for our 2003 club officers. After a spirited session, a full slate of nominees was selected. For more details, see your election ballot and be sure to VOTE!

A new idea for a Kid's Club activity at the 2003 Convention is a "Cabooses Toss". (Sounds like fun.) Please donate your old, unwanted cabooses, running or not, to Wayne Sheriff, National Convention co-chairman. Call Wayne at (714) 970-2779 or email cnsyss@mindspring.com.

Tina Corsello drew the door prize tickets. The big winners were:

- Wayne Sheriff: 6-17127 D&H Std "O" 3-Bay Hopper (sorry Wayne, no cabooses)
- Les Cochran: 6-17306 PFE Express Reefer

The auction at the October meet was very special. TCA Western Division member Shoji Yamamoto donated at least a dozen boxes of trains to the club. They would be sold with no reserve, and all proceeds benefiting Western Division. Among the items bought were ZW, VW, and KW transformers, a No. 760 box of Lionel "O"-72 track, a pocket edition 1929 Lionel catalog, uncut billboards, an original Boucher catalog, Lego trains, a TCA Museum car, No. 45 Gateman, a McCoy circus flatcar, Plasticville items, etc. Our thanks go to Mr. Yamamoto for his generous donation.

There were several other sellers' on-hand at the auction, so all in all, it was a lively end to an eventful meet. The final gavel came down at around 2:30 pm.

--submitted by Steve Waller, recording secretary

Holiday Banquet to present Disney RR Story

Our Holiday Banquet on Saturday, December 14th promises to be something quite exciting. We will have a special guest speaker, Michael Broggie, author of "Walt Disney's Railroad Story". He will be showing slides and video covering Disney's lifelong interest in railroading, the backyard live-steam railroad Walt built in 1950, and how that influenced his decision to create Disneyland. Special mention will be made of our late, beloved member Ward Kimball, who shared the train hobby with his boss, Walt Disney.

Mr. Broggie's father Roger, Walt Disney's first Imagineer, helped build the railroad and its equipment. As a youth, Michael Broggie spent many happy hours on the backyard railroad, helping his father and "Uncle" Walt. As the years passed, Michael Broggie went to work for Disneyland and later the Walt Disney Studio. Michael will be selling copies of his new book "Walt Disney's Happy Place", which tells the story of Disney's backyard railroad for both children and adults.

Mr. Broggie will speak at 11:00 AM.

Election ballot enclosed, please vote and return. As directed. Thank You. Russ Lange, President.