



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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"Pre-Holiday Collector's Edition"

Nov/Dec 2003

President's Message

By Russ Lange, TCA Western Division



This is a combined newsletter for our next meet on Saturday, Nov. 22nd and the Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 13th. Plus, an election ballot for club officers is included in this mailing. *Please vote!*

This marks my last newsletter to you as your President, as I am not running for re-election in 2004. I would like to take this opportunity to say that it was a good run and I sure enjoyed serving as your President over the past three years.

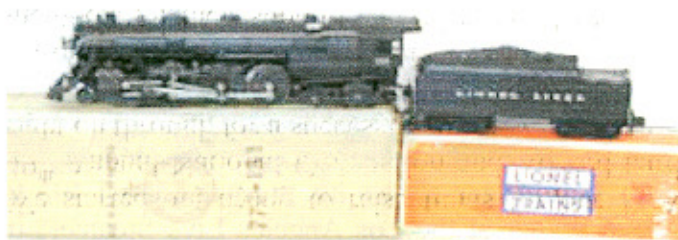
We started out trying to raise funds for our TCA 49th Annual National Convention and worked hard right on through for a successful event.

I would like to thank all of our Western Division members for their support and wish you the best in your train collecting days ahead.

Many, many thanks! *-- Russ Lange*

October Meet Report

By Steve Waller, TCA Western Div. Recording Secretary



One of the highlights of last month's meet was the drawing for the highly desirable 1950 version of the **LIONEL** 4-6-4 Hudson No. 773 steam-type locomotive in original boxes.



The last of our 100 raffle tickets, which we began offering in June at the Nat'l Convention, were sold out just a few minutes prior to the drawing!

And the winner is... James R. Baxter, TCA # 78-13227 from Cleveland, Ohio! Thanks to **Ray Sugg** and **Dale Lange** for all their effort to make this fund-raiser a big success. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit Western Division.

As she has done many times before, our own **Michelle Abbe** drew the winning tickets for the raffle and door prizes. Michelle was celebrating her 11th birthday on October 25th, the day of our gathering last month. We honored her with a bouquet of balloons and rousing rendition of "*Happy Birthday!*"

Michelle will be wearing a back brace (with many autographs from her friends!) for a little while longer. She recently had surgery to fix a problem with her spine, and expects to have one more operation in early 2004. We know that her parents, **John & Wha Abbe**, and her big sister **Mary**, will help make sure that Michelle has a speedy recovery.

Best wishes, Michelle, from all your friends at TCA Western Division!

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Chris Keppel sets up the Mike's Train House Digital Command System demonstration layout. Chris' dad, **Richard Keppel**, exhibited this pike at the Convention in Ontario, and was promptly signed up by MTH. DCS is an easy-to-use wireless remote control for all your "O" gauge trains. *See Richard for more information and a test drive.*

October Meet Report (continued from p. 1)

The display theme for October was something in the Halloween colors of orange & black. The prize for best display went to **Harold Shapiro**, who brought a **LIONEL** 2350 New Haven EP-5 locomotive and a full consist of orange & black post-war boxcars, followed by a 6517-60 TCA bay window caboose. **Harry Chortanian**, **John Parker**, **Robert Trimble**, and **Steve Waller** also participated.




It's with great sadness that we announce that TCA Western Division member **David Aikens** died unexpectedly of heart failure in September. He was 40 years old. David lived in Redondo Beach, was a licensed attorney and avidly collected pre-war American Flyer and Marx trains. Our condolences go out to David's family and friends. We'll miss him.

Upcoming Meetings

Our next train meet is scheduled for **Saturday, November 22** in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 South Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Doors open at 10 am; membership meeting begins at Noon. *Tables are free.* Exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave, drive south about half a mile and turn right into the parking lot. Check our web site, www.tcawestern.org, for more info and a map!

The display theme for November will be "that special train that puts you in a holiday mood." **There will be an Auction, featuring a portion of the American Flyer collection that belonged to our late member John Thousand.**

Our Holiday Party will take place **Saturday, December 13th**. Doors open at 10 am. Lunch will be served starting at Noon. We will have some special surprises! Please bring photos & video to share from the Convention and some favorite holiday decorations. 

Convention Corner

More memories from the Train Collector's Association 49th National Convention...



Bob Lemberger shows his pre-war Lionel 402 to Steve Waller at the Los Angeles Live Steamers in Griffith Park. In the foreground, is a 7½-inch gauge custom-built version of the 402 that was displayed at our exhibit hall in Ontario, CA. TCA ran a bus tour to the Live Steamers on June 29, 2003, the last day of our week long Convention.