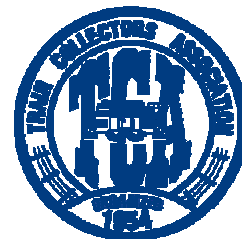




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 51, No. 10

<http://www.tcawestern.org>

November- December 2005

Meet Notice

Our next train meet will take place on **Saturday, November 19th**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Tables are free!*

To get to the meeting, 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 November display theme will be everything related to **Thanksgiving Trains**. 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 who display items!

December 17th is the Western Division Holiday Party. This is the last train meet of 2005 and it will be a special event for all Western Division members and their families. The meet will start one hour later than usual at 11:00 AM. There will be special raffle drawings held. And just as last year, another family 'pot luck' holiday meal is planned. The club will provide submarine style sandwiches, and beverages. Each Western Division member is asked to provide either a side dish or a dessert dish. Members whose last name begins with the letters A thru L are asked to bring a side dish of some type of a salad. Members whose last name begins with the letters M thru Z are requested to provide a dessert. Please prepare dishes sufficient in size to accommodate a large group. Please also bring utensils to serve your dish with.

The December meet will also be the day of the final raffle for the Lionel BB1 Electric Engines and Heavyweight Passenger car set.

The 2006 WD Meet date schedule has been finalized. The dates are: Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 20, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, & Dec 16.

[Following the November Meet, there will be a short Board of Directors meeting.](#)

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

NATIONAL ELECTIONS RESULTS

Results of the TCA National election voting for 2005-2006 are in. TCA's President-Elect is James Burke, our current Vice-President and former President of Fort Pitt Division; Vice President is Chris Allen, former President of Desert Division; Secretary is Sarah Reed Lavinus, incumbent, of Eastern Division; and Treasurer is William Miles, Jr., incumbent, of Atlantic Division. President-Elect Jim Burke will automatically become the next President for 2006-2007. The President-Elect for 2004-2005 becomes the 2005-2006 President, Bob Keller. Congratulations to all the victorious members who ran for National Office.

The National Board of Directors held a conference call recently to discuss the proposed TCA National budget for 2005-2006. The

fixed expenses and the declining membership, among other things, have resulted in a financial deficit for TCA in 2004-2005. This will continue into 2006 and is projected for future years. In addition to the above mentioned reasons, another cause is the declining sales of convention cars, which was one of the major income items in the past. The increased cost of operations of the National Museum in Strasburg, PA has also been contributing to the deficit.

To help alleviate the declining income problem, the TCA Board of Directors has decided to hire a Director of Development. This director will be tasked with developing ways to increase revenue, increase membership and provide support to the divisions. It will take time to find the right person. If there is anyone interested in this full time position, please contact me or the TCA National business office. The Board considered reducing expenses by not publishing the TCA Directory and by eliminating the Interchange Point in the National Headquarters News. The Interchange is going to be put on the internet.

In a measure to help off-set the deficit, a motion was put before the membership to increase the TCA National dues by \$5.00 per year, to \$30. Out of the 32,000 plus current members, only about 2,000 returned the ballots, with 1,200 voting 'no'. This increase would have gone a long way to take care of the deficit. Because of the initial lack of a detailed explanation for the proposed dues increase, there will be another attempt made by the BOD to gain its acceptance. Please keep in mind that the deficit for 2004-2005 will be about **\$112,000** and the projected deficit for 2005-2006 will be **\$105,000**.

TCA has a great Museum and a great paid and volunteer staff that supports the membership and the public. Because of the loss of time for the proposed increase of dues, the Board had to propose another increase and make it \$7.00 per year. I will be happy to spend time at the next meet to talk about these issues.

On a lighter note, the October York meet registered about a third of the total TCA membership, with a total of over 14,000 in attendance including spouses, children etc.

The upcoming November Western Division meet will be the time when nominations for 2006 division officers and board members will be made. This division has been blessed with some very dedicated officers and members serving. I hope that they will continue their service into the future. If anyone is interested in supporting this division, and the hobby, by spending a little time, please consider being part of a great team.

Our own Bob Caplan will bring the TCA Standards Display to the Cal-Stewart meet for those that have not had the opportunity to see the grading standards with related cars. It will be on the TCA table.

Saturday December 17th is the annual Western Division Holiday Party. This event has always been a great family gathering for our division, and an informal celebration of both the holidays and another highly successful year for TCA Western! I look forward to seeing all of you there. Even if you have not attended any other meet this year, the holiday meet will be the one to come out for.

- *Wayne Sheriff*

October Meet Recap

Submitted by Robert Lemberger



There was an abundance of sellers with a wide variety of items including every gauge made. If you're looking for a special item, particularly for the holidays as a gift for someone, then you're missing out on many bargains and opportunities if you are not attending Western Division's monthly meetings.

President Wayne Sheriff called the business meeting to order reminding everyone that the WD newsletter is available on the website. He also requested volunteers to help with resetting the tables in the hall after the conclusion of the meet. It only takes a few minutes to complete if there are a sufficient number of members present to assist.

There were two guests in attendance: Larry Kostka and Frank Kamian. A new Western Division member, Dave Mabee, was also introduced (more about Dave later). Wayne informed everyone that John Parker is doing fine after his surgery. John will be at the November Cal-Stewart Meet. It was also reported that Russ and Jane Lange had a great 50th wedding anniversary – best to them and many more.

Jim Kenney reminded everyone that he needs 26 people to sign up for the private rail car trip that he has arranged to go to San Antonio next June for the 2006 TCA National Convention. The cost will be about \$1,500 per person which includes all meals each way.

Casey Jones announced that Weaver Toy Trains is coming out with special commemorative troop cars modeled from the WWII era.

Election Supervisor Bob Spellmire reminded everyone that the elections for 2006 Western Division officers and directors would be taking place in the next month. Nominations will be accepted at the November meet. Be sure to return your completed election ballots that you will receive in early December, either before the December meet by mail, or bring them to the meet itself.

Bob Caplan, our resident grading committee man, let all know that the display he has been bringing each month will be modified to have ten of the exact same cars, showing each condition/grade.

Bill Clausen voiced an objection to the new TCA grading standards, comparing them to the PCGS system for grading coins. He is concerned that the fun of the hobby will be lost. Bob Caplan addressed the issue by stating that the new system for grading trains is an attempt to establish consistent standards across the board for all clubs.

Yours truly let all know that Steve Waller will not be in attendance at any WD meets through the first of next year. Steve is working at the Original Whistle Stop Train Shop in Pasadena for the holidays.

Jon Lang volunteered to take over as the display theme coordinator in Steve's absence.

The display theme of the October meet was 'Halloween and its colors'. First up was Harvey Tafel who brought a fantastic display of 14 variations of Lionel 'O' gauge Shell tank cars all made between 1939 and 1940. Harvey's favorite color is orange.

Mario Liberatore showed off a gift that he received from his dad in 1927, a Lionel 'O' gauge #248, his first train. Calvin Smith brought in a #167x whistle controller he had just found at York. Bob Trimble displayed two trolleys and a neat work car. He also gave an informative talk about Pittman, the manufacturer.



John Abbe presented his Jersey Central Lionel Trainmaster with a consist of orange cars. Bill Clausen described his 'O' gauge Ives engine and cars that he restored from junk. Nice Job! He also brought in two Ives cattle cars. Al Vargas borrowed a searchlight car to show. Harvey Tafel won the display drawing and selected a Lionel 'Route 66' flat car with autos.



Dave Mabee, a brand new member bought a raffle ticket his first day and was the \$100 winner! It just goes to show that everyone should attend the monthly meets, and purchase raffle tickets! By the way, only 10 tickets are left for the BB1 drawing in December.

Drawing winners included Frank Soranno - a Lionel NYC flat car, Bob Trimble - a Lionel 'Route 66' flat car with 'Woodies' and John Cady - a Lionel 'Route 66' flat with autos.



Wayne adjourned the meeting reminding us that "it's all about trains" and then the auction began. For those of you not staying for the monthly meet auction, you're missing out on some nice bargains. Please give it a try in November.