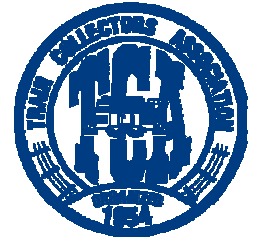




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

November – December 2006

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's special holiday train meet will take place on **Saturday, December 16th**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Trading tables are free!*

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.

Note: for the December meet only, the **doors open at 11 a.m.** for setup, trading and selling (one hour later than usual). Please check our newly updated Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a map!

The display theme for December will be **'Holiday 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 drawn for all those members who display items.

There will be other special raffle drawings held as well; including for the 'O' gauge Lionel GG-1, the one-of-a-kind Lionel Balloon, the monthly \$100 bill, and assorted Lionel/K-Line/MTH products.

Just as last year, a 'pot luck' style holiday 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** should bring a **side dish or salad**. Members whose last names begin with the letters **M thru Z** are requested to provide a **dessert** dish. Please prepare dishes sufficient in size to accommodate a large group and please also bring utensils to serve your dish with. The club will provide plates, napkins, and beverages.

Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2007 will be January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, June 2, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, and December 15. The May meet will be held June 2 and there will be no November meet due to Cal-Stewart.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

The Holiday Festival of Trains opened on November 18th at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library. Through the first weekend, there were about 3,000 people visiting this huge display of toy trains put together by TCA Western Division. On opening night, the library announced that they were extending the exhibit through January 11, 2007.

The library people wanted to fill a 4,000 sq ft room full of trains, and that is what they got. Bob Lemberger, Project Manager, designed the huge layout, and after approvals by the Library Foundation, started the job of building it. Thanks to John Bentley 65-1251, a place to pre-assemble the layout was made available. Arrangements were made with the Disney family, through Michael Broggie of the Carolwood RR Society, to have



Walt Disney's backyard train, the Lilly Belle, to be on display.

Thanks to the members of TCA for responding to the request made in the last newsletter and at the October meet to share their prized trains for display on the 'Wall of Trains' at the library.

Volunteers worked up to 12 hours a day to cut wood, screw door hinges, assemble sections, and vacuum lots of sawdust and Styrofoam. Those that worked under Bob Lemberger are: Manny Gonzales – new member, Mike Donovan, Steve Waller, Ron Nelson, Dave Mabee, Jon Lang, Jim Kenney, and myself. WD friends John Bowman and Bob Griffith also participated. If I have missed anyone, please forgive me.

Additional volunteers are needed to spend a day at the library answering questions from the public. Contact me for details.



Sponsors who contributed to the project were: GarGraves, LGB of America, MTH, Weaver, Williams, Bachmann, 'S' Helper, Department 56, Bridgemasters, Ganahl Lumber, Southern California Edison, Woodland Scenics, Milepost 38, Morgan's Big Train Emporium, Bob Lemberger, David Mabee, and Wayne Sheriff. The California Railroad Museum in Sacramento also sent a group of trains for display.

The results of the Election for Western Division are in. All of the 2006 officers and directors will return for 2007. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to another great year.

Annual membership fees for the Division are now due. Since National dues went up last year, the WD Board of Directors felt that the Division's dues should be kept the same as 2006. Enclosed with this mailing is the 2007 dues letter.

On a personal note, I wish to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers on my recent surgery. Everything is fine. Thanks!

- Wayne

Nixon Library Display

This special toy train exhibit is taking place November 18th thru January 11th at the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace. The Library hours are daily 10 to 5 and Sundays 11 to 5. The exhibit will be closed on Christmas Day. The location is 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886. There is an admission fee.



The layout is 40' by 32', is over 12' high, and takes up most of a 4,000 sq ft room. The display is not conventional. Instead of a flat layout, this one was designed with tiers. Multiple gauges of trains in 'G', 'Standard', 'O', 'S', 'on30' and 'HO' were utilized to provide perspective. The larger gauges run on the lower tiers. The gauges get smaller as you go up the layout. There are 2 main lines of each gauge on each deck. Multiple landscapes have been created and 10 trains run at the same time through the desert terrain, wintry snow covered villages and local townships.



A bird's eye view of the framework before the detail work began.

The layout was built using 2'x4's and foam, 736 door hinges, and approximately 1200 feet of donated track. It took 5 1/2 weeks to finish. The lumber for the layout cost well over \$9,000.



The cost was covered by the Library Foundation. TCA WD provided the design, know how, and labor to create this unique train display.



There is also a 70 foot wall of toy trains on display at the library featuring more than 60 vintage engines. All trains are on loan from TCA WD Members.

On Friday night November 17th, a sneak preview of the display had 531 people attending. On Saturday the viewing public count was 800+ and on Sunday, November 19th attendance hit the 1200 mark. Since then, the daily average is over 1,000 visitors.

September Meet Report



Bob Trimble won the monthly display theme raffle. The theme was trolleys and Interurbans. Vince Garguilo, Mario Liberatore and Walter Olsen each won a raffle prize. Dave Mabee won the \$100 bill.

October Meet Report

Submitted By Jim Kenney, Treasurer

WD Vice President Jon Lang ran the business meeting for Wayne Sheriff. A new member, Bob Nord, who joined the club at the meet, was introduced to the membership. Don Hunt was also introduced as a guest for the October meet.

It was announced that the Lionel/MTH lawsuit is in settlement. And that Lionel also reached a settlement with the Union Pacific railroad to use the UP logo.

The display theme for October was military trains in honor of Veteran's Day. Bob Spellmire displayed a Lionel 'O' gauge USMC #212 engine w/Dummy, made 1958-59. As it turns out, the dummy unit is worth 2X's the power unit. Bob also had a USN loco circa 1960, the USMC cannon car, and 3665 missile electric car. Jerry Johnson showed off his new SP TTOS Pacific Electric trolley. Rudy Felix had his USMC cannon car too.



Harry Chortanian and Dave Gabay each showed a USN NW-2 switcher. John Abbe had an entire USN train set. Les Cochran had a #41 Lionel Switcher & #51 USN switcher from 1957, as well as a 2000 Lionel troop train. The theme winner was John Abbe. Door prize winners were Mervyn Lew, Mike Jenkins, and Dave Mabee. Dave Mabee also won the \$100 bill drawing again.

In Memoriam



Ed 'Animal' Maggiora, TCA #04-57794 passed away unexpectedly in mid November of a heart attack. Our sincerest condolences go out to Jan and the rest of Ed's family. Ed's friendliness and upbeat demeanor at WD meets will be missed.

Hassan Amir, a longtime TCA Western Division member with HR status - #HR71-4020 also recently passed away. Sincerest condolences from the membership to Hassan's family.