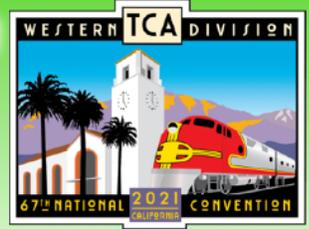




Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 67, No. 6 "Holiday Special" Nov/Dec 2021

Visit www.tcawestern.org or contact info@tcawestern.org



TCA Meet Themes:

Nov 13th Disney Trains

Dec 11th Holiday Trains

January New Trains - 2022

February We ♥ Trains!

For the rest of 2021, we're going to meet at Duke's Café in Placentia, CA, right after "Trains & Coffee," which runs from 9AM to Noon. Doors to the Duke's Meeting Room open at 11:30 and we start our Meet at Noon.

On November 13th, instead of going dark as we normally do, we'll have a *Bonus Meet* in Placentia.

For December 11th, our Holiday Meet will be in Duke's Dining Room. TCA Western Division Members who RSVP will receive a free Duke's Café Gift Card. (See details on page 5.)

Last Chance to Get Your TCA 2021 Convention Gear!



TCA Convention Logo Merchandise will be sold at our Meets until it is all gone! Selection is now limited to stock-on-hand. *Hurry! When it's gone, it's gone!*



Did you order your **Broguiere's Dairy** flatcar yet? *It starts shipping soon!* Visit www.tcawestern.org to get yours!

Bob Spellmire: Proud Recipient of TCA National President's Award



TCA photo by
Roger Hill

Western Division Past President Bob Spellmire (TCA HR #75-8039) received the 2021 President's Award from TCA National at our October Meet in Placentia, California. The document was signed by Jim Potts, Immediate Past President of TCA. The award was hand-carried to California, just prior to the 67th National Convention in Burbank, by National President Stu Rankin.

This award is given annually to a member who has offered significant contributions to the hobby, and to TCA. Another leading member of Western Division, the late John Parker, was the first recipient of the award, back in 2018.

With his son Jim Spellmire by his side, Bob modestly accepted the certificate, saying that he could think of many other TCA Members more worthy of the prize than he. None of us, however, would agree with that assessment...

Congratulations to Bob, TCA President's Award winner!

Muzeo Express Returning to Anaheim, CA



Santa Claus has out-smarted the Grinch this year! *Muzeo Express* will reopen with new layouts and exciting attractions, that are sure to please Toy Train fans of all ages & all gauges!

2019 Muzeo photo by Mandy Rodriguez

The **Elves** are working hard in Anaheim to construct **Muzeo Express** for 2021, on the heels of last season's unanticipated early closure, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muzeo Express opens on Saturday, November 27th. The museum operates Wed - Sun, 11am to 5pm; closed Monday & Tuesday. There will be nine layouts, with trains of many sizes: G-scale, Standard gauge, 'O' gauge, O-27, On30 and HO.

Dominating the exhibit is the huge, snow-covered Mountain Layout, that will have trains running around the perimeter and in & out of tunnels. Project Director Wayne Sheriff and master-builder Bob Lemberger collaborated on this one.

For all fans of Sheriff Woody & Buzz Lightyear, there is a new 'O' gauge layout based on Disney/Pixar's "Toy Story." The train that appeared in "Toy Story 3" will be portrayed by a Lionel 4-4-0 General-type locomotive, with freight cars that tie-in with the movie. Steve Markuzic created this setup.

Experience "The Polar Express," "Plasticville," "Thomas the Tank Engine," and a "Radiator Springs" layout based on Disney/Pixar's "Cars." Lionel Trains (with an assist from Bachmann & MTH) will be seen in settings reminiscent of the 1920s to the 1950s.

Other **Muzeo Express** crew members (in alphabetical order) include: John Bowman, Lois & Larry Carpenter, Steve Eastman, J Keeley, Glenn Olsen, Larry Pearson, and Diane & Bill Senyak. We will get more Muzeo updates at future TCA Meets.



'The Polar Express' Pajama Parties are scheduled for Dec. 4th & 11th. See www.muzeo.org for details.

If you visit on December 4th, you can also enjoy the Holiday events at the nearby Center Street Promenade in Anaheim, CA. For information on the Tree Lighting Ceremony and other activities, telephone (714) 956-3586 for a recorded message.

Muzeo Express must close on Sunday, January 23, 2022. The Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center is located at 241 S. Anaheim Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92805. See Muzeo's website for details: <https://muzeo.org>.

Muzeo Express Layouts Under Construction



"The Window Layout" has moved indoors with Bill & Diane Senyak.



Lois Carpenter looks over "The Postwar Layout."



Project Director Wayne Sheriff & "The Mountain Layout."



TCA photos by Steve Eastman

The Senyaks and Steve Markuzic with "Standard Gauge."



J Keeley constructs "The Polar Express."



TCA Western's First Meet at Duke's Café

The spacious private dining room at **Duke's Café** provided the backdrop for the October 9th TCA Western Division Meet, *our first meeting in Placentia!*

Harvey Tafel brought 9 variations of prewar Lionel Searchlight Cars for the display table. Harvey has contributed to the new edition of *Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains: O Gauge Volume 2: 1929 - 1936*, which just dropped at York, PA last month.

Big winner at the Meet was **Larry Young**, who bought one Opportunity Drawing ticket at the beginning of the luncheon. Not only did he win a Lionel boxcar door prize, but he also celebrated his birthday by winning \$100!



TCA photos by Roger Hill



Variations of the LIONEL 820 and 2820, catalogued between 1931 & 1941.



Harvey Tafel describes one of the nine Searchlight Cars he brought to the October Meet.

All TCA Meet photos on this page are by our ace photographer, **Roger Hill**.



TCA Western Door Prize winners (from left to right): Bob Trimble, Denyse Meyer, Steve Waller, \$100 bill winner Larry Young & Glenn Olson.



Upcoming 2021 Meets Moving to Placentia, CA



TCA Western Division will be rounding out 2021 with two more Meets in Placentia, CA, on the heels of the successful Meet at **Duke's Café** in September.

These TCA Meets will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month, so we can be part of **"Trains & Coffee,"** held outdoors on November 13, 2021 & December 11, 2021. This "tailgate" train show runs from 9:00 am to Noon.

"Trains & Coffee" takes place in the parking lot at Duke's Café, 2099 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA 92870. The event is a joint activity of TCA Western Division and TTOS Southern Pacific Division.

If you want to sell at **"Trains & Coffee,"** please email Jeff Meyer at jeffersonjmeyer@netzero.net. A maximum of two parking spaces per seller are allowed, which includes your own vehicle. (After unloading, you may move your car elsewhere in the lot.) Many sellers bring their own pop-up canopies, chairs & folding tables. If you need additional space, contact Jeff Meyer. Please provide a bottle of hand sanitizer for use at your space.

After **"Trains & Coffee,"** TCA Western will have our Membership Meeting in Duke's private dining room at Noon. For November, you can order lunch on your own at the counter at Duke's anytime after 11:30 am and eat at a table in the meeting room.



Duke's Café has a 1/3 lb. Burger Special (cheese extra), with fries and a refillable soft drink, for just \$8.99, plus tax & tip. Duke's has a full menu with many other choices, and breakfast is served all day. Click on: <http://www.dukescafeyl.com/lunch/>. Please support Duke's Café in consideration of all they are doing for us!

Our November 13th gathering is a **Bonus Meet**, since we are normally dark during this month. Our Meet will feature all the latest news, plus a Display Theme Table and the usual Opportunity Drawings and Door Prizes.

The Theme for November 13th is "Disney Trains." In keeping with this, you may inspect the LIONEL No. 1100 Mickey Mouse Hand Car (from 1934) at this Meet. It will be awarded in December to some lucky member, who enters our 2021 Opportunity Drawing.

Tickets are available for \$25 each, and you will be eligible to win a \$100 bill in November *and* the Mickey Mouse Hand Car in December. You must be present to win the \$100 bill, but you need not be on-hand to be awarded the Hand Car. Contact Wayne Sheriff, our Treasurer, at cnswss@roadrunner.com, to get your tickets now! Tickets will also be on sale at the Meets.



Engineer Leo the Lion is coming to Placentia!

Our **Holiday Meet** on December 11th will be something special! All TCA Western Division Members, and the member's Significant Other, will be eligible to receive \$10 Duke's Gift Cards. The gift card will cover the cost of the Burger Special, or it can be applied to the cost of any other meal on the menu. (Members to make up any difference in cost on their own.)

To get your gift card, please RSVP to Wayne Sheriff at cnswss@roadrunner.com and we will reserve a card for you. Be sure to pick up your gift card(s) from Wayne before ordering food at the counter on December 11th.

TCA Western Division will cover the cost of tipping at the December Meet at the rate of \$2 per gift card. If you wish to leave a bit more for our servers, you may optionally do that on your own, especially if you order more than \$10 worth of food.

Special note to Western Division non-members: If you want to attend the December Meet, you may do so, but lunch will be on your own. (BTW, if you paid your Western Division dues in 2020, you are automatically paid up for 2021, as part of our Pandemic Relief Plan.)

The theme for December 11th is "Holiday Trains." Engineer Leo the Lion will be on hand to make sure everybody is having fun at this Meet.

See you soon at both our November & December Meets!

—Steve Waller
President, TCA Western Division

In Memoriam –

David H. Otth: 1939 - 2021

The toy train world lost one of its leading lights when Dave Otth, TCA #74-7028, passed away at age 82 on October 4, 2021, from COVID-19. Though fully vaccinated, Dave was immunocompromised due to the medical treatment he was receiving for a long-standing illness.



Dave Otth was born in Jacksonville, Illinois on April 17, 1939. He got his first train when he was just a boy, a gift of a wind-up steam freight set, from his brother Edward. Thus began Dave's love of Joyline and Marx Trains.

Having an aptitude for all things mechanical, Dave received a BSME degree from the University of Florida in 1962. He started out with Boeing, and was transferred to LA in 1964. Dave relocated to Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena in 1968. He received an MSE from West Coast University in 1972. Dave was a Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer on JPL's Voyager Program, which launched in 1977. After working on numerous other projects at JPL, Dave retired in 2010 after 42 years.

Dave also had a storied career in our hobby. Always a visionary, he formed the Toy Train Historical Foundation in 1985, making trains for the collector market. As the founder of Toy Train Heritage in 2012, he worked to donate train sets to at-risk youth organizations.

Dave created "Toy Trains Go Hollywood," a multimedia experience, that was the cornerstone of the Display Hall at the 2003 TCA National Convention in Ontario, CA. One of Dave's toy train photos from the classic film "Four's a Crowd," signed by actress Olivia de Havilland, brought in \$2,700 at the TCA Banquet Auction.

A founding member of the Toy Train Operating Society, Dave was editor of the *TTOS Bulletin* for years, which was known for the humorous cover photography of Disney animator Ward Kimball. In 1984, Otth worked with Ward Kimball again on the toy train exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. For almost 20 years, the display greeted museum visitors.

Dave produced videos for TTOS and later partnered with Jim Weatherford of San Diego to produce a series of videos about toy train repair.

At Cal-Stewart, "the largest Toy Train Meet West of the Mississippi," Dave organized a celebration for the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010. Over the years, Otth was involved with numerous train displays at the Cal-Stewart show.

Dave designed a Lionel Train layout for episode 14 of the all-star TV mystery show *Ellery Queen*, entitled "The Adventure of the Eccentric Engineer," produced at Universal Studios in 1975. Dave was present during filming of the program, and owned souvenir props from the "Eccentric" layout for years. His "Hollywood on Track" exhibit at Travel Town in Los Angeles' Griffith Park was another hit, garnering a positive review in *The Washington Post* in 2015.

Dave took the "Toy Trains Go Hollywood" concept to Facebook in 2014, where his large collection of movie photographs and lobby cards, depicting toy trains in film, can still be enjoyed.

Dave is survived by his wife Rita L. Otth and two grown children, Jeremy and Amanda. Our condolences go out to Dave's family and his many friends. We already miss seeing Dave, sitting in his tall director's chair, alongside his table at all the monthly toy train meets.



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TCA Western Division Officers:

Stephen Waller, President & Newsletter Editor
Robert Caplan, Vice-President, Auction Mgr. & Club Cars (Past National President)
Wayne Sheriff, Membership Secretary, Treasurer (Past National President)
Volunteer Needed: for Recording Secretary

TCA Western Division Volunteers:

Joseph Caplan - Kid's Club Chairman
Roger Hill - Club Photographer
Bob Spellmire - Western Division Election Supervisor (Past President)

TCA Western Division Directors:

(In alphabetical order)

Ken Chan
Steve Eastman - Immediate Past President
Rudy Felix
Jon Lang
Harold Shapiro - Past President/Webmaster
Harvey Tafel

