



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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Meet Notice

Our next train meet will take place on **Saturday, October 22nd**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. 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 October display theme will be everything related to **Halloween orange**. Show off that prized toy train or train related item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a prize drawing for all those who display.

Remaining 2005 meet dates: **November 19th & December 17th**. Following the October Meet, there will be a short Board of Directors meeting.



President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

Remember "it is all about, **Toy Trains**", with that we opened the September meet for trading and conversations. The trains were running in the back room thanks to Richard Keppel, Jr. and his crew, 3 pictures of which are displayed on this page. Members are invited to bring trains to run on this layout at each monthly meet.

Bob Caplan once again reviewed the newly implemented TCA grading standards using the mobile display. Bob will have the display at the Cal-Stewart Meet in November, at the TCA Western Division Table.

Regarding these new standards: I have been going over some of the trains in my collection that I have been considering to sell. I tried to grade each car based on the new standards. It took a while, but I got through it. Then I looked at the samples at the last meet and determined that I was grading items harsher than warranted. I went home, started over again, and upgraded each car by at least one grade. The effort to prepare the standards display and get the message out to the TCA membership was well worth it.

Jim Kenney has been making arrangements to have two private cars available to take up to 26 people to the next TCA National Convention in San Antonio, TX in June 2006. The trip will start with a departure from Los Angeles Union Station the Sunday before the convention behind an Amtrak train. The return trip will leave San Antonio the Sunday after the convention. The observation car is the Tioga Pass. This railcar was made by the Canadian National Shops in Point St. Charles, Quebec in 1959.

More information on this excursion will be available in the next few months. To keep the cost affordable, it is important to fill all 26 places. Thank you Jim for coordinating this project.

Plans for the annual December Holiday meet have been discussed by the board of directors. The meal portion once again will be a pot-luck. The December meet is when we will raffle off the BB-1 Train Set. Get your tickets soon; there are only a few left.

October is the time of the year to nominate candidates to serve as officers and directors for 2006. Bob Spellmire will be accepting names, and asking for seconds at the next meet. If you are interested in serving the club and wish to make a difference, please contact Bob, or any current board member, and let them know of your intentions and desire to help.

Ward Kimball has again been honored for his work at Disney. The Ward Kimball #5 2-4-4T Forney-type loco, built in 1927, was put into service on Disneyland's 50th Anniversary, July 17th.

- *Wayne Sheriff*



September Meet Recap

Submitted by Robert Lemberger

There was a lot of trading & viewing activity prior to the business meeting. President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order with an announcement that the monthly WD newsletter can be found on the internet at the website, along with copies of all the old newsletters. Wayne requested that members volunteer to help put the hall back in order at the end of the meeting.

Be sure to see Jerry Blaine for Cal-Stewart meet table applications. TTOS-SP division is having its October meet at the Orange Empire Museum on October 23rd. TCA Norcal and TTOS Southwestern are currently taking orders for the Ward Kimball box cars.

Bob Caplan just returned from the Standards Committee meeting. He explained that C-1 is junk, restoration is impossible. C-10 is mint and an item removed from its box is no longer mint, although there still seems to be a debate about this. TTOS has adopted the TCA grading standards as-is, and will start using them in November. Pricing is being worked on for the spectrograph analysis offering, which will help determine the age and validity of paint on any train item.



Harold Shapiro asked everyone to give a round of appreciation for the current board. Past WD President Bob Caplan was then presented with a beautiful plaque for his service in 2004.



Jim Kinney announced that he has made arrangements for anyone interested in going to the San Antonio convention next year that they can go in style. He has available for us two private cars; a sleeper that will accommodate 20 and an observation that will sleep 6. There will be a kitchen with food. The price will be about \$1,500.00 a person based on a sign up of 26 people. Please let him know as soon as possible if you're considering this trip. We need to get enough people to make it work.

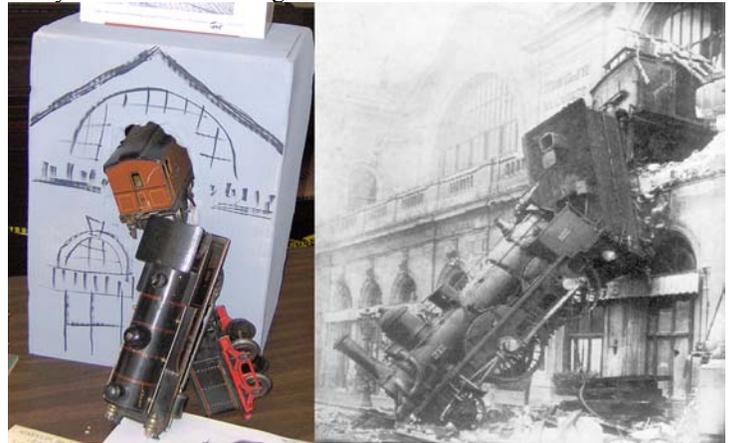
Steve Waller introduced the September meet display theme: Train Wrecks. Harry Chortanian presented a picture book of wrecks. Harold Shapiro showed 2 train wreck pictures. One was from the 1895 wreck in Paris France of a steam loco and passenger cars, the other was of a 2005 Union Pacific freight train wreck in California. He also said, "As long as there have been trains, there have been train wrecks" and recommended searching the internet to get educated on train wrecks and history.



Bob Spellmire reminded us that one of Lionel's first cars was a crane car although the one he brought wasn't it. He also had the cutest little Hornby crane car. Calvin Smith mentioned Herb Green, a friend who ran a SP cab forward wrecker train. He showed pictures of a wreck on the famous Tehachapi loop. Les Cochran brought in the Lionel 4 train wreck set that he had to have when he saw it.

Walter Olson told the story of the 1956 crash of an RDC car at Redondo junction. It seems that the engineer had a seizure and took a turn at 70 mph that should normally be taken at 20-25 mph. John Abbe brought in a Navy yard switcher that had some damage

from the 1970 earthquake, John, having been in the Navy himself, really valued the little engine.



Steve Waller really out did himself recreating the 1895 crash in Paris France where an engine went through the wall of the station and fell to the street below but remained hung with its tender dangling as well. He used a Marklin Queen Mary train given to him by Ward Kimball to simulate the scene. He also recreated the crash in the Washington DC Train Station right before President Eisenhower's inauguration. Where a GG1 went through the floor and became a tangled mess with the cars it pulled. It was sealed over until the ceremonies were complete. Remarkably no one was killed in the twisted debris.



Wayne announced that Russ and Jane Lange were about to celebrate their 50th anniversary and wished them many more and to keep well. Next, Richard Keppel was brought out to acknowledge all his efforts with the layout – everyone applauded.



The display theme prize went to Calvin Smith who chose a Lionel MKT box car. Calvin also was a drawing winner receiving a TCA 49th convention shirt. John Abbe won a K-Line Swift reefer car. William Grove selected a K-Line C&O tank car. Al Vargas won the Lionel Graffiti hopper car. Dennis Taube won the \$100 monthly drawing for the BB-1 raffle.



Bruce Lazarus announced that there will be a Swing band and 40's era costume contest at the Cal-Stewart Friday evening party.