



# Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

October 2012

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, October 27, 2012 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. 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 sign.

The doors open at 10AM for setup, trading, and selling. Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

The display theme for September will be 'Orange and Black Trains' in honor of Halloween. If you do not have any trains in those colors, bring a 'scary' train, a 'freak' or 'oddball' train instead! Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

The final meet for 2012 will be the annual Holiday Party on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The display theme for that meet will be 'Holiday Trains'. Again this year WD will have the traditional pot luck meal at the Holiday Party. If your last name starts with the letter 'A' to 'O' please bring a side dish, and if your last name starts with the letter 'P' to 'Z' please bring a dessert for about 15 members. The club will provide the sandwiches and punch.

Western Division's 2013 meet schedule is as follows: January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, June 01<sup>st</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held at both the October and December meets. Members must wear their membership badges in order to participate in the monthly prize raffle. There will be no meet in the month of November. Please attend the Cal-Stewart meet in Ontario November 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## President's Message

*By Manny Gonzalez, WD President*

Toy trains are such a great hobby that it almost seems silly to even say so. The fact is that whether it's merely a humble circle of track with a single car, a huge sophisticated layout with all sorts of goodies, or like most of us something in between, there is much to enjoy. Unlike other pursuits that by their very nature can limit, if not in practical terms exclude many, pretty much anyone can enjoy a toy train in one way or another. You can do as little or as much as you are able to; it can be seasonal or it can be continuous.

Not long ago, I wasn't very surprised when I came across a few thoughts someone had written. They were reminiscing about family ties and youthful adventures, and the lasting influences on their life. Looking back things may seem fairly obvious, but they seldom possess that kind of clarity in those moments. It's always easier to embrace a particular pursuit when it's associated with people that are significant to us. The favorable light that it casts is not only inviting, but almost irresistible. Have you noticed how often a story begins with "my father...", "my mother...", "an uncle...", "my friends and I...", "for Christmas one year...", "on my birthday..." (you get the idea). It's when we share these

moments with others, I believe, that the memories are elevated to become a part of who we are. They appear warmer and richer and more special and they seem to stay with us throughout our lifetime. That's why toy trains were meant to be shared. They make us smile when we see them running. We connect with strangers if they too are enthralled. They have a language and life of their own that everyone instinctively understands. In a world that increasingly seems unable to do that, it's a good thing. Share a train or two with someone, it'll be that much more special – not only for you, but perhaps them also.

## September Meet Recap

*By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary*



*Special Layout Created for the September Kids Meet*

September's WD meet was dedicated to kids. The display theme for the September meet was 'Trolley Cars'. There were many trolley variations displayed. Bill Clausen showed a one-of-a-kind



*Jim Kenney*

*Robert Spellmire*

trolley kit-bashed from a Dorfan Standard Gage observation car. Bob Spellmire displayed a very rare Pride Lines 24K Gold Scrooge McDuck trolley. Dave Mabee presented an 'O' gauge Lionel modern era trolley. Steve Eastman displayed a new Marx trolley.



*Bill Clausen*

*Herb Mayer*



*July Display Theme 'Trolley Cars'*

Herb Mayer showed a 25th Anniversary TCA Silver Plated trolley made by Pride Lines. Jim Kenney shared several trolleys built from E. Suydam kits.

John Abbe displayed a San Francisco cable car on a rotating musical platform and an Old Spaghetti Factory trolley. John Parker



*John Parker*



*Les Cochran*



*Myron Moore*



*Robert Trimble*



*Steve Eastman*

*Dave Mabee*



*Prize winners: C. A. Meyer, Dave Mabee (\$100), James Hawley, Dave Gabay, and Herb Mayer (not shown).*

presented a pair of Ives 'O' gauge trolleys. Les Cochran shared a pair of Corgi 'O' gauge trolleys. Mike Jenkins presented his collection of Corgi trolleys. Myron Moore shared his special Lionel trolley. Finally, Robert Trimble displayed an unusual trolley that was marketed by several different companies. Steve Eastman and Dave Mabee created a special 'O' gauge layout for the children to play with at the September Kids meet.

**Scenes from the 'Kid's Meet'**



**In Memoriam**



Long time Western Division member Russell S. Lange (HR-77-11829) passed away at 5:09 Friday, September 28, 2012. Russ gave us many years on the Board of Directors, serving 3 terms as WD Membership Secretary from 1997 to 1999, then as Vice-President in 2000. He then became Division President in 2001, and served 3 years in that role until 2003, when WD hosted the National Convention. Russ and his family moved to Idaho shortly thereafter, but he still remained a member of Western Division. He will dearly be missed by all. Our sincerest condolences go out to his wife Jane, and son Dale Lange.