



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

September 2005

Meet Notice

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, September 24th**, 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 September display theme will be everything related to **Train Wrecks**. 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!

Remaining Western Division 2005 meet dates: **October 22**, **November 19** and **December 17**.

Next Board of Directors meeting Following September Meet.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

Again, the August meet was well attended in spite of another hot day. The food was good (thanks to Jim Kenney), coffee was drained regardless of the heat and the donuts disappeared. The theme for the meet was Plasticville and members brought quite a lot of items to share. Many thanks to those members who helped to put up and take down the tables and chairs. Don't forget, there are a few BB-1 raffle tickets still available.

Bob Caplan reviewed the new display that was prepared by the National Standards Committee that represents the newly released TCA grading standards. Bob talked about the display and the new categories and will again have the display at the September meet. I have received a letter from the chairman of the Standards Committee requesting members of Western Division who would be interested in being on the TCA Standards Committee. If you are interested, please contact me. Bob Caplan will also be continuing on as a member of the TCA Standards Committee representing Western Division.

One of the many members of Western Division who do so much for the club is Harold Shapiro. Harold is not only the current Membership Secretary/Treasurer; he has been President of the Division 1999-2000 and Treasurer of our 49th National Convention here in Ontario. Harold is also the web master for the club. He is really the Editor-in-Chief of the WD Newsletter who puts all the pieces together to make it look like a professional job. Thanks to Harold.

While you browse the TCA National website, check out the E-Train article by Mark Boyd. When he was in Seattle for the Convention, he made a visit to Al Cox (HR-65-1385). Al's home overlooks the sound with a basement designed especially for his trains. The article was focused on two very special items: The Brute locomotive and the Lionel prototype for the 213 Lift Bridge.

Make sure that you check out the article. By the way, I was privileged to accompany Mark to Al's home that day. What a treat.

Ward Kimball was a very influential member of Western Division and TCA. TCA Nor-Cal and TTOS-SW are producing a special tribute to Ward in the form of the 2005 Cal-Stewart meet car. It is available in limited edition quantities as a Lionel 'O' gauge version of a 6464 style box car and as an American Flyer S-gauge box car. You can order the cars through December 2005. Forms are available on the TTOS-SW.org website or at any meet.

Western Division will have a table at the 2005 Cal-Stewart meet November 11-13 in Pasadena where we will be distributing information about the division and TCA. Just remember what this is all about: **Toy Trains!**

- Wayne Sheriff



August Meet Recap

Submitted by Robert Lemberger

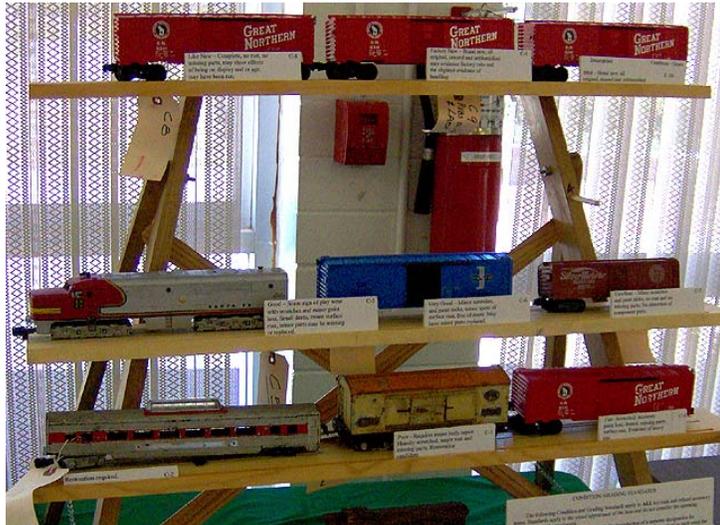
The selling seems to be growing at each and every meet. Some fellows have been bringing in some neat items and the prices have been right. Be sure to come to the monthly meets to check it out, and come early to be able to purchase the quality goods and get in on the better deals.

President Wayne Sheriff made some announcements to start the meeting. The August newsletter is now available on the WD website. A link will be e-mailed each month to every WD member who has provided his/her e-mail address. If you have an e-mail address and are not currently receiving the monthly link, and you would like to be able to read the monthly WD newsletter on-line, please send your information via e-mail to info@tcawestern.org.

Wayne asked for volunteers to help put the chairs back on the tables at the end of each meet. The club only survives by volunteerism and support from the membership. Be sure to buy raffle tickets! There aren't many left and the drawing is in December for the BB-1. These new Lionel engines have just been shipped and are in the stores. I saw one in a shop and it looks great. It will be a nice addition for any collection.

Western Division Past President and TCA Past National President Bob Caplan was introduced by Wayne. Bob has been putting a lot of time and effort into helping develop the new TCA grading

standards. Be sure to take time to check these new standards out (available on the website) and let Bob know your concerns (if any). Bob had set up a detailed display at the August meet that uses actual trains in various conditions to show the differences in grading. He explained that in the new model, an item with rub marks will not be considered mint.



The new TCA Standards display

There will be a new book published by TCA which will help identify prewar fakes. Also, the TCA Standards committee is working on making a spectrograph available for the membership to analyze trains. This is a type of light analyzer that will verify paints as original. There will be a \$65.00 charge per analysis.

Steve Waller announced the theme for the August meet is Plasticville. First up was Walter Olson who brought in a large collection. He gave a very informative talk about valuable pieces and discussed how at one time he accumulated items from a dumpster that belonged to a Bachman distributor. Bob Trimble showed a Philadelphia City Hall along with an oversized Liberty Bell. Les Cochran had two kit-bashed buildings that were very well done by a friend of his.



Walter Olson proudly holds up the famous Plasticville Blue Bus

Harvey Houck, by special invitation, discussed the write up in CTT magazine, about him joining the Lionel Engineers club in 1931! Bob Caplan brought in a rare optical illusion 'O' gauge billboard that changed as you moved. It featured Danny Thomas who winked. Jerry Johnson had a couple of small buildings that he liked because he can "squeeze them" in on his layout.

Steve Waller had a neat miniature lighted "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign, just like the big ones you see at the edge of the famous strip, that he picked up at Fry's Electronics. He also showed some very rare Storytown buildings, boxed in mint condition. Among Steve's items was a small wind-up train from NOICO and a Davy Crockett log cabin that featured a yellow rifle. Walter Olson's ticket won the prize for the display theme.



Steve Waller's StoryTown Display & Miniature Vegas Lights

Casey Jones won a K-Line reefer, Harold Shapiro won a K-Line Southern box car, and Mike Galante won the K-Line ATSF flat container car while Les Cochran won the K-Line Reading gondola in the raffle. Bob Caplan was the winner of the monthly BB-1 raffle \$100 bill.



Western Division members Larry Archuleta from El Cajon and Ed Jablonsky from San Diego came all the way up to Arcadia for the August meet. Jerry Vinatieri was welcomed to WD as a new member just joining TCA.

Vice-President Jon Lang talked briefly about the lawsuit involving Lionel's technology being misused by K-Line. While at one point the issue seemed to be settled, both sides released different statements and it now appears to be court bound.

Wayne gave a special thanks to Richard Keppel and his team who set up the massive floor layout and run dozens of trains in the back room for each monthly meet. He and his team do a great job! Feel free to bring in a favorite train of your own to the next meet for running on the layout. There are always loops in 'O' gauge and Standard gauge available.



Cal-Stewart Special Event

The 2005 Cal-Stewart Friday night November 11th gathering this year features a 1940's themed costume dance and car show party at the Sheraton hotel in Pasadena. Dean Mora's 'Swingtet 40's' band will sway the house, so pass this special event information along to your Cal-Stewart friends. Make sure to come in costume to have a chance to win a \$250 cash prize-- remember its Veteran's Day and dancing will go until midnight.

This special program includes train-theme swing and ballroom music, a demo by LA's Champion Lindy Hop and Balboa swing dancers and oh yes, the 40's cars too! No extra charge for entry, for registered Cal Stewart attendees. This announcement missed the 2005 Cal-Stewart brochure.