



# Western Division Newsletter



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August - September 2012

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2012 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

The September 22<sup>nd</sup> meet is our very special "**Kids Club Meet**". All children are welcome, TCA affiliation is not required. WD members are encouraged to bring children as their guests. There will be games, videos, races, raffles, handouts, and food for everyone! Feel free to bring a train to run on the provided track layout, or bring 'kid-related' items and accessories to put around the layout for display or operation.

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.

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 display theme for September will be "**Trolleys.**" Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Remaining 2012 TCA Meet dates and display themes are: October 27<sup>th</sup> (Orange and Black Trains); and December 15<sup>th</sup> (Holiday Trains).

## President's Message

*By Manny Gonzalez, WD President*

Life is full of "sayings" which have managed to survive down through the ages – mostly because they possess elements of truth, if not also some measure of wisdom. There come to mind two examples that I think easily pertain to our hobby today. The first goes something like "Be careful what you own, because it might end up owning you." These cautionary words we can leave for discussion at some other time. The second is more along the lines that since we, ultimately, can't take it with us, "We really don't 'own' any of it - but rather, for a period of time, we are only caretakers for a future generation" (like the clever commercial where a driver is approached and told to take good care of the car because he's the next owner). That is why this month we will be having a Kid's Meet - for the next generations.

Kids love trains. They seem to take to them naturally. And thanks to Thomas the Tank, the Polar Express, and to a lesser degree Harry Potter, trains have been given a substantial boost more recently among the younger generations. But Christmas trees notwithstanding, it's no secret that the hobby soon starts to lose many (if not all) of them to other things - especially video games. There is a kind of "circle of life" aspect to it. Kids go through phases, outgrow activities, find other interests, make lives for themselves, and hopefully (eventually) find their way back to the joys of their first one-true-love! Well okay, I may be overstating that last part just a tad – but you get the point.

We would love to see a big turn-out of kids at this month's meet. I would encourage any of you aunts and uncles and grandparents, even if your own kids are all grown-up, to invite someone you

think might enjoy a little 'kid train time.' We have a few things planned for the kids – including pizza for everyone! Now those are words to live by. Hope to see you there.



*Modular Layout at July Meet*

## July Meet Recap

*By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary*

The display theme for July was 'Convention Cars' to commemorate the recent June TCA convention. Many colorful items were presented. Bob Spellmire showed off his 'O' gauge Lionel 1966 TCA Convention Bay Window caboose. Bob Caplan brought his recently acquired 2012 TCA Atlanta Convention Banquet car. Dave Gabay displayed an "Airco" Convention car. Dave Mabee shared his 1984 TTOS National Museum boxcar. Herb Mayer shared a Lionel tinplate Merchandise Car he purchased at the Atlanta Convention. John Abbe presented a series of early TCA Green Convention passenger cars.

John Parker told us the story of the TCA WD Disney themed convention boxcar designed by Ward Kimball in 1979, and showed his. Mario Liberatore showed us the 'O' gauge Lionel 2003 Western Pacific Blue Feather Convention boxcar designed by our own Bob Caplan. Robert Cesarone showed three 'S' gauge Convention Cars. Robert Trimble gave a lecture on the career of master modeler Glenn Staubitz. Steve Eastman presented several different Standard Gauge tinplate McCoy convention cars. Wayne Sheriff told us the story of the TCA WD baggage convention car and brought his 'G' gauge 2012 Dixie Division convention car.



*July Display Theme 'Convention Cars'*



**John Parker**

**Robert Spellmire**



**Dave Burkhart**

**Steve Eastman**

**Steve Waller**



**Wayne Sheriff**

**Bob Trimble**

several original boxes with different types of Flex Track from the 1930's. Jim Kenney displayed a Marx version of the Union Pacific City of Denver and a Lionel Lines windup streamliner. John Abbe brought a Southern Pacific vista dome aluminum passenger car and a Canadian National Budd car. Larry Pearson displayed an 'O' gauge #1700 red & chrome pre-war Lionel Jr. set.



**Larry Pearson**

**Jim Kenney**

**Dave Mabee**



**July Raffle Prize winners: Larry Pearson, Dave Mabee (\$100), Les Cochran, Mike Jenkins and Dave Gabay**

Mike Donovan created a 1939 New York World's Fair scene for the layout in the back room that included handmade Tylon, Perisphere and Helicline replicas. The Art Deco themed layout was set up by Steve Waller and Mike, and included one loop of Flex-track. A 1930's vintage Hoge #900 Union Pacific M10000 articulated streamliner set, a shovel nosed New York, New Haven & Hartford Comet streamliner set and American Flyer Zephyr set were provided by Steve Eastman. 'O' gauge Lionel John Bull, Best Friend of Charleston, DeWitt-Clinton and Stourbridge Lion 19th Century passenger set replicas were provided by Dave Mabee.



## August Meet Recap

*By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary*

The August display theme was 'Streamliners. There was a rainbow of color and streamlines displayed! Calvin Smith shared his Lionel Pre-war 'O' gauge Hiawatha #250E orange passenger set. Wayne Sheriff brought a Norfolk & Western 'O' gauge modern era Lionel passenger set. Steve Eastman presented several streamliners, including a Lionel 'O' gauge #221 Dreyfus type Hudson Steam loco, a custom built 'O' gauge Virginia & Truckee RR porthole windowed motor car, and an 'O' gauge Marx powered unit. David Gabay brought his 'O' gauge Burlington Zephyr set observation car. Dave Burkhart shared his rare 1939 Green Illinois Central Set.

Robert Spellmire displayed an 'O' gauge Lionel Union Pacific 'City of Denver' Set. Dave Mabee also shared his pre-war Union Pacific 'City of Denver'. Myron Moore showed his 'O' gauge Budd 'North Pole' unit. Mario Liberatore presented a Lionel TCA "City of Seattle" Observation Car. Steve Waller brought his pre-war #1703 passenger car and both he and Steve Eastman presented



**August Raffle Winners: Mario Liberatore, Manny Gonzalez (\$100), Harold Shapiro, John Abbe and Mike Donovan**