



# Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

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Summer, 2025

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

"Celebrating 71 Years"

## Arcadia Community Center

365 Campus Dr., Arcadia, CA, 91007  
(at Huntington Drive)

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - 2 pm - Attendees

### Upcoming Meets:

**Aug 23** (4th Sat.) Homemade or 'kit-bashed' trains & accessories.

**Oct 18** (3rd Sat.) Operating cars & action accessories.

**Dec 20** (3rd Sat.) Favorite trains.



This year's Grand Prize set includes **LIONEL 2367 Diesels and 3 aluminum passenger cars.** (See details on p. 4.)



## Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



Purchase them at our local Western Division meets (no shipping fee) or visit [www.tcawestern.org](http://www.tcawestern.org) to order.



Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!



Inset:  
A. C. Gilbert,  
circa 1953.

American Flyer postwar 'S' gauge No. 350 model of a B&O **Royal Blue** 4-6-2 "Pacific" steamer. Photo courtesy of [www.modeltrainforum.com](http://www.modeltrainforum.com)

**O**ur **August 23** meet will celebrate the world of **A. C. Gilbert**, who was an inventor, gold medal-winning pole vaulter in the 1908 London Olympics, skilled magician, and businessman. He was best known for creating the Erector Set and founding the A.C. Gilbert Company. In 1938, Gilbert purchased the American Flyer train line & moved the factory from Chicago to New Haven, CT.

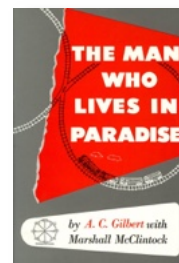
We've invited members of the **A. C. Gilbert Heritage Society** to attend our Aug. 23 meet. To learn more about their club, visit <https://www.acghs.org/>. Also, the **Southern California "S" Gaugers** will be in attendance. Their website is listed on the business card to the left.

This month, we'll have Erector sets and trains for sale, free train repairs, refreshments available & the possibility of an auction. In addition to featuring an "S" gauge loop, our large operating layout will have Standard gauge and "O" gauge trains running.

The theme for our Show & Tell on August 23rd will be **homemade or "kit-bashed" trains & accessories**. Also, don't miss our exciting Opportunity Drawings. (More information on page 4.) The meet doors open at 9 am for setup, and we officially begin at 10 am, typically ending around 2 pm; free parking is in front.

There is no charge for sellers to use our trading tables, but you must be a member in good standing of the Train Collectors Association or have special permission in order to sell. ACGHS and SoCal "S" Gaugers members can obtain a free trading table this month. Reserve a trading table by sending an email to [info@tcawestern.org](mailto:info@tcawestern.org).

Hope to see you there! - **Steve Waller** Newsletter Editor



Autobiography  
by A.C. Gilbert



# TCA Western Joint Meet with TTOS-Southern Pacific

**O**n April 26, 2025, TCA Western Division had its first joint meet with another club since moving to the Arcadia Community Center. TTOS-Southern Pacific, which normally convenes at the Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim, made the trek to Arcadia to join up with TCA Western for this meet. *The results were fantastic!* This was the biggest meet that we've ever had at our hall in Arcadia. Everyone agreed it was a hit and we hope to do it again someday!



*Special thanks to Nancy Giammatteo, Denyse & Jeff Meyer, Jon Lang and Harold Shapiro for pulling off this event!*



*Joey Giammatteo & Larry Pearson at the Repair Desk.*



*Meet photos by Roger Hill and Steve Waller*

*Fred Ruby with a large display of American Models, compatible with American Flyer "S" gauge trains.*



*Big crowd for the toy train auction.*



*So many trains!*



# Now Arriving: TCA Western Div. Grand Prize for 2025



See President's Message on last page for details on how to win this LIONEL 2244W train set!



The layout was a hit!



Our intrepid layout crew, Jeff Meyer, Denyse Meyer & Steve Eastman received Certificates of Appreciation from TCA Western Division.



Bill Senyak (with mic) presided over the auction. The seller is Jim Dykier (above right).

Auction clerks: Harold Shapiro and Paul Loughin.



A youngster receives sound advice from an experienced train collector.



LIONEL blue stripe cars 2412, 2412, 2414, 2416 in Ex. condition; sold for \$60 on one table. That's a deal!



Some real bargains!



# TCA Western President's Message: Jon M. Lang



President  
Jon M. Lang

I'm hoping you'll come to our next meet on Saturday August 23rd. We'll explore the wonderful world of A. C. Gilbert. You're sure to learn something new!

On Saturday, October 18th we'll celebrate Halloween with Steve Waller's Audio/Visual presentation entitled

**"Model Trains Meet the Monsters"** at 11:30 a.m. During the noon hour, **"The Phantom"** creeps around the hall, handing out Trick or Treat candy to all the brave souls. **He'll be lurking for you!** Our theme that day will be: "Operating Cars and Action Accessories."



Make plans to attend the **Holiday Meet** on Dec. 20th. By popular demand, we'll have a catered meal, just like last year's holiday extravaganza.



The 2025 Grand Prize is the **LIONEL 2244W** passenger set from 1955, featuring a Wabash 2367 F3 "O" gauge, twin-motored locomotive, plus a matching 2367C trailer unit. It comes with a baggage car, dome car (upgrade) & observation.

**Buy several tickets** to increase your chances to win the Wabash train set and/or a \$100 bill at our 2025 meets. You must be a member to enter and be present to win the cash prize. Tickets are only \$20. Grand Prize awarded at the Dec. 20th Holiday meet. (You need not be present to win the train.)

We note the passing of **Bill Corsello** (#72-4854) & **Don Ladenberger** (#65-1246). *They will be missed.*



**Lots is happening** in September: Here are some highlights (listed in chronological order):

**Sat. Sept. 13 - Fall Railroadiana Swap Meet** at the Southern California Railway Museum in Perris, CA, from 9 am to 6 pm. Visit : [www.socalrailway.org](http://www.socalrailway.org)

**Friday, Sept. 19 - Metro Rail** is opening the 'A' Line (formerly Gold Line) **Foothill Extension** to Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne/Fairplex and North Pomona. Visit [www.metro.net/alinetopomona](http://www.metro.net/alinetopomona)

**Sept. 20 & 21 - LA Union Station Train Festival.** See real trains, model trains and train exhibits on Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 20 & 21, from 10 am to 6 pm. Visit their website: [www.unionstationla.com/happenings](http://www.unionstationla.com/happenings)



Two members of TCA National have recently joined Western Division: **Ray Villasenor** #25-78665 and **Mike Girod** #25-78824. Welcome aboard!

*See you at the meets... - Jon M. Lang*



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## **TCA Western Division Officers:**

**Jon Lang** - TCA Western Division President  
**Greg Pulis** - TCA Western Division Vice-President  
**Harold Shapiro** - Membership Secretary/Treasurer/  
Webmaster/Past President  
**Tom Watson** - Recording Secretary/Past President

## **Receive free club communications via email:**

Please visit - [www.tcawestern.org/archives.htm](http://www.tcawestern.org/archives.htm) and fill in the form in the middle of the page.

## **TCA Western Division Directors:**

**Bob Caplan** - Immediate Past President  
**Rudy Felix** - Director at Large/Hot Brews  
**Roger Hill** - Director at Large/Club Photographer  
**Larry Pearson** - Director at Large/Repair Clinic  
**Steve Waller** - Newsletter Editor/Past President



## **TCA Western Division Volunteers:**

**Steve Eastman** - Layout Manager/Past President  
**Denyse & Jeff Meyer** - Layout Managers

## **Join TCA National & TCA Western Division:**

Please visit [www.tcawestern.org/membership.htm](http://www.tcawestern.org/membership.htm) and click the "Adobe" forms in the first paragraph. (Search for the word "Adobe.") *Print out & mail, or join at the next meet!*