



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter



Vol. 72, No. 1

February, 2026

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

"Celebrating 72 Years"

Arcadia Community Center

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

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - 2 pm - Meet

2026 Meets & Themes:

Feb. 28 - Red trains/Trains I Love

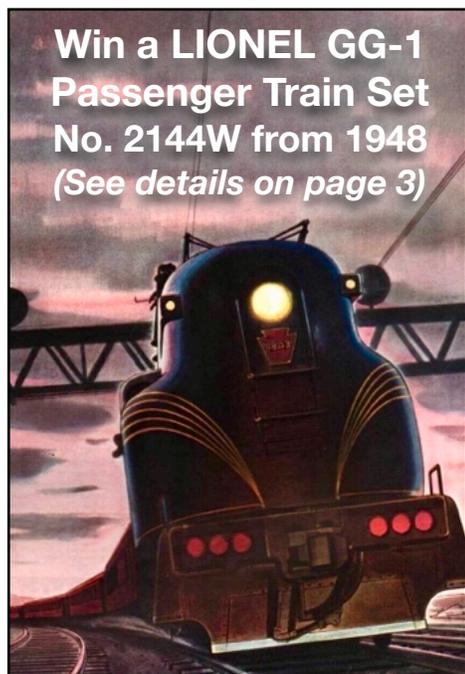
April 25 - Pastel trains

May 23 - Military & Space trains

August 22 - Small Scale trains

October 17 (new date) - Scary trains

December 19 - Larger Scale trains



Win a LIONEL GG-1
Passenger Train Set
No. 2144W from 1948
(See details on page 3)

OUR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th MEET will take place at the beautiful and spacious Arcadia Community Center. The theme is **Trains I Love** or **Red trains**. This is such a wide-open theme, we hope everyone will bring something to share at the display.

At our upcoming meeting, an assortment of deli sandwiches, coffee, doughnuts & more will be available. Soft drinks and snacks can be purchased in the break room on the north side hallway.

We will have trains for sale, free train repairs, an operating toy train layout by Steve Eastman and Denyse & Jeff Meyer. Don't miss our fantastic *Opportunity Drawings!* (See page 3 for details.) We will also have a toy train auction, including items from the Roger C. Hill Collection. See photos below (and on page 3) for a preview...



Broquiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



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



Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

Our meet doors open at 9am for sellers' setup, and we officially begin at 10 am, typically ending around 2 pm, with free parking 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. Reserve a trading table by sending an email to info@tcawestern.org.

TCA Western Division's 2025 Holiday Meet



Steve Eastman with a LIONEL 7-12130 battery-op freight set, priced under \$170, complete.



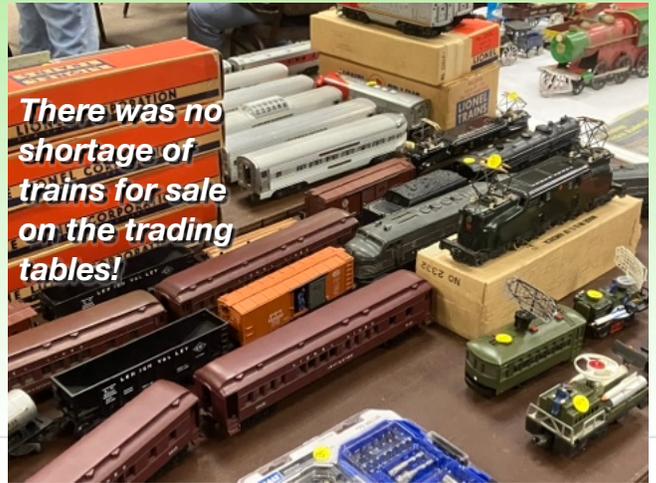
Dr. Martin Folb shows rare LIONEL 400E variations: dark blue w/ red stripes & black w/ red stripes. Click on the Western Division [facebook](#) page & scroll down.



Jim Kenney with an American Flyer prewar **Empire Express** train set in Wide Gauge.



Everyone was well-fed at our Holiday Banquet!



There was no shortage of trains for sale on the trading tables!



Larry Pearson's free Fix-It Shop.



Joseph Caplan mans the front desk. He turned 17 years old this month!



Jon M. Lang Rudy Felix received a Certificate of Appreciation.



Our youngest attendee Jack was high-bidder on this LIONEL caboose.



Ken Chan was the winner of the LIONEL No. 2367 Wabash Grand Prize 3-car passenger set. *Congratulations!*
~ Holiday Meet photos by Harold Shapiro, Mike Stella & Steve Waller ~

Jon M. Lang: Thoughts on Our New Year's Resolutions



It's really hard to believe another year has passed. Many of us will start the New Year of 2026 by making resolutions to do a new project or to accomplish an important task, which perhaps was put off in previous years!

Want to make a *real* difference? Come join the TCA Western team!

Yes, 2026 is an election year for Western Division. All positions are open and we invite your participation. Take a position, be a leader!

In many instances, folks have not decided on all of their resolutions this early in the year. In fact, we may not have even fully defined them. Some of us have already broken our newest resolutions!

If you're one of those people who have not figured out all your resolutions for 2026, I would like to suggest that you consider renewing your membership in TCA Western Division. *Support your local chapter!*

Our next meet is on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Won't you attend? It will feature an auction of the Roger C. Hill Collection. Here are some additional photos of the items for sale...



We have condensed our meetings to just six (6) for 2026. In this fashion, you can also attend some of the other train meets in the Southern California area, without stressing yourself out!

We are working on some exciting new programs. There's a new annual members' Grand Prize drawing of a LIONEL No. 2144W GG1 three-car passenger set with the 2332 Locomotive from 1948. You also get a chance to win a \$100 bill at each meeting. The more tickets you purchase, the greater your chances of winning the "Big Buck."

You must be present to win the \$100 bill, but for the set drawing in December, you need not be present to win. Tickets are only \$25 each and it's limited to just 100 tickets. Current WD members can order tickets by mail.



Renewal for 2026 is now past due. The dues are set at only \$15 to TCA National Members. No penalty for late renewal, so fill out your registration and bring your payment to the next meeting. *You can also mail it in!* For your convenience, the form is available on the TCA Western Division website: <https://www.tcawestern.org/membership.htm>

Make that resolution come true! Attend our meetings and enjoy the camaraderie. Make a new friendship or renew an old one. Look for that special something on one of the trading tables and have coffee & doughnuts or some lunch. I hope to see you soon at a TCA Western meeting!

- Jon M. Lang

P.S. Mark your calendars for the TCA National Convention, scheduled for June 22 thru June 27, 2026 in Grapevine, TX. For details, click on the logo below or visit www.tcatrains.org/

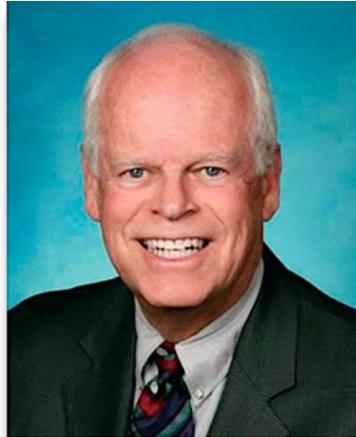


TCA Member Roy Bell Remembrance: 1936 - 2026

Leroy "Roy" Gordon Bell Jr. was born October 13, 1936 and passed away on January 18, 2026 at the age of 89. He was TCA #76-9611, joining our organization some 50 years ago. He also was TTOS #575 and was formerly President of TTOS Southwestern Division.

For TCA Western, Roy was on the board of directors in 1997, 1998 and 2000. In 1999, he served as Vice President of the Division.

Roy also supported the **TTOS Southwestern Limited** newsletter for years with an ad for his State Farm Insurance Branch. Many of our fellow club members were underwritten by the Roy Bell Insurance Agency.



Fifteen years ago, Roy wrote a tribute to his late friend, Jerry Blaine, an avid toy train collector. That remembrance provides a window into what it was like to collect trains in the earlier years of the club, and it makes some interesting reading today. To hear Roy tell the tale, it was a very magical time traveling to York, PA, hunting trains. (This was in the pre-eBay days.) Here's the link to Roy's remembrance of Jerry Blaine: <https://ttos-sw.org/newsletters/SWD%20Limited%20Jan%20Feb%202011.pdf>

A celebration of Roy Bell's life was held on February 7, 2026 at the home of Janitta Keck. After Gary Keck (founder of **The Train Shack**) passed away, Roy and Janitta discovered each other some 13 years ago and became inseparable. In fact, after the pandemic began, Roy was invited to move to Janitta's Simi Valley home. During the last few months of his life, Janitta cared for Roy, as he fought heart and kidney failure, along with related infections.

TCA Western Division's Board of Directors recently voted to buy a Legacy Brick for Roy at the TCA National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, PA. It is scheduled to be installed near the museum's entrance before October, 2026.

View the Roy Bell Tribute Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slhs6nj66Ss>

The family wrote these thoughts about Roy at the end of the video presentation:

"In loving memory of a soul so kind, generous, and full of love - someone who always saw the good in others and made the world brighter just by being in it. Your warmth and spirit will live on in every heart you touched."

Roy Bell will be missed....



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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 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/Brewmaster
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 and click the "Adobe" forms in the first paragraph. (Search for the word "Adobe.") Print out & mail, or join us at the next meet! Visit the TCA National website: <https://www.tcatrains.org/>