



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 72, No. 2

May, 2026

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"Celebrating 72 Years"

"The 1st and Oldest Division"

Arcadia Community Center

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

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - 2 pm - Meet

2026 Meets & Themes:

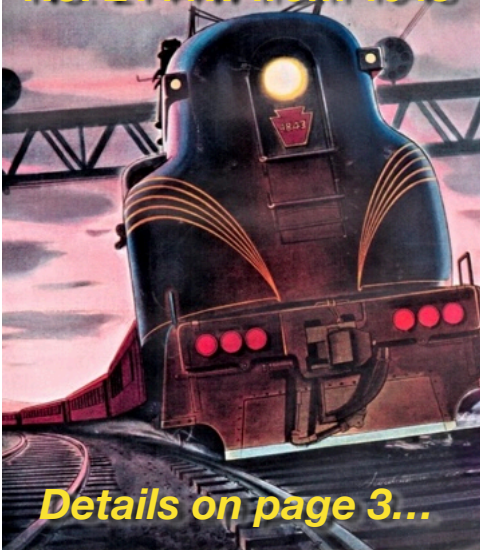
May 23 - Space & Military

Aug. 22 - Small scale trains

Oct. 17 - Scary trains

Dec. 19 - Larger scale trains

**Win a LIONEL GG-1
Passenger Train Set
No. 2144W from 1948**



Details on page 3...

TCA Western's May 23rd Theme: Space & Military Trains!



LIONEL No. 44 U.S. Army Missile Launcher locomotive from 1959.
Photo: The Train Station of Mountain Lakes, NJ ([info: click here](#)).

COMMEMORATE ARMED FORCES DAY with TCA Western!
Our next train meet will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at the beautiful, spacious Arcadia Community Center. The theme is Space and Military Trains ([click here](#)) for Armed Forces Day. Western Division will be hosting a special guest speaker to honor the armed services. (See page 4 for details.)

We will have the regular assortment of deli sandwiches, coffee, and doughnuts available. Soft drinks & snacks can be purchased at the break room vending machines on the north side hallway for \$1.25. Credit cards, Apple Pay, etc. are now accepted.

We will have trains for sale, free train repairs, and an operating toy train layout. Don't miss our fantastic **Opportunity Drawings!** (See page 3 for details.) We will also have a toy train auction, if needed.

The meet doors open at 9am for sellers' setup, and we officially begin at 10am, typically ending around 2pm, 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 your trading tables by sending an email to info@tcawestern.org.

Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



\$100/flatcar UN ION PACIFIC 2 for \$175

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



\$50

Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

Joe Algozzini's book entitled **LIONEL Postwar Space & Military Trains** is considered the authority on these collectibles. You can buy it on Amazon for \$125.00, or you can **WIN** a copy at our **free** member's raffle at the next meet. Just get a **blue** ticket and cross your fingers... For more information, **click on the book!**



TCA Western's February, 2026 Meet



Theme for Valentine's Day: "Trains I Love" or Red Trains



The winner's circle at the club layout, set up by Denyse & Jeff Meyer and Steve Eastman.



Ray Villasenor & son Sebastian set up a preview of their train store in Corona, CA. Please visit: www.goldenspikerrailroading.com



Jon M. Lang awards the monthly \$100 raffle prize to Steve Eastman.



Past-President Bob Caplan visits with Cheryl Shapiro.



We LOVE Trains!



Larry Pearson fixes a LIONEL 681 Turbine locomotive at our free repair desk. Page 2



Harold Shapiro (right) and Joseph Caplan auction the late Roger Hill's trains, raising over \$900 for the club, thanks to Cathy Hill's generous donation.

Jon M. Lang: My Final President's Message for 2026



This year has passed by very quickly and we are fast approaching the second half of 2026.

The world is changing faster than ever before! Artificial Intelligence, turmoil overseas and high gasoline prices....

We can only hope

that the upcoming changes will be for the better!

Speaking of change, a lot has happened with our division and in TCA National. We got a new National President this year and there have also been changes to the National board of directors.

It's now time to be voting for the new club leaders in both Western Division and National. I want to remind you to please vote! One of our own, Harold Shapiro, is running for National President. Please give Harold your support!

You should have received the National ballot electronically, and/or the paper ballot in the **TCA Quarterly**. Our Western Division ballot can be found in this newsletter or you can vote in person at the May meet. Completed ballots must be received by Monday, June 15th to be valid.

At the divisional level, I invite you to participate by attending our regular meetings and consider volunteering to help our club. *We need you!*

By the way, our members' Grand Prize drawing for 2026 is in full swing. *Enter to win* 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! You must be present to win



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

Our National Convention is starting on June 22 at Grapevine, Texas, making it closer than most conventions for us Westerners.

Why not make it a part of your summertime plans? Room rates are only \$159.00 per night.

My term as your President is ending soon and, I must say, it has been a great three years. I want to thank those who made this journey successful. To VP Greg Pulis, recording secretary Tom Watson, webmaster Harold Shapiro, brewmaster Rudy Felix, my deepest appreciation. A huge thanks goes to Denyse & Jeff Meyer and Steve Eastman for putting together the great running layouts at our meets. Let's not overlook our toy train repair wizard, Larry Pearson, who brings the trains back to life! Also, a big thank you to our newsletter editor, Steve Waller, for keeping the presses rolling, as well as Bob Caplan and all the past-presidents for their sage advice.

Lastly, to all our members (and especially you sellers), thanks for your continuing support. To any of you who have not renewed your 2026 dues, please reconsider, as there is NO late fee to rejoin the club. Come enjoy a *free* doughnut and a cup of coffee. Hope to see you around the train table soon!

- Jon M. Lang

P.S. For more details on the Convention, please visit the TCA National website at www.tcatrains.org/ or see the April, 2026 issue of the **TCA Quarterly**.



Armed Forces Day Commemoration: May, 2026

by Jon M. Lang



These are the seven granite monoliths outside of the Arcadia Community Center, known as the Arcadia Veterans Memorial.

May is the month we honor those who served and those who gave their lives for our liberty. Armed Forces Day is the joint celebration of all 6 branches of the military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and the newly-created Space Force. The day honors all personnel currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. This includes the men and women who have served or are serving in the all the branches previously mentioned, including the Merchant Marine, National Guard and Reserve components.

We should be eternally grateful for every Soldier, Sailor and Airman, Marine and Coast Guardsmen, and their families for the sacrifices their loved ones make on our behalf.

What follows is the history of how Armed Forces Day started. Originally, there were single day celebrations for the services as we know them. This format changed on August 21, 1949, when Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day. Stemming from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense, the annual celebration now commemorates all branches of the military during a single day.

The first official Armed Forces Day took place on May 20, 1950, and was themed “Teamed for Defense.” In honor of the special day, B-36 bombers flew over state capitals, a march was led by more than 10,000 veterans and troops in Washington, D.C. and over 33,000 people participated in a New York City parade.

In addition, the first Armed Forces Day also played an essential part in educating society and expanding public knowledge of the military and the role they play in the community. Therefore, it wasn’t only a means to honor those who serve or who have served in the military, but also a way to showcase its top-of-the-line equipment and abilities to protect those in our country.

We hope you will attend our next TCA Western meet on May 23, 2026. The memorial that you pass on your way into the Arcadia Community Center was a project of the Arcadia Rotary Club.

Bob Harbicht, who chaired the fundraising and designed the monument, will be our special guest speaker. He will tell us how it came about.

In total, Bob has been on the Arcadia City Council for twenty years and served four terms as Mayor of Arcadia. He has been an active member of the Arcadia Rotary Club for over 40 years.

The Veterans Memorial was erected by the Rotary Club of Arcadia and the City of Arcadia on June 16, 2018. It features a granite monument for each of the six military branches. The seventh stone reads, “Freedom is not free. We salute those who served to preserve the freedom we enjoy in the United States of America.”

In 1961, John F. Kennedy declared Armed Forces Day a national holiday. Its celebration is on the third Saturday of every May and is exhibited by exercise, parades and receptions that highlight and honor our amazing military and all its strength.

~ ~ ~

“Our service men and women are serving throughout the world as guardians of peace—many of them away from their homes, their friends and their families.

“They are visible evidence of our determination to meet any threat to the peace, with measured strength and high resolve.

“They are also evidence of a harsh but inescapable truth—that the survival of freedom requires great cost and commitment, and great personal sacrifice.”

--President John F. Kennedy, 1963

TCA Western's

April, 2026 Meet

Photos by Harold Shapiro



The theme of our April Meet was *"Pastel Trains."* This 1991 authorized reissue of the very rare LIONEL girl's set (a.k.a. 'Lady Lionel') from 1957 surely fills the bill. Thanks to Glenn Olsen for bringing it in to share with us.



President Jon Lang visits with member Ken Chan at his seller's table. There was a great turnout last month!



VP Greg Pulis takes a closer look at a set of LIONEL 2245 Texas Special F3 locomotives.



Mike Clayton (left) of Pentrex Railroad Videos fame, consults with Jim Kenney, an expert on *railrodiana*. Among the rare items Mike brought was a framed original painting of the C&NW 400 streamliner (left) and the magazine he published in March, 1997 as the 400th issue of *Rail News* (right).

TCA Western's April, 2026 Meet, Part 2



Harvey Tafel brought some colorful pre-war trains for our club's display table.



Jim Dykier (far right) with a bumper crop of red LIONEL bumpers.



Glenn Olsen



Rudy Felix (L) & Ken Chan won the April cash prizes.



Rick Dunn drove in all the way from Palm Springs.



Please note: This 6-page newsletter is available online at <https://www.tcawestern.org/archives.htm>. Clickable links are included that cannot be accessed in the print version. (Scroll down to see back issues.)



The Train Collectors Association — Western Division Newsletter is published quarterly by TCA Western Division. Submissions may be sent to newsletter@tcawestern.org. Deadline is the 1st day of the publication month. TCA Western logo art by Ward Kimball. ©2026 by TCA Western Division.

TCA Western Division Officers:

Jon M. 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 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/>