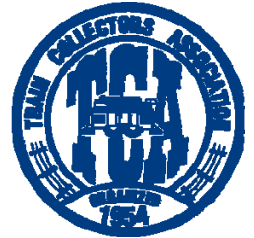




# Western Division

## Train Collectors Association

### Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

May - June 2007

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on **Saturday, June 2**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Trading tables are free!*

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. 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 Western Division sign.

The doors open at 10 a.m. for setup, trading and selling. Please check our newly updated Western Division [website](http://www.tcawestern.org), at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map!

The display theme for June will be "**Convention Cars**". 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 drawn for all those members who display items.

There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership, and tickets for this year's 'Special Raffle' are still available. The item offered for 2007 is the 50th Anniversary Hudson Set as displayed in the Lionel 2002 catalogue. Another \$100 bill will also be raffled to anyone purchasing the 2007 Raffle tickets for the Hudson set. Currently, there are only 46 tickets left. Be sure to get yours for the chance of winning the set and the monthly \$100 bill. Coffee, donuts, and sandwiches will be available at the meet as usual.

Western Division remaining scheduled meet dates for 2007 are: June 2, July 28(Auction), August 25, September 22, October 27(Auction), December 15th. There will be no November meet.

## President's Message

*By Wayne Sheriff, WD President*

Fullerton Rail Road Days has now past. The crowds were great as usual. Disneyland's "C.K. Holliday" Locomotive #1 was one of the many terrific trains on display. This is the first time in 52 years that it has been out of the park. Also on display were the Santa Fe #3751 4-6-4 engine and a great BNSF Diesel with new markings.

Thanks to our volunteers, the TCA Western Division booth was well supported. Bob Lemberger set up his interactive layouts which kept the kids wanting more. We showed a continuously running video of the Nixon Library layout. Jim Kenney brought a nice standard gauge train. Thanks to Jon Lang, we had TCA Western brochures, notices, cards, and stickers for visitors. Robert Trimble provided 1,000 OSH 2007 train calendars that we passed out. Others taking the time to help at the booth were: Dave Otth, Mike Donovan, Ray Sugg, and Bob Nord.

Each spring and fall the TCA museum holds an open house event. At the recent April open house, Bob Lemberger and I presented to the museum, one of the banners from the Nixon Library exhibit along with one of the Williams trains that ran for 57 days, 7 hours a day, on the Library layout. Also donated to the museum were the plaques listing the names of the volunteers who helped put the exhibit together.

During the open house, TCA National President Jim Burke introduced Netvision. This is a new streaming media web site available at [www.tcamembers.org/netvision](http://www.tcamembers.org/netvision).

Kay Spellmire, TCA WD member (HR-77-11072) had a stroke and is in rehab. Our thoughts, prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Kay and husband Bob. You may send your best wishes to them at [bobloveskayspellmire@verizon.net](mailto:bobloveskayspellmire@verizon.net).

Thanks to Jon Lang, WD is offering for sale a pocketed polo shirt with an embroidered Western Division logo, to all WD members. Samples will be on display at the June meet. The shirts are \$32.00 each. You may have your name embroidered on the shirt for an additional \$6. Orders placed at the June meet will receive a \$2 per shirt discount.

As of May 13, 2007, 1<sup>st</sup> class postage for letters went to \$.41. If you have access to the Internet, please be willing to receive your Western Division newsletters via electronic mail. This will help the club save on distribution costs, and maintain the annual dues at the current level. Please notify Jim Kenney or any other board member if you are willing to be removed from the physical newsletter mailing, and convert to electronic only.

— *Wayne*



## March & April 2007 Meet Recaps

*By Robert Lemberger, Recording Secretary*

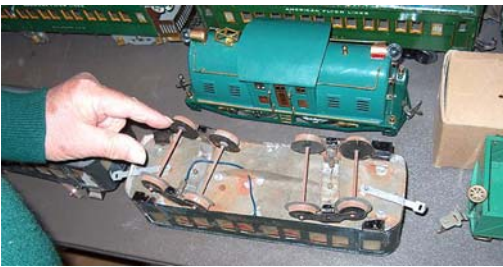
Bob Caplan reminded us that starting in October 2007, all sellers dealing in reproduction parts, boxes, or paper items must have a valid TCA 'certificate of compliance' on file with the National Business office. This program is being implemented by TCA National to ensure that TCA members are protected from buying unauthorized reproduction trains, being sold as authentic trains.

Jim Kenney reminded all that March 31st is the last day to have dues for 2007 fully paid, or be dropped from the club roster.

Mike Donovan announced the March meet's display theme: green trains (for St. Patrick's). First up was Harvey Taffel who displayed a collection of tinsplate prewar hopper cars all in green. He showed cars from 1923 with four wheels and from 1934 with 8 wheels.

Jerry Johnson was next up with his 1999 and 2000 boxcars commemorating Boy Scouts and scouting. Harry Harris brought in his American Flyer standard gauge and vowed to "keep on collecting."

Bob Spellmire displayed a home made by "person's unknown" 2



7/8" gauge trains with a 16 pole electric fan motor. Dave Gabay showed his standard gauge American Flyer gondola which he bought in an antique

store for \$80.00 five years ago. Harry Chortanian showed a 1932 Chevy model complete with rumble seat.

Harold Shapiro showed his postwar Lionel 'O' gauge GG-1 from 1948 in green, the first in that era with pantographs for use with overhead electrical catenary. John "Jack"



Whitmeyer brought in an 'O' gauge hopper, passenger car, cattle and a Kelly green caboose. Mario Liberatore displayed his Lionel #10 engine with a rare orange stripe.

Bill Grove showed a collection of Lionel electric engines in standard gauge including one from 1910 and a top-of-the-line one from 1912. He also had a rare ribbed passenger car. Alvin Costa had his clever coffee can set from the 1920's that came with wheels and a frame inside. Once the coffee was gone the container became a cute play set.



Bob Caplan showed off his Lionel Classics State set from the early 1990's. It included a #381 with four cars. Inside the cars are tiny tables, chairs and even toilets. Larry Pearson brought in his first Lionel set with a #2026 engine and 4 pullman cars. Robert Trimble had a GG-1, a hat he got on eBay, a Long Island RR conductor's cap where GG-1's were serviced and a Lionel cast shell. John Abbe displayed a

Southern RR GP, a black and green convention car and the Lionel sheriff and outlaw car.

Jim Nelson showed an American Flyer 'S' gauge Northern Pacific with original boxes and set box from 1956. Ray Nelson told us about being in San Francisco in 1962 and buying a #253 for \$15.00. He was happy but even more so as the seller stopped him and said "You forgot the cars." John Abbe won the display drawing and selected a Lionel double door auto car.



Mario Liberatore, Zak Mustille, and Ron Nelson also won raffle prizes and selected a Lionel NP box car, a Lionel F.E.C. gondola, and a Lionel Maine Central box car respectively. John Parker won

the \$100.00 - which equals a \$2 rebate for every year he's been a TCA member. Congratulations John!



The display theme for April was 'best buy/worst buy'. Howard Bishop showed an 'O' gauge Lionel General set that he bought for \$12.50. Bill Grove wouldn't say how much he paid, but his Ives #25 engine and #129, #130, and #131 cars, known as inboard cars from 1905, had to be a great buy!

Harry Chortanian displayed a little tinplate loco made in

China, and described his disappointment, as he thought it was something else. Mario Liberatore bought an American Flyer Ringling Brothers Circus Billboard that he acquired in 1975. John Abbe had three little ceramic stations. One he thought was a good buy turned out to be a bad buy as its light didn't work. But a friend came to the rescue and fixed it so John has changed his opinion.



Dave Gabay brought in his shell for an observation car that doesn't fit the frame. Robert Trimble showed a scale 'O' gauge Hudson which he thought he got a good price on until the guy gave him the stuff to go with it - a tender made out of lead. Norm Jensen showed his mint, in the box, American Flyer log loader from 1947 that he picked up for \$50.00.

Larry Pearson displayed an Ives freight set with track and transformer. Dave Gabay won the display drawing and selected a Lionel Wabash flat with trailer.



Robert Cesarone won a Lionel AT&SF stock car. Harold Shapiro won a Lionel Swift's premium car. Bob Williams won a Lionel Swift's reefer. And Ron Nelson won the \$100.00.

April was the quarterly auction. There were some terrific pieces on the block, including a Lionel Bascule bridge, lots of rolling stock and motive power in 'O', Standard, 'HO', and even 'Z' gauge. A very special set of 'Flex Track' with a rare set of piers forming a bridge was also

auctioned off. Vince Garguilo served as auctioneer.

## In Memoriam

Sadly, TCA has lost another member of its family. Alicia H. Caplan (86-23620), long time TCA Western Division member, passed away May 2, 2007 after a long illness. Alicia is survived by her son, Robert M. Caplan, past TCA National President and past Western Division President, and by grandchildren Christopher and Bobby, both TCA Kids Club Members. Sincerest condolences go out to the family - our extended family. Our hearts are with you.