



Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

November – December 2011

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, December 17, 2011 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

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 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.

The display theme for December will be 'Holiday Trains.' Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. We are asking that all members bring a side dish to our Holiday Event. If your last name begins with A through L, please bring a side dish or salad and if your last name begins with M through Z, please bring a dessert. The Division will provide the rest!

Our display themes and TCA Meets for 2012 are: January 28th (Newest Purchase); February 25th (Trains I Love); March 24th (Cabeese); April 21st (Accessories); May 19th (New York Central RR); July 28th (Convention Cars); August 25th (Streamliners); September 22nd (Trolleys); November 3rd (Orange and Black Trains); and December 15th (Holiday Trains).

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held. The Board of Directors had ordered that to participate in the monthly prize raffle, each member must wear their membership badge. This year's "Grand Raffle Prize" is an original boxed Lionel Number 1100 Mickey Mouse Handcar with red base made between 1935-37. Tickets are only \$20 each! Ticket holders will have the opportunity to win a crisp \$100 bill to be give away to one lucky eligible member in good standing.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

The Holidays are upon us and nothing says Christmas like toy trains. Whether they are under the tree or on a table top, in a store window or someone's garage – this is when everyone gets to openly enjoy watching them be run without fear of being misunderstood.

For those of us in the hobby, we have long since learned to maneuver the: "It's for my son daughter or grandchild", if not the flat out: "Yes, I play with (collect, sell, run, trade, study, etc.) toy trains..." However, for most others there is more of a seasonal element. It's as if toy trains and Christmas trees came packaged as one.

Let me just say quickly that while 'toy' and 'scale model' are very real distinctions in the world of miniature trains, they aren't as critical to most of the general public – and honestly, early on probably didn't matter much to many of us either. It is only later, as we come to understand and then appreciate how it enriches the final product - then the differences become important elements for some.

Plus I really think that's a big part of a toy train's charm and magic: either type can possess the ability to transport us individually into our own unique and fantastic places, which on reflection is simply amazing. These small, in some cases tiny, mechanical marvels are not just capable of grabbing our imaginations, but of capturing our hearts in the bargain.

I would like to add that there can be remarkable significance attached to the trains from our youth, as they tend to be associated with special times in our lives. So often it seemed that it was during birthdays and holidays (and other truly special occasions) that many of our greatest prizes were regularly acquired. Since they tended to be from people very dear to us, their value always seemed to be just a little bit greater.

To the extent then that we were able to hold on to, maybe have reacquired, or just simply remember fondly what we once had – may ultimately prove the biggest part of the "magic of toy trains" in our lives.

It's these warm memories that we share with others that keep us coming back again for more. How we do it will vary for each of us, depending on what opportunities are available. Some of you have permanent lay-outs that are accessible year round, but the rest of us will have something temporary ranging from the simple loop around a tree or table top, to whatever we can conjure up and are able to fit into the house. Whatever the challenges, this is when we get to be truly creative. Then we are able to share our efforts with others.

So this Christmas let's all find someone else to let in on the magic – and keep on making memories!

November Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



A magnificent display of orange and black trains of all sizes

The display theme was: 'Orange and Black Trains'. There were quite a few interesting items shown. Bob Spellmire showed off his TCA F-3 AA unit shells with Lionel post-war chassis and all the passenger cars that were issued by TCA over the years as part of the 40th Anniversary Set. Bob Nord displayed his new MTH set that he got for his birthday.

Al Vargas showed his original scratch-built Ward Kimball automated Grizzly Flats station, which he would like Lionel to produce. Calvin Smith likes boxes with dealer stickers on them like the gang car he brought. Dan Kyle showed off a Lionel orange #202 UP Alco and an orange Lionel Lines caboose. Dave Mabee showed his orange #1700 rare Lionel Lines set in orange.

Mario Liberatore brought his 1993 TTOS Western Pacific "Orange Feather" Boxcar. Dave Burkhart showed off his orange Ives set. Harold Shapiro showed off a Lionel Pre-war #258 orange striped loco & tender. John Abbe presented an orange and black Lionel PFE operating reefer. Larry Pearson showed his Orange Wide Gauge American Flyer Set.



Steve Eastman and Bob Nord set-up an outstanding Halloween Display

Leslie Cochran displayed an orange and black SP Alco loco. Steve Eastman showed his Marx SP Daylight loco. Harry Chotanian brought his Lionel HO Daylight Set. Steve Waller showed off his low cost pumpkin flatcar and Tom Hubbard showed his orange Lionel tinplate set.



Steve Waller



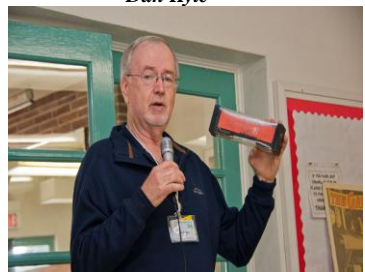
Steve Eastman



Dan Kyle



Mario Liberatore



Jim Kenney



Leslie Cochran



Larry Pearson



John Abbe



Harry Chotanian



Harold Shapiro



Calvin Smith



Robert Spellmire



Bob Nord



Dave Burkhart



Al Vargas



Pumpkins compliments of Steve Eastman



Robert Caplan ran a fast auction!



Steve Waller working hard at the auction!

A very special 'thanks' to Mike Donovan and Jim Kenney for their hard work making our auction successful! The auction proceeds were over \$740!



November Raffle Prize Winners: Harry Chotanian (K-Line Boxcar), Bob Nord (\$100 Monthly Raffle Winner), Don Gatz (2012 Convention button), Dan Kyle (2012 National Convention button), Tina Corsello (Lionel Bumper), Nancy Cochran (Lionel Billboard Set), Mike Johnston (2012 National Convention button), and Herb Mayer, not shown, (Western Pacific Blue Feather Boxcar).

We thank Jim J. Burke Jr. (Fort Pitt Division) who generously donated a McCoy TCA Santa Monica Convention car to our Division.

Photographs by Herbert Mayer