



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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April 1999

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next toy train meet will be held on **Saturday April 24th, 1999** at the *Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006* (Santa Anita exit off of the 210 freeway, then head south).

The meeting hall doors will be opened at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables. The hall will be open for members to enter and trading to commence at 11:00 AM.

Spring is here, Easter has come and gone, and so has the latest York meet. Therefore, the display theme for this month's train meet, appropriately will be: items that are symbolic of the Spring season, or items that relate to the Easter celebration (i.e.: Bunny Express trains, Bunny & Easter Basket hand cars, Poultry Dispatch/Egg haulers?), or if you do not have anything like that in your collection, just bring the latest toy train item you picked up at York!

Let's see how creative Western Division members can be with their display and story telling abilities.

Once again, an auction will be held after the business meeting, and there will be another very special raffle prize assortment given away.

Calendar of Events

Western Division schedule of remaining 1999 train meets is as follows:

May 22 nd , 1999	July 24 th , 1999
August 28 th , 1999	September 25 th , 1999
October 23 rd , 1999	November 27 th , 1999

-All meets will be held at the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center.

May 16th, 1999 – Allied Model Trains annual auction

- at the Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., in Arcadia. For more information, contact Allen Drucker at (310)313-9353.

June 18th – 27th, 1999 – Railfair '99 – the railroad extravaganza celebrating the discovery of gold and

California's Statehood Sesquicentennial. In Old Town Sacramento. Call (916)322-8485 for further information.

June 20th – 27th, 1999 – TCA National Convention – San Francisco Bay Area. Hosted by TCA Nor-Cal Division, contact Robert Spivock, (925)284-5696 for more details.

President's Corner

I am sad to report the passing of Carl Anderson, a fellow member of TCA and the Western Division since 1991. Carl collected pre-war 'O' gauge and also some Lionel and MTH from recent years. He resided in the Northridge area of the San Fernando Valley. Sincerest condolences to his family.

Somewhat of a consolation for all of us, is that Carl's legacy, created as a result of having collected toy trains for many years, will live on. It is being made available via public auction next month. The items will be offered at Allen Drucker's Allied Model Trains annual auction being held on Sunday, May 16th in Arcadia.

Western Division's Internet Web site is coming back! A contract has been established for re-instating the site at the following URL: <http://www.tcawestern.org>. The site content is currently being revamped, but it might be 'live' and on-line by the time you read this newsletter. So sign on to the Internet, and surf your way over. Any feedback or content ideas that Western Division members can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Myron Moore for his efforts in modifying the web site.



This May's Western Division monthly meet has been designated to be a special children's event. It is intended that all TCA members planning to attend next month's meet bring their kids, grandkids, neighbor's kids, any underprivileged children, or handicapped children that they might associate with or know of. Exposure to this toy

train hobby that we all love, to a younger generation will hopefully enable the spreading of this joy and enthusiasm that we all experience.

We are working to contact organizations that care for underprivileged and problematic children. It is hoped that we can bring some of these youths to our May meet. The TCA goal is to preserve a very important segment of history – Tinsplate toy trains. We accomplish this through research, education, community outreach, and fellowship. We want to promote the growth and enjoyment of this great hobby. What better way to facilitate this mission than through this type of special children's event?

I also call upon our membership to assist with garnering donations from local merchants who cater to our hobby. We are seeking starter sets that can be given to the organizations that care for the youths.

On the subject of kids, the TCA National Kids' Club is still looking for Division or Chapter representatives for the Kids' Club. The intended duties of the representatives would be to organize educational activities and contests, like train races and engine tug-of-wars at our local meets. For further details, see the March 1999 issue of the Headquarters News, or contact Marlene Rohlfing (630)279-7235, or Keith Arnold (717)898-9806, or Sarah Reed (703)750-1220.

Many thanks to Dennis Taube, Tim Simendinger, Emmert Stouffer and the rest of the members who have assisted with the setting up of the chairs and tables for our monthly meets at the Arcadia hall. Sorry I didn't get everyone's name into this issue!

Will be looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 24th.

Your president – *Harold Shapiro*

Membership Report

As of the end of March 1999 Western Division had 274 paid members, with another 46 members still owing their annual dues. The bank account balance stands at around \$8,200. A reminder that annual dues were payable as of January 1st, 1999. We ask for all TCA members residing in the S. California area to support your local division in all its endeavors to further the Toy Train hobby.

Respectfully submitted by *Russ Lange*,
Membership Secretary/Treasurer

March 1999 Meeting Recap

There were 60 plus members and guests attending, and 27 sales tables. The drawing prizes were: a Lionel 1979 TCA Mint convention car, won by Lee Bishop and 1999 Lionel Catalogues won by Les Cochran, Bob Trimble,

Ernie Renn, and Dave McCully.

Tim Simendinger again generously contributed the catalogues. Thanks Tim.

The display table featured the color green since March celebrates St. Patrick's Day. Emmert Stouffer displayed an early Lionel Standard gauge green cattle car that he bought in 1970 for \$1.00. He made the roof and the doors. John Parker showed a very nice American Flyer 'O' gauge Nation Wide Lines set, a J.C. Penny tinsplate special, in green litho. Bob Trimble had a green Lionel #069 warning signal 'as new' in its 'as new' box.



Les Cochran displayed three Burlington Northern 'fallen flags' diesels: an #860 Lionel U36B, a #8957 GP 20 and a #88374 DC switcher all in colorful bright green, black & white. Ray Nelson had constructed a very well done trolley from a Standard gauge passenger car. Dave McCully had found a wood floor train, possibly Strombeckere or Noma, with green streamlined engine.

Bob Trimble again brought interesting pieces from his collection. He displayed some unpainted Kusan boxcar shells, and a Santa Fe 2 rail DC 'O' scale diesel made by Rivarossi, as well as a Pittman work car and trolley, both 'O' scale and both green.

Sales Items: As usual there was a good mix of pre-war, postwar and newer trains for sale. Our guest from Seattle said we had more pre-war than his club usually shows. One could find a 226E with 12-wheel tender, a pre-war Standard gauge Ives Gondola, a Standard gauge #10 loco, a #219 crane car, and a #300E, all needing loving restoration, as well as a Noma Station 'as new' in its box, and two Skyline buildings, mint in the box (freight and passenger stations).

Newer items included a 1977 Lionel Mickey Mouse Express, with eight cars in their boxes, and a Blue Comet 69540 loco, tender and eight cars by Williams. Matchbox collectors had their chance with two trucks in their original boxes, #K-1 and K-7. As usual, there was track, transformers and accessories from all periods. An LGB #3 loco was available and an Ertl turntable and engine house.

Introductions: A New member, William Rolack and his daughter Amber were introduced. Also introduced was guest John O'Neal from TCA Pacific Northwest Division, (Seattle), who was visiting with Bob Kaplan, and is on TCA's National Standards Committee.

Submitted by *Dave McCully*