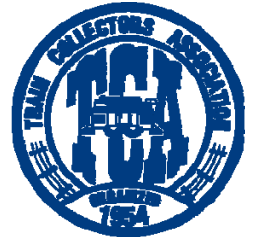




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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October - December 2008

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's **Holiday** train meet will take place on Saturday, December 13th, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Once again in the usual holiday tradition, a 'pot luck' style meal is in the offering. The club will provide submarine sandwiches and beverages.

Members are asked to prepare and or bring either a side/salad dish or a dessert dish to share. Members whose last names begin with the letters **A thru L** are requested to provide a **side dish or salad** and members whose last names begin with the letters **M thru Z** are requested to bring a **dessert**. Please prepare dishes sufficient in size to accommodate a large group and please bring serving utensils. The club will provide plates, napkins, and plastic ware.

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 11 AM for setup, trading and selling. (one hour later than usual). 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 and Accessories**." Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. There will be a separate raffle prize drawing held for all those members who display items.

There will be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership. Also there will be a special raffle for children and wives. Tickets for this year's 'Lionel 1950 Hudson Special Raffle' are also still available for \$25 each. A crisp \$100 bill will once again be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2008 Raffle ticket for the Lionel 773. The Hudson drawing will also take place at the Holiday meet.

Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2009 are: January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, and December 19. There will be no meets held in June or November.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

While I am writing this article, we are getting back to normal from the fires in Yorba Linda. The fires came close, but thank heavens; it stayed about a ¼ mile away. We were required to evacuate and it was fun getting the cat in his carrier. We were able to go home the next day. It sure was a hard decision not taking any trains with me. But, they were not on the top of the list with only about two hours to get out. I thank everyone for their thoughts and concerns.

November 21-23 is Cal-Stewart and WD will have a table in the public area for better exposure. We will bring our interactive layout that Bob Lemberger donated to the club. In the past, it has been a very good attention getter with kids of all ages. The Boy Scouts that attended the October meet will be at Cal-Stewart continuing merit badge activities thanks to David Otth, Jon Lang and Manny Gonzales.

Results of the Western Division 2009 Elections: President - Wayne Sheriff, Vice-President - Manny Gonzales, Treasurer - Jim Kenny, Secretary - Robert Caplan, Board of Directors - John Parker, Harold Shapiro, Steve Eastman, Michael Donovan, Steve Waller, Herbert Mayer, and Jon Lang. Thank you Robert Spellmire for another great job of supervising the elections.

The National Membership, Retention, & Benefits Committee under the direction of Pat Halpin, is taking steps to contact TCA members whose membership has lapsed to ask why they did not renew their membership and encourage them to reinstate. If you have not paid your National dues, you will get a call from me. There are 20 members in the WD area who have not paid.

In an effort to boost membership levels in TCA, a new membership drive has been organized. As an incentive to the divisions and individual members, National is offering the opportunity to win prizes from \$50 and \$200 gift certificates to even \$500 to \$1,000 in a cash awards. Watch for more details to be published in the next TCA Headquarters News.

WD member Robert Trimble (98-48234) has offered up a suggestion for Honor Roll and Senior membership in TCA and for dealing with Honor Roll members that may not be paying dues. Thanks Bob for the suggestion and I will be forwarding it to National for review.



Youths, Railroading & Trains

By Jon M. Lang

WD's October 25th meeting was geared around getting youths interested in train collecting and railroading.



For this meet the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) were invited to attend. Scouts participated from Troop #148 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Temecula, Troop #509 from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and from the San Gabriel Valley Council.

Upon their arrival, I awarded each scout with an "I love Toy Trains" stick-on logo with our Western Division name and website address. A hand-out titled "Size to Fit Any Interest or Space" which explained all model train sizes and scales was also provided.

A separate area of the meeting hall had been set aside for the Scouts to gather in. After introducing myself (a 64 year registered scout), I briefly explained about the club, and the many different facets of train interest, i.e. collecting, operating, train history, and photography. I then touched on the requirements for the BSA Railroading Merit Badge. WD member Ray Sugg, who is a retired

Southern Pacific RR engineer, discussed his career, his involvement and the education needed to have a successful career in railroading. As our regular meeting began, I had the boys move over, so they could attend and listen in. Before leaving, the boys had an opportunity to spend time at several of the trading tables.

One such table was Al Vargas', who showed and explained different types of locomotives and the periods of time they represented. Several boys purchased some cars and seemed to have enjoyed their experience.

This was the first step for these boys to earn the BSA railroading and collection merit badges. In the second step, these boys will also be attending the Cal-Stewart Meet.

As an inter-club exchange, TCA Western is supporting this year's Cal-Stewart event by loaning track, trees, buildings and power supplies from the Nixon Library Christmas displays.

Last year, we trained approximately 70 boys in this merit badge. We are shooting to reach 100 boys this year. As part of their program, the scouts will construct 'O' gauge, 'S' gauge and 'G' scale model train layouts, identify ten different types of train cars, build a railroad structure (from scratch or using a kit), paint and weather the model, learn several types of railroading signals, explain these signals and the safety precautions to take while being around real trains.



September Meet Recap

By Steven Eastman, Secretary

The display theme was 'Streamliners'. Jim Kenney was first up showing an American Flyer Hiawatha, a City of Denver, a Burlington Zephyr and a small tin Hiawatha. Jim also shared with us a very rare 1927 Ives 'O' gauge set with 'Southern Pacific' nameplates. Steve Waller displayed an American Flyer Royal Blue, a mechanical Lionel Junior in orange and a book about designer Otto Kuhler. Bob Caplan displayed a Lionel post-war extruded aluminum 2500 series passenger car shell with windows punched out on one side only and an 'Uncle Don' tin bank.



Bill Grove showed a smooth side red roof Flying Yankee, and a #752 City of Denver in yellow and Mojave. Bob Cesarone showed us a tin American Flyer Hiawatha coach with an orange stripe instead of the normal yellow. Larry Pearson showed off a green City of Denver set. Steve Eastman displayed a Hoge M10000 and a Hoge Shovel Nose Comet. Harold Shapiro displayed a Lionel post-war #746 NW J class and a #221 NYC Dreyfus Hudson along with related papers and history of the prototypes. Bob Trimble shared

with us a PCC streetcar. Dave Gabay displayed a Lionel UP City of Denver engine.

Jack Whitmeyer displayed a Lionel pre-war #936 Hiawatha engine and tender. Hollis Cotton showed an American Flyer boxed Green Diamond set with a 1935 Zephyr comic strip. Les Cochran displayed a Lionel Baby Berkshire made for JC Penney in 2003. Dave Otth displayed a Marx green and cream M10000. Drawing winner Dave Gabay selected a Lionel #19573 stock car.



The monthly drawing winners were Steve Waller - Lionel Billboard set, Ken Chan - Lionel #26331 pipe car, Harold Shapiro - Lionel #26306 D&RGW gondola, and the 773 Hudson \$100 raffle winner was Steve Eastman.

October Meet Recap

By Steven Eastman, Secretary

The display theme was 'Work Trains'. Bob Caplan showed a Marx wedge tender with an olive litho on the bottom, three WWII tank operator headphones made by Lionel, and a Lionel Engineer's Club certificate from the 1930's. Dave Gabay displayed a 1995 Lionel TCA Hiawatha observation car. Mario Liberatore presented an American Flyer tin water tower. Dave Mabee showed a #6660 crane car, #97330 tank car and a 1979 LCCA City of Seattle car.

Steve Eastman displayed 3 Marx work train sets in tin, one each from the pre-war, post-war, and modern eras. Bob Trimble showed a variety of Lionel clocks.



The display drawing winner was once again Dave Gabay who selected a Lionel Toy Fair boxcar. Monthly drawing winners were Mark Spears - Lionel billboard set, Linda Spears - Lionel passenger platform, and Aram Maljanian - PRR Passenger coach. The 773 Hudson \$100 raffle winner was Ken Chan.

In Memoriam

Kay Spellmire HR-77-11072, wife of member Robert Spellmire of about 60 years has recently passed. Kay has always been a bright and charming star at our WD meets and we will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and the family.

Michael Urac, 01-53692 recently passed. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to his wife Rebecca and the family.