



Western Division Newsletter



Volume 59, No. 6

<http://www.tcawestern.org>

December 2013

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2013 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California. This will be our annual Holiday Party & Pot Luck.

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 Accessories**'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Please plan to bring a dish for the traditional pot luck meal at the Holiday Party. If your last name starts with the letter 'A' to 'O' please bring a dessert for about 15 members, and if your last name starts with the letter 'P' to 'Z' please bring a side dish. The club will provide the sandwiches and punch.

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held at the December meet, as well as a special raffle for the ladies, and the Lionel Hudson will be awarded to one lucky ticket holder.

Western Division's 2014 meet schedule is as follows: January 25th, February 22nd, April 5th, May 24th, July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th, October 25th, and December 6th.

The display theme for January will be '**Your Newest Purchase (Train)**'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

By the time you read this, the Holiday Season will be fully upon us. Whether it starts for you with Thanksgiving, or as is increasingly the case for many at Halloween, this is the home stretch into Christmas and the New Year.

This is a magical time when even non-train types will setup their own personal homage to the always classic Christmas Toy Train. Usually just a simple loop, it often seems to morph into an increasingly elaborate and complex 'megalopolis' that belies what is only a temporary existence of mere weeks. But no matter, since it seems that wherever you turn there are endless toy trains. It's more than enough to make Scrooge and The Grinch smile. And of course among the truly dedicated, the layouts continually evolve – always reflecting the particular season at hand.

It's also a time when people tend to be at their most generous. Be it from a sense of abundance, of blessings, or simply from varying degrees of personal obligation - if not sacrifice, so many are moved to share with others.

This leads me to the subject of finances which (even under the best of circumstances) is never an easy topic. Recently National raised the annual dues to which quite a few members became rather upset. I feel the need to clarify that this was a decision made

beyond the scope of Western Division, which in fact has not raised its dues in quite a few years.

By and for our members, as a non-profit organization, anything we attempt to do is solely in an effort to accrue some benefit for the membership. For example, at our annual Holiday (December) Meet, unlike other clubs, we choose to have a nice sit-down meal – partly a potluck, the club provides sandwiches, punch and coffee. As to the coffee, donuts, and sandwiches made available at our regular meets – our primary goal is to just break-even. In fact, if it wasn't for one of our members regularly donating the donuts, we would continuously come up short.

Unfortunately this is partly due to not all who partake paying their fair share. While the intent is to accommodate our attendees, there are some who feel the club can absorb their needs. To the extent that we become aware of such behavior, when possible and discreetly, it should always be discouraged. It's not about the money, as the amounts can be negligible – but in fact about the principle. When people behave in ways that are detrimental they harm not only the club, but in the process each of the rest of us as WE are the club. While again I emphasize that this is just a tiny handful, when we 'wink & nod', and then look away at any bad behavior – we are only doing a disservice to each other, even if we never meant to.

Happy Holidays and see you all soon.

September Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



Special Layout Created by Steve Eastman and Bob Nord for the September Holiday Meet

September's WD meet had a fantastic display of trolleys of all sorts that satisfied everyone's palate.



Bob Spellmire brought a Pittman Trolley he acquired at the Chicago TCA Convention.



Greg Pulis brought this very early Lionel #2 Trolley

October Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

October's display was the very colorful "Orange and Black" Halloween Theme. Steve Waller and Bob Nord Created a Scary layout for all!



Steve Waller shows his Marx trolley



Jim Kenney shows us his reissued Lionel #200 trolley.



Robert Trimble identifies Bob's trolley kit as Pittman.



Robert Verre brought his Bing trolley.



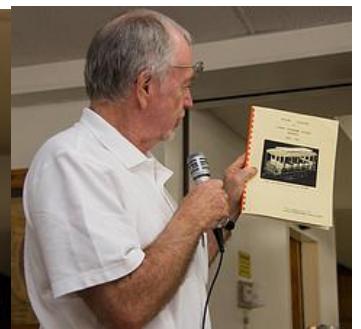
Mario Liberatore brought his Walt Disney Anniversary Trolley by Pride Lines2.



Wayne Sheriff's Hartland trolley.



Myron Moore shows off a Lionel Pacific Electric trolley.



Jim Kenney had a TCA catalog of Lionel Trolleys.



Harry Chortanian brought his San Francisco toy trolley



Prize Winners: Wayne Sheriff \$100, Steve Waller and Mario Liberto.



Wayne Sheriff showing his Lionel TCA baggage car from the Ontario Convention and his imaginary Halloween car!



Steve Waller showing his Halloween Set consisting of Lionel beginner items and Dave Mabee showing his Lionel Halloween Car from 2012!



Larry Pearson showed off his circa 1929 Ives Tiger Passenger Set and Bob Spellmire showed us a 3235R Ives loco with a cast iron frame repainted orange and black.



Steve Eastman showed a Richart Mine Loco and Neil Meyer shared his homemade Halloween flat car.



Dave Mabee showing an article that was in the TCA Quarterly written by Harvey Tafel and John Abbe showing a 1982 Lionel beginners Black Cave Flyer Halloween set.



Myron Moore showed his Lionel 2025 CN Alco ABA black and orange locos and Robert Trimble showing off his Lionel box collection.

Show and Tell Items presented at the October Meet.



Prize Winners: Mike Donavan, Bob Spellmire, Neil Meyer and Dave Mabee won the \$100!

T.C.A. Western Division Set up our interactive Layout at the 2013 Cal-Stewart Meet this past October 22-24, 2013 and all children, as well as adults, enjoyed pushing the buttons for the accessories and trains.





A SPECIAL Thanks to Herb Meyer, Mike Donovan, Wayne Sheriff, and Bob Caplan for manning the layout during the meet.



We all extend our wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery to Bob Spellmire who broke his hip on Halloween evening after passing out candy to children.

Photographs by Herbert Alfred Mayer and Robert Caplan