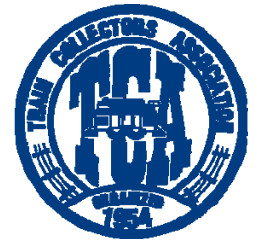




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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January - February 2008

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's February train meet will take place on Saturday, the 23rd, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is 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 AM 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 February will be, 'Trains I Love'. 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 raffle prize drawing held 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 'Lionel 1950 Hudson Special Raffle' are available for \$25 each. A crisp \$100 bill will also be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2008 Raffle ticket for the Lionel 773, and is in attendance at the meet.

Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2008 are: February 23, March 22, April 19, May 31, July 26, August 23, Sept 27, Oct 25, and December 13, 2008. June and November are dark.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

Looking back on 2007, it was another great year for TCA Western Division. First, the club completed the inaugural 'Nixon Presidential Library Holiday Toy Trains exhibit' and started the second iteration of this exhibit. Both were a big success in part to the efforts of the volunteer team headed up by Bob Lemberger. It took many hours of effort to take down last years display and put up this year's. But to see the happy faces on the visiting children when they went around the layout numerous times (before their parents took them out with some of them screaming) was well worth these efforts.

It should be noted that the WD membership displayed some marvelous trains for the 'Wall of Trains' at the Library. Thank you all. This year, on the Saturday before the exhibit started to close down, a member's day was held at the Nixon Library. Several members brought their favorite trains to run on the huge layout. The Nixon Presidential Library has made a donation to TCA Western Division in the amount of \$5,000 for all of the efforts.

Fullerton Railroad Days was another success also. Thanks to Bob Trimble's efforts to get the OSH calendars, and Bob Lemberger's interactive layout for the kids to enjoy, attendance was great. WD looks forward to participating again this year.

TCA National President Chris Allen, attended the WD's December Holiday Meet. Chris came specifically to present a recognition plaque to John Parker, CM6-143, for being the National Historian for TCA for the past several years. John's contributions to TCA include serving as National President, Secretary and Historian. John has also served as Western Division President and as Chairman and Co-Chairman of the TCA National



Conventions held in Southern California over the years since 1971. Thank you John for your dedication and support of TCA and Western Division.

The World's Greatest Hobby show stopped in Del Mar in January. It was very well attended with 20,000 plus, and WD manned a booth with the interactive layout set up, that attracted many families. The kids always love doing things vs. just looking.

Jim Barrett, the Associate Editor of 'O' Gauge Railroad Magazine also had a booth at the show. Afterward, he stopped by the Nixon Library for a photo shoot for an up coming issue. Look for it in their December issue which will coincide with the start of next year's Nixon Library layout and display.

The beginning of 2008 is time for the membership to submit their annual WD dues. The majority of the membership (60%) has already done so, but there remain at least 40% of you who are in arrears. If you have not sent your dues in yet, you may pay them at the next meet or send them to WD Treasurer Jim Kenney. Annual dues for WD have been held at \$15.00 for several years now.

December 2007 Meet Recap

By Bob Lemberger, 2007 Recording Secretary

President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order introducing Treasurer Jim Kenney, who let everyone know that its dues time. Jim introduced two new members, Ryan Kenney and Arnold Tishian. Wayne announced that TCA National had a new secretary, Christy Wilson replacing Sarah Reed Lavinus who passed away recently.

Wayne introduced TCA National President Chris Allen who drove from Arizona just to present a special award. Chris explained that TCA normally has no method in place to recognize the achievements of volunteers but that he had found a way to do so for John Parker, who Chris then presented such an award. John has recently passed on his duties as TCA Historian.

As is traditional at the Western Division December Holiday meet there was a buffet lunch served to the membership with sub sandwiches and the 'potluck' side dishes and desserts.

The display theme for December was "holiday trains". Harold Shapiro was first up because his entry in the display was also part of the pot luck holiday meal – he brought in 3 trains that were actually a series of iced and frosted cup cakes molded in the shapes of train locomotives and freight cars.

Mario Liberatore showed his flat cars with reindeer wagons. Bob Trimble had a train cookie, GGI, some flex-track, an LGB handcar and a neat little silver bank set. Dave Gabay displayed a Lionel catalogue. Bob Lemberger shared his Pride Lines Mickey Mouse Christmas Handcar. John Abbe had a Norman Rockwell caboose, a station with sounds and gumballs inside a plastic engine.

Jerry Johnson displayed a Christmas tree shaped stand that held operating Hallmark ornaments and this year's Freedom train ornament. Bob Caplan showed off his sample for the TCA Jubilee convention car. Les Cochran had a Lionel Christmas train. Steve Eastman brought in his accumulation of 6 and 7 inch Marx Christmas cars.

The display raffle prize went to Dave Gabay who selected a Lionel flat car with Dodge Vipers. Andrew Bowman won the children's raffle which was a Lionel 'O' gauge Thomas the Tank set. Nancy Cochran gave out the ladies gifts which she shopped for and wrapped. Thank you Nancy!



Mario Liberatore, Mike Jenkins, Ron Hall, Bob Nord and Steve Eastman won raffle prizes selecting respectively: a Pennsy flat with tractors, a Pink Cadillac flat, a flat with flashing lights, a Halloween car and a flat with Chrysler Prowlers. John Parker won the \$100 bill and yours truly won the 50th anniversary Hudson set.

This is my last duty as secretary. It's been a great time for me and I want to thank all of you for your support. Please give Steve Eastman, your new secretary, your support as well.

January 2008 Meet Recap

By Steve Eastman, 2008 Recording Secretary

The January general meeting came to order at 12:00 pm. President Wayne Sheriff talked about the success of the Nixon Library exhibit, and how it was extended to February 3rd. The take down starts February 4th and will be finished by Friday the 15th.

WD member Larry Pearson, 03-56591 has volunteered to conduct a train repair clinic at upcoming meets to facilitate members' needs for minor repairs. Jon Lang, BOD member, is making arrangements for a club booth to be set up at the Fullerton Railroad Days this coming May.

The display theme for January was 'New Trains'. Robert Caplan showed a pair of Lionel 'O' gauge #6050 Lionel Savings Bank cars – one a rare one with missing rivets. Dave Mabee showed a Valentine car and the new Lionel tinplate #264 pre-war repro passenger set. Mark Spears showed his postwar era Lionel 'O' gauge #2530 REA double door baggage car that he recently acquired at a very reasonable price. Mario Liberatore showed an old boxed ESCO live steam stationary engine. John Abbe showed his Lionel Las Vegas gold bullion car. Calvin Smith showed his PFE Reefer.



Dave Gabay showed a postwar era Lionel catalog depicting multiple operating cars in action dumping loads of coal and lumber at the same time the locomotive at the head of the train was depicted to be moving down the track at a highball rate of speed. An interesting observation that Lionel artists and marketing people must not have thought about too clearly. Les Cochran showed the new Atlas Industrial Rail LA Transit trolley. Bob Trimble showed some GM push start trolley

variations, this years Hallmark train ornaments and various types of unusual flex track. Drawing prize went to Mark Spears, who selected an Industrial Rail 'S' tank car from the 2003 convention.



After the auction, the raffle winners were drawn. Harvey Tafel, Industrial Rail reefer, Larry Pearson, 2008 Osh Train calendar, Zak Mustille, K-Line flat car with load, Les Cochran, Lionel Convention car, Ken Vaughn, K-Line caboose. The \$100 Drawing winner was Mike Donovan.

Western Division 46 Years Ago

Western Division Train Meet in February 1962 at Dick Thompson's at Long Beach, California. Now when it comes to displaying an accumulation of Standard gauge fresh from Goodwill, this early 'collection' does it in mass. As 'O' gauge rolled it up in the 1950's the Standard gauge was being dumped, and picking it up was an easy game.



In this picture that's Ed Miller, Wes Frye, George Sirus, Mel Roberts, and Bill Harris. Beyond the mass of box cars, note the volume of Standard gauge locomotives. The photo was taken by Herb Morley, and hence he's among the missing.

Now as I remember Dick Thompson had on his mantel an excellent Dorfan Ivory & Red Roofed "Florida Special" passenger set that was very impressive so like most early collections there were some super good items as well! I hope you find this interesting!! John Parker