



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 1

January/February, 2024

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"Celebrating 70 Years"

Upcoming TCA Western Meets 10 AM - Meet; 9 AM - Setup

Jan 27 - Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007
Theme: **New Year/New Trains!**
(Can be "new" or "new to you.")

Feb. XX - No meeting. (Arcadia Community Center unavailable.)
See you next month!

Mar. 30 - Arcadia Community Center
Theme: **Passenger trains** as
"A Tribute to Wayne Sheriff;"
any gauge will do, but especially
"O" and G scale.

April 27 - Arcadia Community Center
Theme: **Standard Gauge** as
"A Tribute to Robert Spellmire;"
or any size train that Bob would
have enjoyed.

May 25 - Arcadia Community Center
Theme: **Streamliners**

June 15 - 23: TCA National Convention
Lancaster, PA (70th Anniversary)
Visit www.tcaconvention.org in
the near future.

Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



Purchase them at our local Western Division meets (**no shipping fee**) or visit www.tcawestern.org to order.



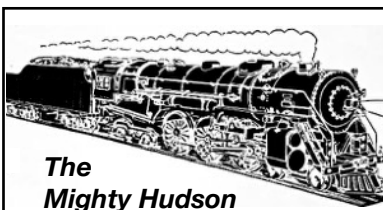
Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

GRAND PRIZE AWARDED!



Photo by
Roger Hill

TCA Western Division member **Steve Eastman**, looking as jolly as Santa himself, can't help smiling as he learns that he has won the **LIONEL 1950 Golden Anniversary Set**, with a pair of Union Pacific No. 2023 ALCOs, and a full set of the rare "Armour Yellow" passenger cars.



The
Mighty Hudson

LIONEL's "Giant of the Rails"

The **2024 Grand Prize** has already been chosen *unanimously* by the Western Division Board of Directors. It's considered top-of-the-line: the magnificent **LIONEL Hudson 4-6-4** steam locomotive. It could be a pre-war 763E, or a post-war 773 from 1950, or one from the 1960s, or even ????

TCA National Past President Bob Caplan, an acknowledged expert on the collecting of Lionel Trains, has been tasked with acquiring the Hudson locomotive for our club, so you know it will be an exceptional piece! The Grand Prize will be awarded this coming December. (You need not be present to win.) Enter right away, so you'll be eligible to win a \$100 bill every month that we meet. (Attendance is required to win the \$100 bill.) Tickets are just \$25 each and you can get 'em at our very next gathering on Saturday, January 27th.

Continued on page 4...

Holiday Meet: A Trainload of Food & Fun!



Our Holiday Luncheon...



Glenn Olsen's Lionel-MPC 6-8005 "James Gang" train set from 1980.



Some nice trains for sale!

THE LIONEL LION offering door prizes!



Steve Eastman brought a MARX Operating Car in HO for "Show & Tell."



Potluck desserts



LIONEL pre-war style "O" gauge steam passenger set, thanks to Jeff and Denyse Meyer.

TCA photos by Roger Hill & Steve Waller



Greg Pulis gets his lunch plate from under the hot lamps in our modern kitchen.



Dorfan Std. Gauge remake from Steve Eastman, operated on the club layout.

Lots of prize winners in December!

Lionel's Modern Era

by Mike Stella, TCA #79-13898

The views & opinions of a longtime Train Collector...

~ ~ ~

When it comes to the 120 years of Lionel's Electric Train Production, nobody confuses Pre-War Trains with Post-War Trains. When the Lionel Corporation ended producing toy trains in 1969 and leased future production to General Mills beginning in 1970, the Post-War Era ended and the Modern Era began. Fifty three years and four companies later, Lionel continued to produce electric trains and for 53 years we have referred to all of them as Modern Era!



LIONEL 7507

That can be both confusing and misleading to the new collector or operator. That state of the art "Sounds of Steam" locomotive from 1971 is now a 50 year old antique and can't compare with today's Modern Rail Sound, Blue Tooth, Legacy super detailed steam locomotives. Yet both are considered Modern Era Lionel Production?

Maybe, the time has come for establishment of several well-defined eras that better define the years from 1970 to present. TCA is the organization to do it! TCA developed grading standards a half century ago that today are universally recognized. Dividing the Modern Era into smaller factions would create several better defined areas for collectors to specialize and would create interest in completing those areas with all the variations.

So how many eras should there be? General Mills, (1970-1985) certainly needs to be its own era, including MPC and Fundimensions. Richard Kughn (1986-1996) would come next followed by Wellspring (1996-2007) up to the point where Lionel ceased production in the USA (2001). Each new era has more to collect than the entire 25 year Post-War Era! The Modern Era, unfortunately, belongs to overseas production.

Today's Modern Era belongs to a few operators. I don't think many members actually "collect" all the multi-thousands dollar locomotives filling current

catalogs. Give me a beautiful red passenger train from the Fundimensions Era or a Semi-Scale Hudson from the Richard Kughn Era and I'm a happy collector.

Fundimensions, a division of the General Mills Fun Group; Lionel LTI; Lionel LLC, were all entirely different companies, different eras and different collectable trains. I believe the time has come to define these individual periods of the time in our Lionel collecting world. Then the challenge and excitement begins as we try to fill the gaps in our respective collections. *I just need one more boxcar!*

Good hunting and keep seeking...

—Mike Stella

President's comment—

How would you feel if these different specific areas would really become a truly defined reality? Give it some serious thought. Would you write an article on how you feel these divisions of era should be separated? Let us hear your thoughts and submit your ideas & articles on this topic. We would like to hear any input, so get writing, and put one together!

—JML

Train Collectors Association Western Division



Celebrating Western's 70th Anniversary

Reminiscent of TCA Western Division's highly sought-after 1967 Club Offering. Multiple road names available, each with a gorgeous commemorative brass plate.

Features **LIONEL** 6464-type box cars, made from 1993 to 2005. These cars have metal frames, metal door guides, die-cast sprung trucks and operating knuckle couplers, packed in a specially-marked **LIONEL** original box.

Cars offered to Western Division members only, for sale and pickup at the 2024 meets. Selling hours are 10 AM to 1 PM. (Dates & times subject to change without notice.) Cars are priced at **\$54.24** each. Visit *Mike Stella's table at the TCA Western meets.*

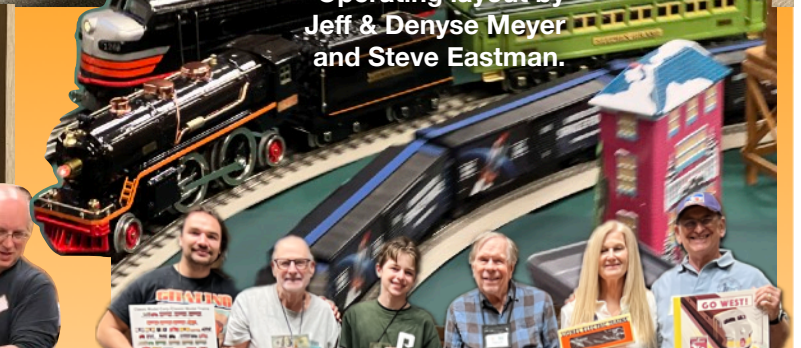
Fall into Fun: TCA Western's September Meet



The Arcadia Community Center provides a spacious trading area!



Larry Pearson offers FREE train repairs, while you wait...



Operating layout by Jeff & Denyse Meyer and Steve Eastman.



Theme: Military & Space Trains

Steve Waller

Family Fun!



September prize winners!

Continued from page one...

The January 27th meet starts at 10AM. Doors open at 9AM for setup. Our meets typically end around 2PM. Parking is free, located in the lot in front.

TCA members are admitted free; please wear your current membership badge and show it at the door when you enter the hall. Any non-member train enthusiasts are welcome to join the club at our next meet, so you can participate in the drawings.

There is no charge for use of trading tables for sellers but you must be a member in good standing of TCA. To reserve a sales table at the meet, send an email to info@tcawestern.org.

Any member of Western Division, who was current in their dues for 2023 or paid the \$10 initiation fee, is exempt from paying any dues in 2024. *What a deal!*

Non-division members wishing to join Western Division will need to pay the \$10 initiation fee. *Super cheap!*

Visit our website, www.tcawestern.org, for any updates. For more information, contact Jon Lang, TCA Western President, at (310) 871-8315 (voice or texting).

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Editor's Note: Coverage of our October 🍁 meet's "Mad Monster Party" will appear in the next issue... 🚂

TCA Western Division President's Letter

—by **Jon M. Lang**, President - Western Division (TCA # 02-54092)



Happy New Year! It's very hard to believe another year is behind us. **WOW!**

What a year it was! The entire world as well as our hobby has changed so much since just the 1940s.

This past year was a hard year for most TCA members.

As we age, we start getting behind in technology, health issues and even deaths. We lost two (2) very important knowledgeable members, **Robert Joseph Spellmire** (TCA #HR75-8039) & **Wayne Stewart Sheriff** (TCA #99-49818), but we continue to be strong. For those 2023 WD active members, the board has again determined that payment for membership dues will not be required for the year 2024. This includes family members as well. But, we would still appreciate you completing the attached renewal form so we can keep your information up to date and issue your 2024 TCA Western Division badge.

For those inactive WD members I need to ask you a question? How can we interest you to become a participating member again? I would like to hear from you either by phone or email — **I challenge you!**

Have you ever been to a meeting where you felt like the people there were pleased that you were present? How could you tell? Perhaps it was a word of welcome, a friendly sense of recognition in a smile, a hand shake or finding a treasure you were looking for at one of our member's trading tables. Feeling welcome is one of the most important aspects of any membership. If you are a current TCA National member, who is not active with our WD division, please consider expanding your horizon and share your knowledge. Check us out!

I am grateful that many people feel welcome at our monthly meetings and consider it their own personal club. We would like to keep that feeling. Keeping this feeling is to acknowledging that the currently high percentage of people who feel welcome here cannot be taken for granted. We need to have every member who regularly attends to be on the lookout for all new visitors by introducing yourself to them. Tell them about our history and welcome them with that smile or handshake. **It is very important on your part**, to make each person feel welcome as it can help us **expand our active membership**. A warm welcome could make the difference in helping to return an old member or gaining a new one. When those who experience this friendliness from you and your club, **they will return!**

I would like personally to **invite/welcome any past WD members** who have not attended a meeting for some time to consider returning. This also includes any paid current National members, even if not on a regular basis, but try to attend maybe 4 or 5 meetings a year, or as frequent as your time will allow. It's a New Year! Make that your New Year's resolution!

The WD is still strong and active here in the Southern California area. We now have been able to secure since the pandemic a permanent location at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive in Arcadia, CA. 91007. Dates and themes are listed on the cover of this newsletter. We share ideas, have free trading tables for member's usage: door prizes, free coffee and doughnuts, plus a **monthly raffle of \$100 for attending** if you purchase the very special ticket/s for the year-end raffle. You also can **enjoy a 50/50 program**, so you might even receive half the meeting bucket winnings.



One thing we have missed, however, is you! Come, bring a friend, meet new friends enjoy the camaraderie. **We would like to invite you to renew WD membership** because your friendship is valuable to us. We have different topic themes each month, so bring an item, participate and share with us your knowledge or experiences, so we also can benefit -- just as we're certain you will be enriched by the regular interaction with other club members. So why not **reconsider renewing your membership to the Western Division today** and once again enjoy participating in the fun and comradeship that often is wholly unique to running and collecting TOY TRAINS. Again, a renewal form can be found within this newsletter and must be filled out and returned, so we can issue your 2024 TCA Western Division badge.

Thank you,

- *Jon M. Lang*

Wayne Sheriff: Celebration of a Life Well-Lived

Wayne S. Sheriff (TCA #99-49818) passed away of a sudden heart attack on Sunday, December 10th, 2024 in his Yorba Linda home, at the age of 86, just as he was getting ready to attend church. It was only one day after we saw him at the TCA Holiday Party, where he appeared healthy and full of holiday cheer.

Wayne Stewart Sheriff was born in Chicago on March 27, 1937. After completing high school in Maywood, IL, Wayne graduated from the University of Phoenix and soon got a Master's degree in Business there. Wayne worked 33 years in the aerospace industry, negotiating contracts. He also served with honor in the US Coast Guard. Wayne married his first wife, Marol, in 1960, with whom he had four children; his second marriage in 1980 to wife Cynthia added three more children to the family, from her first marriage.

Wayne became a member of TCA Western Division in 1999. He served in many leadership roles for the club. He was first elected Western Division Vice-President in 2002. Next, he was Division President from 2005 to 2010. He was on the Western Division Board of Directors from that time onward. Starting in 2019, he was Western Division's Membership Secretary/Treasurer. Also during Wayne's tenure, he was Co-Convention Chairman for the 2003 and 2021 TCA National Conventions, hosted by Western Division. At the National level, Wayne was elected President of TCA National and served from 2015-16. He continued his leadership efforts at National, serving on several committees, including the Executive Committee, Investment Committee, Endowment Fund, Governance Committee, and the Rules & Regulations Committee.



Wayne demonstrated his love of trains by volunteering his time to share the joy, spread the word and create working displays of model trains throughout Southern California. During the years from 2006 to 2017, when Western Division ran the annual "Holiday Festival of Trains" at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Wayne

served as project coordinator and worked on the construction of the operating layouts. In addition, from 2015 to 2021, when Western Division was participating in "Muzeo Express," the annual toy train exhibit in Anaheim, Wayne volunteered to help coordinate the event, as well as create operating layouts. Most recently, Wayne won the 2023 TCA National President's Award, one of our club's highest honors. He was a pillar of TCA.

You might have spotted Wayne's handiwork at the Ruby's Diner chain, where he built several G-scale train layouts running along the walls at ceiling height. He was responsible for construction and maintenance of these setups, including the railroad-themed Ruby's Diner in the Orange, CA train station.



Wayne is survived by three children from his 1st marriage, three step-children from his 2nd marriage, as well as a large group of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our condolences go out to them.

Wayne was predeceased by his wife Cynthia, age 84, who died on April 7th, 2023. We will greatly miss Wayne and Cynthia at our TCA Western club gatherings & events.



The Train Collectors Association - Western Division Newsletter is published bi-monthly (in the odd-numbered months) by TCA Western Division. Submission deadline is the first day of any of the months of publication, sent to the editor via email at: newsletter@tcawestern.org. TCA Western Division logo art by Ward Kimball. © 2024 TCA Western Division.

TCA Western Division Officers:

Jon Lang - President 2023-2024/Treasurer (Interim)

Robert Caplan - Vice President (Interim)

OPEN - Secretary / Treasurer

(We're taking nominations in April for all these positions. The new Officers will be installed in July, 2024.)

TCA Western Division Directors:

Bob Caplan - Immediate Past President

Rudy Felix - Director at Large

Glenn Olsen - Publicity/Director at Large

Greg Pulis - Director at Large

Larry Pearson - Repairs/Director at Large

Harold Shapiro - Webmaster/Past President

Stephen Waller - Newsletter Editor/Past President

TCA Western Division Volunteers:

Joseph Caplan - Kid's Club Coordinator

Steve Eastman - Layouts/Past President

Denyse & Jeff Meyer - Layouts

Roger Hill - Western Division Club Photographer





Western Division

Train Collectors Association

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



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jonmlang@verizon.net

January 16, 2024

Dear TCA Western Division Member,

Happy New Year! In 2024 Western Division is celebrating its 70th anniversary! The Western Division Board of Directors has determined that payment of membership dues covering the year 2024 will not be required **for all Western Division members in good standing for the year 2023**. This also applies to spouses/family members that were covered as part of the previous year. However, please remember that in order to be a member in good standing with TCA Western Division it is necessary that you belong to the TCA National organization and have paid your separate annual TCA National membership dues. The TCA National business office notices and invoices its members separately from the Western Division. Depending on whether you have opted in to receive notifications from TCA National in physical/paper form or electronically via email, you may or may not actually receive a hardcopy of their annual dues renewal notification.

Due to the cost of printing and postage, Western Division still requires that those requesting paper copies of the Western Division Newsletters and other correspondence continue to pay a fee of \$10.00. The newsletter is typically published 6 times a year. The Western Division Board of Directors is evaluating having the publications distributed quarterly or only on-line to further reduce costs.

In order to maintain accurate records for sending newsletters and correspondence, **it is requested that you provide any changes to your physical address and e-mail address.**

Western Division greatly appreciates the support of the membership and offers an opportunity for you to make a tax-deductible donation to the club. You will receive a personal thank you letter that you can retain for your tax records.

___ Regular Membership Only for 2024	\$ 0.00
___ Family Member Name/s: _____	\$ 0.00
___ Request receiving Newsletter hard copies by mail	\$10.00
___ A Tax-Deductible Donation to Western Division	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: Date _____ Check # _____ Total:	\$ _____

Please update: (Please Print)

Name(as it will appear on your card/badge): _____

TCA #: _____ - _____ **National Expiration Date:** mo./yr. _____ / _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Primary Phone: () _____ - _____ **Alternate or (Cell) Phone:** () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Please mail your updated form and any payment to:

**Jon M. Lang, Western Division, Interim Treasurer,
2932 Salmon Drive, Los Alamitos, California 90720-4655**