



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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“Special Kids’ Club Edition”

July, 2004



President’s Message

*By Robert Caplan,
President, TCA Western Division*

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, July 24** in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Sellers: *tables are free!*

To get to the meeting, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. drive south about half a mile and turn right into the parking lot. We’re located next to the lawn bowling area. Doors open at 10 am. Our membership meeting begins earlier now at 11:30 a.m. Please check our newly updated website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a detailed map!

Because we are celebrating Independence Day (July 4th) our display theme will be anything that has to do with “**RED, WHITE, and BLUE**”. Also, if you brought something special back from the National Convention, please share it with us! Show off rare and prized toy trains and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a prize presented for the most interesting item displayed!

This past May, Western Division hosted children as our special guests. There were operating layouts, educational displays, and lots of prizes. Western Division made special presentations of brand new train sets to local organizations that care for underprivileged, foster care and disabled children. The organizations included The Olive Crest Foundation, The Sycamores, and Penny Lane. Special gifts were raffled off to all the kids (big & small).

Western Division would like to thank the following organizations who donated train sets and items to this GREAT KIDS CLUB Event: The Train Shack and Gary Keck, Arizona Trains, K-Line Trains and Nick Ladd, Dot Thousand, and The Western Division membership itself, who purchased train sets to give away for this event. Included in this publication are scenes for our Kids Club Celebration.

We want more TCA members to join in on our monthly train meets. In an effort to accomplish this, we have implemented several new programs designed to get members over to the Arcadia Senior Center on the fourth Saturday of the month.

We have started selling ‘Special Raffle Tickets’ for the NEW 2004 Lionel Pioneer Zephyr Set. This beautiful set includes the locomotive, RPO baggage, coach car, and observation car, TrainMaster Command, Odyssey System, maintenance free motors, fan driven smoke and much more. Tickets are \$20 each and only a total of 100 tickets will be sold. Only 43 tickets are left so get yours, they won’t be for sale much longer because once the 100 tickets are sold, if you do not

have one, you will no longer have the chance to become a Hundred Dollar Winner during the monthly drawing, and you will not have the opportunity to win the Zephyr at the December meet! **At** the upcoming Western Division July meet, two tickets will be pulled from all tickets sold (instead of one). Therefore, there will be two lucky ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL (\$100) winners! The winning tickets will then be placed back with the other tickets, for the regular Zephyr raffle. Think about it. Your ticket could be pulled out each remaining meet for the rest of the year. That’s a possible \$700. And your lucky ticket could also win the Lionel Zephyr set too! You must be present at the meet to win the \$100 bill!



*Rudy Felix was the lucky Winner of a “Crisp \$100” at the May meet.
Who will it be in July?*

If you have not gotten your FREE Special TCA Western Division 50th Anniversary Hobo figure, pick it up at our July meet. Only one Hobo Figure for each TCA Western Division Member.

Membership, Membership!!!! As part of our “Western Division Membership Drive” for 2004 we are promoting a “Membership Contest”. The member that recruits the most people to become new members of our division during the year will be awarded a RED Western Division TCA 2003 Convention Banquet Car. Just bring in the most new members, to our GREAT Western Division, and the Car IS Yours!!

AGAIN GREAT NEWS! At the 50th TCA National Convention, held in Pittsburg in June, Betty Kimball was given the title of “Honorary Member” in TCA. Congratulations Betty! At the National Convention Banquet TCA Western Division was presented with a \$1,000 Check for from TCA National for having the greatest membership percentage gain in 2003 of all TCA Divisions!

–Bob Caplan

May Meet Photographs



The girls from Penny Lane enjoy the festivities



Baldwin House from Sycamores took home a Lionel Glacier Flyer Set

Western Division May 2004 Meeting Report

By Steve Waller, Recording Secretary

The Kid's Meet in May had some outstanding layouts & displays put on by Western Division members. Bob Lemberger rented a truck, so he could bring two large portable layouts. First was the world-premiere of an "O" gauge 3'X8' setup that Bob created especially for the meet. Several animated accessories from Mike's Train House were operating, including a car wash, fire station and a hamburger stand. A Lionel Amtrak "Silver Streak" set circled the



Bob Lemberger's 'O' gauge Interactive layout drew lots of attention from the kids as well as the adults.

perimeter of the layout, pausing just long enough at the platform to load and unload passengers. It took 3 relays, 2 infrared signals and a DC transformer to accomplish this.

Bob also brought the Standard Gauge layout he built for last year's TCA National Convention in Ontario, CA. The layout was crowded with classic tinplate accessories, including a large Power Station, Hell Gate Bridge and a beautifully restored Villa St. A red passenger train pulled by a Std. gauge No. 10 electric by MTH made the layout come alive.



Bob Lemberger's outstanding Standard Gauge layout.

Steve Waller also needed a truck to bring his trains to the Kid's Meet. Bill Farmer, of the Pacific Railroad Society, volunteered to drive the PRS truck and help set up the G-scale display. Six tables were pushed together to form a 16' X 9' layout with three loops of track. One of the loops was completely elevated, so that trains could run underneath. An LGB Amtrak streamliner had its inaugural run on the outer loop. A Pacific Electric red car by Hartland circled the inner loop. Finally, an LGB trolley picked up its current from the overhead catenary wire on the elevated track.



Steve Waller & Bill Farmer setting up the 'G' gauge layout.



Some of the boys from the Swartzott Cottage at Sycamores enjoyed racing the trains on the Kid's Club layout.



The Julia Crosby Family representing Olive Crest Foundation, received a Lionel Pennsylvania Flyer Set

Our regular layout maestro Richard Keppel was prevented from setting up his giant floor pike by emergency work duties. But Richard and his son Chris did make it in time to lend moral support to the layout team. Assistance was provided by Dale Lange, Ray Sugg and others.

The theme for the display table was "All the Way with Santa Fe". Two tables were crammed full of AT&SF items, including trains brought by Harold Shapiro, Bob Spellmire, Steve Waller, Bob Trimble, Jerry Johnson and others. The kids seemed to enjoy hearing the history, as members described the items. Everyone who contributed to the display was entered into a drawing for a special door prize. The winner was Jon Lang, for his beautiful Lionel Santa Fe 3751 display.



The Santa Fe display.

Speaking of displays, check out the current issue of Classic Toy Trains (July, 2004) for a color spread on Western Division member Rob Lihani's classic dealer-type layout. The pike was first shown in June, 2003 at the TCA National Convention in Ontario, CA.



Jim Kenny has some rare Marklin in HO gauge on his table



Keith Yount runs the 'Egliner'



Final Inspection? I salute you too! Alan Rebis looks very closely

ETS Winner

Ray Sugg Working on 'G' layout.



The raffle goodies await new owners.



Would you like vanilla or chocolate? Nancy Cochran helps to serve up the special train-decorated cakes



The Crosby family, all 12 of them, enjoyed the cake and punch that Western Division provided to the Kid's Meet guests.



Harold Shapiro greets the groups of kids as they arrive. "How do you spell Mary?"



Christopher Keppel assists Bob Lemberger with the setup of the interactive 'O' gauge layout.



Trains, trains, trains and more trains for sale!



Even the girls got into the action on the racing loops. Jon Lang and Howard Bishop supervised.



Cheryl Shapiro says "Welcome to TCA Western Division #1"



T.C.A. History - A Blast from the Past!



The famous mouse greets kids at the 1971 TCA National Convention hosted by Western Division in Disneyland.