



Western Division Newsletter



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June - July 2012

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2012 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

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 July will be '**Convention Cars.**' Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. October 27 will be our 'Kid's Club Meet', and for this Gala we will have many activities for children of all ages with prizes and giveaways!

Our display themes and upcoming TCA Meets for 2012 are: August 25th - Streamliners; September 22nd - Trolleys; October 27th - Orange and Black Trains; and December 15th - Holiday Trains.

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held. The Board of Directors had ordered that to participate in the monthly prize raffle, each member must wear their membership badge. This year's Grand Raffle Prize is a 1950 Lionel #773 Hudson engine with matching tender in original boxes. Raffle tickets are still only \$20 each.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

Here are some reflections on Atlanta, with a few lessons thrown in.

Even though it's only been a couple of weeks, the events of Atlanta seem to be receding quickly into mere memories of the not too distant past. Another National Convention has come and gone, and while a lot of 'housekeeping' was taken care of, decisions were made which will continue to impact TCA (the club) for years to come.

This is the first time I've been able to experience the club other than at a local meet, and like most behind-the-scene glimpses, it turned out to be quite illuminating. Even at the local (Division/Chapter) level, quite a bit of planning and commitment (usually from only a handful of individuals) is paramount in order to have some semblance of a meet worth attending; at the national level it almost becomes staggering! Once again, it's only through some really dedicated and talented individuals, and a small paid staff, that an organization that numbers in the tens-of-thousands (over 25K) can function with any degree of effectiveness. You don't have to agree on everything, but you must be willing to work together.

Kudos to the Dixie Division in hosting and planning what by all appearances was a well done affair!

Usually the getting 'to and from' is the least part of most tales, but having chosen to fly into Atlanta and then return by Amtrak was an adventure all its own. Let me just say that 'riding the rails' is nothing short of pure magic. We are blessed to live in a country with such magnificent vistas that sometimes only a train's view can do it justice. From Atlanta to New Orleans, the old Southern Crescent route (Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana); to Los Angeles, the Sunset Ltd (Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California). What a ride. Of course, if you were following the news, you might be aware this turned out to include substantial delays, record breaking heat, a freight train derailment, power outages and storm debris on the North-East Corridor, and re-booking the entire trip home to avoid being bussed. Traveling by train is different, you need to be flexible (and maybe not in such a hurry) – but boy, what a journey!

In Memoriam

John L. 'Jack' Whitmeyer TCA 79-14300
Emmanuel 'Butch' Alvarado TCA 10-65163

Long time friends and TCA WD members, John 'Jack' Whitmeyer and Emmanuel 'Butch' Alvarado both passed away recently. Our sincerest condolences go out to their families.

May Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



Steve Waller built this meet layout!

The May display theme was: 'New York Central Railroad'. We had many colorful NYC items displayed. Bob Nord showed an 'O' gauge Marx tinplate NYC Wrecking Car and crane, Lionel NYC electric loco and caboose. Bob Spellmire presented a post-war era Lionel #2344 NYC ABA 'O' gauge loco and freight set. Dave Gabay displayed a NYC loco.

Harold Shapiro shared an 'O' gauge Lionel NYC #6464-125 Pacemaker boxcar and a grey Lionel Dreyfus O-27 #221 Hudson loco and tender. Harvey Tafel displayed an unusual Lionel pre-war #308 passenger car. Jerry Johnson showed a beautiful card deck advertising American Railroads.

John Abbe presented a NYC logoed coffee cup. John Parker displayed a rare American Flyer telegraph pole. Manny Gonzalez shared a toy model of the streamlined Dreyfus loco. Mario Liberatore showed a Lionel NYC pre-war semi-scale 'O' gauge #2957 caboose. Steve Eastman displayed a tinplate Marx NYC passenger set in Milwaukee colors. Steve Waller presented a pre-war era 'O' gauge streamlined Lionel #1689E NYC electric loco & tender. Wayne Sheriff showed his first train set – an NYC passenger consist.





May Display Theme 'New York Central Railroad'



March Raffle winners: Harold Shapiro, Bob Cesarone, Mario Liberatore, and Steve Eastman (\$100 Hudson Monthly Raffle Winner)



Bob Nord

Bob Spellmire



All of Western Division would like to welcome John Uniack who joined at our May Meet and Myron Moore who renewed his membership!

Sirus Collection Visit



Wayne Sheriff

Mario Liberatore



Vince Garguilo, Larry Pearson and Don Ladenberger in the main train display room at the 'Sirus Collection'



Harvey Tafel

Harold Shapiro

Once again this year, Judy & Dwayne Anderson invited Western Division members to attend the annual 'Sirus Collection' event at their ranch in Anza, Ca. and 'take a step into the past'. The event was June 12th, and several WD members made the trek to the desert for the chance to see this wonderful collection of standard gauge tinplate trains and antique automobiles, that has been beautifully arranged and displayed in a large structure as a memorial to George Sirus. George was one of the earliest members of Western Division, and served on the BOD in the 1960's.



Steve Waller

Manny Gonzalez



Wall of American Flyer Standard Gauge trains in the replica of George Sirus' office at the 'Sirus Collection', and host Judy Sirus Anderson.

Photographs by Herbert Mayer