



# Western Division Newsletter



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July 2013

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, July 27, 2013 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 'Red, White, and Blue and Military Trains'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Western Division's 2013 schedule of meets and display themes are as follows: August 24th – Passenger Trains, September 28th – Trolleys (No Cable Cars!), October 26th - Halloween, and December 14th – Holiday Accessories.



This year's special raffle prize is an 'O' gauge 1990 version of the Lionel #700E Scale Hudson engine and tender with its display case and matching articulated tinsplate Rail Chief cars. Tickets will be on sale at the monthly meets for \$20. Only 100 tickets are available, and the regular \$100 bill monthly giveaway is facilitated through the sale of these tickets.

## President's Message

*By Manny Gonzalez, WD President*

Well, it's the middle of summer and as we head into hotter weather (the odd heat-wave notwithstanding), the milder days and cooler nights are quickly slipping past. More officially defined as the period between Memorial Day (end of May) and Labor Day (start of September), in practical terms summer is the period between the end of the school year and the start of a new one. For many it can be quite a magical period.

Everything seems to change during this time. Traffic is lighter. Non-tourist industries tend to slow down a bit. People are coming and going on vacations both long and short. There are day trips to the beach, the mountains, and to amusement parks. Sometimes we have company over – visitors that are most welcome (but on occasion – some maybe not so much). It's a different pace to be sure. And let's not forget the backyard barbecues - picnics are always fun, and even the simplest meal *al fresco* can be a treat. There are the burgers, the hot dogs, the potato salad, the .... Okay, now I'm making myself hungry, but I think you get the idea.

If I may wax poetic for a moment, the humble hot dog can be quite the metaphor for summer. There are a lot of ways to enjoy it. For starters, you can grill, fry, boil, or even microwave one; ... choose

different kinds of breads; ... a ton of condiments are available; and it can be consumed almost anywhere! What's not to like?

But three months can be a long time and a lot can happen. Aside from kids moving on to the next level, which may now require a new venue – some just don't come back for all sorts of reasons. People change jobs, families move, and (cell phones / Facebook notwithstanding), they are often soon lost track of. And with so much going on, not unexpectedly, as the crowds surge in many places they can really thin-out at others.

You can see it every year at the train meets. Summer happens - and boom, there goes attendance! Interestingly, many experts agree that a "habit" can be started, as well as broken, within the first two-or-three times it's repeated. Although it's inevitable that we can't always attend every meet, it really does matter if you are there. Everyone contributes in different ways by who they are, and as such the Club is the poorer for it when members go missing. We need to remind ourselves just how much everyone adds by being present - and in the bargain, not let anyone slip into staying gone. So while new experiences enrich our lives, as do the people we meet along the way – let's not forget those whom we already know. Enjoy the rest of your "summers" and hopefully we'll see you all very soon.



## June Meet Recap

*By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary*

The display theme for the June meet was 'Pennsylvania RR'. Bob Nord brought a G gauge engine and tender that he acquired for the grand amount of \$4. Bob Spellmire displayed a rare Lionel TCA Nor-Cal Black Ives Hopper that he acquired at a Nor-Cal Cal-Stewart Meet.

John Abbe presented an 'O' gauge PC Penn Flat with Santa Fe Trailer that he got for free and he also showed off an HO Penn Passenger car. Harvey Tafel displayed his 1941-42 Lionel tinsplate 'O' gauge train set with a very rare gondola.



Les Cochran had a MTH (can motor) 'O' gauge Pennsy Turbine that looked just like a #671 Lionel. Mario Liberatore showed off his black Rio Grande 'O' gauge hopper. Steve Waller brought in a 4 wheeled 'O' gauge bobber caboose that was at the rear of a Pennsy set of 4 wheeled gondolas, pulled by a diesel switcher. He also explained how he created a TCA Engineer hat.



Raffle winners were Robert Spellmire, Ken Vaughn, John Abbe and Wha Abbe.



Jim Kenney hands over \$100 to Harvey Tafel as the winner for the monthly giveaway.

## Memorial & Independence Day "Red, White & Blue"

*By Jon M. Lang*

When you think red, white and blue trains, the first thing that comes to mind is the Bi-Centennial 1976 train that toured our country, or maybe the Spirit of 76 train set produced by Lionel in the years 1974-76, and/or the 1999 Spirit of the Century (#38153

Model 2333; Vol 2, Pg5), but most often it's all those colorful "State of Maine" insulated boxcars from the Bangor and Aroostook and New Haven Railroads.

July 4th is a day of celebration and independence, steeped in history. It should come as no surprise that many other historic events have "happened" to fall on this date as subsequent generations looked to tie their own achievements to this monumental day. Railroads are no exception.



Just as July 4th became the symbolic birthday for a new country, so too does it mark the beginning of this industry whose impact cannot be understated. Like the American Revolution, railroads didn't come nicely wrapped and delivered on a single day. There were many important dates before July 4, 1828 and there would be many more after. With all due credit given to the many "first" railroads in the United States, it is the founding of the Baltimore and Ohio on this date 185 years ago that most signifies the arrival of railroads.

The founders of the B&O chose July 4th with no subtlety. Although it is doubtful even they could not have predicted just how far and how fast their railroad would change the shape of the world, they clearly intended to link the two events in the minds of their contemporaries. The symbolic first stone of the railroad was laid in Baltimore by the last living signatory of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll.

The B&O would continue to cement its self-proclaimed image as "America's Railroad" on July 4, 1835, with the completion of the Thomas Viaduct. This graceful, curved stone-arch bridge crossed the Patapsco River and completed the link between Baltimore and Washington D.C. The B&O used the viaduct for many publicity photos, perhaps most memorable being the official photo for the newly streamlined *Royal Blue* passenger train. The 178 year old structure still sees daily use by CSX making it the oldest stone arch bridge in continuous use in the country.

Norfolk Southern chose last July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 to highlight its history and its future with the grand unveiling of all 20 of its new Heritage Locomotive Units for a family portrait in Spencer, NC. It is an event which I'm sure will see lots of attention and be remembered by railroad fans for many years.



Let's finish off this patriotic theme with a look at some of the most memorable red, white and blue freight cars out there – the "State of Maine Products" boxcars. These cars were purchased to haul potatoes between Maine and New York. This seemingly short

move was part of an operating pool that required four railroads, the BAR, Maine Central, Boston and Maine and New Haven. The BAR was the biggest owner of these colorful cars, with 450 in service in the 1950's. In peak season, dedicated potato trains made the rounds between Maine and the market. Out of the potato season, they could be used for other commodities with newsprint being the most preferred and could be seen all around the country. Not only were they insulated, the cars also featured ventilators and charcoal heaters. The BAR placed their first order for 300 cars with Magor in 1950. In 1953 they turned to Pacific Car and Foundry for an additional 150.

Both roads used a common paint scheme, with their own herald in the center white band and of course their own reporting marks. The New Haven cars were an add-on order for 100 cars with PCF and by using the same red, white and blue paint scheme, they saved money! It's always nice when some of that Yankee thrift and patriotism can be combined!



The short line of Montreal Maine and Atlantic brought back the colorful scheme on some much more modern exterior post boxcars. The cars first appeared in 2005 to commemorate the one year anniversary of the new railroad. While the paint scheme is very reminiscent of the original cars, right down to the MMA's BAR-styled herald, the cars were not equipped for potatoes and can be seen hauling a variety of products, although paper and newsprint is again common.

Over the years, railroads have often painted equipment to honor special events and our country. While locomotives tend to draw the most attention, freight cars too have been customized for the cause.

During World War II, the Pennsylvania Railroad stenciled many of its boxcars and cabooses with "BUY WAR BONDS" and hoppers with "COAL GOES TO WAR" banners. The messages were repeated in their advertising as they reminded passengers and shippers of the role the railroad – and tens of thousands of its employees who were now on the front lines – were playing in the all-out effort. The "COAL GOES TO WAR" slogan could also be found on some hoppers of the Interstate Railroad.



The nation's Bicentennial in 1976, as mentioned in my opening, saw locomotives on at least a dozen railroads painted in red, white and blue. At least three hopper cars also saw commemorative paint

– one on the Norfolk and Western and two on the Cambria and Indiana – a short line in western Pennsylvania. Caboose too were a popular choice for special paint.



In the 1980s, Conrail decorated a boxcar with a shower of red, white and blue stars and “BUY US SAVINGS BONDS” lettering. An SD40 was painted to match. The boxcar was eventually sold to Yorkrail, who painted over the Conrail markings but left the stars intact. The Bessemer and Lake Erie and Louisville and Nashville had Savings Bonds cars as well.



In more recent years, the regional railroad, Wisconsin Southern has been busy painting many cars in commemorative schemes for special causes, including cars for breast cancer awareness, many in support of the country and its servicemen and women in all five branches of the armed services. It is great to see the tradition continue. After all, a few gallons of paint is a small price to pay to show appreciation for the sacrifices that we remember these two weekends.

In addition, to the models of these prototypical cars, companies like Lionel, Tyco, Bachman and Weaver have produced many other patriotic cars and locomotives over the years. Look for that trend to continue.



In 2012, Lionel started to produce a series what they call, Made In The USA boxcars. They introduced four (4) U.S. Presidential cars (#39337 the George Washington, #39338, Abraham Lincoln, #39339 Theodore Roosevelt and #39340 Thomas Jefferson). This year, they have continued with the second series of four (Signature Catalog, Pg 110). They are beautiful cars, and you might want to consider collecting them. Whether you decide to or not, the past years have also produced many patriotic colored cars (Centennial Boxcar, Lionel’s 100 Birthday and a Veteran’s Day Boxcar), which included those State of Main cars, plus many other Red, white and Blue color schemes.

So you don’t have a lot of the Red, White and Blue, you can still show your patriotism if you happen to be, maybe a military

collector. Lionel, K-Line (Military and Desert Storm) as well as Weaver have produced some real nice examples in the past. Most “O” gauge, however, were not prototypical. It’s unfortunate, for most military vehicles, military railroad trains, freight and passenger cars of the World War II era are in HO scale. Many of these manufacturers are American, French, Austrian and German. If this is not a factor, than find those red, white and blue or military locomotives and cars and get them out of storage. Show your colors and your appreciation, thanks to our armed forces, and celebrate these holidays of Memorial and Independence Day in style by living on your model railroad pike on each of these Special Holidays.

Keep your Trains oiled and running, but most of all, run now and then some of your patriotic theme colors or military rolling stock, but most of all have fun running them!

*Photo’s courtesy of Lionel catalogs and publications.*

## In Memoriam



Long time Western Division member Vincent ‘Vinnie’ Garguilo 83-18933 passed away peacefully at 9:30 AM on May 31st in his bed at home in Glendale. His family was at his side, including daughter Tina and grandson Chris, when he passed, apparently from respiratory failure. He was having trouble breathing at the end, and could not swallow to take his medications or food. Vince had been suffering from a recurrence of cancer that he was supposedly successfully treated for several years earlier.

Vince had served on the TCA Board of Directors in 1999 and over the last 30 years as a Western Division member he could often be found running a lively and enjoyable auction at the monthly meets. He also helped run the 2003 TCA National Convention Banquet auction held at the Ontario Convention center which raised a record \$34,000 for Western Division and TCA National.

Vince was also a long time member and officer of TTOS SW Division, and served as meet auctioneer at the monthly meets and at the Cal-Stewart fall meets.

His colorful personality, great sense of humor and unique auction style will truly be missed. Our sincerest condolences to Vince’s family.