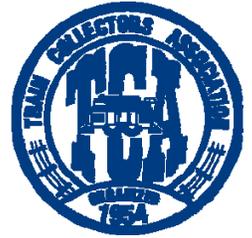




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on **Saturday, July 28**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Trading tables are 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 July will be "**Passenger Cars**". 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.

A reminder that **July is Auction month**. Bring those great items for the auction. There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership, and tickets for this year's 'Special Raffle' are still available. The item offered for 2007 is the 50th Anniversary Hudson Set as displayed in the Lionel 2002 catalogue. Another \$100 bill will also be raffled to anyone purchasing the 2007 Raffle tickets for the Hudson set. Currently, there are a few tickets left. Be sure to get yours for the chance of winning the set and the monthly \$100 bill giveaway. Coffee, donuts, and sandwiches will be available at the meet.

Western Division remaining scheduled meet dates for 2007 are: July 28 (auction), August 25, September 22, October 27 (auction), and December 15th. There will be no November meet.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

Wow, the 53rd TCA National Convention is now over and what a great time we all had. The venue was great. Ron Stowell, the 155 volunteers from Rocky Mountain Division and the sponsors deserve a great big thank you. The location, tours, and functions were first class. Western Division members present were Bob Lemberger, Robert Caplan and his wife Becky, Jim Kenney and his wife Lois, David Gabay, Don Ladenberger, and my wife Cynthia and I.

The tours that were provided were first class. Over time more photos will be available. Some of us had the opportunity to go to the Colorado Railroad Museum where they had a live steam train running plus a Galloping Goose was in operation. The turntable at the roundhouse was very interesting. It utilized both standard and narrow gauge tracks. Of course, they also had my favorite Shay locomotive engines.

The TCA National Board of Directors met for two days at the convention and had a very productive session under the leadership of James J. Burke, Jr., current TCA National President.



Your's truly and Bob Lemberger on a tour at the Denver Convention

Jim made a point of showing the same 1920's era tinplate signal that Lou Redman, Mr. TCA, used when he was getting TCA's IRS 501(c)(3) status from the US Government in the 1950's. Western Division's John Parker is the current keeper of this memento, and he sent it along, and Jim made sure that everyone on the Board was aware of it, and what it meant.

The financial report presented by Bill Kotek indicated that this year's finances for TCA National are in good shape. Each committee and the operations team has made efforts to keep within and under their planned budgets.

The National Operations Manager, John V. Luppino, reported that overall membership for TCA dipped to 29,876 as of June 7, 2007. This is a reduction of 548 members, of which 175 have passed. John also reported on the status of the National Museum sewer project. There is now a timeline in place for completing this project by January 1, 2010. This includes a year for obtaining approvals and inspections by five governmental agencies.

Last year, Jane M. Boyce, was hired as the Director of Development for TCA National. Jane made her first report to the BOD at the convention. She has reported that she has started efforts such as a 'Book-Signing', a Christmas Event for Disadvantaged Children, Model Railroading Days, and Model Train Races, to expose TCA to a wider audience. Jane has been involved in public relations, publications, membership drives, community involvement, fundraising, and development initiatives. She has been assigned control of the physical and website stores and management of the store and museum staff effective May 1.

Initiatives in the works for 2007 include: on-line and physical stores being restructured and stocked for the holidays with new products; a brochure on "Wills and Bequests"; advertising for the cruise in the fall of 2008; an annual appeal; and many more actions.

The National BOD has established a special committee to evaluate the TCA by-laws and to take actions for updating and restructuring

the current state. To be an effective organization, and to keep relevant with the times, it is important that TCA become streamlined, in tune with current hobbyists' demands, and most importantly, operates the business aspects more efficiently and economically.

Robert Robinson, chairman of the TCA National Standards Committee reported that the newly implemented certificate of compliance program requirement will ensure that all individuals and manufactures of repro parts will be clearly identified. The Standards Committee recommends the withholding of tables from vendors who do not have the certificate of compliance.

The locations for upcoming TCA National conventions will be: 2008 - Burlington VT; 2009 - Phoenix, AZ; 2010 - Baltimore, MD; 2011 - Sacramento, CA; and 2012 - Atlanta, GA. The Convention Committee is looking for divisions to sponsor conventions in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Convention cars for next year's 2008 session in Burlington VT will be sold at a 5% discount until the end of October this year. The next TCA National Headquarters News publication will have all the details, pictures and order forms.

Nominations for TCA National officers for 2008 are as follows: President-Elect - Clem Clement and Bill Miles; Vice-President - Paul Edger and Ron Stowell; Secretary - Sarah Reed Lavinus and Hope Danielson; Treasurer - William Kotek; and Investment Committee Chairman - Bob Hazlett, Jr. The current President-Elect, Chris Allen will become 2008 National President.

Jim Burke presented each National BOD member with a recording of an interview he had with Jim Fry, the 19th TCA President. Jim Fry recently turned 90. The interview covered reflections on life in the cab of Pennsylvania Railroad engines and train collecting. This CD is available for anyone interested in a great story of trains.

Kay Spellmire, TCA WD member (HR-77-11072) is still in rehab recovering from a stroke that she suffered earlier this year. You may send your best wishes to Kay and husband Bob at bobloveskayspellmire@verizon.net. Jon Lang reported that Jane Lange, wife of former WD President Russ Lange has been under the weather and is in need of our thoughts and prayers also. They can be reached at russter38@aol.com

Thanks to Jon Lang, WD is offering for sale a pocketed polo shirt with an embroidered Western Division logo, to all WD members. Samples and order forms will be on display at the July meet. The shirts are \$32.00 each and come in different colors. You may have your name embroidered on the shirt for an additional \$6.

— *Wayne*

June 2, 2007 Meet Recap

The display theme for the May meet was introduced as 'Convention Cars' by Mike Donovan. There was a good representation of TCA convention cars of past years including some from the 2003 Convention hosted by Western Division in Ontario, CA.



The display raffle prize winner was C. A. Meyer. Other raffle prize winners were: Mervyn Lew, Bob Nord, Bill Corsello, Larry Pearson, and Mike Jenkins. Manny Gonzalez was the lucky winner of the \$100 giveaway.



Each and every member of Western Division was reminded that the Certificate of Compliance that TCA National has mandated is required for submission by October 2007. Everyone is encouraged to send your application to TCA National Headquarters as soon as possible.

The Sirius Collection



On Saturday, July 14th, several WD members were treated to a private viewing of the newly establish display of the George Sirius Collection. The private collection of the Sirius Family has been installed in a very elaborate and detailed setting at the home of Dwayne and Judy Anderson in Anza, CA.

This extensive collection includes classic tinplate trains, rare roadster/sports car type automobiles and lots of memorabilia from the 30's, 40's and 50's. The train portion was made up of large amounts of rare, early 20th Century Ives, American Flyer and Lionel Standard Gauge. There were 4 well preserved classic automobiles including a beautiful 1939 Jaguar SS 100, an Auburn



coupe complete with running boards and a boat tail, and a Ford powered Cobra. Thanks to Judy and Dwayne for opening up their home, providing a great spread of refreshments, their terrific hospitality, and for sharing this collection, and its many fine jewels with us. As the icing on the cake, the event was topped off with a very special presentation made to Judy, who is the daughter of the late George Sirius, by Randall Bemis, who is the son of the late Harrison Bemis, of a custom built brass plated Liberty Special standard gauge locomotive and tender.