



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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March 2003

MARCH TCA WESTERN MEET

Saturday, March 22, 2003

Our meets are held at the Senior Citizens Center in the Arcadia Community Park, 405 South Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, CA. Doors open at 10 am! Our membership meeting begins at Noon. Visit www.tcawestern.org for more information.

DISPLAY THEME FOR MARCH

Let us recognize the **Irish Green** and the beginning of spring and bring with you for display those special **green trains** that you have, be it Lionel, Flyer or what have you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

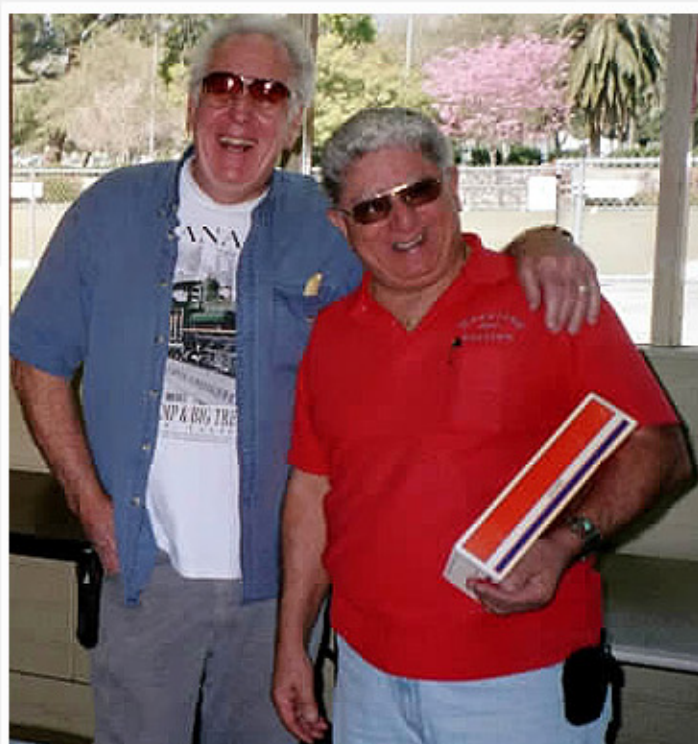
by Russ Lange, TCA Western Division President

Our National Convention is coming on fast – there are only about three months left before June 22nd is here! I hope all of our Western Division members and sellers are signed up. If not, please do so now as we want to show the other divisions what a great bunch of collectors we have out here and the trains we have to offer. Let's have a turnout that we can all be proud of! See you at the Convention!

CONVENTION UPDATE

by John Parker, National Convention Co-Chair

Newt Derby, National President of TCA, and Dannie Martin, Convention Guidelines Chairman, conducted a formal review of Western Division's preparations for the TCA 49th National Convention at the Ontario Convention Center. With Wayne Sheriff and John Parker, Convention Co-Chairman, they met with the officials at the Marriott Hotel (Welcome Party), the Ontario Convention Center, the Double Tree Hotel (Headquarters for BOD Meeting, Registration, Banquet, and Tour Bus Departures), the Comfort Inn, and the Country Suites by Ayres. This was accomplished on March 3rd and 4th right after the excellent Cal-Stewart Meet at Santa Clara, where the upcoming Convention received a lot of interest, and commitment to be there, and to bring Trains to sell! Registration to date remains very strong with most of the Tours filling up rapidly.



Al Vierich & Vince Garguilo look forward to our Convention

MEETING NOTES

by Steve Waller, Recording Secretary

Our display theme for last month was **RED** for Valentine's Day and *Something New for 2003*. We had two tables full of items. Mario Libertore brought a **red** Lionel Classic Standard Gauge 10E and a set of prewar passenger cars that matched the locomotive nicely. New member Bob Lemberger showed an interesting Lionel/Ives transition set pulled by an electric No. 1815 steam-type locomotive; not the 1506 clockwork loco that you might expect. Bob & Kay Spellmire had a **red** Ives flasher and a **red** Marklin ticket dispenser. Steve Waller displayed a print by artist John Winfield of a **red** Santa Fe warbonnet diesel streamliner arriving at Pasadena station. And Bob & Nancy Trimble set up an array of **red** Lionel-licensed collectibles.

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Meeting Notes, continued

After a very close vote, the Trimbles won for best display. Bob selected a 6-29283 Lionel 6464-type New York Central boxcar as the prize.

Ten-year-old Michelle Abbe did her usual fine job picking out winners of the February **door prize drawing**. John Parker won a Lionel 6-29285 Seaboard boxcar. John Abbe (co-incidentally Michelle's dad) won a Lionel 6-29284 Great Northern boxcar. By the way, Michelle's parents, John & Wha Abbe, celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on February 22nd. *Congratulations!*

Richard Keppel, Jr. and his son Chris did a great job setting up the layout in the south wing. They were ably assisted by new member Jerry Johnson and his son Steven. A Lionel Standard Gauge Commodore Vanderbilt (see photo below) looked outstanding on the outer loop. An MTH 2-10-4 Texas pulled a heavy load of eighteen "O" gauge freight cars. Steve Waller brought his MTH Aerotrains to run for the first time. Those ProtoSound 2 announcements were great! An Ives-type 1975 Cyrus & Varney Interstate set ran on the figure-8 loop in the center. Plus, an American Flyer 4000 hauled a train of MTH tinplate freight cars.



Richard is looking for volunteers to help with this layout at the Convention. He's going to expand the grass rugs and tracks. There are also plans to add more accessories and set up chairs around the perimeter. Dennis Taube agreed to help, but more volunteers are needed. Contact Display Chairman Steve Waller at 626-792-6750 or email Steve at tca2003@earthlink.net to volunteer.

Speaking of displays at the Convention, Mark Gaffner recently agreed to bring several rare **Lionel Dealer Display Layouts** to show at Exhibit Hall "B" on June 27 & 28th, 2003. We will need some postwar trains to place on the layouts. Please contact Steve Waller to volunteer.



Dave Otth (seen above with a toy boat that sold cheap at our auction) was on hand to discuss plans for a Convention Exhibit that he's calling "**Toy Trains Go Hollywood**". Dave and Hollis Cotton will need volunteers to help with this incredible display.

There are many other **volunteer opportunities** coming up at our National Convention. John Parker mentioned that he will need docents for the Friday night Layout Tours. Convention Co-Chairman Wayne Sheriff has sign-up sheets for volunteering in many different categories. Now's your chance to support the club and give something back to our wonderful hobby! Please contact Wayne at cnswws@mindspring.com or give him a phone call at (714) 970-2779.

Mr. Sheriff, who not incidentally is TCA Western Division Vice President, did a fine job conducting our February Membership meeting in Russ Lange's absence. John Parker reports that Grizzly Flats Depot sales are up and several bus tours are sold out, including the visit to the Ward & Betty Kimball Collection. There are a few tours still open, but you must get your **Registration Form** submitted to John right away!

Bob Caplan reports that the Western Division 1954-2003 WP Blue Feather Lionel boxcar is selling well. All proceeds from our TCA Western Division **Club Car** go to support the National Convention Welcome Party.

The big **York, Pennsylvania** train meet is scheduled for April 25 & 26. If you're going, please plan to spend some time manning the Western Division table, promoting our National Convention at the Ontario, CA Convention Center in June!