



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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Meet Notice

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, March 26**, 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 Arcadia Park parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. Doors open at 10 a.m. for setup, trading and selling. Please check our newly updated Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a detailed map!

The March display theme will be **Trolleys/Handcars/Motorized Units**. Show off that prized toy train and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a separate prize drawing for all those who display items!

Remaining Western Division 2005 meet dates: **March 26, April 23, May 21, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19 and December 17.**

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division



The special raffle for this year started off with a bang. First, Lionel totally sold out of the Cab Forward. So alternatively, the division chose the new BB1 class electric locomotive in the Pennsylvania road name, and the four related heavyweight passenger cars as shown in the new 2005 catalog instead. 29 tickets were sold at the

February meet. The February \$100 cash drawing for ticket holders went to Western Division member Don Gatz. Tickets will be on sale for \$20 at each meet until the total of 100 tickets is sold. As last year, ticket holders must be in attendance to be eligible to win the monthly \$100 drawing.



Don Gatz accepts his \$100 prize

Members who had a full table of train related items for sale at the February meet received a California Super Lotto lottery ticket. Bob Caplan has written ground rules for the monthly meet auctions. The Board of Directors will review this document prior to presenting it to the membership. These rules are designed to speed up the auction.



The 'first time ever made' Lionel BB1 Electric Locomotive in 'O' gauge is being offered in the Western Division 2005 Membership Raffle

A reminder that membership dues for 2005 are now due. 2005 dues renewal forms were sent out with the January newsletter. If you have not renewed your 2005 dues by the end of March, the March newsletter is the last you will receive, and your membership in Western Division is subject to termination. Please make sure you fill out the renewal form completely and mail it in with your payment. Or, you can bring it to the next meeting and give it to our treasurer, Harold Shapiro, with your payment. Western Division dues are \$15 annually for individual membership, \$20 for a family membership.

With the advent of electronic mail, and its proliferation amongst TCA Western Division members, we would like to send this monthly newsletter to members electronically, in lieu of the US mail system. This would help hold costs down for printing and postage. It would also help in keeping annual dues at the same rates. If you would be willing to receive the Western Division Newsletter via e-mail, please let Harold Shapiro, or me, know, at the next meet, or you can e-mail me at cnswws@mindspring.com. All previous monthly newsletters can currently be found on the division website.

We are working on providing food services at the meets that are more than just coffee and donuts. Harold Shapiro has been providing improved badges to new members and to family members. Be sure to pickup your new badge at the next meet.

At the March meet, there are two train collections that will be featured in the regular auction.

A good portion of the late Nick Grippe's Collection will be offered for table sale and at the auction, by his nephew, Jim Kreider. This collection consists of Lionel 'O' gauge pre & post war freight cars, Varney-Sirus Standard gauge passenger sets (including an Olympian Set) Mc Coy Circus cars (in their original boxes), and several Lionel Standard gauge steam engines.

The second collection consists of about 50 post war and modern era Lionel 'O' gauge operating cars and rolling stock. If you would like a listing of these items going up for auction, please send a SASE #10 to Harold Shapiro or Wayne Sheriff.

Ray Sugg is recovering from recent surgery and is expected to return to 'training' soon.

- *Wayne Sheriff*



February Meet Recap

Report by Bob Lemberger, Recording Secretary

The February meet was held on Saturday the 26th. President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order. New member Alec Tan who was attending for the first time, was introduced. Alec had jumped right in and had some nice deals on his table. Also present were Mike Roman, a returning member who had been away from trains for a while, and his wife Sheila.

Past president, Bob Caplan, was away at National, where he was participating in the rewriting of the TCA standards guidelines. This is notable as both TCA and TTOS are collaborating on this.

Wayne announced that the May 2005 meet date has been moved to the 21st. A reminder that anyone attending all 11 meets this year will receive free membership for next year. Be sure to sign in at each meet.

The theme for the February meet was 'favorite things' or 'trains I love', in honor of Valentines Day. Bob Lemberger brought a rare boxed Ives set from 1930.



John Whitmeyer displayed two nice examples of the Lionel pre-war #256 engines. John explained that the 1924 version was the first 'O' gauge engine ever built by Lionel. It was really a narrow gauge standard gauge engine, which ran on 'O' gauge track.

Bob Spellmire proudly held up a nice train and announced, "the theme today is a train you love, but I couldn't care less about this." Actually it was his neighbor's train. The neighbor felt that it might be lonely, and since Bob had so many trains, it was only right that Bob take this one home with him. Bob is considering starting a business introducing lonely trains to each other. He hasn't decided on a name so if you have any suggestions, be sure to let him know. By the way, his neighbor drops in to visit his train on occasion.



Bill Grove had a nice picture of his train and himself taken at a very young age. Unfortunately his father painted the train grey one day as he was into the color of radio equipment of the time. Bill brought a nice #51 engine with thin rims and a #5 tender. The engine is actually a #5 but since it came with the tender it is designated 5+1 or just 51. He also had a Lionel coach from 1910 which is the first coach built by Lionel with the exception of the trolleys.

Bob Trimble had an array of items that included a cute set he had put together from trains he discovered in two different thrift stores. He also displayed a calendar, a double deck bus and a real nice set of Madison cars that appear to be Lionel but were decorated with the Canadian Pacific heralds. He believes they may have been another club's offering and he is trying to track down their origin. William Grove won the raffle prize for the display.

In the kid's raffle, James Zisakis won the train songs video. Michelle Abbe took home the Trains-Planes video. In the regular raffle Bob Lemberger won a Lionel 'O' gauge Santa Fe box car, Harold Shapiro, a Lionel D&RG 'O' gauge box car, Calvin Smith and Ken Vaughan each won a K-Line 'O' gauge coil car. Winning OSH 2005 Train Calendars were Dennis Taube, Jim Kenney, and Nancy Cochran. Alan Rebis won a lottery ticket.

A lively auction was held at the end of the meet, with a wide assortment of rolling stock and motive power going on the block. Items included a Lionel #671 Steam Turbine and tender, several pieces of Marx, and Lionel freight cars, and some American Flyer freight cars.

This year Western Division is on a drive to recruit new members. If you can volunteer to spend some time representing the division at a show, please let us know. Coming up are the GATS Show and Fullerton Railroad Days. Walter Olsen suggested we all get involved. He said "interest in the hobby and membership in our club is shrinking." Jon Lang stated that "there are a lot of people out there who are not knowledgeable about trains and of our clubs. It only takes 2 or 3 hours of volunteer time at the various shows."

In Memoriam



Long time Western Division member Ernie Renn, #HR71-3980 passed away on January 12, 2005. Ernie died of a massive heart attack or stroke according to his son, Greg. Ernie's daughter, Linda, provided assistance at the registration desk for the 49th National Convention in Ontario, in June 2003. We wish to express our sincerest condolences to Ernie's family.