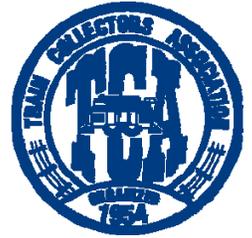




Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

March – April 2010

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA.

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 March will be: "Passenger Trains." Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. There will be a separate raffle prize drawing held for all those members who display items.

There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for members. Just a reminder that the Board of Directors has ordered that to participate in the monthly prize raffle, each member must wear their 2010 membership badge at the meet.



The 2010 Special Raffle Prize – a Hudson can be yours for \$20!

The special raffle for this year is well underway, with several tickets already being sold at the January and February meets. Up for grabs is a 1950 Lionel #773 'O' gauge Hudson loco and tender with original boxes. Tickets are a mere \$20. Ticket holders will have the opportunity to win a crisp \$100 bill at each meet between now and December. The Hudson will be given away at the December meet. Only 100 tickets will be sold.

Western Division's remaining meet dates for 2010 are: April 24th, May 29th, July 24th, August 28th, September 25th, October 23rd, and December 18th (Holiday Meet).

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

The Western Division Board of Directors is in the process of updating the Division By-Laws to conform to the new TCA National By-Laws. At the last BOD meeting, the proposed WD By-Laws were reviewed in detail. Your BOD will be presenting the updates to the WD membership for approval soon.

One proposed change is a proviso to alter the period of officer and director terms of office to start July 1 and extend to June 30 each year. This will facilitate division officer and director terms to coincide with National's. The amended By-Laws will also include

wording to cover the process for adding local chapters to Western Division in the future. The fiscal year for dues will continue to coincide with the calendar year - January 1 through December 31, with dues payable December 1 of each year for the ensuing year.

March is the cutoff date for members who have not paid their 2010 dues. The By-Laws have always stated that any member who is not in good standing (has not paid their annual dues) is to be dropped from Western Division membership rolls by March of each year. Please ensure that your dues are up to date.

Please take note of the article that appears in the recent issue of the TCA National Headquarters News about Richard Keppel's stolen trains. As Richard is one of our own WD members, we need to keep an extra eye out for his stolen items, and help recover them.

National has started the 2010 Annual Appeal campaign. This appeal has helped to curb the costs of running the organization.

At the February meet, a copy of the 2010 TCA calendar containing outstanding pictures of member's layouts was passed around. TCA National has started the contest for 2011 calendar pictures. If you have a great shot of your layout, be sure to send it in.

If your children or grandchildren under 18 years of age are not members of the TCA Kids Club, they should be. It's free to join and a good way to get and keep the young interested in trains. Applications are in the Headquarters News or on the WD website.

Heads up: if you are considering attending the 2010 National Convention in Baltimore this June some tours are limited to a set number of people. Don't wait too long to make plans. It's a great area of the country to visit and a great time for a train convention.

January Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



The display theme was: "New Train, for the New Year". Greg Pulis showed a hand painted Märklin circa 1912-1915 One Gauge 3-rail passenger set made for the American market with a NYC electric style locomotive and passenger cars with interior detail.

Jim Kenney showed a rare 1927 Ives cast-iron locomotive with an olive 'Capital Limited' observation car. Steve Eastman showed a British Marx passenger set he got for Christmas. Steve Waller showed a post-war Lionel #119 tunnel, which is a smaller plastic version of the pre-war sheet metal #120 tunnel. He also displayed an original box of Lionel Lichen from the post war era, and a child's engineer uniform. Greg Hahn showed a streamlined aluminum California Zephyr set, mentioning that there are over twenty different passenger car names in the Zephyr series made by Lionel. Dave Mabee showed the Lionel Lines 'O' gauge

Burlington Northern (with New Jersey town names) passenger set that he won in the Division's 2009 raffle. Bob Nord presented a Marx streamlined 'O' gauge tin plate A-B set in the Monon road name. Larry Pearson displayed a Lionel baby Blue Comet Standard Gauge Set (#1835E). Les Cochran showed a K-Line "Jersey Central" Box-Cab Electric Locomotive. Al Vargas presented a Lionel 'O' gauge switcher steam locomotive. Calvin Smith displayed a musical locomotive given to him by his grandchildren.

Raffle Prize Winners were: Greg Pulis, Larry Pearson, Bill Shepard, Bill Corsello, Greg Hahn, and Jim Kenney won the \$100.

Steve Waller brought in an 'O' gauge track kit, several Styrofoam carved mountains and a streamlined F-3 powered passenger consist and with other members pitching in, set up an elaborate layout.



Greg Pulis' Märklin One gauge



Jim Kenney

Steve Waller

February Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

The February Display Theme was: "Trains I Love" or "Red trains" in honor of Valentine's Day. One of the highlights of the display was a rare American Flyer pre-war 'O' gauge set (foreground below) brought in by Jim Kenney. Steve Eastman showed an even



older tin plate red American Flyer set in 'O' gauge still in the original box. Calvin Smith had a pre-war standard gauge electric outline locomotive in plum red. Harold Shapiro displayed his Lionel 'O' gauge post war #2245 AB MKT/Frisco 'Texas Special' F-3 in bright red. Harvey Tafel showed a pre-war 'O' gauge set.

Bob Spellmire displayed a Standard gauge set with several red painted cars, including the caboose of course! John Abbe showed his 'O' gauge Santa Fe F-3 in the famous war-bonnet paint scheme. Bob Nord presented his 'O' gauge pre-war Commodore Vanderbilt set and some nifty tin plate accessories, including a lift

crane. Wayne Sheriff showed his 'G' scale caboose that is modeled after the prototype that actually had a passenger compartment for cattlemen to ride in who didn't mind the conductor and signalman traffic. Harry Chortanian fondly displayed his 'O' gauge tin plate red caboose.



Steve Eastman

Calvin Smith

Wayne Sheriff



Harold Shapiro

Bob Nord



February Meet Raffle Prize Winners: (l to r) Bob Spellmire, Steve Eastman, John Abbe, C.A. Meyer, and Bill Corsello



Andrew Bowman controls the throttle of the Polar Express

In Memoriam

Greg Aslanian, (84-21494), a long time Western Division member, recently passed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Greg's family.