



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 2

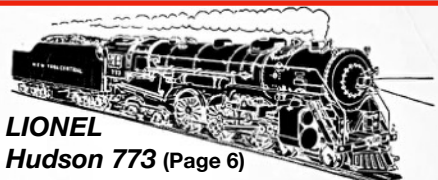
Spring, 2024

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"Celebrating 70 Years"



LIONEL
Hudson 773 (Page 6)

TCA Western's 2024 Grand Prize

Upcoming TCA Western Meets 10 AM - Meet; 9 AM - Setup

Mar. 30 - Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007
Guest: **Bill Brown** at 11 AM

Theme: **Passenger trains** as
"A Tribute to Wayne Sheriff;"
any gauge at all, but especially
"O" and G scale. (5th Saturday.)

April 27 - Arcadia Community Center
Theme: **Standard Gauge** as
"A Tribute to Robert Spellmire;"
or any size train that Bob would
have enjoyed. (See page 4.)

May 25 - Arcadia Community Center
Theme: **Streamliners**

June 15 - 23: TCA National Convention
Lancaster, PA (70th Anniversary)
Visit www.tcaconvention.org for
the latest updates.

Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



\$100/flatcar UNION PACIFIC 2 for \$175

Purchase them at our local Western
Division meets (**no shipping fee**) or
visit www.tcawestern.org to order.

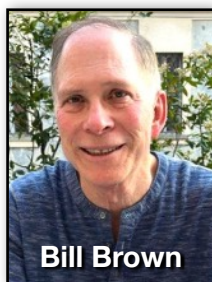


Extra DIVCO
vans (boxed)
are available!

Jerry Brown's Streamliners



The late Jerry Brown's Standard Gauge Streamliners were built in the 1970s through the 1980s in very low numbers and are today highly-coveted collector's items. Now, hear Jerry's son, TCA Western Division member **Bill Brown**, discuss how he and his father built these fabulous trains!



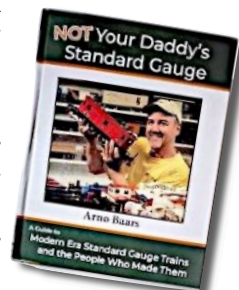
Bill Brown

Bill's presentation on March 30th at 11 AM will include home movies of the family's backyard toy train layout, plus a display of the tooling utilized to manufacture the UP M-10000 City of Portland streamliner and Illinois Central M-121 Green Diamond set (see photos above). This is the very same informative "Meet the Experts" session that Bill conducted in the seminar room at the 2021 TCA National Convention in Burbank, California.

Many of you are aware of Jerry Brown's trains, but if you want more information, please see the Western Division Toy Train Manufacturer's Index web page: <http://tcawestern.org/brown.htm>. To view the entire Index, visit <http://www.tcawestern.org/manufacturers.htm>.

If you have access to the recently published book entitled "**NOT Your Daddy's Standard Gauge**" by Arno Baars & David Carse, you can also read more about Jerry Brown's trains.

Our display table theme will honor our late member Wayne Sheriff. Bring a passenger train to share, any gauge at all, but especially "O" and G scale, Wayne's favorites! See the top of column one (on this page) for more details.



See you there!

- Jon M. Lang

January, 2024 Meet: Celebrating 70 Years!

Trains from the Steve Eastman collection, running on the club layout.

MTH 400 series Stephen Girard cars.

Photos by Roger Hill

MTH 392E

Custom-painted Santa Fe Black Bonnet

2007 TCA club car

January Theme:
New Trains for the
2024 New Year!

Our
hostess
with the
mostest!

LIONEL
No. 2024
C&O Alco
(1969 only)
appears
at the
New Year's
2024 meet.

Larry
Pearson
repairs
trains
FREE of
charge!

Greg Pulis received a Bassett-Lowke 'O' gauge 4-6-0 LMS Royal Scot #6100 live-steam locomotive recently.

2024 marks Steve Waller's 70th birthday, along with TCA Western! After eating lunch, we enjoyed cake & ice cream. Let's celebrate TCA Western's 70th Anniversary all year!

Steve Eastman
won the \$100
Opportunity
Drawing.

Show &
Tell table

President
Jon Lang
awarding
the door
prizes.

70th Anniversary Boxcars

by Mike Stella, TCA #79-13898

The views & opinions of a longtime Train Collector...



Shakespeare once said “Beware the ides of March.” This prophecy led to the demise of the Roman Empire.

As Western Division meets this March, we are a quarter of the way through 2024 already!

We are celebrating 70 years since our beginning, when Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House and the Santa Fe Super Chief stopped in Pasadena, before passing through Arcadia, about a mile north of our current meeting hall location.

We’ve seen the demise of Santa Fe’s Super Chief, but you can still ride the Los Angeles Metro Rail “A” Line through Arcadia (the former Gold Line).

In the past several years we’ve witnessed the end of Mike’s Train House (MTH), Williams, Weaver, K-Line and many others, not to mention TTOS National. *Classic Toy Trains* magazine has gone from nine issues to four and 100 pages to just 68.

Yet, TCA and Western Division remain active and our monthly meets are better than ever. Those who attend know our new meeting hall is spacious, comfortable, and easy to use. Great parking, hot coffee, inexpensive food & a friendly atmosphere.

In an effort to attract more members to attend, Western Division has produced a 6464 boxcar commemorating our 70 years as the first division in TCA. A wide variety of these classic boxcars (full rivets, metal door guides, sprung trucks) will be available for on-site pickup at all future 2024 meets. We’ve kept the price as low as possible and directly related to our founding in 1954!

These attractive **brass door** boxcars are available to Western Division members only and will surely complement your collection. Invite your East Coast TCA friends to visit you out West, attend our meets, join Western Division (low initiation fee), and they too can purchase one of these unique boxcars!

A highly collectible TCA brass door boxcar from 1967 commands over 10 times our current low price of \$54.24.

Imagine the profit you could realize in 2099!

—Mike Stella

Train Collectors Association Western Division



Western's 70th Anniversary Box Car

Reminiscent of TCA Western Division's highly sought-after 1967 club offering. Multiple road names available, each with a gorgeous commemorative brass plate.

Features **LIONEL** 6464-type box cars, made from 1993 to 2005. These cars have metal frames, metal door guides, die-cast sprung trucks and operating knuckle couplers, packed in a specially-marked original **LIONEL** box.

Cars offered to Western Division members only, for sale and pickup at the 2024 meets. Selling hours are 10 AM to 1 PM. (Dates & times subject to change without notice.) Cars are priced at **\$54.24** each.

*Visit **Mike Stella's** table at our next meet!*

Upcoming April 27th Meet: Bob Spellmire Trains

At our April 27th Meet, we will be honoring our late member **Bob Spellmire**, TCA# HR75-8039, who passed away on November 21, 2023, at the age of 97. Bring a train to our display table in Arcadia that Bob would have enjoyed. As you'll see on this page, he had Standard Gauge (his favorite), plus "O" gauge & "S" scale. *He loved them all...*

Our president Jon Lang spent many hours at Bob's, tabulating votes at election time and talking about trains. "We lived just 20 minutes apart by car, so I would drop by about once a month and we'd look at the trains together and chat about railroad history."



Bob had an astonishing institutional memory of TCA Western that dated back to the 1970s. We'll miss him greatly, along with his wife Kay and son George (of *Allied Model Trains* fame), who predeceased him. Our condolences go to his son Jim Spellmire (TCA #77-11575), creator of "Railmen Figures," and his family.

As far as the disposition of the train collection goes, Jim says there's a lot to go through, and no particular hurry to get it finished. Family members will get first choice of Bob's trains. Jim will let his friends at TCA know if there are any leftover trains to dispose of.



TCA Western Division meets start at 10 AM. Doors open at 9 AM for setup. Our meets typically end around 2 PM. Parking is free, located in the lot out front. **Address:** Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia CA 91007.

TCA members are admitted free; please wear your current membership badge and show it at the door when you enter the hall. Any non-member train enthusiasts are welcome to join the club at our next meet, so you can participate in the opportunity drawings.

There is no charge for use of trading tables for sellers but you must be a member in good standing of TCA. To reserve a sales table at the meet, send an email to info@tcawestern.org.



Any member of Western Division, who was current in their dues during the pandemic or has paid the \$10 initiation fee, is exempt from paying dues this year. Please fill out your Renewal Form to get your 2024 badge. Non-division members wishing to join us pay a one-time \$10 initiation fee. Visit www.tcawestern.org.

First-time applicants to TCA National pay just \$20 for a 6-month National Trial Membership, which includes all publications. For more information, contact Jon Lang, TCA Western President, at (310) 871-8315 (talk or text). Be sure to visit the National website: www.tcatrains.org.

TCA Western's October, 2023 "Mad Monster Party"



Forming bonds with the next generation.



Baron von Frankenstein appeared "in person" bearing Halloween candy & magic potions at our October meet.



Operating layout by Jeff & Denyse Meyer and Steve Eastman.



The meet started at 10 AM in our spacious hall. Theme: wind-up trains.



We showed the Halloween epic "Mad Monster Party" on our giant movie screen.

On October 27, 2023 TCA Western had our Halloween meet, with food, drinks and trick-or-treat candy. We enjoyed a special appearance by Baron von Frankenstein, who starred in the Rankin-Bass film, "Mad Monster Party" (1967).



Larry Pearson's mid-1920s AF wind-up Panama Express set, rarely seen complete today.



Steve Eastman's repro Dorfman train for Halloween.



Jerry Johnson shows off his wind-up trains & dime store soldiers.



Our lucky prize winners for October!

TCA Western Division President's Letter

—by **Jon M. Lang**, President - Western Division (TCA # 02-54092)



In 2024, we are celebrating the 70th Anniversary of TCA Western Division and TCA National all year long. Look for the ad on page 3 of this newsletter for our Western Division 70th Anniversary boxcar, available to purchase *only* at our meets. I

implore you to drop in to one or more of our gatherings this year. You will be welcomed by friends and a free cup of coffee & a doughnut!

Our opportunity drawings are off to a great start. We awarded a \$100 bill in January and will continue do so through the end of this year.

Bob Caplan
photo of
our actual
Lionel 773
Grand Prize.



The Grand Prize will be awarded in December (you need not be present to win). For 2024, it's a gorgeous #773 Hudson steam locomotive & tender from 1950.

Every \$25 ticket you buy is eligible to win \$100 at the meets all year long, but you must be present to claim the cash.

I would like to recognize some longtime members who have logged in over 40 years with TCA Western Division. I believe these "guys" should be given a big balloon, a large drum roll, and a bugle hoot!

OVER 50 YEARS:

William Corsello 72-4854 51 Years

OVER 40 YEARS:

James Kenney	75-8393	48 Years
Roy Bell	76-9611	47 Years
Ken Chan	76-9615	47 Years
William Otto Jr.	78-13071	45 Years
Melvyn Stein	79-13755	44 Years
John French	HR 79-13891	44 Years
Bruce Lazarus	79-13896	44 Years
William (Bill) Brown	79-14283	44 Years
Rudy Felix	79-14582	44 Years
Mark Pagonis	79-14699	44 Years
James Seels	81-16483	42 Years
Hollis Cotton	81-16836	42 Years
James Burke	81-17015	41 Years
Robert Caplan	82-18679	41 Years

Thanks to all of you! Your retention, your devotion to our organization and the hobby is truly appreciated. I hope to see you soon at one of our meetings, as I would like to personally say "thanks."

We will be having elections this year and we're looking for a brand-new slate of club officers. Young or old, please consider running for President, Vice-President or Membership Secretary/Treasurer. We need members who would like to serve on our Board of Directors or volunteer for the many jobs that need doing, such as Recording Secretary. We will begin taking nominations in April and the new term begins July 1st.

Let's keep this train rolling! - Jon M. Lang



The Train Collectors Association — Western Division Newsletter is published quarterly by TCA Western Division. Submissions may be sent to info@tcawestern.org. TCA Western Division train logo art by Ward Kimball.
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TCA Western Division Officers:

Jon Lang - President 2023-2024/Treasurer (Interim)

Robert Caplan - Vice President (Interim) / Immediate Past President / Past National President

OPEN - Membership Secretary/Treasurer

We're taking nominations in April for all these positions.

The new term begins July 1, 2024.

TCA Western Division Directors:

Rudy Felix - Director at Large

Glenn Olsen - Publicity/Director at Large

Greg Pulis - Director at Large

Larry Pearson - Repairs/Director at Large

Harold Shapiro - Webmaster/Past President

Stephen Waller - Western Division Newsletter Editor/Past President



TCA Western Division Volunteers:

Joseph Caplan - Kid's Club Coordinator

Steve Eastman - Layouts / Past President

Denyse & Jeff Meyer - Layouts

Roger Hill - Western Division Club Photographer