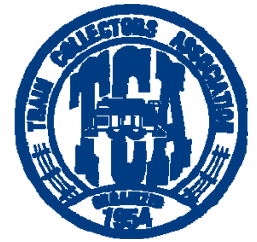




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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March - April 2008

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's April train meet will take place on Saturday, the 19th, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is 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 April will be, "Accessories". Show off an 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.

There will also be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership. Tickets for this year's 'Lionel 1950 Hudson Special Raffle' are also still available for \$25 each. A crisp \$100 bill will be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2008 Raffle ticket for the Lionel 773, and is in attendance at the meet. **April is Auction month**; please bring your auction items.

Western Division scheduled meets dates for 2008 are: April 19, May 31, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and December 13, 2008. June and November are dark.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

There have been many discussions taking place over the past few months at the Board of Director meetings and at regular monthly meets about how to build membership and stimulate interest in TCA. Western Division has been putting forth funds that were obtained from the successful 2003 National Convention and the donation from the Nixon Presidential Library, towards such efforts as generating new membership from, and education of, the general public. Some of these efforts have included the participation in train related shows such as Fullerton Railroad Days, the Worlds Greatest Hobby Show, etc.

In February, an invitation was extended to the WD via our website, to send a participant to talk to the Exchange Club of Newport Beach about TCA. I had the pleasure of attending this organization's session, and presenting. I will give another talk to the Exchange Club of South Orange County in April.

Herb Mayer has been researching the potential of WD participating in next year's Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society Rail fest that is held in Fillmore. This would serve as another great opportunity for TCA to gain public notice.

Manny Gonzalez and David Otth have undertaken the task of starting a relationship between TCA and the Boy Scouts of America organization. BSA has two merit badges that would apply to scouts and trains. This type of exercise provides both the ability to gain exposure for TCA, but also facilitates a mechanism to provide service to the community, on the part of the kids and WD.

With the multitude of activities available for kids today, such as sports, computer games, television, and the like, we should not forget that hobbies, such as toy train operation and collecting, are



excellent opportunities for the kids to learn about history and electronics/electro mechanics, and to gain quality time with parents.

On the subject of trains and spreading the word, it is always a pleasure to have Richard Keppel bring his operating floor layout and trains for running and playing with each month at the WD meet. Again, thank you Richard! Additionally, WD has been providing a tub of trains and track at each meet for the kids to get a 'hands on' experience with, and the kids have made good use of this equipment

Jon Lang and Manny Gonzalez are looking for a few members to volunteer to spend at least two hours manning the booth at the upcoming May 3&4 Fullerton Railroad Days event.

A reminder: Larry Pearson will hold his repair clinic each month at the meet for light/basic train repairs. This is a good opportunity for you to bring that car with a broken or bent part to get it fixed!

The TCA National Convention June date is fast approaching. If you are interested in attending this year's convention, time is running out for hotels and tour reservations. Don't get shut out.



February 2008 Meet Recap

Submitted by Steve Eastman, Recording Secretary

President Wayne Sheriff called the business meeting to order with an announcement that the Fullerton Railroad Days booth has been coordinated, and that volunteers are needed to man it May 3&4.

TCA Standards committee member: Bob Caplan announced that he would be attending the 3/15/08 West Coast meeting taking place during the Nor-Cal meet.

The display theme for the meet was 'Trains I Love' in honor of Valentine's Day. First up was Robert Caplan who showed a Lionel 'O' gauge B&M freight set that his mother had won in a raffle. Mario Liberatore displayed his Lionel 'O27' gauge #2026 Steam loco and tender. Les Cochran showed a K-Line SP Daylight E-8 A-A set in 'O' gauge. John Abbe presented his Lionel 'O' gauge Minneapolis & St. Paul GP type Diesel and matching caboose.



Calvin Smith displayed his Lionel standard gage #8 loco in olive color paint. Bob Trimble showed a Wagner sleeping car and Chicago North Shore Trolley in 'O' gauge scale. Larry Pearson showed his 'O' gauge Blue Streak tinsplate set. This is the same set that he ran at the Nixon Library exhibit.

Bill Clausen showed a nice Hafner set. Harry Chortanian presented a Lionel 'O' gauge 'I Love California' blue boxcar. Al Vargas displayed a tinsplate pre-war 'O' gauge cabooses with homemade pickups. Yours truly showed an MTH 'I Love Toy Trains' set and a chrome Lionel steamer and tender, both in 'O' gauge. Dave Mabee displayed a Lionel pre-war era #1666E freight set and 'I Love Illinois' & 'I Love California' boxcars.



The display raffle drawing prize went to Mario Liberatore, who chose an Industrial Rail SP tank car. In the Kids Raffle, Aram Maljanian won a Thomas the Tank Engine. Other raffle winners were: Bob Caplan, Lionel Lone Star Division boxcar; Don Goldberg, K-Line hopper; Harry Harris, K-Line hopper; Jon Lang, Industrial Rail stockcar. The monthly \$100 drawing winner was Bob Lemberger.



March 2008 Meet Recap

By Bob Lemberger, Acting Recording Secretary

President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order introducing new member Brad Davis. Wayne reminded everyone that the National Convention is mostly sold out and if interested in going, you should get your reservations in very soon.

Jon Lang told the membership that TCA WD shirts are still available but he needs 4 to 8 shirts ordered before he can place the

manufacturing order with the vendor. The shirts are available in white, blue, and tan and cost \$31.00. Jon also mentioned that on Sunday, June 1, 2008 a rail excursion sponsored by the Central Coast Railway Club and the Pacific Locomotive Association will bring the Santa Fe Northern (4-8-4) 3751 through Orange County. The excursion will be a round-trip to San Diego from LA at a cost of \$169.00. Details on boarding locations, exact times of operation and other questions can be answered at the web site www.goldenstaterails.com.



The display theme for March was 'clockwork & pull driven trains' and attracted several members' participation. Moderator Mike Donovan introduced the segment by stating that since March was the beginning of spring, the theme was 'spring' driven trains. Steve Waller was first up presenting his windup Casey Jr. Disneyland Express train made by Marx with original box. Steve also displayed a 2 rail cross-over track box with the words "Lionel Mechanical train" printed on it to clearly designate it as for a windup train, not an electric.

Harry Chortanian presented his Lionel 'O' gauge Donald Duck wind-up hand car. Bob Nord displayed a couple of tinsplate wind up sets, each with detailed bases. One included a Union Station with two loops of track passing through it. The other was a diorama of a city with a Central Station, a tunnel, and a bridge.

John Abbe showed off his custom decorated Marx NY Central Vanderbilt Easter themed set complete with carrots painted on each pastel colored car. John also had an Oil Lamp that works with train and a trolley. Jerry Johnson displayed a Hafner engine, a Marx Radio Shack set bought at an estate sale and Bing & Flyer wind up sets from the early 1900's.

Les Cochran showed his pull toy bought in the 60's that had seen duty with three generations of kids already. Calvin Smith displayed a pull train from Norway. Bob Trimble presented a wooden train made in China.



In the raffle, Bob Trimble won the B&O Gondola, Harold Shapiro won the Toy Train Museum Hopper Bob Cesarone won the Lone Star Division box car, and Bill Grove won the GT Gondola. And yours truly, 'lucky' Lemberger won the monthly \$100 drawing again.

Standards Committee Report

As part of our April Western Division Meet, Bob Caplan, National West Coast Standards Representative, will be presenting a slide presentation on "Train Collectors Association Grading Standards: A Guide to using the grading standards on postwar trains and accessories"