



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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“Special Kids’ Club Edition”

May, 2004



President’s Message

*By Robert Caplan,
President, TCA Western Division*

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, May 22** 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 parking lot. We’re located next to the lawn bowling area. Doors open at 10 am. Our membership meeting begins earlier now at 11:30 a.m. Please check our newly updated website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a detailed map!

Because we are celebrating children and California’s Toy Train History our display theme will be anything that has to do with “**Santa Fe**”! So bring that **Santa Fe** Train or “Santa Fe” train item. I have some very interesting Santa Fe Trains to share for our guests! How about YOU! “Santa Fe, All The Way!” Show off rare and prized toy trains and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a prize for the most interesting display!

This May we will be hosting children as our special guests. We encourage all members to bring the whole family. There will be operating layouts, educational displays, and giveaways. Special presentations will be made to local organizations that care for underprivileged and disabled children. Special gifts will be raffled off to the kids (big & small). Remember, “Display Tables” and seller tables are provided at no cost. An auction will be held. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and camaraderie. Remember, doors open at 10:00 A.M. for sellers’ setup, 11:00 A.M. for members, our special guests and general public.

We want more TCA members to join in on our monthly train meets. In an effort to accomplish this, we have implemented several new programs designed to get members over to the Arcadia Senior Center on the fourth Saturday of the month.

We have started selling ‘Special Raffle Tickets’ for the NEW 2004 Lionel Pioneer Zephyr Set. This beautiful set includes the locomotive, RPO baggage, coach car, and observation car, TrainMaster Command, Odyssey System, maintenance free motors, fan driven smoke and much more. Tickets are \$20 each and only a total of 100 tickets will be sold.

At the Western Division April meet, and at each subsequent meet, one ticket will be pulled from all tickets sold. That lucky ticket holder will get a nice crisp ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR

BILL (\$100). The winning ticket will then be placed back with the other tickets, for the regular Zephyr raffle. Think about it. Your ticket could be pulled out each remaining meet for the rest of the year. That’s a possible \$800. And your lucky ticket could also win the Lionel Zephyr set too! The set will be awarded during our December Holiday meet. You must be present to win the \$100!

Because this is our “50th Anniversary Celebration”, we have commissioned 150 Special Hobo TCA Western Division 50th Anniversary figures to be given away at each Train Meet starting in April. At our last April meet we gave quite a few away where just about half of the 150 figures are left. Don’t be left out! If you have not picked up your figure, get it at our May meet. Once they are gone, no more will be left! First come, first served until they are all gone. These unique limited edition figures will be a memorable keepsake for all who get one. Remember the only way to get one is to be at our meet. Only one Hobo Figure for each TCA Western Division Member.

Membership, Membership!!!! As part of our “Western Division Membership Drive” for 2004 we are promoting a “Membership Contest”. The member that recruits the most people to become new members of our division during the year will be awarded a RED Western Division TCA 2003 Convention Banquet Car. Just bring in the most new members, to our GREAT Western Division, and the Car IS Yours!!

We hope all these new programs will make TCA Western Division train meets the one event you won’t want to miss! Come on out each and every month!

–Bob Caplan

April Meet Photograph



Mine, Mine, I Found A Rare Find? Who’s Looking!

Western Division Meeting Report

By Steve Waller, Recording Secretary

As always, we had great fun at our recent Western Division train meet!



Who's Next? "Dale Lange giving out the Special T.C.A. Western Division 50th Anniversary Hobo figures!"

On Saturday April 24th, 2004 every member who attended received a FREE collectible die-cast hobo figure, created exclusively for Western Division by Jim Spellmire. We will be giving away more of these limited-edition hobos at the next meet, but get there early, because when they're gone, they're gone! Thanks to Bob & Kay Spellmire for their help with this members-only promotion.



What a line! Hobo Figures for all!

Bob Caplan called the April business meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Topics discussed included the upcoming Kid's Meet on Saturday, May 22. It's shaping up to be a big event, with lots of children, operating layouts and trains for sale. In addition, Harold Shapiro agreed to organize a Western Division photo album, which will be displayed at the TCA 50th National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.

The April display theme was Springtime/Easter trains. There were TWO Marx Bunny Trains shown, which are considered to be very scarce lithographed tinplate sets. Bruce Peterson brought an immaculate 3car set, which had a box marked "Cars and Tracks for Animal Express". Bob Caplan displayed



The two Marx wind up Bunny Trains

a Bunny Train with a super-rare fourth car. Bob also had a Lionel Peter Rabbit Chick-Mobile from the 1930s. Besides being in Like-New condition, it was shown with a highly unusual silver presentation box. Bob has seen a price tag of \$11,000 on this box alone. Talk about rare! The prize for best display was won by Steve Waller, for a Gscale Egg-Liner locomotive, which is a current-production item by Aristo-Craft. The only thing special about it was that it was displayed in a cute Easter basket. (This goes to show that you don't have to have the rarest item to win.) Steve picked a Lionel 6-19553 Stock Car as his prize.



Steve Waller and his egg shaped locomotive.



Dennis Taube's daughter Carrie provided the delicious refreshments at the April meet.

More April Meet Photographs



Russ Lange was the first lucky Winner to receive a "Crisp \$100" for April. Who will it be in May?

Russ Lange was the winner of a crisp \$100 bill in the monthly raffle drawing for the new Lionel prototype Pioneer Zephyr streamliner, shown in the 2004 catalog. Each month there will be a cash award of \$100 until the grand prize winner is announced in January. Chances are only \$20 each, but tickets are limited, so hurry and get yours at the next meet! A winner in any given month is still eligible for prizes in all subsequent drawings in this raffle. But don't miss a meeting, because you must be present to win!



President Bob Caplan and the display bunnies!



There were some other incredible door prizes given away at the April Meet. Don Stotts won a TCA Western Division 1954-2003 red boxcar, currently valued at around \$250. Other door prize winners were Merv Lew and Ed Largey, who each won a new Lionel freight car.



"Lionel's Pioneer Zephyr"





Ernie Renn displays a picture of his wife and himself from 1947



Bob Caplan banged the gavel at the spirited auction.



Steve Waller and a basket of Easter goodies!



Richard Keppel setting up the floor layout.

T.C.A. History - A Blast from the Past!



BILL	JIM	GORDON	WES	CHRIS	BOB	DICK
JEFFERY	KURTEN	NESBITT	FRYE	KELLEY	SPELLMIRE	WHEELER
LYLE	WARD		GEORGE		RALPH	LEON
CAIN	KIMBALL		SIRUS		PAULY	HARRIS



Alan Rebis, Bob Spellmire, Kay Spellmire, and Bob Lemberger are just a few of the members awaiting the start of the April business meeting.