



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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May Meet Notice

The next Western Division train meet will take place on **Saturday, May 21**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Please note that this meet is being held one week earlier than usual. 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 May display theme will be 'the Southern Pacific RR' (trains, pictures, history or railroadians). Show off that prized toy train or accessory and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting. There will be a separate prize drawing for all those who display items!

Calling all TCA Kids Club members. May is 'Kids Month'. Bring/drag Dad (or Mom) out and make them bring you to our 'Kids Month' meeting (11am-1pm). Run trains; share your stories about your train(s), hobby experiences, layout-building adventures and/or family stories. Prizes, cake and punch, furnished just for you. If you can't attend, write us a short story and send it to the Web site above. We will attempt to put your story in print in the months to come.

Reminder: there is no June 2005 meet. We hope to see you at the TCA National Convention in Seattle, June 18th through June 26th.

Remaining Western Division 2005 meet dates: **July 23rd, August 27th, September 24th, October 22nd, November 19th and December 17th the Christmas Party.**

Vice President's Message

By Jon M. Lang, Vice President, TCA Western Division

Western Division's special 2005 raffle has been highly successful. This year's raffle is for a new BB1 class electric locomotive in the Pennsylvania road name, and the four related heavyweight passenger cars as shown in the new Lionel 2005 catalog, page 52.

Over 70 of the 100 available tickets have been sold. The April \$100 cash drawing for ticket holders went to Western Division member Jack Whitmeyer. Yes, lightning did strike twice. Jack also won the March \$100 crisp bill. You too can be a winner. Be present at our monthly meetings and purchase one or several of the last remaining tickets for \$20.

We had a great meeting last month and I wish to thank all those who participated to make it so. Special thanks goes to Vince Garguilo for filling in and doing a great job on our auction following the new auction rules just put in effect. Please review last month's newsletter, so you too can become familiar with these new rules. This way, everyone will be aware of them, and no misunderstanding will result in the months to come.



Steve Waller & Bob Lemberger manning the Western Division booth at the Fullerton Railroad Days event.

I would also like to tip my hat and give a big 'thank you' for those who volunteered to work our membership booth at the recent Fullerton Railroad Days. So, to you guy's who showed the 'spirit' and went that extra mile (John Abbe, Mike Donovan, Bob Lemberger, Ray Sugg, Walt Olson, and Stephen Waller) many, many thanks for your hours contributed to the Western Division and in helping me.

- *"Jon M. Lang"*

April Meet Recap

Submitted by Stephen Waller

Our most recent meet was held on Saturday April 23rd at the Arcadia Senior Center. Doors opened at 10 am and there were lots of trains for sale, including a portion of the collection belonging to our late friend, Hilly Lazarus, whose presence we missed.



Jerry Blaine, Larry Pearson, Mike Roman, Roy Bell, Don Stotts, Jon Lang, Howard Bishop and a cast of thousands attended the April meet.

John Parker had a 'Historian's Corner' set up on his train-laden table. In particular, we enjoyed seeing the cards Ward Kimball

created to send out at Christmas 1948, 1952 & 1953. Also, there were a couple of unusual Louis Hertz books displayed.

Harold Shapiro had about fifty badges set out on the 'Welcome' table, ready for members to pick up. A new color-coding system has been implemented: yellow badges for regular members, pink for female family members and green for male family members. Be sure to check for your badge next time, and don't forget to bring along new members!

Richard Keppel and Jerry Johnson worked hard on their huge operating layout in the south room. There were two GS-4 Daylight steam locomotives running, one by MTH and the other a new release by K-Line. An MTH Yellowstone locomotive looked impressive pulling a string of ore cars. Mike Jenkins brought a Weaver SD45, while Ray Sugg was back at the throttle after a recent surgery, running his 2-8-0 Consolidation. We also spotted a Rail King 4-4-0 Jupiter and a die-cast reproduction Dorfan #3930 Crocodile.

The kitchen was in full swing this month, with coffee & doughnuts for a quick snack, as well as a delicious six-foot submarine sandwich, for those of us who wanted something a little more 'sub'-stantial (get it?). Thanks to Jim Kenney for bringing and taking the time to find the maker of that great sandwich.

Vice-President Jon Lang began the Business Meeting at noon, filling in for our traveling president, Wayne Sheriff. Jon reminded us that the Kid's Club meet is on Saturday, May 21st and that Western Division will be dark in June for the National Convention in Seattle. We welcomed new member Jerry Coscia (referred by Jerry Butler), who told us about a room he added onto his house, especially dedicated to the trains.



The April display theme was 'Buyer's Goofs', in honor of April Fool's Day, or anything new to your collection, in honor of Spring. Jon Lang suggested that each member who brought an item for show & tell limit the "telling" part to two-three minutes, and for the most part, we succeeded.

Les Cochran brought an Erie caboose with a factory Eri (sic); make that *error*. Jay Keeley displayed a vintage motivational poster, featuring a little boy engineer and a Lionel #2037 locomotive. He came by this poster in an unusual way – it was part of the packing from another item he received. Jack Whitmeyer brought some bizarre "O" gauge tinplate, with added motors. Mario Liberatore displayed a TCA National billboard, while Jerry Johnson exhibited his K-Line SP #4449 Daylight, delivered two years late by the factory (but worth the wait).



Les Cochran's 'Eri'

Bob Trimble showed some Hudson puzzles and Harry Chortanian brought a junior-sized Lionel lunchbox (holds exactly 1 sandwich!). The lucky winner of the display prize was William Grove, who showed a unique Standard Gauge Lionel locomotive from 1912.

There were some other lucky winners, too, drawn completely at random by Michelle Abbe. Michelle's dad John Abbe won a boxcar, as did Steve Waller and C.A. Meyer. Jay Keeley won a train shirt and Michelle, herself, took home a lottery ticket.

Vince Garguilo ran the auction utilizing the new rules that Past President Bob Caplan worked so hard to hammer out. It also, was very successful for sellers Mike Jenkins, Dennis Taube and Harold Shapiro, and the buyers were happy, too!



Jay Keeley's surprise 'It's Only a Small Detail' find.



No it's not Déjà vu! Jack Whitmeyer got lucky again in April!

Western Division will be hosting some very special guests again this year at our May meet. Children from local outreach programs will be in attendance. The division will be presenting brand new train sets to these organizations. We would also like to provide each child with a small gift. If you have any such items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the May meet.

See you then, and be sure to bring the Kids!

- *Stephen Waller*