



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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October 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next train meet will be held on **Saturday October 28th, 2000** at the *Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006* (Santa Anita exit off of the 210 freeway, then head south). Visit our Internet web site at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for a detailed map.

Hall doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables.

The hall opens for members and guests to enter and for trading and festivities to commence at 11:00 AM.

Trick or treat! This is our Halloween meet. This means that the display theme will be your scariest train. Or for those who do not have anything scary in their collections, a train that is colored to match the season (that would be orange!).

We will continue with the practice of awarding a special prize to the person chosen to have the most interesting display and the best story to go with it.

The auction will begin at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting and the raffle will follow. See you all on Saturday! Boo!

Western Division remaining 2000 schedule of train meets:
November 25th, 2000 **December 10th, 2000**

September 2000 Meet Recap

The September 23 meeting at Arcadia Park was well attended with more than 30 sellers offering a wide variety of tinplate and scale equipment in multiple gauges.

The general membership meeting was opened just after 12 noon with President Harold Shapiro calling for members to be sure to vote in the national TCA election. (He also announced that he had erred in reporting Robert Caplan's vote on the dues increase at the June, national directors meeting. Bob, he said, had actually voted a resounding No!).



An incredible line-up of American Flyer from John Thousand's collection.



Some of the multitudes of streamliners on display at the September meet.

Harold then called for volunteers to work on the planning for the 2003 National Convention. John Parker reported on a successful meeting with staff at the Ontario Convention Center, the planned site, where the convention will be held. It was emphasized that there is much to do, and that the time to get started is now.

Harold then reported that National TCA now has a new web site: <http://www.tcastation.org>. This new web site presents TCA members with the opportunity to buy with confidence, train-related items presented via the 'e-interchange', an on-line train exchange mechanism. He also said that the other web auction sites, such as eBay, have had difficulties, especially with such specialized auction items as toy trains, and reported on some problems other club members have encountered. This new TCA 'members only' site will provide a safer and more secure, pure medium for buying and selling trains over the Internet, with less hassles and problems.



Mike Stella's City of Denver, John Parker's 1689E set, Emmert Stouffer's Zephyrs, and Bob Spellmire's rocket car

This month's display theme was streamliners. John Thousand's display of several streamlined American Flyer locomotives from the 1930's topped the seven entries. John showed examples of Burlington Zephyrs, Hiawatha's and M series streamliners. His Union Pacific was designed to run on special 4-rail track, to facilitate a whistle mechanism. John threw a couple of Torpedo's in his display (one was a Lionel). And he also had a very rare Illinois Central Green Diamond.

John Parker showed an uncatalogued Lionel 1689E streamlined steam loco with the 1700 series silver and red cars.

Mike Stella had a nice example of the Lionel City of Denver streamliner (a repaint by Nevin). It was 6 sections long.

Bob Spellmire (who wore a great looking shirt decorated with trains) displayed his American Flyer rocket car, which originally came on a flat car. Made in the 1960's, this rocket car is powered and could actually run on the two-rail track.



Bob Trimble

John Thousand

Bob Spellmire

Steve Waller displayed 2 Tyco 'HO' examples of the Talgo streamliner train. He also had a detailed artist's drawing of the prototype.

Emmert Stouffer showed a pre-war Lionel Burlington Zephyr in 'O' gauge, and a small model wind up version, that he purchased through the Betty's Attic catalog.

Bob Trimble displayed a Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Electroliner in HO, a Strombecker B & O wood and printed cardstock diesel streamliner kit also in HO, a Kusan 'O' gauge RDC car, and an R. & T. Co. 'O' scale PCC Trolley in Cleveland colors.

John Thousand was awarded the special prize, a US Postal Service First Day of Issue cachet with the Hiawatha stamp, for outstanding display.

In the back room, along with the trains running on the layout, the latest T-M Lionel Trains video, narrated by Tom Snyder,



was playing on the TV. Bob Spellmire brought in the video. It features shots of many famous operating layouts, including Bob's.

The Keppel's (R.A. & Dick Sr.) were once again performing yeoman-engineering duties, operating a wide assortment of pre-war classic style trains on several loops of track, and on a double figure 8.

After the auction and raffle, the meeting closed with John Parker conducting a smaller meeting with some of the Convention planning volunteers.

Compiled from submissions by Peter Searles & Bob Trimble



Some back-room railroad action.

President's Corner

November is fast approaching, and as you all know this means it is time to elect a new president. I'm not talking about that guy who will live in the White House in Washington, D.C. I am referring to the person who will lead TCA Western Division in the coming year.

At this month's meet, during the business meeting, we will be opening up the floor for nominations. Along with the office of president, we will be looking for candidates to fill the positions of Vice President, Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and 6 members of the board of directors.

If you have never served in any capacity as an officer in our club, now would be a great opportunity for you to step forward and do so. If there is anyone who will not be able to attend the meeting, but is interested in serving on the board, please contact me and I will make sure your name is put into the nominations.

The election ballots will be distributed with the November newsletter, and tallied for announcement of the results at the December meet. Please make sure you cast your vote, so that your voice can be heard.

The results of the TCA National election are in. Tom Jaworowski is the president-elect, Newton Derby is the Vice President, Sarah Reed is the Secretary, Bill Miles returns as Treasurer, and Gordon Knight was chosen for a 3-year term on the Investment committee. Their terms of office begin in November 2000.

Per current TCA President, Gordon Wilson, all 5 of the proposed amendments, including the \$5 increase in annual TCA National membership dues, will pass by significant majorities.

Western Division has renewed its lease on the Arcadia Sr. Citizen's Center for our 2001 meet dates. The schedule is as follows: The 4th Saturday of every month – 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22, 10/27, 11/24, except December, when we meet on Sunday 12/16.

In Memorium

Ralph Pauly TCA charter member #45

Tca Western Division wishes to extend sincerest condolences to the family of member Ralph Pauly. Ralph Pauly was a charter member in TCA and organizer of Western Division-TCA in 1954. He passed away on Oct. 13, 2000 at 90 years of age. Ralph was well known to the many train collectors in S. California He always took pride in the fact that one of the get togethers that led to the formation of The TCA took place around his kitchen table at his home in Montebello, CA. He was well known for his train collecting ability, knowledge, and keen repair skills when it came to restoring Ives trains. He will be missed.