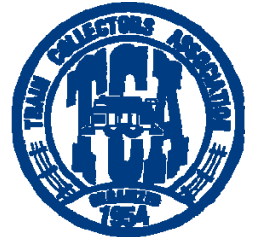




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 53, No. 5

<http://www.tcawestern.org>

September - October 2007

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on **Saturday, September 22**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is free and Sellers: *Trading tables are 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 September will be "**Kits/Scratch Built train related items**". Show off that prized toy train or train related 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, and tickets for this year's 'Special Raffle' are still available. The item offered for 2007 is the 50th Anniversary Hudson Set as displayed in the Lionel 2002 catalogue. Another \$100 bill will also be raffled to anyone purchasing the 2007 Raffle tickets for the Hudson set. Currently, there are a few tickets left. Be sure to get yours for the chance of winning the set and the monthly \$100 bill giveaway. Coffee, donuts, and sandwiches will be available at the meet.

Western Division remaining scheduled meet dates for 2007 are: September 22, October 27 (auction), and December 15th. There will be no meet held in November.



President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

I would like to give a big 'thank you' to WD Vice President Jon Lang, for conducting the August meet while I was out of town. While I am thanking people I want to also extend the Division's thanks to all the Officers and Board of Directors who have served during this past year. We have had a great and busy year supporting the Nixon Library exhibit, the Fullerton Railroad days, and Cal Stewart. Again thank you all.

It is that time of the year that we vote for new club officers and



members to serve on the Board of Directors for 2008. Enclosed with this newsletter is the ballot and a return envelop for your participation in the election process of the Division. There are two names missing from the ballot out of those nominated. First, since Bob Caplan is immediate past president of Western Division, he is automatically designated to be a board member. Second, Bob Lemberger removed his name from the ballot for President. In addition, there was no nomination for Secretary. Please write your intention for the position. Please take a moment to vote and return the ballot.

In addition to the Western Division Ballot, you should have received or will receive the ballot for TCA's slate of applicants for national office with the next mailing of the Headquarters News. Please take time to consider these candidates. TCA is a large operation with much at stake. If you just look at the balance sheet, the organization is worth approximately \$3.5 million with an operating budget of \$1.7 million. These are big numbers and should be taken seriously. I do not take a stand on candidates in this newsletter; however, I would be happy to talk about the candidates personally with any member who wishes to do so.

TCA National has major decisions to make about the future of the organization and its operation. It is imperative that the best people be put into place not only at the national level but at the local division and chapter levels. The division presidents are on the national board of directors and have a direct input to those major decisions that need to be made. Again please take time to vote at the local and national levels.

The divisions have been requested by TCA National to include the required following text in all meet notices:

- A. "I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the TCA and its Division and Chapters in effect from time to time, especially including all rules and regulations of all TCA Committees and any actions and rulings of all TCA Committees."
- B. "I also agree that all items sold by me to any TCA Member or at any TCA sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufacturer's original condition unless I have caused any such item to appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction."

We have been requested to consider special TCA project needs for the National Toy Train Museum and Toy Train Reference Library. If you are considering a donation, please consider the request. I have a complete list of needs.

— *Wayne*



August 25, 2007 Meet Recap

Submitted by Bob Lemberger, WD Recording Secretary

With President Wayne Sheriff off somewhere roaming in Connecticut, V.P. Jon Lang took over the reins and ran the business meeting at the August meet. Jon announced that Terry Gibbs was in attendance at the meet, visiting from the Desert Division of TCA. Terry's dad, Cole Gibbs, a long time TCA member, recently passed away.

Jon also reminded us that the Cal Stewart meet is November 2nd, 3rd & 4th this year, and that the WD October 27th meet will be our quarterly auction.

Jon called for 2008 board nominations and announced that he would not seek nomination due to health concerns over wife Kay's long term illness. We'll miss you Johnny and Kay is in all our prayers. Yours truly was nominated for President but I have declined to run and will not accept the position of Secretary this year either.

Jim Kenney, our treasurer reported about \$2,000.00 in the club checking account. Yours truly reported on the Nixon Library layout and that we had been asked to redesign it and make it more spectacular than last year. I drew up a new design and Wayne and I submitted it along with a new budget. I mentioned to the group that issues over the new budget were causing something of an impasse with the library people.

Mike Donovan announced the display theme for the day was 'a favorite item'. First up was Bob Caplan who challenged us to find the difference between two Lionel postwar era 6464-250 'O' gauge box cars. One of which was a very rare type 3 that Bob says there are only three known to exist. It turns out there is an extra row of rivets on the side which distinguishes it from the other types. Bob also brought in a little plexi-glass enclosed diorama which contained a small piece of Ed Alexander's barn, where TCA was born in 1954. Very interesting! Thanks Bob.

Robert Mayer displayed an MTH ski train, which was a door prize that he collected from the TCA National Convention held in Denver this past summer. Bill Grove showed his large General



Models streamliner, a shiny Zephyr in "O" gauge and a little tin steam engine with tender and a car from circa 1888. Harry Chortanian showed off his "I love California" car. Jim Kenney showed a neat Bayco construction set from England which can be used to build numerous houses and buildings via snap-together pieces. It's probably from the early post WWII era. Bob Trimble displayed some nice Lionel "OO" and Misc. Scale Craft ON3 which preceded Lionel "OO". Les Cochran showed off his new



Lionel Mercado. Mario Liberatore showed his Schuco race car piece. It's for sale!

Jim Nelson had a Lionel flat from around 1906 which had a very unusual and rarely seen box labeled "New Departure Battery Motors." He was asking if anyone

had ever seen this rarity before. Jim also showed a collection of American Flyer cars. Calvin Smith brought in his custom made post war FRED box car. John Abbe displayed a video from the Orange Empire Rail Museum in Perris.

Terry Gibbs, who made the trip from Arizona for the WD meet, showed us his very rare "O" gauge F-3 loco made in Mexico that sported a 'Nacionales De Mexico' road name.



Calvin Smith won the display drawing and chose a Lionel "O" gauge flat car with tractors. Jon Lang, Bob Trimble and Cheryl Shapiro each had winning raffle tickets drawn, and selected a Lionel TCA convention car, a K-line TCA convention car and a Lionel NW box car respectively. Bob Caplan won the \$100 bill for August.



As usual, in the very fine fashion and with great effort, Richard Keppel set up his always exceptional floor layout, with loops of "O" gauge and Standard gauge track, in the back room of the Senior Center. He ran some great classic stuff using state of the art command control. Pictures of some of the trains in action on the layout appear on the front of this newsletter. The layout is always available for any member who would like to bring in some trains and run them. Dave Mabee brought in a Blue Comet tinplate set in "O" gauge and gave it a spin for all to enjoy.