



# Western Division

## Train Collectors Association

### Newsletter



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September 1999

## Monthly Meet Notification

This month's meeting of the TCA Western Division will be held on **Saturday September 25th, 1999**. It will take place 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).

Senior Citizen's Center hall doors will be opened at 10:00 AM for sellors only to enter and begin setting up their tables. The hall will be open at 11:00 AM for members and guests to enter, and for trading and festivities to commence.

Summer is slowly switching to Fall (yes we do sort of have seasonal changes here in the desert) so, what better theme for our September display than **'Switchers'**? The workhorses of every train yard! I know everyone has a switcher of some sort in his or her collection, be it steam, diesel or electromotive prototype. So we expect to run out of space and have to extend the display tables with another 8 footer or two. As an added incentive to increase the amount of items on display for this month, we will be giving away a special prize for the best display item to its displayer. Remember, a common switcher with a special story behind it, can earn an award just as easily as a unique item with just a boring story!

Our usually great raffle will be held once again at the meet. A couple more of the recently acquired K-Line heavyweight TCA Museum commemorative cars will be given away. And the auction will take place after the business meeting.

**Western Division's remaining 1999 scheduled train meets:**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>      October 23<sup>rd</sup>      November 27<sup>th</sup>**

## August 1999 Meeting Recap

*Text by David McCully, photos by Myron Moore*

While our mid-summer meet had a smaller attendance than usual, it was an interesting meeting for the thirty-five members and guests who did attend. There were 16 sales and exhibition tables with a nice variety of pre-war, post-war and recently manufactured trains and accessories.

The business meeting began with a request by our president, Harold Shapiro, for a volunteer from our membership to coordinate the "Kids Club" events for Western Division. There are now well over 300 boys and girls who belong to the TCA National Kids Club. Membership remains free until the end of this year. The children must be in families of current TCA members.

The discussion moved on to the planning of the end-of-year holiday party train trip. Western Division is targeting Sunday, December 12, 1999 for the club members and their families to take a train excursion ride on some restored antique train cars. There were lots of differing opinions on ways to get to San Diego and back, on various kinds of coaches. But the group ended up asking the leadership to look into planning for a more interesting ride, say, to Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo. Discussion will resume at the September meet.

New member, Mike Barossa was introduced.

Standards committee member Bob Caplan, who is most interested in keeping us aware of all the reproductions of rare cars, showed two boxcars that aren't what they appear to be. A Lionel 6464 series red Central of Georgia and a solid shield, Rutland. If each of these were the 'real McCoy' they would be worth several thousand dollars.



*The display table at the August meet.*

The display theme for the meet, was electro-motive equipment. John Parker brought a F3 EMD (electromotive diesel) AB and caboose with Rio Grande markings.

Bob Spellmire brought a very nice display of Toonerville trolley cars. He told us the history of the various cars. Two were large scale, made by Bob LeDuc. Two were standard gauge and one was the first edition by David O. King. Bob also showed a Toonerville station with figures of the cartoon characters. Bob told us of other collectors, like our fellow Western Division member Ward

Kimball who has five of these original trolleys.



*Bob Spellmire's Toonerville trolley display*

Bob Trimble once again had an interesting display table with a variety of trolley cars. This included a scratch built #1 gauge open trolley with removable seats and good detail. Bob also had a group of Pittman street cars, a David O. King, sheet metal trolley, a Dinkeyville trolley by EMCO, a brass 'O' scale Fairbanks Morse ABA and a scratch-built brass two rail 'O' scale Alco. Bob also had taken a leftover Kusan RDC body and shortened it into an electric powered Birney car of interesting dimensions.

Emmert Stouffer displayed a three rail 'O' electric box loco which looked much like those made in Japan in the 1950's. He has not been able to research its origins.



*Emmert Stouffer's electric box loco.*

Steve Waller brought a set of the new train stamps, issued August 26th in Cleveland, OH by the USPS. This stamp series includes the 'Super Chief', the 'Daylight', the 'Congressional', the '20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited', and the 'Hiawatha'. This month's Western Division Newsletter has been affixed with one of these stamps and has been postmarked with the official USPS first day of issue cancellation.

The raffle included two of the K-Line TCA Museum cars - the Varney Baggage and the William O. Coleman coach in 'O' gauge. Mike Olearts and daughter Katy won them. Myron Moore won a K-Line Great Northern reefer donated to the club by John Parker. Tom Hess took home a 'Lionel Standard of the World' book.



*A Marx freight train rounds the curve on the main line as a Lionel Rectifier waits on the siding*

On the train layout we saw a Lionel post-war Virginian Rectifier and a New Haven EP5 rectifier from the 1950's circling with a consist of miscellaneous freight cars. There were also a couple of Marx steam locos in 'O' gauge pulling an assortment of tinsplate freight cars. Thanks to Darrell Calvillo and Harold Shapiro for bringing the trains and setting up the layout. We also saw Ron Smith's Hoge Shovelnose streamliner running on the 'O' loop.



*Ron Smith's Hoge streamliner.*

## President's Corner

If you haven't visited yet, a reminder that the TCA Western Division Internet web site is up and running at <http://www.tcawestern.org>. If you have Internet access please take a few moments to visit the site and provide us with some feedback as to what we can do to improve or enhance it. I would like to possibly include some collecting tips from club members on the site. And there has even been discussion about posting of 'train's for sale' listings or 'trains wanted' listings. Let me know what you think of this idea.

Speaking of getting 'plugged-in'...I am currently soliciting e-mail addresses from all of the Western Division members who have them. My e-mail address is [harold.shapiro@nbc.com](mailto:harold.shapiro@nbc.com). Send me an e-mail with your address so I can add it to my list. This way I can send you an electronic version of this newsletter in the future!

The year is shooting by...soon it will be a new millennium. And that means that the 2003 TCA National Convention being held here in Ontario, CA is not too far off. Western Division is hosting this event, and volunteers for the many committees will be required. If you have experience in any of the areas of convention planning, we would love to hear from you. Even if you don't have any experience, any effort is appreciated. I encourage as many Western Division members as possible to offer their assistance in putting on a memorable event.

Plans for the December 12<sup>th</sup> holiday train excursion are in the works. Watch for registration forms in the next issue of the TCA Western Division Newsletter.

And don't throw out the envelope that this month's newsletter arrived in. It is a 'First Day of Issue' cachet, and has value to a philatelist! See you all on September 25<sup>th</sup>!

*Your president, Harold Shapiro*