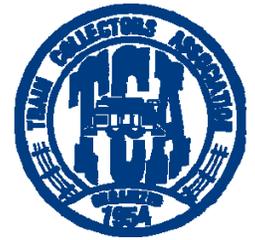




Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

August - September 2008

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's September train meet will take place on Saturday, the 26th, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Admission is 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, "Streamliners." Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. 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. Tickets for this year's 'Lionel 1950 Hudson Special Raffle' are also still available for \$25 each. A crisp \$100 bill will once again be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2008 Raffle ticket for the Lionel 773, and is in attendance at the meet. **REMEMBER! October is Auction month; please bring your auction items.**

Remaining Western Division scheduled meet dates for 2008 are: September 27, October 25, and December 13, 2008. There will be no meet in November.

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, WD President

It is that time of the year when we determine the 2009 slate of club officers and Board of Directors. We will be taking nominations from the floor during the business meeting at the September WD meet. This is an opportunity to be involved a lot or just a little. We need members who have not participated before to step up and help make the club as fine an organization as possible. I highly encourage and welcome your participation in this process. We will be sending out the election ballots in October and will announce the results in the December Newsletter.

I last reported that at the TCA National Board of Director's meeting held in June at the National Convention that the state of Hawaii was incorporated into the Western Division boundaries for TCA. I have extended an invitation to the TCA members residing in Hawaii to become members of WD. We welcome Dr. Siegfried Streufert of Kalaheo, Hawaii to Western Division and look forward to meeting him here, or there, very soon.

Manny Gonzalez, WD Vice President, and David Oth are coordinating with the Boy Scouts of America for a visit to the WD meet in October. At the upcoming Cal-Stewart meet in November the Scouts will have the opportunity to work on obtaining merit badges in model railroading.

Robert Caplan has contacted John Cox, son of the late Al Cox, to arrange for purchase of various collectible "Lionel Toy Fair Cars" by the club. These cars will be used as raffle prizes to be given

away in the monthly meet drawings. In addition, Robert announced that John O'Neal is becoming a member of Western Division and will also become a participant on the TCA Standards Committee. A big Welcome to you John! We were pleased that John and his wife sat at Western Division's table during the banquet at the TCA Convention in Vermont.

The WD Board of Directors is reviewing opportunities to provide support for the National organization by backing specific projects that National has listed, but cannot afford to fund in their budget. This budgeting shortfall is providing a great opportunity for all the TCA divisions to participate in the running of the larger TCA organization. I also encourage individual members to make donations to National on their own through gifts, endowments, and/or memorials.

If you are looking for a special train related item or gift, check out the TCA Museum store on line at www.nttmuseum.org. They have a great selection. National, through Jane Boyce, Director of Development, is sponsoring a rail vacation trip next year through Canada. Check out the National publications for more details.

TCA National has plans in the works to publish a unique calendar. If you have a great looking layout and want to share it, send a picture to Headquarters for consideration for the 2010 TCA calendar. I can provide more details if you are interested.

The WD Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of a badge printer. Members will be getting new badges for the 2009 year. Manny Gonzalez has volunteered to coordinate planning for the WD 2008 December Holiday Meet. Please let him know if you are willing to assist.



In Memoriam

When I first started attending Western Division meets, I met a very fine gentleman who went out of his way to make me feel welcome. His name was **Tom Hess**. I have the unfortunate task to inform you that Tom (Ralph Thomas) Hess (75-8389) has passed recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends and his smile will be missed at our meets.

July Meet Recap

By Steve Eastman, WD Recording Secretary

The business meeting got under way with an announcement by President Wayne Sheriff that the 2009 TCA National Convention will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, hosted by the Desert Division.

Standards committee representative Robert Caplan announced that the gradings for both Pre & Post War trains are being merged onto one CD and will be viewable on the TCA Western website in the near future. It was also announced that those who have not paid

their 2008 Western Division dues will no longer receive meet notices via US mail or e-mail.



The display theme for the July meet was 'Red, White & Blue' in honor of Independence Day. First to present was Bob Caplan who displayed a 2008 TCA Convention car, bag and other related items. Dave Mabee showed a K-Line 1991 America Salutes boxcar and a Lionel #36769 4th of July car. Harry Chortanian showed a Lionel Flag and stand from the 1930's. Mario Liberatore displayed a Lionel #2033 Union Pacific Alco.

Les Cochran brought a Lionel #19599 Old Glory Car and Lighted #28777 & #36758 Patriotic boxcars. Steve Waller displayed 3 versions of the Statue of Liberty; one made by Marx and two sold by K-Line, but made from the Marx molds. Steve also showed a large electronic flag that waved and played music with a Lionel Liberty Special Alco.



Les Cochran Steve Waller John Whitmeyer

John Whitmeyer displayed a red, white and blue HO gauge locomotive and caboose. Al Vargas brought in some BNSF track and signal schematics. Bob Trimble displayed a number of US Olympic items, a #2184 State of Maine boxcar, a #400 San Diego Trolley and a 1976 Walthers catalog. Rudy Felix brought a #8665 Jeremiah O'Brien GP9 and caboose plus the #1577 Liberty Special set. Display drawing winner Steve Waller selected a Lionel PRR coach.

The monthly raffle drawing winners were Al Vargas - K-Line Reefer, Harry Chortanian - Lionel Station Platform, Manny Gonzalez - Lionel Die Cast Truck, Don Goldberg - Lionel Sign set, Michelle Abbe - Plasticville set, Bob Ceserone - Pallet load. Mark Spears, won a special 2009 Scottsdale TCA convention button with gold trim. Dave Mabee was the monthly \$100 bill drawing winner.

August Meet Recap

Submitted by Steve Eastman, WD Recording Secretary

Business Meeting: It was announced by Jon Lang that the opportunity is here again to buy a custom logoed TCA Western Division Shirt. An order form is enclosed with this newsletter mailing.

The Nixon Library has requested that WD loan them a train set for display during December. WD Officers and BOD members are now wearing new badges made from the newly acquired badge making equipment. Thanks to Jim Kenney for his efforts in researching and procuring this equipment.

The display theme for August was 'Military Items'. First to present was Bob Caplan who displayed a compass housing with a kerosene side lamp manufactured by Lionel. It was originally black but has been stripped to its bare brass. Dave Mabee showed us a Lionel #99 missile launch car and #243 TMCC Sound Car. Harry Chortanian displayed a Lionel #41 Army Transportation Corp. switcher.



John Abbe John Parker Steve Eastman

Ken Chan showed off a Lionel #3665 Minuteman rocket launcher. Dave Gabay displayed a Lionel #65-00637 Navy switcher. John Abbe presented several Lionel pieces, including a #3665 Minuteman rocket launcher, a #3419 helicopter car and a #3830 submarine car. John Parker displayed a small tin litho house from the Frank Hare collection. Steve Eastman displayed a number of Marx sets, the #5924 pre war tin set, a #4360 Cape Canaveral set, a Modern Marx #10471 Military Supply set, a Thor power car and caboose, and assorted pre war tin litho tanks, cars and soldiers.



Bob Trimble shared with us a Kusan Satellite set & brochure and a Fleischman set he bought while in Germany. Display drawing winner Ken Chan selected a Lionel #24190 Station Platform.

Monthly Drawing winners were Andrew Bowman - Lionel PRR coach, Mario Liberatore - Lionel PRR observation car, James Hawley - Lionel Billboard set, and Robert Caplan - flat car load. And once again the monthly \$100 bill winner was Dave Mabee. For the third time this year!



Dave Mabee Mario Liberatore