



# Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

September 2013

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, September 28, 2013 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. 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 sign.

The doors open at 10AM 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 'Trolleys (No Cable Cars!)'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

An auction will be held at the September meet. Bring some quality items to sell.

Western Division's 2013 schedule of remaining meets and display themes are as follows: October 26th - Halloween, and December 14th - Holiday Accessories.



This year's special raffle prize is an 'O' gauge 1990 version of the Lionel #700E Scale Hudson engine and tender with its display case and matching articulated tinsplate Rail Chief cars. Tickets will be on sale at the monthly meets for \$20. Only 100 tickets are available, and the regular \$100 bill monthly giveaway is facilitated through the sale of these tickets.

## President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

As the warm days persist and summer continues to wind down, there is a growing sense of things slowly getting back to some sort of normal. It's amazing how even when you don't have kids, daily routines can still seem to be dictated by back-to-school schedules - other people's to be sure. There's the traffic, people's availability, the ever present 'back-to-school' retail sales, and on it goes.

In many ways, it only seems appropriate. While it may sound like just another *cliché*, I'm increasingly struck by how life really is an ongoing learning process. We're not talking about learning curves that come from everyday choices, including the odd boo-boo - but the conscious pursuit of specific knowledge, often for no more reason than the sheer pleasure of it.

Whether toy or the real thing, train people tend to be a pretty knowledgeable bunch; constantly reading and studying details that sometimes, at best, can only be described as obscure and narrow. Reveling in the "objects of their desire" (so to speak), they work tirelessly in the pursuit of information to master. Having done so, many often share generously what they know.

There are dark rumors, however, that often misinformation is purposely imbedded in reference guides - supposedly in an effort to protect an author's research. If this is true - who's watching out for us? If the veracity of a book's contents is questionable, it's not worth the paper it's printed on. Besides, where do you draw the line? It's been said: "If you steal from one author, it's called *Plagiarism* - If you steal from many, it's called *Research!*"

On a different note, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to reflect on recent developments. We just lost a few more friends, and while this may be an inescapable reality as we move forward, it kind of feels like there were too many in a short span of time. At the risk of sounding a little *preachy*, it occurs to me that instead of waiting to share with spouses, children or other friends how we felt about someone after the fact, we could make more of an effort to let people know their value to the club and what they mean to us while they are still able to hear it. Teenagers appear to be particularly susceptible to this type of reaction. Something happens and suddenly there is this incredible angst, grief, and / or sense of loss regarding people whom they didn't know or even had dealings. Let's resolve to be a little kinder, perhaps a bit more friendly, to one-another at our meets - making sure that at least while people are there - they feel a part of what's going on. Because, as so often happens in our hobby, it's usually only the 'ones' that got away that tend to haunt us.



Marx & Lionel running on layout set up by Steve Waller and Bob Nord

## July 27<sup>th</sup> Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

Manny Gonzalez spoke about the reasons for the forthcoming National dues increase at the membership meeting. It was also mentioned that National has always paid the liability Insurance for all Division Meets.

Larry Person made an announcement regarding Cal-Stewart 2013 on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Board of Directors and members for Western Division have nominated Wayne S. Sheriff, 99-49818, for the National position of President-Elect.

Wayne stated that past Western Division Member Dennis Taube gives his regards to all from his home in Springfield, Mo.

The display theme for the June meet was 'Red, White, and Blue and Military Trains'.



John Abbe presented an Amtrak PSI 300, NW 1776 Hopper, B&M Mail Car, K-Line Trailer flat and TCA Convention Extended Vision Caboose.



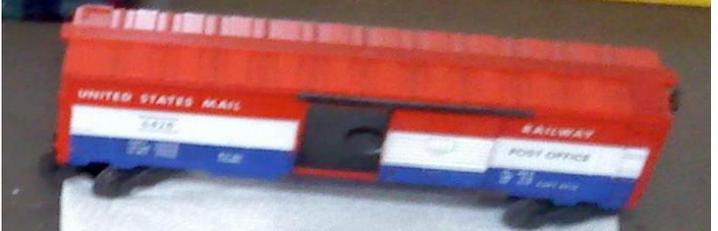
Larry Pearson displayed a 1917 Lionel Armored Motor car engine and cars.



Les Cochran presented a K-Line 1776 GGI that plays "God Bless America"



Bob Cesarone shared a rare Cape Canaveral Marx Set.



Dave Gabay brought his 6428 US Mail Car for anyone who wished to mail a letter.



Steve Waller brought a fantastic July 1948 issue of the Model Railroader magazine, a MPC Lionel Banner Box and three Hollywood Bus Lines (manufacture unknown) Bob Caplan displayed a rare red 1960 Schuco Disneyland Monorail Set.



Jim Kenney showed a 1920 Orkan Craft boat made in Beverly Hills, CA. by Calwis Industries. Mario Liberatore shared his Visitor's Center Tank Car.





**Raffle Winners:** Tim Simendinger, John Abbe and Les Cochran. Joseph Caplan enjoys setting up the ‘O’ gauge layout and running trains in the back room.



## August 24<sup>th</sup> Meet Recap

*By Robert Nord, WD Acting Recording Secretary*

**Business meeting:** It was announced that Wayne Sheriff is retiring from handling the WD Newsletter and monthly meet announcement post card mailings. The division needs a volunteer to take over these responsibilities. Interested members should contact WD President Manny Gonzalez.

Thanks to Steve Waller, who set up an ambitious elevated layout in the back room using multiple sets of D&R Products #44 bridge piers.



The August display theme was “Passenger Trains”. Wayne Sheriff shared a K-Line SP Daylight observation car. Bob Spellmire displayed a set of Lionel #204 blue & yellow Alco A-A diesel units from 1957. Dave Gabay presented a Lionel scale Pioneer Zephyr set, that he won at a TCA meet 10 years ago.

Steve Waller displayed a Lionel Jr. stoker tender with custom Mickey Mouse. Bob Cesarone shared Sakai blue passenger cars made in Japan.



Mario Liberatore presented an HO scale modern Orient Express bullet train, a gift from his cousin in Italy. Jim Kenney displayed an American Flyer engine with red passenger cars.



Dave Mabee shared a Lionel Jr. orange colored Zephyr #1816/#1817/#1818. Harvey Taffel displayed an un-cataloged 1935 Lionel set, #259E locomotive and #629/#630 cars in red with 4-wheel trucks.

Steve Eastman had an extensive array including a Sakai “Passenger Car” passenger car from Japan, Distler HO scale tin passenger cars from Germany, and American Flyer #326 Hudson with aluminum passenger cars.



John Abbe shared a Lionel B&O Budd rail diesel car and a Lionel TCA Mountain Division RPO car. Greg Pulis displayed a set of Cast iron floor trains, locomotive by Kenton and cars by Harris. Bob Nord presented a Lionel Deluxe Passenger set with #681 locomotive and #2400 series cars from 1950, as well as a Lionel Pullman set with #2033 AA diesel units from 1952.

Les Cochran shared a set of K-Line Northern Pacific Alco diesel units #2122/#2123. Larry Pearson displayed a 1925 Ives standard gauge #3243 electric profile locomotive and #187-3/#188-3/#189-3 passenger cars.



The \$100 raffle winner was Bob Nord.



## The Nation Wide Lines Moniker

*By Jim Kenney*

This is the third and final article on American Flyer Wide Gauge Department store special train sets. The previous article discussed the J.C. Penney un-cataloged Department Store Special Empire Express Passenger Set, commonly called the "Tomato Red Set" with 4657 New Haven Style locomotive and 2 lithographed matching color passenger cars, Henry Hudson and Knickerbocker marked cars.

A natural add-on to the Passenger set would be a Freight set, but J.C. Penney sold it under the Nation Wide Lines Moniker, instead of Empire Express name. Penney's also had O gauge Nation Wide sets but, as far as I know, only one Wide gauge freight set, under the Nation Wide Lines name. We can discuss the O gauge sets in another article in the future.



The Wide gauge set consists of another New Haven style electric locomotive and three freight cars, a green sand car, a tan / green box car and red caboose. Rather than develop a special locomotive and cars for J.C. Penney's Department store, Flyer just used common locomotives and freight cars, but added Special number plates, a lot cheaper way to promote the product line for the Department store. The Red engine is marked with a brass plate #4644 and also marked with brass Nation Wide Lines plates. The three freight cars are all marked with the same #4677 and a Brass Nation Wide Lines plate. The set that is pictured is in all original condition but I do not have the original boxes for it, wish I did have the boxes, but when you see one, you cannot be choosy as this is one scarce set to find in original condition. The Engine and the freight cars are quite common but with the addition of the Nation Wide Lines Brass plates and the odd #4677 brass number plates on the cars make this a very scarce set to find, in any condition.

So, check out the photos of the set and contact me if you happen to have the original boxes for the set. Yes, I am being facetious!

## In Memoriam



Long time Western Division member William 'Bill' Grove (#63-853) passed away peacefully at home in Tujunga on Sunday, August 18 at the age of 81. Bill was a frequent swap meet as well as TCA Western Division meet attendee. He could always be seen wandering around the meets with his shopping cart full of lots of neat toys, and collectibles that he found. He was very knowledgeable on the hobby of collecting old toys and trains.

Our sincerest condolences go out to his daughter Wendy and all of his family.