



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 6

December, 2024

Visit www.tcawestern.org or contact info@tcawestern.org

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

"Celebrating 70 Years"

Arcadia Community Center

365 Campus Drive,
Arcadia, CA, 91007

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - Attendees

2 pm- approx. end

3rd Saturday, December 21st, 2024:

Theme: **Holiday Trains plus,
Membership Holiday Party**

4th Saturday, January 25th, 2025:

Theme: **New Trains/New Year
plus, Happy 2025 Party!**



TCA Western Division's 70th Anniversary Box Car



Featuring a commemorative brass plate for our 70th Anniversary, these modern era, **6464-type** box cars are in multiple road names, subject to stock on-hand.

Availability is made only to TCA Western Division members, for sale & pickup at our meets. Selling hours are from 10am to 1pm, subject to change without notice. Cars are priced at **\$54.24** each. *It makes the perfect collectible gift for the holidays!*

Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



Purchase them at our local Western Division meets (no shipping fee) or visit www.tcawestern.org to order.



Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

"Happy Holidays" from TCA Western Division



Did you know?
Santa Claus is a TCA
Western Division member!

TCA Western Division wishes you the happiest of holidays in 2024! It is our sincere hope that, as you celebrate the season, you can spend a healthy portion of your time running your toy trains on your layout or under the tree!

Western Division is planning to throw its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at the Arcadia Community Center, located at 365 Campus Drive (at Huntington Drive & Holly Ave.) in Arcadia, CA 91007. All TCA members and their families are invited to the Holiday Meet. *Luncheon will be served, but you must RSVP.* (See page 4 for more information.)

Come join in the fun and camaraderie of train collecting and operation with your 'other' family! The meet will include trading tables, the display theme of rare/collectible toy trains for the holidays, with model trains running on the operating layouts in multiple gauges, a raffle and potentially an auction, if there is interest from the attendees.

The display theme for December is 'Holiday Trains'. We encourage our members to bring a train that is special to them, and share the story behind how it was acquired or what makes it important to you. **Larry Pearson** will again be providing free repairs to help cure your injured or sick trains.

Continued on page 4 ...

TCA Western's Happy Halloween Meet

On Saturday, October 26th, the theme for our Halloween Meet in Arcadia was "**Western Trains.**" That included railroads such as Western Pacific, UP, SP, ATSF and more.

Our special guest, **Andrew Novak** of the *Pacific Railroad Society* (PRS), presented "**Santa Fe in the Golden State,**" on our huge video screen, featuring a rail-fan's view of ATSF trains from the 1970s to the 1995 merger with Burlington-Northern, which created BNSF. *Andrew's show was absolutely outstanding!* To learn more about the PRS Museum in San Dimas, California, please visit -

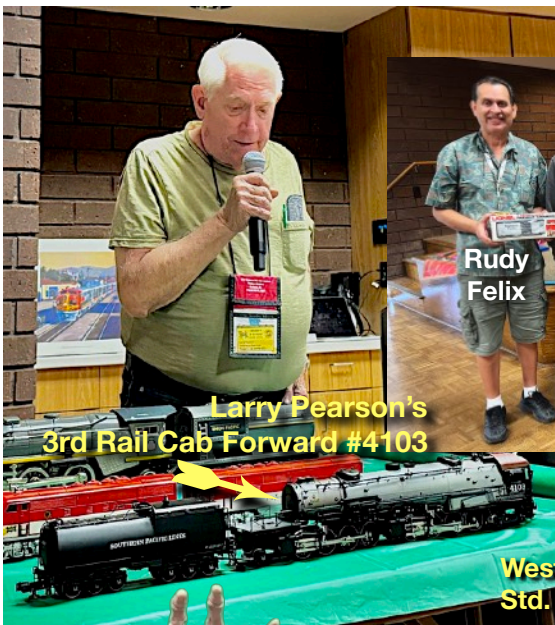
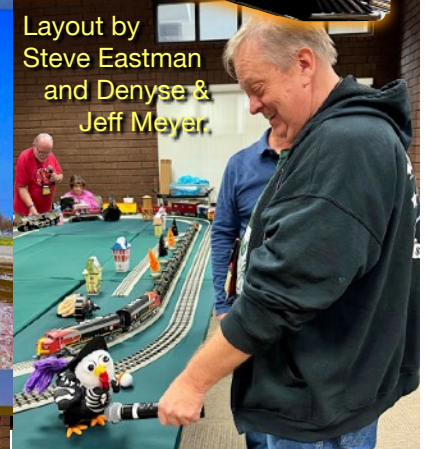
<https://www.pacificrailroadsociety.org/museum>



Andrew Novak introduces his Santa Fe slide program...



Layout by Steve Eastman and Denyse & Jeff Meyer.



Larry Pearson's 3rd Rail Cab Forward #4103



Rudy Felix

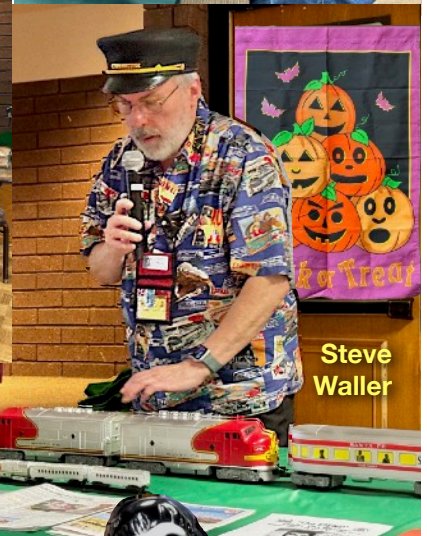
Ken Chan

Denyse Meyer

Roger Hill

Tina Corsello

Western Trains: Std. & "O" gauge.



Steve Waller



Photos by Roger Hill



At noon, we had a visit from "The Crimson Ghost" (a.k.a. **The Fiend**), who handed out fun-size Halloween **Reese's Peanut Butter Cups** to all the attendees, young and old.

To see what the fuss was all about, check out this 2-minute preview of "**The Crimson Ghost**" (1946)—
<https://youtu.be/nRK6TA1RxKY?si=nDqB6Kmud3PiACWe>



"The Fiend" was Lurking for You!

Collecting LIONEL Hudsons Through the Years, Part 2

—by **Mike Stella**, Western Division (TCA # 79-13898)

By the end of the 1980s, Lionel had produced three semi-scale Hudsons based on the post-war 773. The 783, 784, & 785 were nice looking locomotives, but collectors kept wondering if a remake of the pre-war 700E was coming?

The announcement came that 1990 would be the year that a new *full-scale* Hudson would be made, including a new 700T scale tender. It was an absolutely a beautiful locomotive, with a cab number of 5340.

Many thought that with this latest 700E, the end of new Hudsons had arrived. After all, what could Lionel make that was better than a 700E? It took seven years for collectors to find out, as a full scale Hudson with the cab number 5344 appeared in the 1997 catalog as the 763E.

It came with a brand-new Vanderbilt steel tender reminiscent of the prewar Hudson, but Lionel also offered the magnificent centipede tender that New York Central equipped some of the later Hudsons with. I think this combo makes the 763E a better locomotive than the 700E!



Also in 1997, Lionel did not forget about the less-detailed 773-style locomotive. Another Hudson was released heading the Santa Fe War Horse freight set. The locomotive number 3447 appears on the tender, while the engine cab sports A.T.&S.F. This is the only scale size Hudson that isn't labeled for the New York Central!

As the end of the decade approached, everyone looked forward to the start of the 21st Century. Coincidentally, Lionel would be completing 100+ years of making toy trains. To celebrate this milestone, the Century Club was born, offering five newly-produced classic postwar-style locomotives, culminating in the first Modern-Era Hudson that was actually numbered 773!

Next time, in Part 3. we'll discover not one, not two, but three Lionel Hudsons numbered 773! Also, there may be a surprise in store!

-Mike Stella

PHOTO GALLERY: Hudsons, Hudsons, and more Hudsons— These 3 Modern Era Lionel Hudsons bring the total number to 6 (so far)!



1) In 1990 Lionel reissued the 700E; still a beauty!



2) It took seven more years for the next Hudson No. 763E to appear. A long centipede tender was offered separately and today is hard-to-find.



3) Also offered in 1997 was the Santa Fe Warhorse Hudson. Not offered for separate sale, it pulled five Santa Fe "map" boxcars and a scale cupola-type caboose. (Photos by Mike Stella.)

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Editor's Note: The winner of the **LIONEL 773** Hudson (1950 version) will be chosen at the Dec. 21st Holiday meet. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$25 each. You do not need to be present in order to win. Just 100 tickets are being sold, and there is only a small quantity left. *These tickets will sell out!* For members who have not purchased a ticket, or just want more, we can now offer you the opportunity to send in a check for however many tickets you'd like to buy.



Send your payments by check or money order, made out to TCA Western Division, via US Mail to: Harold Shapiro, Western Division Treasurer, 3855 Woodcliff Road, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Include your name, TCA membership number, phone # and the quantity of tickets you would like to purchase. Your ticket order must be received by December 20th. After that date, the only way to purchase raffle tickets will be in-person at our December 21st Holiday meet.



RSVP by Tuesday, 12/17 for the Holiday Party

(Continued from page one.)

Our Holiday Party this year will be catered, so we will need you to RSVP to jonmlang@verizon.net by Tuesday, 12/17/24 with your name and the # in your party. You may also phone me at (310) 871-8315.

The menu includes lasagna, salad and drinks. Desserts are potluck. *Bring a favorite!* Email info@tcawestern.org to reserve a trading table for the holiday meet. Please wear your badge. The banquet is for TCA members & their guests only.

We need more volunteers to help with our club's functions, such as planning, promoting, setting up/taking down, etc. *Please contact me on this!*

You will receive a 2025 Dues Renewal Letter along with this newsletter. Western dues are only \$10.00 for the entire year. Please pay by 1/1/25.

You can bring your payment to the next meet or send it by US mail to **Harold Shapiro, Western Division Treasurer, 3855 Woodcliff Road, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.** Please complete the Renewal Form and send it in with your payment. We will provide blank forms at the meet or you may access it online - <https://www.tcawestern.org/2025%20WD%20Dues%20Renewal%20Letter.pdf>

Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday and a wonderful 2025!

- Jon M. Lang

TCA Western Division President

Western Division 2025 Arcadia Meet Schedule

4th Saturday, January 25th, 2025
5th Saturday, March 29th, 2025
4th Saturday, April 26th, 2025 - Joint Meet
with TTOS Southern Pacific Division
4th Saturday, May 24th, 2025
4th Saturday, August 23rd, 2025
3rd Saturday, October 18th, 2025
3rd Saturday, December 20th, 2025 - Holiday Meet

In early 2025, **Bob Caplan's** entire collection of LIONEL TRAINS will be auctioned online by Steve Harris Toy Train Auctions of Reno, Nevada. The first auction is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 11, 2025.

For more information on the auctions, please visit <https://bid.harristoytrinauctions.com/about> and click on the **Auctions** tab at the top of the screen. Also, look for his ad in the December issue of the **TCA National Headquarters News** on p. 47.

**Actual photo of
the Grand Prize
773 Hudson.**



The TCA Western Grand Prize this year is a **LIONEL No. 773 Hudson** steam-type locomotive & tender from 1950. The prize will be awarded on Saturday Dec. 21, 2024. (You need not be present to win.). Each \$25 ticket you buy is also eligible to win a \$100 bill at the December meet, but you must be present to claim your cash prize! To join TCA Western Division and TCA National, see below, or sign up at the meet. You must be a member to enter this Opportunity Drawing. **Good Luck!**



The Train Collectors Association – Western Division Newsletter is published quarterly by TCA Western Division. Submissions may be sent to info@tcawestern.org. Deadline is the 1st day of the publication month. TCA Western logo art by Ward Kimball. ©2024 by TCA Western Division.

TCA Western Division Officers:

Jon Lang - TCA Western Division President
Greg Pulis - TCA Western Division Vice-President
Harold Shapiro - Membership Secretary/Treasurer/
Webmaster/Past President
Tom Watson - Recording Secretary/Past President

To receive free club communications electronically, visit: <http://www.tcawestern.org/archives.htm> and fill in the form in the middle of the page.

TCA Western Division Directors:

Bob Caplan - Immediate Past President
Rudy Felix - Director at Large/Hot Brews
Roger Hill - Director at Large/Club Photographer
Larry Pearson - Director at Large/Repair Clinic
Steve Waller - Past President/Newsletter Editor

To join TCA National & TCA Western Division, visit: <http://www.tcawestern.org/membership.htm> and click on the "Adobe" forms in the 1st paragraph. (Search for the word "Adobe.") Print out & mail.

TCA Western Division Volunteers:

Joseph Caplan - Kid's Club Coordinator
Steve Eastman - Layout Manager/Past President
Denyse & Jeff Meyer - Layout Coordinators



Harris Toy & Train Auctions Presents:

Online Auction | Day 2 of 2 | 700 Lots!
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 8AM (PST)

RARE and Scarce Postwar Toy Train Collection of TCA Member Robert M. Caplan (HE82-18679) and Hidden Postwar Collections. Including RARE Type III 6464 WP 250 - SF 700 - NYC 900 - GN 450 ++ rare red Central of Georgia 6464-375 and yellow painted roof Rio Grande 6464-650 ++ red letter 6464 WP and 6464-300 Rutland solid shield ++ Seaboard 6464 and Parker-Kalon 6464 Factory Prototypes ++ Union Pacific 202 orange Alco Factory Prototype ++ blue lettered Santa Fe 2333 and Union Pacific gray nose 2023 AA Alco Units!



STEVE HARRIS TCA #86-23755
admin@harristoytrains.com
775-690-9120



The TCA does not guarantee either the conditions or the authenticity of auction merchandise. The merchandise must be trains, toy trains, or train-related items. Any disagreement between any parties will not be adjudicated by the TCA. It is strongly recommended that any potential bidder of items offered at auction personally inspect the material prior to the auction.



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



December 11, 2024

Dear TCA Western Division Member,

Western Division has spent 2024 celebrating its 70th anniversary! With the terrific support of the Western Division membership, this club continues to exist, meet regularly, and to foster the hobby that we all love, here in the Southern California region.

The Western Division Board of Directors has determined that it will be necessary to reinstate payment of membership dues covering the year 2025 to help keep the Division solvent. 2025 Annual dues will be in the amount of \$10 and are **due by January 1, 2025**. This amount will cover the Division member and spouse. Please remember that in order to be a member in good standing with TCA Western Division **it is necessary that you belong to the TCA National organization and have paid your separate annual TCA National membership dues**. The TCA National business office notices and invoices its members separately from the Western Division. Depending on whether you have opted in to receive notifications from TCA National in physical/paper form or electronically via email, you may or may not actually receive a hardcopy of their annual dues renewal notification. Likewise, unless you have opted to receive physical copies of the WD Newsletter, you will not receive a hardcopy of this dues request letter.

Due to the cost of printing and postage, Western Division still requires that those requesting paper copies of the Western Division Newsletters and other correspondence sent out via US Mail; continue to pay an additional fee of \$10.00. The newsletter will now be published 4 times a year to further reduce costs.

In order to maintain accurate records for sending newsletters and correspondence, **it is requested that you provide your membership information, physical address, telephone contact info and e-mail address using this form. Please complete the sections below.**

Western Division greatly appreciates the support of the membership and offers an opportunity for you to make a tax-deductible donation to the club. You will receive a personal thank you letter that you can retain for your tax records.

_____ Regular WD Membership for 2025	\$10.00
_____ Request receiving Newsletter hard copies by mail	\$10.00
_____ A Tax-Deductible Donation to Western Division	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: Date _____ Check # _____ Total:	\$ _____

Please provide your current information: (Please Print Clearly)

Name(as it will appear on your WD Membership card): _____

TCA #: _____ - _____ **National Expiration Date:** mo./yr. _____ / _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Primary Phone: (____) _____ - _____ **Alternate/Cell Phone:** (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Spouse's Name (as it will appear on membership card) _____

Please either bring this completed form along with payment to the next WD train meet or mail it to:

**Harold Shapiro, Western Division Treasurer,
3855 Woodcliff Road, Sherman Oaks, California 91403**