



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 3

July, 2024

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

Celebrating 70 Years!



4th Saturday Meets:

- 9 am - Setup
- 10 am - Members & guests

Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007
(corner of Huntington Drive)

Meet Themes:

July 27th: *Patriotic Trains & Convention Cars*

Aug 24th: *Flat Cars and the Loads They Carry (gondolas, too!)*

Sept 28: *Steam Locomotives; 70th Anniversary Celebration*

Oct 26: *Western Railroads*

Dec 21 (third Sat): *Holiday Trains*

TCA Western Division's 70th Anniversary Box Car



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

This offering is made only to TCA Western Division members, for sale & pickup at our 2024 meets (see above). Selling hours are 10 am to 1 pm; dates and times are subject to change. Cars are priced at **\$54.24** each.

'Patriotic Trains' on Track!



In September, 2012, **Sunset Models** (3rd Rail Division) produced an O scale Southern Pacific GS-4 in **American Freedom Train** colors. Image courtesy of - www.freedomtrain.org.

To celebrate **Independence Day**, the display theme for the July 27th Western Division train meet is **'Patriotic Trains.'** In addition, we are celebrating the recent 70th Annual TCA National Convention in Lancaster, PA, so the display theme also includes **'Convention Cars.'**

All TCA Members and their families are welcome to attend the meet. Come join in the fun and camaraderie of train collecting and operation! The meet will include trading tables, the display theme of rare & collectible Patriotic Trains & Convention Cars, model trains running on operating layouts in multiple gauges, a raffle and potentially an auction, if there is a desire.

The meeting hall doors open at 9 am for setup while the meet officially begins at 10:00 am, typically ends around 2 pm. Parking is free. **The meet also features a repair clinic and refreshments are available.** So bring your sick trains for a checkup, and bring your appetite too!

TCA members are admitted free (**please wear your current membership badge and show it at the door when you enter the hall**). Non-members/train enthusiasts are welcome to attend one (1) Western Division train meet per year for free. We encourage those interested to join the Train Collectors Association after that.

There is no charge to use the trading tables for sellers but you must be a member in good standing of the Train Collectors Association in order to sell. Email info@tcawestern.org to reserve a trading table for this meet. *See you there!*

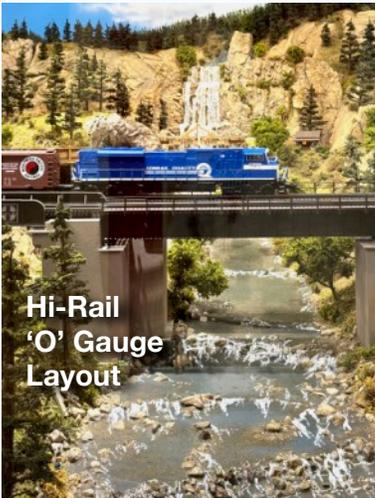
- Harold Shapiro

p.s. Next month, on August 24th, our theme is **Flat Cars and the Loads They Carry (gondolas, too!)** This will be a fun topic. **Don't miss it!**



TCA Western's trip via Amtrak (p.2)

TCA Western Visits Bossé Toy Train Museum



Hi-Rail
'O' Gauge
Layout



Art & Kathy
Bossé

Photos by Roger Hill & Steve Waller



Tinplate
Accessories

Members of TCA Western Division rode to Santa Barbara, CA on the **Amtrak Pacific Surfliner** on Saturday, June 13th, to eat lunch & visit the beautiful new Bossé (pro. bow-ZAY) Toy Train Museum. **Art Bossé** (TCA# HE01-52873) and his wife **Kathy** were on hand to greet us in the lobby, right in front of a full-size replica of a **LIONEL No. 137 Station**. Inside was a beautifully displayed collection of Lionel "O" gauge trains, on two floors, primarily from the 1930s - 1940s (with a few choice outliers). **If you missed it, you must go!** Next month, it's open on August 10th & 31st from 10am to 1pm; admission for seniors (over 65) is \$8.00. Please visit the museum's website for more open days & dates: <https://www.bossetoytrainmuseum.org/> or phone: **805-708-4444**.



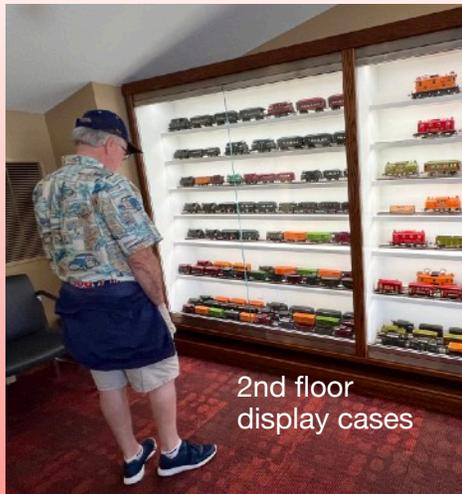
Full-size boiler front
with original headlight
and marker lights.



Tinplate
Layout



Full-size LIONEL
No. 45N
Gateman Shack

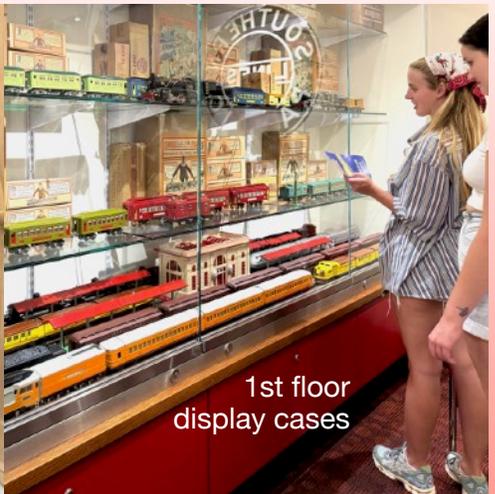


2nd floor
display cases



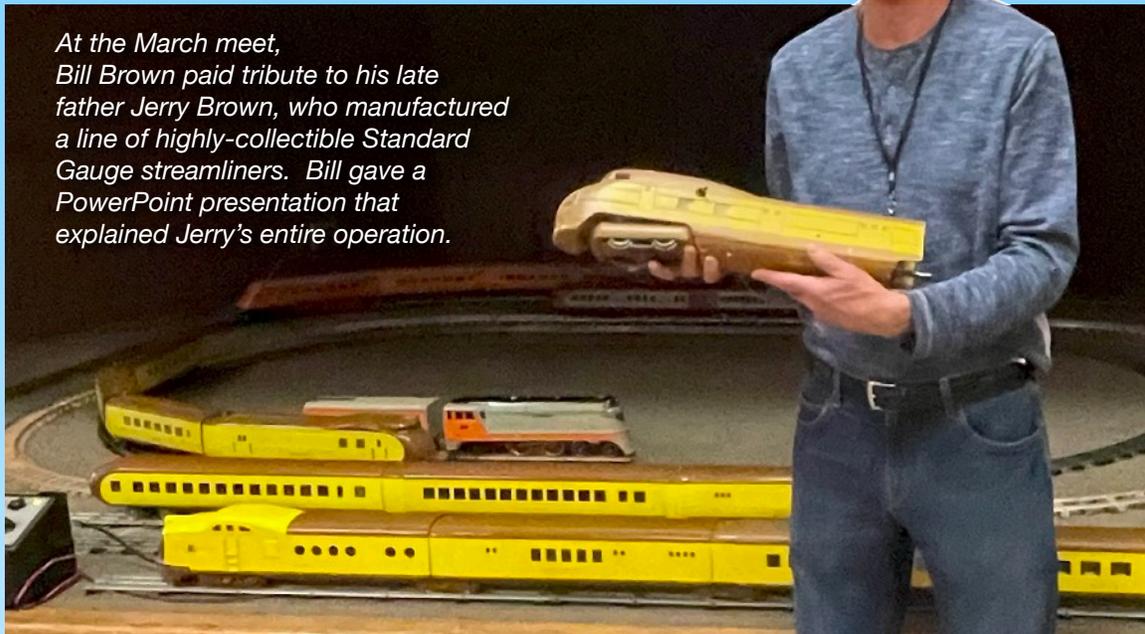
The TCA
Western Division
tour group arrives at the
Southern Pacific Station
in Santa Barbara, CA.

Photo by Ed Buchman



1st floor
display cases

TCA Western's Recent Meets: March, April & May, 2024



At the March meet, Bill Brown paid tribute to his late father Jerry Brown, who manufactured a line of highly-collectible Standard Gauge streamliners. Bill gave a PowerPoint presentation that explained Jerry's entire operation.



At the April meet, Jim Spellmire remembered his late father Robert Spellmire (1926 - 2023), who received the TCA National President's Award in 2021.

Bob Spellmire's first train, an Ives passenger set, circa 1930.



At the May meet, Bob Caplan explained how to spot fakes & repro trains.

Meet photos by
Harold Shapiro



Bob Caplan photo of the actual Grand Prize 773 Hudson locomotive.

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 December 21, 2024. You need not be present to win, but you must be a member of TCA & Western Division to enter. *You can join at the meet!* Every \$25 ticket you buy is eligible to win \$100 at the meets all year long, but you must be present to claim your cash prize. **Enter to win!**

TCA National's 70th Anniversary Convention

—by **Stephen J. Waller**, Past President - Western Division (TCA # 83-20274)



This year, TCA Western Division President Jon Lang paid me the distinct honor of appointing me as an Alternate to represent Western Division at the TCA National Convention in Lancaster, PA, as our organization celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

I flew into Harrisburg International Airport on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. When the train arrived at the restored Pennsylvania Station in Lancaster, PA, I learned that the Marriott was only about 1.2 miles southward, so I strolled down to the hotel, as dusk fell (see photo, left).



The next morning, I attended the first of three TCA National Board Meetings. This one started at 7am EDT (that's 4am PDT). After a cup of coffee, I was ready to go! On the next day, Western Division made Motion #24-15. We moved to close the board meeting in honor of the late Western Division member and TCA National Past President, Wayne Sheriff. The motion passed unanimously.

At right, Nat'l President **Jay Zschau** (center) prepares to pass the gavel to incoming TCA President, **Kevin Quinn** (in the orange shirt), as Secretary **Katie Elgar** (far right) takes notes.



The 70th Anniversary Nat'l Convention was put on jointly by Eastern Division & Keystone Division. The 2-day Toy Train Marketplace, which adjoined the hotel at the Lancaster Convention Center, was a hotbed of buying & selling.



The tours were great, but I managed to do only a few of them. I saw the PRR Museum, the Strasburg Railroad and the Choo-Choo Barn. No trip to the Strasburg area would have been complete without visiting the National Toy Train Museum, in Paradise, PA. *It was beautiful!*



TCA Convention photos by Steve Waller

The final night was the TCA Banquet. It was very well-attended, followed by a lively auction, run by auctioneer Greg Stout. I had a chance to meet Kathy & Art Bossé at the banquet, prior to our Santa Barbara trip (see p. 2).

Next year's National Convention will be in Jacksonville, Florida. The dates are June 21 - June 28, 2025. This is the convention that was postponed by COVID in June, 2020. *Save the new dates!*

- *Steve Waller*



The Train Collectors Association – Western Division Newsletter is published six times per year by TCA Western Division. Submissions may be sent to info@tcawestern.org. TCA Western Division logo by Ward Kimball. © 2024 TCA Western Division.

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Robert Caplan - Vice President (Interim) / Immediate Past President / Past National President
OPEN - Membership Secretary
Treasurer
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Harold Shapiro - Webmaster/Past President
Stephen Waller - Western Division Newsletter Editor/Past President



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Steve Eastman - Layouts / Past President
Denyse & Jeff Meyer - Layout Coordinators
Roger Hill - Western Division Club Photographer