



# Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 5

October, 2024

Visit [www.tcawestern.org](http://www.tcawestern.org) or contact [info@tcawestern.org](mailto:info@tcawestern.org)



"The 1st and Oldest Division"

Follow us on [facebook](#). Visit us on [YouTube](#).

"Celebrating 70 Years"

## Arcadia Community Center

365 Campus Dr., Arcadia, CA, 91007

(at Huntington Drive)

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - Attendees



4th Saturday, October 26th:

Theme: **Western Railroads** &  
"Santa Fe in the Golden State"  
program, plus **Halloween Party**

3rd Saturday, December 21st:

Theme: **Holiday Trains** and  
**TCA Membership Party**

## 'Western Trains' is Theme of Western Division Oct. Meet



<https://www.gptm.us/santafe93>

Santa Fe FP45 No. 93 at Barstow, California, in the early 1990s.

Mike Martin photo, courtesy Great Plains Transportation Museum.

## TCA Western Division's 70th Anniversary Box Car



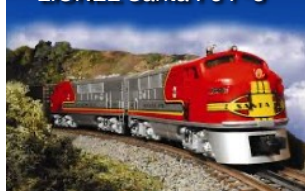
Featuring a commemorative brass plate for our 70th Anniversary, these modern era, 6464-style box cars are available in multiple road names, subject to stock on-hand. Offer ends soon, don't be left out!

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



n Saturday, October 26th, the theme for the October 26th Meet in Arcadia is **"Western Trains."** That could include models of Western Pacific, UP, SP, ATSF & more.

### LIONEL Santa Fe F-3



The meeting hall doors open at 9:00 am for setup, and the meet officially begins at 10:00 am, typically ending around 2:00 pm; free parking is located in the front parking lot. Our toy train repairman will be back this month, so bring your ailing toy trains for a visit with the train doctor!

Our special guest, Andrew Novak of the Pacific Railroad Society (PRS), presents **"Santa Fe in the Golden State,"** a rail-fan's view of ATSF trains from the 1970s to the merger with Burlington- Northern in 1995, creating BNSF. His presentation starts at 11:00 am.

Andrew Novak  
photo archives



## Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



\$100/flatcar UNION PACIFIC 2 for \$175

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



Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

TCA members & their families are admitted free (please wear your current membership badge). Non-members are welcome to attend one (1) TCA Western Division train meet per year, *gratis*! We encourage those interested to join Western Division as soon as possible. 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. Reserve a trading table by sending an email to [info@tcawestern.org](mailto:info@tcawestern.org). **Special note:** After going dues-free because of the pandemic, our Board of Directors has determined that we will need to reinstate a nominal dues fee starting in 2025. More on this in the next issue...

- Jon M. Lang

President, TCA Western Division



# TCA Western's 70th Anniversary

*The 1st  
& Oldest  
Division!*

**Hostess  
with the  
mostest.**

**Our 70th Anniversary Cake!**

**O**n Saturday Sept. 28, 2024, we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of TCA Western Division, which was founded on Sept. 14, 1954. Our webmaster, **Harold Shapiro**, presented highlights of Western Division history, as we enjoyed coffee and 70th Anniversary cake. Learn more about the club's past, visit [www.tcawestern.org/history.htm](http://www.tcawestern.org/history.htm).

**Jeff Meyer  
surveys the  
layout that he  
& Denyse built.**

**Bill & Colette  
Shepard check  
it out.**



**For kids 12 and under in attendance, we had a no-cost raffle of a Rail King "O" gauge train set, Here's our lucky winner (above), with his dad.**

**Our display theme was Steam Locomotives.** To the right is Harvey Tafel's lineup of Lionel's earliest "O" gauge steam locos, made in 1930 (from left to right): LIONEL No. 260, 258 & 257.



**Glenn Olsen's Fastrack layout:  
"Be the Engineer. Push button!"**



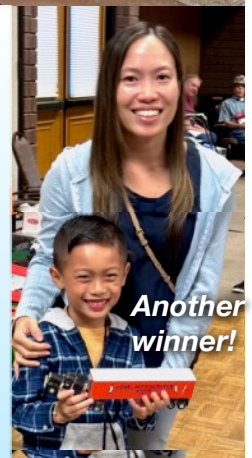
**Ed Vanderpool at  
the Repair Desk.**

**VP Greg Pulis receives his  
TCA Milestone Membership  
certificate from Western  
Division President Jon Lang  
(see list at right)...**

## TCA Milestone Membership Certificates were issued to -

1. Robert R. Ponek Sr. (50 years)
  2. Rudy Felix (45 years)
  3. Mike Stella (45 years)
  4. Gregory M. Pulis (40 years)
  5. Alvin Costa (40 years)
  6. John Alcala (35 years)
  7. David R. Garinger (30 years)
  8. William A. Shepard (25 years)
  9. Harvey A. Tafel (25 years)
  10. Thomas J. Watson (10 years)
- (Milestone Members not attending will have their certificates mailed.)

**Another  
winner!**





# Collecting the LIONEL Hudson Through the Years

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

**W**hen I learned that Western Division wanted to acquire a semi-scale Lionel Hudson for the 2024 year-long raffle, I started looking for a 773 from 1950 or a 1964/65 773, or even a Modern Era Hudson that closely resembled the post-war classics.

I also wanted to refresh my memory of how many semi-scale Hudsons have been produced since the Modern era began. I stopped short of including the most recent varieties that are controlled by micro-processors and require an Electrical Engineering degree to operate.

I still came up with a list of 12, not counting the gold 100th Anniversary Hudson, which I consider a "display only" piece. I discovered that I only had 10 of the 12 in my collection, so began the Internet quest to add the missing two pieces. I'll tell you about the results in the next part of this article.



**2024 Western Div.  
Grand Prize**

**1950  
No. 773 with  
2426W tender**

For now, I want to remind everyone that TCA member Bob Caplan was able to find an excellent example of the Lionel post-war 1950 Hudson

for our grand prize. It will be a very lucky member that has his ticket drawn this December (see p. 4).

The 1950 Hudson is probably THE premier piece that every post-war collector wants. I dreamed of finding one I could afford. In the late 1970s, while a student at CSULB, I saw one in the old train store at Washington & Vermont in downtown Los Angeles.

They did layaways, so I put down my deposit and took two semesters to pay it off. When I made the final payment, the owner asked me if I wanted the boxes!

Today that Master Carton is worth about 3 times what I paid for the entire locomotive. In pricing a 773 in today's market, one can expect to pay more than 70 hours of working at McDonald's! (70 hours x \$20/hour = \$1,400)

I think I'm gonna buy a few more raffle tickets!

*-Mike Stella*



1) 1950 - 773 with silver lettered 700T.



2) 1964 - 773 with white lettered 700T.



3) 1965 - 773 with 763T tender.



4) 1984 - 783; highly-anticipated in the market.



5) 1986 - 784; Boston & Albany, direct-sales only.



6) 1987 - 785; in gray, but not gun-metal. Too bad!

*(to be continued...)*



# Happy Halloween from 'The Fiend'

2021 LIONEL

**Halloween  
General**  
No.1031 w/  
Bluetooth &  
LionChief  
technology.



SKU: 2132060  
MSRP: \$274.99

We will be celebrating **Halloween** on Saturday, October 26th, with *spooky* trains, *creepy* decorations and a visit from "**The Fiend**," a most *macabre* character, who will be doling out some delicious Halloween candy. See page one for more info on this meet.



"The Fiend" is coming!



Classic TCA  
Western Division Halloween layout from 2019.

Bob Caplan photo of  
the actual Grand Prize  
773 Hudson.



**T**he 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.*) 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! *Hint: enter early and often!* To join TCA Western Division and TCA National, see below, or sign up at the meet. **You must be a member to enter!**



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## **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