



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 70, No. 4

September, 2024

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

Celebrating 70 Years



Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Dr., Arcadia, CA
91007 (at Huntington Drive)

2024 Toy Train Themes:

- Sept 28: **Steam Locomotives** & TCA 70th Anniversary Party, plus TCA History Presentation
- Oct 26: **Western Railroads**, plus "Santa Fe in the Golden State" (see page 2 for details.)
- Dec 21 (third Sat): **Holiday Trains** & Membership Party



On Saturday Sept. 28, 2024, we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of TCA Western Division, which was founded on Sept. 14, 1954. We'll have a presentation covering highlights of Western Division history, Lunch is available; enjoy free anniversary cake & coffee. *Our display table theme is **Steam Locomotives**, so find a favorite toy train engine & bring it!*

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 in the front lot. Our toy train repairman is away this month, so we're looking for a volunteer to fill in. *Let us know!*

This meet includes trading tables, operating model trains, and an optional auction. For kids 12 and under who attend, we will have a free raffle of one (1) Rail King "O" gauge train set, with a die-cast metal steam loco, freight cars, caboose, track & transformer!



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.

See you there! - *Jon Lang*
President, TCA Western Division

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.

Update: TCA Western & TCA National Memberships

—by **Harold Shapiro**, Membership Secretary, TCA Western Division (TCA# 93-37120)

The current year membership cards for Western Division have been mailed out to all TCA Members who submitted their membership renewal form.

If they did not submit their form, they will not receive a new membership card.

If they did send in a renewal form, but did not receive a new card, either via US Mail or at the August WD meet, then they should contact me at info@tcawestern.org

If they want a new card and would like to submit a renewal form, they can download one from the TCA Western Division website here: <http://tcawestern.org/2024%20WD%20Dues%20Renewal%20Letter.pdf>

Several long time TCA Members that were part of the Western Division roster have been dropped during the last 2 years by TCA National for failure to pay their annual \$50 National dues.

Western Division has not requested any local dues from its members for the past 3 years. The majority of those dropped members were contacted recently

by Bob Caplan, WD Past President, via telephone (if the number listed on our roster for you is still valid). Unfortunately, some phone numbers were no longer valid.



The TCA National Business office utilizes the contact information they have from previous year's membership renewals. If you have moved, changed your email address (for digital-only TCA subscribers) or changed your phone number, you may be missing out on the membership renewal notices from TCA National.

This is why it is important to make sure that you provide us with any updated contact information or verify that the previous information on file is still valid.

The good news is that you can make current on your lapsed dues and retain your membership number, even though you might have been dropped. You just need to contact Maria Penry at the National Business Office in Strasburg, PA, and let her know that you want to reinstate your membership. Phone (717) 687-8623.

- Harold Shapiro

"Western Trains" is Theme of October 26th Meet

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



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 on Saturday, October 26th.

In addition, we will be celebrating **Halloween** that day, with *spooky trains*, *creepy decorations* and a visit from "**The Fiend,**" a most *macabre* character, who will be doling out delicious Halloween candy.

Don't miss our next thrill-packed meeting!

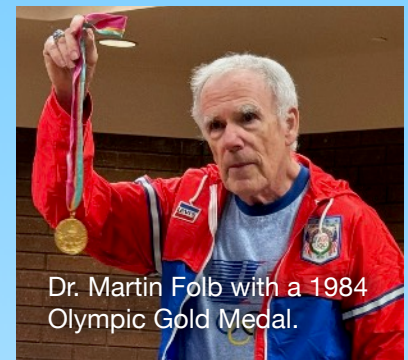
★ TCA Western's Patriotic July Meet ★



The Freedom Train's Alco PA loco in 'S' Gauge



Harold Shapiro says: "Pick your prize!"



Dr. Martin Folb with a 1984 Olympic Gold Medal.



Greg Pulis points out his vintage wind-up train.



"The Winners' Circle"

LIONEL 8160 Burger King GP-20 (1981)



Glenn Olsen says, "Have it your way!"



Our spacious hall...



Display table: "Patriotic Trains"

Tyco "Spirit of America" in HO.



Admiring the layout by Denyse and Jeff Meyer.



Larry Pearson at the Repair Desk.



Photos by Roger Hill & Steve Waller

Bob Caplan photo of the actual 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 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 page 4 (at the bottom), or sign up at the meet. **You must be a member to enter!**

TCA Western's New Slate of Officers & Directors

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

This year, TCA Western Division had an unusual situation crop up, as we prepared the 2024 election ballot: we had only one candidate for each of the slots available, both for club officers and directors-at-large. Therefore, the board unanimously approved this slate of candidates by acclamation. Here's the rundown of the candidates who have begun their terms as *Club Officers*:

For President of Western Division, we were very lucky to secure the services of our current leader. **Jon Lang**



celebrated his birthday on June 9, but unfortunately got an unwanted gift at the party: the latest variation of COVID. Jon briefly considered withdrawing his name from the list of candidates, because his illness turned out to be *long-term COVID*. But, after hearing the groundswell of support from the board, Jon decided to keep his hat in the ring. The directors agreed to pitch in on the Presidential duties, as Jon makes his way on the road to recovery. We're happy to report

that Jon is making good progress, and he hopes to take on the full duties of president in the near future.

For Vice President, we have **Greg Pulis**, who will be helping Jon Lang with running the club. You know Greg as the guy who usually brings the oldest trains on the display table at the 4th Saturday meets (see page 3).

Next up is **Harold Shapiro**, who was our President from 1999 thru the end of 2000. He has been our webmaster for more than 30 years, and he now adds the duties that the late Wayne Sheriff handled: Membership Secretary and Treasurer. This is a huge undertaking!

In the role of Recording Secretary, **Tom Watson** is back! He's probably best known for his stint as our President from 1994 to 1996. He'll be taking notes during our fast-paced Board of Directors meetings.

Now for the *Directors-at-Large*, we have (in alphabetical order) **Bob Caplan**, **Rudy Felix**, **Roger Hill**, **Larry Pearson** and **Steve Waller**.

The rest of the folks are non-elected volunteers: **Joseph Caplan** (Kid's Club) built the "City" train sets for our upcoming LEGO layout. **Steve Eastman** and **Denyse & Jeff Meyer** put up the incredible toy train layouts that are such a big part of our meets.

Can you volunteer, too? Yes, *you can!* Please talk to one of our Club Officers or Directors and we'll find the perfect job for you. Lend a hand and keep your club vibrant and growing!

Keep on Trackin'... - Steve Waller

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!



The Train Collectors Association — Western Division Newsletter is published 6 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.

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

