

TCA Mission: To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains –through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org



Volume 53, No. 3

September 2024

FALL TRAIN SEASON KICKOFF

Dear Friends, The **DISPATCH** has been my joy to produce for over a dozen years now. This newsletter is the work of many people. Division Secretary Angelo Lautazi provides the Division minutes, both Division President Mike Dietrich and Chapter President Art Lites provide their respective President's reports. Paul Wasserman and Chapter Secretary Chris Wieclaw provide photos from the meets and shows, and numerous people contribute articles to help make the newsletter interesting.

My time commitments had increased to the point that I was no longer able to devote the time needed to keep this publication on the monthly schedule, ten times a year.

I know how important the newsletter is for many of you who live outside of the area and the

newsletter was a way of keeping in-touch with friends and what was going on locally.

I will work to get both the October and November issues out to you on time since this is our busy train season coming up. Unfortunately, postage rates continue to climb. In July the Postal "Service" again raised postage. The newsletter now costs \$1.01 cents in postage to mail to you and that is not counting the ink and paper costs.

The Board will need to decide how to handle the printed issue of the newsletter for next year. I am also looking for someone to step into the Editor's shoes. As I mentioned earlier, there are a lot of hands that come together to help put this newsletter together. It is a little like herding cats sometimes but it's not like a College writing assignment or anything.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14 – September Division Meet

Room H-1 (The Small Room)
PVUMC, 4455 E Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley, AZ

September 21 - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

9:30 AM - Wheels Museum - 1110 2nd SW, Albuquerque, NM

October 5 & 6 – Rail Fair 2023

10:00AM – 5:00 PM Both days – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale AZ

October 12 - October Division Meet

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – PVUMC Paradise Valley, AZ

October 19 – Rio Grande Chapter Train Meet (formerly The Pumpkin Meet)

10:00AM – 2:00 PM - Netherwood Park Church - 5101 Indian School Rd. N.E. Albuquerque, NM

RailFair 2024 is back, and it looks like the Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department has settled again for the first weekend in October, the 5th and 6th. If you have been to the park recently you can tell they are already setting up “Spook-track-ular” their big fall money maker. Plans call for the module trailer to be dropped off Friday afternoon and then setup will begin at 7AM Saturday morning with trains scheduled to run from 10 AM until 5 PM both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday afternoon teardown begins with the closing of the event. Normally we are all packed up with the trailer heading back to the storage unit by 6PM. Setup and teardown volunteers as well as operators are needed for both days. If you can only help for a few hours that would be great. There will be a signup sheet at the meeting in September.

Speaking of the September General Meet, President Mike has announced that the theme will be Spooky Season Trains to get everyone in the mood for all the Pumpkin Spice that is already for sale at every turn. Hint do NOT bring pumpkin spice smoke fluid to the meet!

So, what will you bring? Do you have a train that has a mind of its own? What about a Franken-train. You know that train that is made up from other pieces? No scary train? Anyone have a BNSF Pumpkin? What about Illinois Central? Lionel has really gone overboard with Halloween freight cars. Maybe someone has some homie Halloween cars that you run on your layout? Tinsplate Orange? 2654 Shell, 513 Cattle, Postwar, maybe you have a scary expensive train?

There will be free coffee and donuts for those who wish to join us early. Sales tables are free as always as is the friendship and good times.



The May General Meet was the Pizza Meet minus an auction. The theme for the day was What other hobbies interest you? Dave Brown loves astronomy and displayed several photos he took through his telescope.



So, when was the last time you saw Desert Division Treasurer Mark “The Smurf” Thompson without a cap? I guess it is no surprise that he is always on the lookout for a new or different cap.

MAY PIZZA-CATIONAL SHOW



Guy Ferranti belongs to a wine club and they produce 28 barrels of wine every year. Their label is Vino Degli Amici.



Angelo retelling the 2009 Trifecta story. His layout was in CTT, the PBS "Tracks Ahead" program, and featured on the 2009 convention layout tour.



One of our newer Division members, Chris Campbell, brought his collection of Hockey Jerseys. As a Penn State alum, he also has Penn State memorabilia.



Phil and his wife Dotty have traveled extensively and have amassed very interesting collections. and they filled 3 tables with samples of their vast collections.



John Zaval collects license plates from everywhere he has traveled



Of course, we had Pizza, and we think it's the best in town from our friends at DiVito's Pizza.

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – Minutes June 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the home of Mark and Linda Thompson

In Attendance; Mike Dietrich, John Craft, Angelo Lautazi, Mark Thompson, Terry Haas, Paul Wassermann, John Zaval. Guest, Chris Allen on the phone

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – The minutes from the May meeting were approved

Secretary's Report – Division Membership is at 178. The Desert Division has 114 members, and the Rio Grande Chapter has 64.

Treasurer's Report - Checking \$7,834.86, Savings \$1,498.26, PayPal \$2,337.99 and Wells Fargo CD \$24,943.00.

Old Business:

Pizza Meet – The accidental format with having the large hall worked out well. There was a good response with a good number of members participating in sharing stories of their other hobby interests.

Division Fundraising Car – We have been informed by Atlas that the Saddle Mountain Brewery Covered Hopper production has been delayed and delivery is expected in the Fall/Winter time frame.

New Business:

Rail Fair 2024 will be on the first weekend in October this year.

November Train Auction - The November auction will be on Nov. 2nd at the PVUMC. Chris informed us that the consignment form on the web site needs to be updated. Angelo will follow up on that update.

Fall Train Show - November 23rd Train Show at the Shrine Hall. Mike is still waiting for the contract. The date has been confirmed. We should start looking for volunteers to work on the show.

Christmas Holiday Party - Holiday Party is set for Dec 15th at the Elks Lodge. The Elk's will need a deposit check.

The following action items took place:

- Mark informed the Board that a CD is coming due, and he would like to move the money to a Bond until September. Then funds would be available to pay for the Hopper car when delivered. All approved.
- Mark is concerned that the club is spending too much on the auction luncheons. It was suggested that we serve hot dogs, which we have done in the past. All agreed.
- There was a concern of the costs involved for auction bidders using charge or debit cards to pay for their lots. The club only makes a 15% commission with no buyer's premium. PayPal is charging a processing fee, which reduces our commission to less than 12%. The club will begin charging a 3% service fee on all debit/credit card purchases to offset our PayPal costs.
- The Hudson Raffle is getting stale. Mike will ask the membership for ideas for a substitute raffle prize.
- Mark made a motion to increase the Holiday Party dinner to \$35 per person. Paul seconded and the Board agreed.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on Wed. Sept 11th at Mike Dietrich's home

Minutes submitted by: Secretary Angelo Lautazi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – September 2024

Friends,

Happy Summer. I want to welcome you back to train related activities after our summer break!

Our Board is starting their third year, and I wanted to remind you of our hard-working team: Mike Dietrich - President, John Craft - Vice President, Mark Thompson - Treasurer, Angelo Lautazi - Secretary, Paul Wasserman, Terry Haas, and John Zaval - Directors, and Art Lites, President Rio Grande Chapter.

A year into this role I'm still honored to serve and hope you've had the chance to take advantage of our varied and fantastic offerings. I also realize that this is not a one person show and takes a real team to get things done. We have a core group of volunteers, but to quote the Haunted mansion...*there's always have room for more!* I did have the privilege to represent the Desert Division at the TCA Annual convention in Lancaster, PA.

We've suffered through another hot and dry summer, but the promise of cooler temperatures is on the horizon. Our first meeting back from break will be September 14th and our first event is Rail Fair at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on **Saturday, October 5th and Sunday, October 6th**. We have a signed agreement to display our trailer all weekend! We will need help each day and will have sign-up forms at the meeting in

September. This will not affect our October meeting on the 12th.

November is also a busy month, so I wanted to get the word out now! We will hold our Fall auction on **Saturday, November 2nd** at the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall. Be sure to pick up your catalog for this great auction at the meeting in September or October!

The annual Train Show aka the "Turkey Meet" is happening the weekend before Thanksgiving, **Saturday, November 23rd**. It's the perfect way to kick-off to the Holiday Season. The show is at the Shrine Hall and will be the don't miss event of the year. Please send your table registrations to Chris Allen ASAP.

Finally, be on the lookout for details regarding the Christmas Party, Sunday December 15th as the planning committee promises another memorable event.

September meeting theme:

Like all holidays starting too early..."Spooky Season is here". This is encouraged to be train related, but we are all ears for your interesting ghost stories and tales of spooky trains.

I hope to see you at the meeting and at our outstanding events.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large 'M' and a trailing 'e'.

Rio Grande Chapter Meet Photos

Next Meeting – September 21, 2024 at the Wheels Museum





The TCA Rio Grande Chapter

Invites you to a

TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET

BUY * SELL * SWAP

Trains, scenery, track, collector's items from
Lionel, American Flyer, K-Line, MTH, Marx,
Hallmark & other scales too.

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Doors open to the public 9am to 2pm

Open to TCA Members at 8am

Netherwood Park Church of Christ

5101 Indian School Road NE, Albuquerque, NM

\$3.00 / person \$5.00 /family (TCA Members free)

(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Raffle Drawing Every 30 Minutes(10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

Free ticket for every paying guest- must be present to win

See our Modular "O" Gauge Train Layout!

SCHEDULE: Set up : Building opens at 7am (Member Swap 8am to 9 am); Meet Opens to Public:9am; Meet closes : 2pm **RESERVATIONS:** Size 6' long tables, chairs provided. Tables reserved by submitting the form below with check to Swap Meet Coordinator. **GENERAL GUIDELINES:** Tables assigned by Meet Coordinator and special requests treated On a first-come. First served basis; Electrical setup provided as requested; Vendors will please set up for the entire Swap Meet; we will do everything possible to make the event a pleasant experience for vendors as well as the general public.

Swap Meet Coordinator: Scott Eckstein 505-270-0516

10805 Snowheights Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

NAME.....TCA #.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....

EMAIL:.....

TCA Member Table #@\$15.00 ea

Non-Member Table #@\$20.00 ea

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA Train Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. In case of dispute the Meet Coordinator shall arbitrate the dispute.

SIGNED _____

Editors Note: One of the things I have noted in all the missing months of newsletters was the fact that our Division and our members stayed busy and active well beyond the scope of this hobby.

Vietnam 50th Anniversary Memorial Tribute - Phil Todd

On March 31, 2024, Desert Division member Phil Todd was proud to represent on behalf of all his fellow Vietnam era brothers and sisters at the 50th Anniversary Ceremony marking the end of that war. The ceremony took place in Washington D.C. at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Phil was one of four Arizonan Vietnam era veterans that took part that day. The number of US military serving in the Vietnam “theater” during the 20-year era was 2,709,918. Of those, 58,148 were killed in action and another 2,642 were reported POW/MIA. Their names are memorialized on “The Wall”.

If you were unable to attend the May Division Meet, besides all the unique items that Phil and Dotty collect, he shared the experience of how he was chosen to represent Arizona and had memorabilia and letters from that day.

Thank you for your service, Phil Todd. Welcome Home!



All current branches of the U.S. Military sent members to show respect and honor the fallen. Phil was teamed up with a member of the Honor Guard



The press and public were kept a respectful distance away while the ceremony took place.



Phil placing the wreath at their section of the wall and taking a moment to reflect back 54 years ago.



At the May meeting Phil gave a moving recount of the ceremony and his participation

RIO GRANDE MEET PHOTOS

The Rio Grande March 17 Meeting/Show was held at the Raymond G. Sanchez Center, in Albuquerque. The set up was be in the cafeteria that day from 11:00 am, until 4:00pm. The small layouts brought in from the members included N, HO, S, O, and Standard gauges. Rio Grande members brought trains to run and educate the attendees and invited the public to attend this free event and to bring their own trains to run.



JUNE DIVISION MEET PHOTOS



Sometimes more work gets done before the meeting than during the meeting. Barbara Lautazi and Chris Allen working out auction lunch details



Jonathan Peiffer without a GG1 or Amtrak in sight. Ok, so he did talk about the Pennsylvania Railroad, but two out of three ain't bad.



John Craft spoke on a visit to an Edenborough Museum in Scotland where he viewed a live steam locomotive. The engine inspired John on a quest to find this engine for his collection.



Terry Haas brought a beautiful Santa Fe G60 Diesel Locomotive. Terry won this engine at a Club Spring Raffle some years ago.



Chris Allen showing Greg Novak of over 9 decades of Lionel O gauge tank cars. (Some of the couplers were twist tied together) Quite a sight.



Will he make it a "Three-Pete"? You guessed it, Peter Zwerin won the Hudson Raffle again. Peter has purchased more than one ticket if you couldn't guess.

**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**

CACTUS FALL TRAIN SWAP

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$6.00 admission per person

Children 16 and under free with adult



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 2024

Massive Outdoor Farmers Market at the same time!

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CACTUS FALL TRAIN SWAP

Saturday, September 28, 2024 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**This coupon good for \$1.00 off
your \$6.00 cost of admission**

Children 16 and under free with adult

One coupon per person



**TCA DESERT DIVISION ANNUAL
TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2024
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Formerly known as the Turkey Meet
The oldest train meet in Phoenix**



**EL ZARIBAH SHRINERS AUDITORIUM
552 N. 40th St. Phoenix, AZ 85008
40th St. and Fillmore St.**

Exit 2 Loop 202 or McDowell Rd via Hohokam Expressway 143

Featuring

- **YES We still have 8' tables**
- **FREE Parking** and easy access from Loop 202 - or- Hohokam Expressway 143
- Multi gauge Test Track will be available on site
- **Vendor drawing for \$100 at 12 noon** - If you are setup when your ticket is called, you win \$100 on the spot! One ticket for each table purchased

TRAIN MEET HOURS

Saturday, November 23, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Admission \$5

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Table Top Auction

VENDOR SETUP:

Friday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

TABLE REGISTRRTION – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME _____

TCA# _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

Email for table confirmation _____

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA & the Desert Division Train Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics, and behavior. I further agree that in the case of a dispute, the meet chairman, or an impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.

Signed X _____ **Date** _____

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Table Registration to: TCA Desert Division, 1119 W. Plata Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210

More info: Chris Allen 480-820-9559 or email tcadesertdivision@gmail.com

\$30 per 8' table

(Bring your own table cover if desired)

Tables @ \$30 each _____

Requests? _____

**YOUR TABLE REGISTRATION
INCLUDES ONE FREE HELPER
NAME BADGE IF NEEDED**

Helper Name _____

Extra Table Helper Badges are \$5 each

Special Requests? - Contact Meet Chairman

NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER November 9, 2024

RAILROAD



- CHANGE



ARENELL SERVICE & REPAIR - FACTORY AUTHORIZED MTH AND LIONEL SERVICE.....1825 E. LAUREL ST. MESA AZ 85203. CALL RAY 602-565-6603 FOR SERVICE APPOINTMENT. ARENELL@AOL.COM TCA#97-45797 Repairs on Postwar Lionel, MPC, LTI as well as MTH "O" Gauge and "G" Gauge. Certified MTH upgrade center Discounts to members of all local clubs. I pay cash for train collections old or new, large or small. VISA & M/C

BUILDING A LAYOUT? – We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100" and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. For a list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@gmail.com

ARIZONA TOY TRAIN REPAIR – WE HAVE MOVED! NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AND EMAIL Complete parts and repair service for ONLY Lionel postwar and prewar trains and accessories at reasonable rates by a long-time hobbyist. Arizona Toy Train Repair, 1771 Knowlton Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. Phone: 602-369-5938, Email: aztrainrepair@yahoo.com New website: www.arizonatoytrainrepair.com. All my information is on the website. Lifetime guarantee on repairs, \$75.00/hr.

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FOR SALE: RAILRAX: Used RailRax O gauge 6' sections \$10 each – **Only 20 left!** - MTH 50-1004 AIU New in Box \$75 - Division can do credit card for purchase and bring to meet for pickup. Contact Chris for details

FOR SALE: Lionel 38071 SP Cab Forward 4-8-8-4 Brand new, never run \$750. Lionel 51008 Burlington Pioneer Zephyr brand new, never run \$900. Lionel 38014 D&RG Challenger 4-6-6-4 OB \$750. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #10 set, Peacock, 332, 339, 341 cars. Individual boxes and set box \$325. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #8 set, Red, 337, 338 cars plus transformer. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Lionel Santa Fe 2333-20 P X AB Diesel, battery compartment clean. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Chet Henry 480-532-3065 or bchenry@cox.net.

FOR SALE: Complete set of Lionel Amtrak Superliners: \$600: Seven cars, inc sound diner, lounge. All OB's, all LN. contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@gmail.com

FOR SALE: TMK Lionel Prewar 0 & Standard 1900-43, Lionel Postwar 1945-69 TM Lionel 1970-89, 3-Rail price guide, Lionel 1901-95, Lionel 1970-1992, Lionel 1901-1997 each \$20, Greenberg's Repair & Operating Manual 736 pages \$30, Lionel Train Book 131 pages \$20, Hess Toy Truck & Racer 1997 \$15, Southern Crescent Limited 9530-34 new \$75, MDH Track Layout & Accessory Manual 64 pages \$20, MDH Operating 0&027 Trains 237 pages \$20. Dan Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: Lionel Model Builder magazine, complete run #1 thru #80 (1937-1949) plus the pre-release Sample Copy of Lionel Model Engineering. All with covers, no cut-outs; \$495 + S/H, or I'll bring to DD meet. Tim Halchuck, Fountain Hills, AZ. Cell 213-700-5455 or email tim@sound-sources.com

FOR SALE: MTH Premier 20-20340-1 DC-3 w/PS3 \$300, MTH MT-6019 UP Four Car aluminum passenger set \$100, MTH 20-6538 Five car ABS passenger set \$150 -- PayPal & credit cards - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: for my collection. Lionel prewar and postwar engines in master cartons, scarce separate sale items such as Lionel scrapers, bulldozers, boxed autos, Lionel 6464-700 Santa Fe, -900 New York Central, -250 Western Pacific, -450 Great Northern boxcars in Type III body molds, mint freight cars in high grade original boxes, 6414 Autoloaders with autos in yellow, brown, or kelly green with grey bumpers, following cars in separate sale boxes: 6352 Culvert car, 6352-1 PFE icing car, 3460-25 Piggyback car, any rare Lionel items. Bill Sivley 281-804-3629 or mrwls911@yahoo.com

WANTED: VHS Tapes, Lionel - The Great Years 1955 & 1956 by Joe Algozzini/Don Varda (I have 1954) - Marx 51100 Southern Double Deck Auto Carrier or Flat Cars with trailers/tractors, Marx E-7's - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members.

****DEADLINE FOR AD's – THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

THE BACK PAGE – MORE PIZZA ACTION



Volunteers Kay Vokac, along with Eva and John Upshur kept the food line moving...



and quite a long line it was. Something about DiVito's Pizza brings out the whole posse.



VP John Craft and Chris Allen check out the Dinky train engine and cars that Chris brought



The photographer never gets his picture in the newsletter. Paul Wasserman brought along some rare paper items he collects



2025 TCA National Convention
71th Anniversary
Jacksonville, Florida
June 21 – June 28, 2025

NEXT DIVISION MEET

September 14, 2024 8:30 - 11:00 AM
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
Room H-1 (the small room)
4455 E Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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