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.



Volume 54, No. 4

Desert Division DISPATCH



Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

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May 2025

HOT DOGS AND HOT WEATHER

As anyone who has attended the tri-club picnic over the last many years at Scottsdale McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park can tell you, the weather is anything but predictable. While we all remained hopeful that some of the mild days we experienced this Spring would continue into early April, it became evident that we would not be so lucky on the day of the picnic as the temperature climbed to 100 degrees. However, that did not keep the hearty members of GCMR, the P&P, and TCA Desert Division from coming together to enjoy great food and better comradery with 62 people in attendance. The Stillman Ramada was full by the time food was served a little after 11 am. As always, a huge thank you to our chefs, Mark Thompson and Angelo Lautazi for braving the heat of not just the day but the grill to bring us tasty hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. Desert Division grill masters have a long tradition. Angelo began assisting Brad Martin in 2009 and replaced Frank In turn Mark, whose cooking Nickerson. reputation proceeds him with the fabulous holiday meals, came on board to replace Brad.

Desert Division continues to honor our long-held traditions while embracing the future and the change it brings. The annual picnic is no exception. On the theme of tradition, a Hudson raffle ticket was pulled from the jar at the picnic and Chris Allen was the winner of a freshly minted \$100 bill.

May 10th is the next scheduled Division meeting and the annual Pizza Meetza. As has been the case for the last two years, we will be celebrating "other" hobbies. We all know that many of us do not limit our collecting to trains. What other hobbies do you enjoy? What other organizations do you belong to? What else do you collect? This is your opportunity to share all of this with your fellow members. Fair warning as what your <u>Dispatch</u> Editor is bringing may require ear plugs!

Since we did not have a formal April meeting, the news is somewhat abridged, however, a reminder that TCA-DD Atlas beer hoppers with attractive graphics are still available. See the flyer in this issue. See you on May 10th!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10 - Desert Division Meeting

9:00 AM – Paradise Valley United Methodist Church – 4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ Meeting in Fellowship Hall – Pizza will be Provided!

May 17 - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

9:00 AM - Wheels Museum - 1110 2nd SW, Albuquerque, NM

APRIL 12TH TRI-CLUB PICNIC PHOTOS



Look! We have a banner. This picnic is official!



Angelo wondering what he got himself into.



Mark is cool under pressure at the grill.



Time to eat!



A great turnout for the picnic!



Chris has his Hudson ticket pulled this month.

MINUTES APRIL 9THTH, 2025 TCADD BOARD MEETING AT PAUL WASSERMAN'S HOME

In attendance: Mike Dietrich, Mark Thompson, Paul Wassermann, Terry Haas, Chris Allen, Russell Howry, Jonathan Peiffer and Angelo Lautazi.

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 PM.

Minutes: The Desert Division has 112 members and the Rio Grande Chapter has 57. Division total is 169. The roster is not finalized as we are waiting for responses from 10 members.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$12,391.88, Savings \$498.77, Paypal \$1273.45, Ebay Acct \$1611.00 and Wells Fargo \$21,270.32.

Old Business: Recap

• Luncheon at Bottega – Attendance was about 21 people; service was very good and full menu selection was great.

New / Ongoing Business:

- Atlas Cars there are 35 cars on hand.
- The Spring Picnic on Sat. April 12, 2025 at the Railroad Park. The Picnic will replace the regular meet. Mark will be getting the food, Chris is bringing supplies from the Club, GCMR is bringing the drinks.
- May Pizza Meet Angelo reviewed the pizza order from last year and what was left over. It was decided to order 9 pizzas from DeVitos. Paul will place the order.
- The Train Show- Chris is working with the Living Streams Church on Central. The hall is slightly larger than the PVUMC. Still working on the details but the date would be on Sat. Nov. 15th. –
- The Train Auction will be held at the PVUMC Fellowship Hall on Nov.1st. This date needs to be confirmed.
- Submission for AZ taxes were discussed and what data Mark needed to get to Chris.
- Chris brought up an idea that Dave Brown suggested at the GCMR meet. He would like to have the
 clubs combine and split the cost of renting a bus to travel to Prescott for the Beat the Heat meet. The
 event would be on the last Saturday in July. This bus trip has historically been a financial loss for the
 club and Dave hopes that sharing any loss among the clubs would be acceptable. We will wait to hear
 about the specific costs before we decide.
- Storage units more discussion on the future of the units and when to start the process of selling the trailer. Mike does not want to rush the process and has no problem with going with a month-to-month rental for now.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

The next Board Meeting on Wednesday, May7thth, 2025 at the home of Mark Thompson.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to May and it certainly has been a strange spring one day 65 and the next 100 degrees. Indeed, the activities are heating up for the Division as we plan the rest of 2025. We have a full schedule of meetings, auctions, a show, and a party in the works! The upcoming events are listed below in the Ear to the Rail.

As the newsletter will show, we had a great turn out at the Annual Tri-Club Picinic at McCormick and Stilman Railroad Park. While the weather heated up our intrepid chefs soldiered on and served an outstanding variety of grilled treats. Hat's off to Angelo and Mark (Smurf) for their dedication to the flames.

I'd like to take another moment and thank our volunteers that made these events a success. Their tireless dedication to the club is what makes what we love to collect more than a simple hobby. As mentioned in the April Dispatch, we held a fantastic volunteer's luncheon at Bottega Ristorante in Glendale at the end of March.

I hope we can continue this engagement through our events throughout the year. To capitalize on this energy, we are going to feature the very popular "Tell us what you love to collect – trains and beyond" at the May meeting. Bring items to let others know a bit more about you! We encourage spouses to join in as they support us in our quests and often have unique collections to share. The meeting will feature pizza and conversation in the Fellowship Hall of the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church.

We look forward to updates on the Holiday Party and Train Show as the spring develops.

Ear to the rail for the rest of 2025

May 10th Regular meeting and Pizza (no auction)- Fellowship Hall

June 7th Regular meeting, Room H

July-Aug No meetings

Sept 13thRegular Meeting, Room HOctober 11thRegular meeting, Room H

Nov 1st November Auction, PVUMC Fellowship Hall **Nov 15th** Train Show, finalizing details, stay tuned

December 14th Holiday party, details of the new location coming soon

As I will close each newsletter, I hope to welcome you to one of our events or meetings and I'd like to add two more "C's" to the Chamber of Commerce slogan: Collecting and Camaraderie, as the later is what keeps us going!

May education segment: "Tell us what you collect and why - Trains and Beyond", what keeps us on the hunt.



	DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2024						
President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538	Directors:	Art Lites	505-463-1951		
Vice-President:	John Craft	480-785-2432		Terry Haas	602-319-0499		
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-580-5950		Russ Howry	864-419-9354		
Treasurer:	Mark Thompson	307-631-4474		Paul Wassermann	480-949-1620		

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

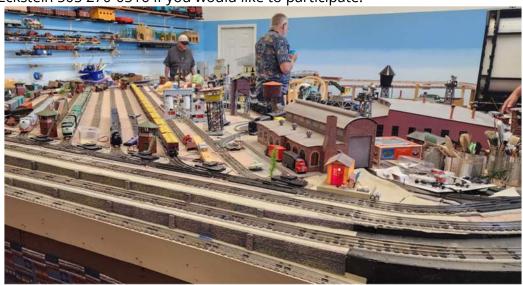
By Art Lites # 97-44623

The weather is getting warmer and now most of us concentrate more on outside activities. So, it is with our Chapter. We have two exciting activities planned for May and June. First, will be a field trip to the Grants area to explore the Zuni mountain railroad plans are to meet at the Route 66 Casino Saturday May 17th. We will carpool to Grants to follow the logging rail line. Plans are to return Grants for lunch. The second activity is in June when we travel to the other side of the Sandias to picnic at Chris Wieclaw's house. The club will provide all the food. All TCA members and family need to do is show up. As a side benefit you will be able to view Chris's extensive o and s gauge layout. Plan to enhance your summer and attend both activities.

Many train clubs have layouts that they built and operate. Typically, members absorb all the costs i.e. building rental, all build out costs, all layout construction costs, cost of track switches and decoration. All so that they can operate on a large layout. As you can imagine, member costs can be \$100 or much more a month. We are extremely fortunate to have a large layout to run operate our trains at no cost. That layout is one that we adopted at the Wheels Museum. You are free to go anytime the museum is open and bring your trains or use those owned by the museum. All we ask is that you contact with John Westfall and make arrangements to get with him to go over the rules of operating. The layout supports both O and S gauge. As you can see this is a tremendous benefit of Chapter membership.

To encourage all members familiar with this benefit and to encourage the social aspect of this chapter, we will be conducting an informal gathering at Wheels. Tentative dates are the first Saturday of June, July, and August at 9:30am. We will operate our trains and interact with the public. In the summer and fall the city operates the Railyard marketplace. This attracts many visitors to the Museum. We can promote the hobby by explaining the history and operation of toy/model trains. The objective is of course to increase membership. You will receive e-mails confirming these dates.

Finally, our module group will be active in July setting up for the Hot Wheels convention on the 26th and 27th of July. The module guys always have fun at these conventions. Again, they can always use help. Contact Scott Eckstein 505 270-0516 if you would like to participate.



Art Lites 97-44623President, Rio Grande Chapter

1890's NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS: MINATURE ELECTRIC TRAINS

by Bruce Brown - TCA #95-41451

It is well accepted that Lionel Cowen did the most to associate toy electric trains with Christmas. But he wasn't the first to do so, and as we well know, nor was he the inventor of the electric train. Before Lionel, there were other ambitious inventors all inspired by the development and availability of miniature direct-current motors--especially in the 1890's. Here are some of their stories, most around Christmastime, clipped out of newspapers all over the country:

He has taken the entire top floor of Hayden Bros.' great emporium at Sixteenth and Dodge streets, and the hundreds of youngsters who called there last night were bewildered with the marvelous display, as indeed were the children to manhood and womanhood grown, who found just as much to please and interest them as did the more recent graduates of the nursery. couldn't begin to tell of all those wonderful products of the inventor's mind and the skilled hand of the mechanic and artisan. There was a miniature electric motor railway, complete in all the most minute details, even to the dainty little motor, trolley and overhead wire, with the occasional flashing of an electric spark, just as seen on the full-grown cars on the streets a hundred times a day, yet this little car isn't much bigger than your fist, but it buzzed around the track just as industriously as you please.

Omaha Daily Bee, December 14, 1892

Toy Electric Train Starts a Fire.

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 13.—[Special.]—Armsted, the 12-year-old son of H. C. Cline, built a complete street railway in the show window of his father's store. The miniature car was propelled by the trollery wire and a small electric motor on a circular track fifteen feet long. Today the car jumped the track, an electric spark set fire to some cotton in the window. The car track, poles, and whole apparatus were quickly destroyed and a lot of fine jewelry displayed in the window was destroyed. The entire store had a close call.

Chicago Tribune, December 14, 1983

NEW MOTOR CAR SYSTEM.

Overhead Wires and Poles Not Necessary For such a Line.

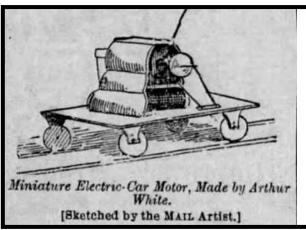
A new method of applying electricity to street rallway travel, was placed on exhibition this morning in one of the show windows of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea company, 221 Market street, by Manager Thomas F. Evans, of the Harrisburg office. He is the ventor of the system and hundreds of people stood watching the small motor car as it sped around the pyramid of tea. coffee and spices on a neat brass track. The car rests on four wheels and is operated by a miniature electric motor. current is supplied from batteries and the absence of all overhead wires and poles puts all to guessing how the current is applied. Some say a spring operates the car, but this is not the case. Nothing touches the track but the four wheels of the car, and to start it around the circular track, a small switch placed in the circuit is turned and away goes the car to the wonder of Mr. Evans has applied all spectators. for a patent, and hopes to secure the same soon. The track conveys the electric current. Electricians and street car employes were delighted with the running of the car to-day.

Harrisburg Daily Independent, December 18, 1893

A miniature electric trolley car in full operation is a holiday attraction in a store window in Catasauqua.

Allentown Democrat, December 20, 1893

The following is an excerpt from an 1894 article about the many experiments being conducted in a high school science class.



On one table was to be seen a miniature of the electric railway of this city. A car was in actual operation, run by a dynamo. This was a very ingeniously executed piece of work, and the maker, Arthur White, a member of the senior class, has received much praise. He has also built a miniature steam engine. It contains all the essential parts of the original engine and some of the modern improvements. It is made of wood with glass tubes as cylinders and pistons.

The Evening Mail, Stockton California, April 27, 1894

A Work of Patience.

A miniature electric car in the neck of a bottle is on exhibition in the show window of Thackery & Kelly's drug store. The car was made by Jessie Pratt, who won the D. and W. annual pass for naming Lincoln park. It is an excellent model, perfect in every detail. There are 37 pieces in the little electric, and the work of making it required 203 hours. It is an excellent piece of workmanship, and reflects great credit upon the maker, whose patience and skill are wonderful.

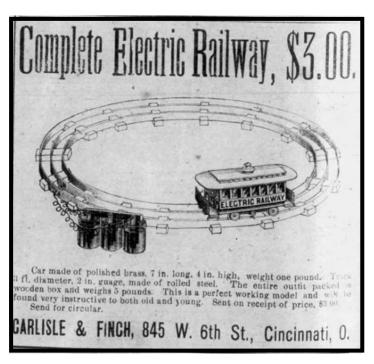
Fall River Globe, Fall River Massachusetts, January 11, 1895

Bob Erhardt, the expert jeweler at Rudisill's, has constructed a miniature Electric Trolley Car line which moves around a handsome Christmas Tree in the front show window of that establishment. It is an ingenius piece of work,

The Southern Standard, Arkadelphia Arkansas, December 25, 1896

MINIATURE ELECTRIC RAILWAY.—
Messrs. Meinhoefer & Larosh, jewelers at No.
106 North Seventh street, have a novel holiday
attraction in their show window. A miniature
electric car with a full equipment of wire, etc., is
kept constantly running at a high rate of speed.
The car was built by Wilmer Stover, the nine year
old son of Mr. A. T. Stover, of No. 617 Linden
street. The boy took great pains with the work,
and the result shows rare mechanical skill for one
so young.

Allentown Democrat, December 18, 1895

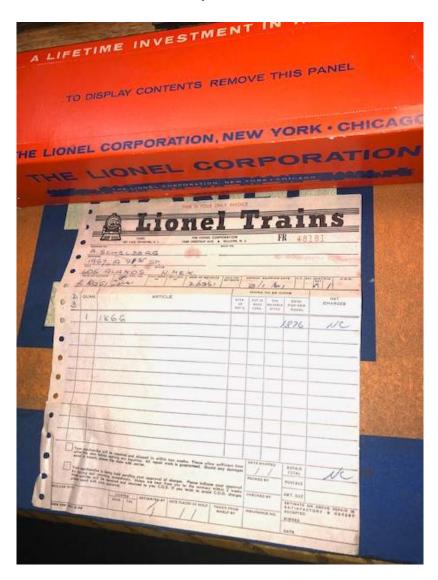


Carbondale Daily News, Carbondale Pennsylvania, March 18, 1897

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT STORIES THE OLD TOY TRAINS YOU BUY HAVE

By Greg Palmer # 94-39039

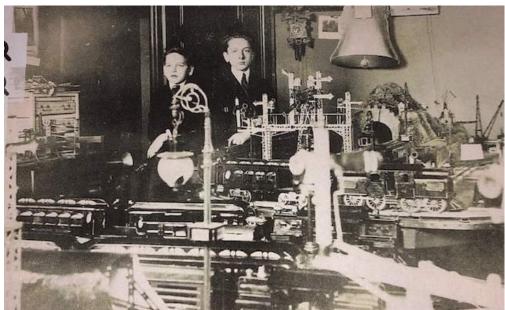
I have a BA Degree in History from Cal State Long Beach and an MA In Education Foundations. I worked as a Librarian for Albuquerque Public Schools for 28 years. I love to do research and have found Toy Trains to be a great item to research. The history of toy trains is very interesting to me. I love to speculate about what happened to the family while the toy train was in their care. Things such as war, weather issues, and family issues, etc. With the advent of the Internet, in the 1990's, it has become a little easier. I always wonder what story does a Toy Train or a toy have to tell. What did the family do. Did the girl or boy have fun with the toy. What work did the parents do? Where did the family live? If it was a toy train from Europe, how did it survive two World Wars. These questions I have tried to answer through research. Why I am writing this article is to show that sometimes it has been very interesting when I find out who owned some of my collection.



My first research subject is a Lionel car and box. I have a Lionel 1876 General Passenger car with its original box. In the box was a Lionel Repair Center receipt from 1961. I have attached a photo of the receipt. It showed that this General Passenger was a trade in for a Lionel 1866 General passenger car. I guess the owner wanted his son to have a lighted passenger car. The Receipt had a name and address on it. It was addressed to A. Schelberg of Los Alamos, New Mexico. What a find. My parents also worked in Los Alamos in 1948-49. I dug into research to find that Mr. Schelberg was a Physicist working on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos during World War II. The amazing thing is that in the early 1950's he also worked on the Atomic Testing team on Operation Red Wing on Eniwetok Atol in the South Pacific. So did my father. It is a very small world. So, through research I learned that this passenger car came from someone who worked with my dad in the early 1950's. Who could have guessed.

My next research is an ongoing project starting in 2022. I purchased a Bing Lamp Post at a Stout Auction. Stout had photos of the original owner's layout with two young boys standing by it. The Photos of the two boys at their Layout and the Bing Lamp post on my layout are enclosed. The photo looks like a very early 20th Century photo. I asked Stout Auctions who owned the layout and the Bing Lamp Post, and they said that the Estate requested that they not disclose who owned the Estate. All the Auction House told me that it was owned by a famous and wealthy Pennsylvania family. Talk about sparking my curiosity. However, Pennsylvania has a lot of very wealthy families. So, research continues. I have gathered over the years of studying the photos used by Stout Auctions in their Catalog that the father of the two boys went to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. He was on the Yearbook team. That helps a little. More research is needed. It is very interesting what one could find by asking the question what this toy saw and heard while it was owned by its first owner. Some of you may have interesting stories you might share with the Chapter and the Division. Send in your research to the Dispatch or the Info Depot. I think it would be great to see what other toy trains have an interesting history.





Article courtesy of Rio Grande Chapter's upcoming issue of Info Depot - Tony Porzio, Editor

A 1954 INTERNATIONAL MODEL PRODUCTS BRASS CABOOSE FINALLY GETS PAINTED

By Jonathan Peiffer # 01-53047

As many of you know, my "home" rails have always been the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Central of New Jersey as both ran through my hometown in my youth. This Japanese import was considered the budget brass of scale models of the era. Crude in its details, but generally a well-proportioned model. The CNJ purchased 50 NE style cabooses in 1942 and most served into the Conrail era. It has been some time since I last painted a car, and it was rewarding.





https://traincollectorsassociation.regfox.com/71st-annual-national-convention-jacksonville-fl

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Desert Division Membership Form

Spouse's Name:

First Name:



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TRAIN ERA	MANUFACTURER	23E. Buddy-L	23AA. USA Trains
1. Pre-war (1850-1942)	14. American Flyer	23F. Carlisle/Finch	23BB. S-Helper Service
2. Pre-war (1945-1969)	☐ 15. Lionel	23G. Elletren	23DD. Fleishmann
3. Pre-war (1970-present)	☐ 16. Marx/Mars/Allstate	23H. Hafner	23EE. Carette
GAUGE	☐ 17. lves	☐ 231. Hoge	23FF. Eastwood Auto
4. Scale / NMRA	☐ 18. Dorfan/Fandor	23J. Hornby	23GG. Amer.Model S Ga.
☐ 5 Standard	☐ 19. MTH	23K. Issmayer	23II. Colber
☐ 6. G or #1	20. Williams	☐ 23L. LGB	☐ 23LL Bowser
7. O or O27 Tinplate	☐ 21. K-line	23M. Marklin	PERIPHERALS
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□ 11. N	23A. Basset/Lowke	23T. REA/Aristo-Craft	29. Buildings
□ 12. Z	☐ 23B. Bing	23W. Voltamp	☐ 30. Railroadiana
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THE TRAIN STATION – Mountain Lakes, NJ. Top 10 Authorized Lionel and AF Sales and Service since 1974. New, Used, Bought, Sold, Repaired. 973-263-1979 www.train-station.com.

FOR SALE: RAILRAX: Used **RailRax** 0 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: TRACK SALE - New: Case of GarGraves phantom rail track, 50 sections OB, \$350 (retail \$635); case of Midwest cork roadbed, 25 pieces OB, \$50 (retail \$75). Can be shipped at actual shipping costs. Peter Atonna 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 Cresent 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

<u>FOR SALE:</u> 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 <u>sparkyshome@cox.net</u>

<u>WANTED</u>: 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

<u>WANTED</u>: 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.







TOY TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET

Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Socorro City Convention Center at Highway 60 west next to the rodeo grounds. Admission: \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per family. TCA members free with National Membership Card.

Operating layouts, swap meet, door prizes, raffle, "O", "S", "HO", "N" and more!

For more information or to reserve tables contact Jon Spargo at 575-418-7534 or email: KC5NTW@sdc.org







Sponsored by the Rio Grande Chapter, TCA
The Socorro Train Gang Railroad Club and the City of Socorro



TCA Rio Grande Chapter

Invites you to a

MODEL TRAIN SWAP MEET

BUY * SELL * SWAP

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

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Netherwood Park Church of Christ

5101 Indian School Road NE, Albuquerque, NM

See our Modular "O" Gauge Train Layout

SCHEDULE: Setup: Building opens at 7 am (Member Swap 8am to 9am) Meet Opens to Public@ 9am Meet closes 2pm

RESERVATIONS: Size 6' long tables, chairs provided. Tables reserved by submitting the form below with a check made out to TCA Rio Grande Chapter and mailed to the swap meet coordinator by October 18, 2025. Reservation forms submitted after the deadline are subject to an additional \$5 late fee per table.

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Tables assigned by the 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##
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I hereby agree to be bou	•	rain Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. In case of ordinator shall arbitrate the dispute.
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DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2025