

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

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Click on the link to our e-Bay offerings.

Volume 37, No. 1

February, 2008

## DESERT DIVISION WELCOMES 2008

The January Meet was filled with members and out-of-town guests. Though the Jaycees Hall was cold when we entered, our friendly members quickly warmed things up.

Treasurer Bob Herman announced that we have \$26,418.37 in savings, \$3,238.11 in checking, and \$393.75 in the Trains for Kids account. President Katie Elgar informed club members that some of the Trains for Kids money will pay for two train play tables. One will go to Albuquerque's Ronald McDonald House and the other will be used by the Kids Club at the Convention. Katie also welcomed our new officers (Jonathan Peiffer as Vice President and Sam McElwee as Director) and thanked our retiring officers (Christie Wilson, Secretary; and Phil Monahan, Director).

The City of Mesa threw us a curve at the 2007 Turkey Meet, announcing two weeks before the event that they would be requiring sellers to buy a 90 year permit @ \$5, and asking for 1.75% sales tax on all sales. The Division absorbed the costs for the Auction, but the vendors were disgruntled. Because of the difficulty in finding a hall which is large enough and available on a Sunday, the Board of Directors recommended a one-day event for 2008. After much discussion, it was decided that a committee should investigate other venues, the differences in costs for moving the Turkey Meet, holding the Turkey Meet in November and the auction at some other time at the Jaycees Hall, and/or continuing the status quo. Ideas should be sent to Katie Elgar, until a Turkey Meet Chair is named.

TCA has established a Cole Gibbs Memorial Fund. Their goal is to procure an engine which Cole coveted but did not own and presenting it at the National Toy Train Museum. The cost of the project will be about \$5,000. Fred Hunter made a motion, which was seconded by Chris Allen: The Desert Division will donate \$1000 to the Cole Gibbs Memorial Fund established by TCA. Passed unanimously. Treasurer Bob Herman will send the check.

Ed Micale reported on the 2009 TCA National Convention to be held in Scottsdale over the Fourth of July Week/Weekend. General Meetings are held before the Desert Division Meets, and members are welcome to attend. Our Convention Store Chairs will be Brad and Diane Martin. They will need volunteers to help "man the store" at the 2008 TCA National Convention in Burlington, Vermont this June. We are in need of sponsors. Anyone who knows of any business which would be willing to donate silent auction items, or anything which will help cover the costs of the Convention should contact Ed Micale or Bill Mack. Chris Allen reminded members that any costs we incur at the Welcome Party are paid by us and any money we make at that activity goes back to the club.

### COMING UP . . .

- FEBRUARY 9 Regular Division Meet, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM**
- FEBRUARY 16 Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM**
- FEBRUARY 23 GCMR Mid-Winter Meet, Phoenix, AZ – 10 AM**
- MARCH 8 Regular Division Meet, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM**
- MARCH 14-16 Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara, CA**
- MARCH 22 Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM**
- APRIL 5 Spring Picnic, McCormick Railroad Park – 11 AM**
- APRIL 12 Pizza Meetza, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM**

Don Locke reported on the after-meet visitation calendar. He has layouts assigned for all of 2008. The one in February will be in Scottsdale, not far from the Jaycees Hall.

As Christie Wilson has been elected TCA National Secretary, the Division needs a new Secretary. Candidates for the position are Fred Hunter and Earl Rasmussen. Each submitted 50-100 word blurbs to Christie, who prepared the ballot which was sent out via first-class mail. Ballots are due back to Katie Elgar by February 29. The new Division Secretary will be available in time for the March 5 Board Meeting and March 8 Regular Division Meet.

Bob Dennison donated a beautifully restored wide gauge Flyer engine to be auctioned at the Meet with the proceeds going to the Cole Gibbs Memorial Fund. As Auctioneer Peter Atonna stated, "Cole exemplified the 'fun' side of this hobby." The winning bidder was Fred Hunter.

The Educational Segment began with Jerry Sienkiewicz. He brought in a station, hand made in the '20's or '30's and previously owned by Lou Hertz. The station is made of metal molded into the necessary shapes. Its benches are made of wood, each piece held in place with a tiny nail. Inside is a detailed ticket station. The clock on the front is a Swiss-made pocket watch from the '30's. Though it had to be rewired, the station, complete with extra location signs, is in excellent shape. Jerry also brought in some trolleys to display their lithography. One is a motorized wind-up Ferdinand Strauss, another is a Chen, and the third is Mohawk. All are floor toys dating from the '20's and '30's. Jonathan Peiffer followed with an O scale box cab electric from the '50's, made by Internationals, complete with blueprints. It is a brass import from Japan in 17/64<sup>th</sup> scale, which runs on 2-rail O-scale track, even though it is just a hair over the 1/4<sup>th</sup> scale size. Its belt-driven universal motor allows it to run on AC or DC current. Internationals also made HO kits, with full interiors, people instructions, and decals. Jonathan also brought in the Boys Book of Model Railroading from the '50's, reminding us what we used to do by hand with our toys, before the age of technology took away all the fun of making kits, painting them, adding decals, etc. Bob Mancus brought in an electric Bing locomotive from the '20's. (Bing made a lot of wind-ups, but electrics are much scarcer.) He acquired this engine from e-Bay to go with his Bing cabooses. The vendor admitted that this engine was in need of some work, but that didn't daunt Bob. He replaced the commutator, brushes, and other interior parts. The result (to date) is that it runs very well in reverse, but it still needs some work of the forward mechanism. Paul Wassermann then showed his Lionel "Mystery Box," containing an early '20's to '30's #256. The cardboard insert says 256, but the outside box is unmarked. Presumably it is the type of box one would use to ship damaged goods back to Lionel. Intrigued with boxes, Paul showed his special set box containing a #259 engine with lithographed cars. It is a Lionel Ives transition piece. Because of the label on the box, it must predate 1934, but the orange and blue boxes inside indicate that it came after 1935. It appears Lionel piecemealed it, using whatever boxes they had on hand. Another oddity is the American Flyer elevated bin. The top opens to insert the load, probably coal, and opens on the side to dump it. Paul's Standard Gauge Lionel 500 series hopper with Ives plates shows that Lionel continued to use the Ives name for several years after the take-over. Paul explained that one problem with lithographed pieces is that they become soiled or stained over the years. He cleans these pieces with a laundry "eraser," a sponge with a low abrasive non-oily soap. He wets the sponge for a softer clean-up job. Then he uses Bare Metal Foil Company plastic polish to finish the job.

Our Mystery Greeter, John Wiley, selected Don Locke to receive ten free tickets. Raffle prizes went to the following lucky members:

John Wiley	Lionel Great Northern Box Car
Tom Stange	Lionel Gondola with containers
John Wiley	Plastic Bridge
Christie Wilson	Die cast truck and lampposts
Ed Micale	<u>Big Book of Lionel</u> – Robert Schleicher
Ira Bernstein	Layout Plans and trees
Jim Vokac	<u>History of Southern Pacific</u> and Model Railroader Calendar

## DUES ARE DUE

It's time for Desert Division dues. Anyone who wishes to be included in the 2008 Membership Roster must be a member in good standing by March 1. That means dues must be paid by February 29.

If your address label is highlighted in green, you owe dues at this time. You may pay for one year (\$10), two years (\$20), 3 years (\$30), 4 years (\$40), or 5 years (\$50). Make your check payable to TCA – Desert Division and mail it to Christie Wilson. Until a new Secretary is named, she will continue to serve as your Division's Membership Chair. Use the Desert Division Registration Form in this bulletin to make any roster changes, express your train collecting preferences, or just wrap around your check so no one but you and the recipient will know it's there. The form and check should be sent to the address on the bottom of the Registration Form.

We value your membership, so please mail your dues today.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

The January meeting was well attended, with over 100 members and guests in attendance. We were able to welcome new members Tony Saulina and Jack Eaton. Welcome to visiting TCA members including Andy and Sophia Cecere, Tom Worswick, Chuck and Sheila Richards, David Hollister, and Bill Shipman. Some of our own Division members came in from far away to attend: Phil Todd arrived from Alaska and Roger Meekhof left Minnesota's cold weather for our sunny (?) weather. Guests Gerald Figgs and Dave LaHaie also attended the Meet. It is always exciting to see the winter visitors at our monthly meets! For the first time in a long while we were using the heat at the hall! But the people were warm and friendly as always!

Don Locke has layout visits scheduled for most of the year. Contact him if you would like to be on the list. He will need some back-ups for those times that don't work out for scheduled visits! It is a great way to share your layouts with fellow members and the opportunity to go and see others' trains may give you ideas for your own trains!

Peter Atonna's local train layout was an awesome utilization of a lot of trains in a smaller dimension than we are used to seeing from Peter! A big thanks for sharing this layout with the Desert Division!

Also, a big thanks to Greg Novak for taking charge of the Coffee Club for a couple of meetings! I am sure that Greg can use some help in the kitchen during the meeting.

Don't forget to check your National Headquarters News for information on the 54<sup>th</sup> National TCA Convention in Burlington, VT. There are many train-riding and related tours, put together by the NETCA Division Convention Committee. Register early so you get your choice of tours. Hotels are filling up fast! Remember if you are planning to take the tour to Canada, you should pack your passport! Don't have one? Apply for your passport early, so that you have it in time for the Convention.

Also coming up in September is the TCA Fall Cruise to Nova Scotia. Just in time for the changing of the leaves! Check this out as well!

The Spring Picnic at Scottsdale McCormick Railroad Park is scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, February 9!

Happy trains,

## SPECIAL ELECTION FOR DIVISION SECRETARY

Rarely does the Desert Division need a mid-term election, but we have one now. Once Christie Wilson was elected to be TCA's National Secretary, she had to resign her post as Division Secretary. Two candidates are vying for the position, Fred Hunter and Earl Rasmussen. Each of these gentlemen would like your vote. Ballots were mailed to all Desert Division members in good standing as of January 31, 2008. These were sent via First Class Mail and must be returned the same way.

Both candidates have supplied one-paragraph statements, which are reprinted within the ballot. Instructions are also included. All ballots must be returned to President Katie Elgar, postmarked by February 29. Your address label, which contains your TCA number, can be affixed to the return mailer. Once it is verified that you are a Division member, that segment of the tri-fold will be discarded so that only the ballot remains.

Katie and her committee will count the ballots and the results will be announced at the March 8 Regular Desert Division Meet. All members are encouraged to vote. Remember the deadline. We urge you to vote early so that you don't forget.

### DESERT DIVISION – TCA 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957
Vice-President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730
Secretary:		
Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9227
	Sam McElwee	480-838-5847
	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
	Gordon Wilson	480-837-5344

### BOARD MEETING

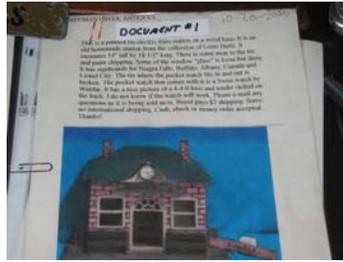
The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 6, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Gordon and Christie Wilson. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-837-5344 to be sure there are enough chairs.

### DIVISION NOTES

Our sympathies go to Dave Brown, whose parents both recently passed away.

Dale Schafer, a long-time Albuquerque member, recently underwent back surgery. Get well wishes go to him at this time.

### JANUARY'S JUST FUN IN THE DESERT



Jerry Sienkiewicz brought in a hand-made station from the '20's or '30's, previously owned by Louis Hertz.



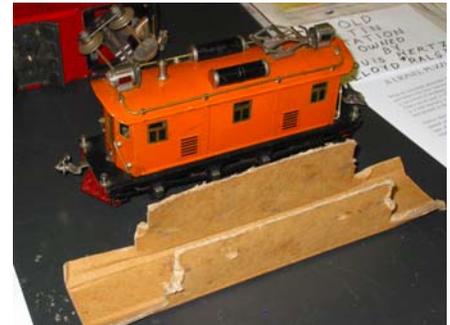
Jonathan Peiffer told about his 0-scale box cab electric from the '50's, a brass import from Japan. It came with blueprints.



Jerry's pull toy trolleys have very attractive lithography.



Paul Wassermann is holding a Lionel-Ives transition piece. His elevated coal bin is unique, but his passion for "boxes" made him bring in this rarity. The insert says #256, but the outer carton is unmarked.



Our members come to the Meets to swap stories and trains.



The After-Meet Visitations are a highlight of the day. Here we see Peter Atonna's small layout in his Tempe townhouse. As usual for Peter, it is filled with activity.



# DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's first name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check made payable to TCA - Desert Division in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover my dues for the next \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) years at \$10.00 per year.

The following is a list of categories from the Registration Form representing your preferences in toy trains and accessories. Circle numbers of all categories that apply.

## TRAIN ERA

- 1 PREWAR (1850-1942)
- 2 POSTWAR (1945-1969)
- 3 MODERN (1970-Present)

## GAUGE

- 4 SCALE/ NMRA
- 5 STANDARD
- 6 G or #1
- 7 O or O-27 TINPLATE
- 8 S
- 9 HO
- 10 OO/AMERICAN
- 11 N
- 12 Z
- 13 LIVE STEAM

## MANUFACTURER

- 14 AMERICAN FLYER/GILBERT
- 15 LIONEL/WINNER
- 16 MARX/MARS/ALLSTATE
- 17 IVES
- 18 DORFAN/FANDOR
- 19 MTH
- 20 WILLIAMS
- 21 K-LINE
- 22 AMT/KUSAN
- 23 OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY
  - 23A BASSETT/LOWKE
  - 23B BING
  - 23C BOUCHER
  - 23D BUB/KARL
  - 23E BUDDY-L
  - 23F CARLISLE & FINCH
  - 23G ELLETREN
  - 23H HAFFNER
  - 23I HOGE
  - 23J HORNBY
  - 23K ISSMAYER
  - 23L LGB
  - 23M MARKLIN
  - 23N METZEL
  - 23O MINI-SCALE

- 23P PHOENIX LTD.
- 23Q PLASTICVILLE
- 23R LITTLETOWN/SKYLINE
- 23S PRIDE LINES
- 23T REA/ARISTO-CRAFT
- 23U RIGHT-O-WAY
- 23V ROKAL
- 23W VOLTAMP
- 23X WEAVER
- 23Y McCOY
- 23Z NATIONWIDE
- 23AA USA TRAINS
- 23BB S-HELPER SERVICE
- 23CC ASTOR
- 23DD FLEISCHMANN
- 23EE CARETTE
- 23FF EASTWOOD AUTOMOBILIA
- 23GG AMERICAN MODELS S GAUGE
- 23HH DOWNS S GAUGE
- 23II COLBER
- 23JJ UNIQUE
- 23KK SAKAI
- 23LL BOWSER
- 23MM T-REPRODUCTIONS

## DO YOU HAVE A LAYOUT?

- 24 YES
- 25 NO

## PERIPHERALS

- 26 FIGURES
- 27 TOYS
- 28 PAPER/BOOKS
- 29 BUILDINGS
- 30 RAILRODIANA

Mail to: **Christie Wilson**  
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

## WIN A LIONEL #773 in '08

Joshua Lionel Cowen had a favorite steam locomotive and in 1937 he made it a part of the Lionel Lines stable of engines. Since then it has reappeared countless times to the point where it has attained the status of "ICON." In 2008, for the 20<sup>th</sup> time, the Desert Division will make it possible for members to win/own one of these "icons." So, how does it work? Read on!

Your odds of winning? Only 100 tickets will be offered for sale and all of them MUST go to TCA members or TCA immediate family members. Tickets are \$25 each, and because we are a Federal 501c3 non-profit organization, if you do not win a monthly prize or the Hudson, then your receipt becomes a legal tax deduction.

The monthly meet prize? Why, a \$100 bill AND the ticket is returned to the entire group. Therefore, it is theoretically possible to win \$100 seven times and also win the #773 Hudson. Naturally, the earlier in the year you purchase your tickets, the better are your chances of winning the "C" notes. The first drawing will be on February 9. There is ONE catch, however. You must be at the meet in order to win the \$100.

The monthly drawings occur in February, March, April, May, June, September, and October. Should any raffle tickets still be available following the October monthly meet, they will be offered for sale to the whole membership of TCA. The winning ticket for the #773 Hudson (a 1964-66 model issue) will be drawn at the November Turkey Meet. The winner need not be present.

So, plan now to win some cash and a great prize – the Lionel #773 Hudson in C-8 or better condition – and contribute to the running of the Desert Division.



## HAVE FUN & HELP TOO

by Gordon Wilson TCA 76-10233

Have you been wondering how you can help out at our upcoming TCA Convention? Do you enjoy speaking with people? Have you "secretly" always wanted to be a Tour Guide? Well, do we have positions for you!

Starting next June, we will need volunteers to handle our promo booth at the 54<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Burlington, Vermont. Then next October, and again in April, we are going to need the help of people at our Convention promotion booths at the famous York Train Meet. You've heard about this train meet – well, here is your opportunity to attend, peruse the many halls, and spread the word about the State of Arizona for three full days in October of 2008 and April of 2009.

We will also need docents on our Tours and Trips during the Convention week of June 28 to July 5, 2009. On each trip/tour, we will have at least one docent on each bus to the intended venue. These trips will encompass the major attractions in Arizona. Some of the examples will be the Grand Canyon Railroad; the Verde Canyon Railroad; Sedona Pink Jeep Tours; Toy Train Operating Museum in Tucson; layouts in Prescott, Phoenix, and Scottsdale; Out of Africa in the Verde Valley; and so much more. The docent will assist with attendance, see to it that everyone has bottled water and tickets, carry a cell phone for emergency use, pass on some "tidbits" about what people will see, answer questions about the trip, and help run the bus's DVD unit. In other words, you'll be the Desert Division's personal representative on that bus for that trip.

We don't need you to sign up and volunteer now, but we would like you to think about it and ask questions about the positions. Having served in both positions in 1997, I can assure you that they are really fun, so I hope you'll seriously consider volunteering your talents.

## RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

The first Rio Grande Chapter Meet for 2008 had a great turnout. The Show and Tell segment was another interesting event. Ross Jordan brought a Lionel 675 Locomotive that he had turned into a true Pacific 4-6-2 Locomotive. He successfully followed a "How-To" article in a 1999 Classic Toy Train Magazine, and was able to operate it under his Christmas tree this year. Art Lites showed the members a Lionel 9274 Santa Fe Caboose, in the War Bonnet paint scheme. He also showed a Lionel 6640 USMC Missile Launcher Car, which he is restoring using original parts. Art told us that he found this scarce car on E-Bay.

We finished Show and Tell and opened the meeting with the election of Officers and Directors. The Rio Grande slate of Officers and Directors, as printed below, was approved by a quorum vote of the members present.

President: Gregory Palmer - TCA#94-39039

Vice President: George Swajian - TCA#06-59972

Secretary: Scott Eckstein - TCA#92-36114

Treasurer: William Harris - TCA#83-19728

Board Members at Large:

Arthur Lites - TCA#97-44623

Carl Cataline - TCA#06-59955

Jon Spargo - TCA# 05-59326

The Treasurer's report showed that the Chapter now has \$509.70 in the checking account. This increase was due to a good 2007 Pumpkin Meet. Members were up dated with how the Trains for Kids program went in 2007. We purchased a train set for a young man named Paco Coursey from Socorro, NM. One of our members donated a Lionel Station and some extra Fastrack for the set. We are also going to enroll him in the TCA Kids Club with Jon Spargo as his sponsor. He sent us a wonderful thank you letter which follows:

"Dear Train Collectors: The train set is so good! The station is nice in the dark especially. The Pennsylvania Flyer is as good as the real one, and the extra track has been a big help. Please give thanks to everyone who pitched in to buy my train set. Merry Christmas, Paco."

We talked about the 2009 TCA Convention. Jon Spargo who has a module layout would like to bring it to Convention for display. He is going to talk with the 2009 TCA Convention Chair about using the module. We went over several Standards Committee issues. We also discussed getting involved with the Boy and Cub Scouts. Tom Lawler and Carl Cataline will be the Boy Scouts Committee people. They will advise the Chapter on how to get involved with the Boy Scouts.

The Meeting adjourned to our after meet location at Don Mantays' home. Don and his wife Charlene served a great lunch, and gave us a tour of his Lionel Pre War 600 and 800 series cars. We also enjoyed Don's Christmas layout. Just looking at the layout takes you back to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thanks Don and Charlene.

Our next Chapter Meet will be February 16th at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church at 2528 Utah N.E., in Albuquerque, NM. We hope to have an after meet activity at the HO Module group's new clubhouse which is just a block away from our Chapter Meet site. Make sure you bring items to show and tell as well as any toy train items you want to sell or swap. Tables are free. Hope to see you all at the February 16th Rio Grande Chapter Meet.



L - R: Paco Coursey, George Swajian, Warren Hatch  
Paco Coursey received his train set from Vice-President George Swajian and owner of Trains West Warren Hatch.



Don Mantay's collection of 600 and 800 series pre-war  
Lionel cars

## Have You PADE Your Way?

**P**urchase raffle tickets

**A**uthor an article for the Dispatch

**D**onate something to the club

**E**nlist to help

### PADE PROMOTIONS

The Kids Club thanks Peter Atonna for his generous donation of Kids Club nametags, stickers, and certificates. These will be used during the 2009 TCA National Convention.

Greg Novak and Ruth Elgar ably handled the Kitchen at the January Meet. Was it because of the temperatures that morning that we needed an extra pot of coffee before the Meet was done?

Steve Palmer donated a door prize and Bob Dennison increased the amount of money to go to the Cole Gibbs Memorial Fund through his donation of a beautifully restored engine, which was auctioned at the Meet. Chris Allen and Jonathan Peiffer helped immensely with this issue of the Dispatch. Wait until you see this year's Hudson Raffle Tickets. Thank you Chris Allen for the design and production.

Your name could appear in this space. You need only do something to benefit the Division.

### TRAIN TRIP

Thomas Plies sends us this message: The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum is having a special train trip on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from Campo to Garcia (a Tijuana suburb). It is an all-day trip with lunch included on the train. Reservations must be made on line. For more information or to register, visit their website, <http://www.psrmm.org>. If you are in the San Diego area, you might give this adventure a try.

### ZOO MODULE

The Kids Club Zoo Module is on a leave of absence from the Phoenix Zoo until the Zoo finishes their remodeling. The Zoo has asked us to return the Module when their remodeling is finished, but it needs some work. The heat melted the glue that held the trees in place, so the scenery looks a bit limp at the moment. If you would like to help resurrect the Zoo Module, let Chris Allen know. He and Thomas Plies will make the decisions as to what needs to be done, as soon as the Zoo indicates that they are ready to put the Module back into operation.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CONVENTION MEETINGS

General Convention Committee Meetings are being held monthly, before or after Desert Division Meets. Members are welcome to attend. Just show up at the Jaycees Hall at 7:30 AM on the next several Meet dates, and you will find the Committee working to inform everyone of progress to date. Feel free to participate, as your ideas are always welcome.

Our last two positions have been filled. Welcome to Brad and Diane Martin, who will run the Convention Store, and Ed Georgevich, who will be in charge of the Trading Hall/Loading and Unloading.

### CELL PHONE REDEMPTION

So far the 2009 Convention Fund has gleaned about \$300 from deactivated, unwanted cell phones. Instead of letting your old phone take up space in a drawer, donate it to the Desert Division. The cell phones are sent to a company which reprograms them as 911 phones for people who live in shelters and could not otherwise afford one. Everyone profits from this program. You clean out a drawer, the Division makes some money, and folks who could not otherwise afford an emergency contact will have one. To participate in this program, you should first deprogram your phone, removing any personal information you may have stored in its memory. Then bring it to the Jaycees Hall at any Meet. Katie Elgar will send it in with the others collected at the time. About two months later, the Division will have another check.

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

One of the advantages to receiving your copy of the Dispatch via e-mail is that you can see the pictures in color, rather than black and white. It also saves paper for the member and costs for the club. Any savings will be used to defray expenses of the 2009 TCA National Convention being hosted by the Desert Division. So far about 50 members receive their newsletters electronically. If you would like to read your bulletin in "living color," fill in the form below and send it to Christie Wilson, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Yes, I want to receive my newsletter online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TCA Number \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## 2009 TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

As of our 2009 General Convention Meeting on January 12, 2008, there were only 532 days (76 weeks) to go until we host the 55<sup>th</sup> TCA "Star Spangled" National Convention. This may seem like a long time, but we all know how quickly June 28, 2009, will arrive. Our current convention team has worked very hard to lay the foundation for a successful convention. This update will detail some of the highlights of their accomplishments. However, there is still much to do in 2008; some of these future activities will also be described for your information and hopefully to elicit your involvement.

The following are some of the major accomplishments of your convention team to date. These include:

- convention car offerings
- successful fundraising cars
- signed agreement with Open Road Tours
- initial contact with potential sponsors and displays
- initiation of general committee meetings

Marty Wik, Convention Car Chair, has presented most of the convention car offerings at our Desert Division club meetings. Artwork for the two Lionel car offerings, the scale Grand Canyon Reefer and the S-gauge Hoover Dam transformer car, has been approved and the prototypes are being produced. The two MTH cars are the hot smoking salsa car and a Standard Gauge hopper with loads. Wait until you see the load names and Arizona theme colors selected for this special car. The artwork is being finalized and the prototypes will then be made. The Charles RO G gauge dynamite prototype car has arrived. Another one-of-a kind dynamite car will also be offered at the convention; many of our Tucson members should find this car very desirable. There is a K-Line by Lionel Kids Club offering. I will not spoil the surprise at this time, but don't let it strike you.... A prototype is currently in the works.

Peter Atonna, Fundraising Car Chair, spearheaded the design and successful sale of our Grand Canyon Railroad and Verde Canyon Railroad boxcar set. Pre-orders have closed for our second fundraising car, the Apache Beer reefer, and these cars are to be shipped in May of 2008. A 3<sup>rd</sup> fundraiser car will prove to be a special car with the theme aligned with our Convention. Lionel is currently doing the artwork and will then create a prototype.

Our Convention Tour Chair, Gordon Wilson, has a number of spectacular tours to offer conventioners. Arizona's nickname, the Grand Canyon State, is derived from our #1 attraction. Convention attendees will be able to see this "Wonder of the World" by opting to take one of our offered tours, a round-trip excursion on the Grand Canyon Railroad, together with dinner at Max and Thelma's restaurant at the depot in Williams. Just a bit south of the Grand Canyon, near Cottonwood, looms the spectacular Verde Canyon and the Verde Canyon Railroad, headed by two vintage F-7 diesels. Nearby, at Camp Verde, is the Out of Africa Wildlife Park, where visitors get to feed the giraffes and view the unique attraction, "Tiger Splash."

Also in northern Arizona, we have Sedona and Prescott. Sedona and the Red Rock Country are famous throughout the United States. We will be making available to our Convention guests a Jeep Tour of the area's back country trails followed by lunch and shopping at Tlaquepaque. Prescott offers us the world-class Western Art Phippen Museum, coupled with visits to the collections and layouts of Ray Dextrase, Marlin Benson, and Peter Atonna. This excursion will include a catered "western cookout" lunch at the Atonna "Horse and Train Ranch" in nearby Paulden, AZ.

To the south lies Tucson, Arizona's second largest metropolis. A trip to the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, including lunch, will be followed by a photo stop at one of the most beautiful missions left over from Spanish days, Mission del Bac, Dove of the Desert. From there it is a short hop to the Toy Train Operating Museum, run by many of our members and colleagues in the Tucson area. This facility houses multiple layouts and operating displays.

Closer to our Convention Hotel, the J. W. Marriott at Desert Ridge, will be a Western Theme night at Pinnacle Peak Patio. Warning: This is an informal setting - wear a tie and suffer the consequences.

On the railroad theme, we have garden railways, Maricopa Live Steamers, and layout tours. Many of the Arizona layouts have been featured in past issues of [Classic Toy Trains](#) magazine.

Throughout the Phoenix area are such facilities as the Heard Museum, a world-famous center for information about Native Americans; the Hall of Flame; Phoenix Science Museum; Chase Field, home of the Diamondbacks baseball team; University of Phoenix Stadium, home of the Arizona Cardinals; McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park; and over 200 golf courses in close proximity to our host hotel.

Speaking of our host hotel, we have over 40,000 square feet of display space available for our Public Area. The rooms at the J. W. Marriott are synonymous with pure luxury. Aside from the plush bedding and over-sized rooms and bath areas, each room has a patio or balcony, a 27" flat screen television, and equipment for wireless Internet. Surrounding the 900-room facility are roughly 6 acres of water, ranging from slides to a Lazy River for tubing. Throughout the resort are nine restaurants, and less than a quarter of a mile away is the Desert Ridge Mall and its collection of stores and restaurants. Dannie Martin, our Hotel Liaison, has been working with the Marriott to ensure we have adequate facilities available to us. We expect Marriott to have identified a Hotel Coordinator very shortly so we can finalize menus and costs of our Welcome Party and Convention Banquet.

Paul Wassermann, our Display Chair, has begun talks with key train manufacturers to entice them to display their products, provide some of their products for table prizes or auction items, participate in demonstrations/seminars/auctions, and make monetary donations to support the Convention. Paul has also spearheaded our E-bay activity, which has been a very successful means for raising funds for the convention. To date, the convention team has raised almost \$7000, 40% of which has been via the E-bay auctions.

We began our General Committee meetings in June 2007. The meetings are held at the Jaycees Hall, typically at 7:30AM prior to the club meeting. On days when the Desert Division BOD meets at the Jaycees Hall, the general meetings are held after the Division club meetings. All members are welcome to attend and participate in these meetings.

I would like to welcome Brad and Diane Martin to our convention team as the co-chairs for the Convention Store. They will be busy this year acquiring items for us to sell at the Vermont Convention in June and York in October. I would also like to welcome Ed Georgevich, who has volunteered to chair the Trading Hall and Loading/Unloading activities. They complete the final recruitment of our convention chairs.

A round of appreciation is extended to your convention chairpersons:

- Convention Co-Chairs – Bill Mack and Ed Micale
- Treasurer – Chet Henry
- Events/Tours – Gordon Wilson
- Registration – Chris Allen
- Recording Secretary – Christie Wilson
- Convention Cars – Marty Wik
- Hotel Liaison – Dannie Martin
- Displays – Paul Wassermann
- Banquet – Angelo Lautazi
- Publicity – Gordon Wilson
- Fund Raising Cars – Peter Atonna
- Web Site – Angelo Lautazi
- Convention Store – Brad and Diane Martin
- Security – Art Triant
- Kids Club – Thomas Plies
- Auctions – Bob Johnston
- Trading Hall & Loading/Unloading – Ed Georgevich
- Photographer – Jonathan Peiffer

Each of your chairpersons welcomes your help and involvement in the Convention effort. Please don't wait to be asked to step forward to offer assistance in an area of your interest and/or expertise. We will need the active participation of many if not all club members for a successful Convention.

The following is a brief list of the key activities that need to be completed in 2008:

- present the status of our convention planning activities at Vermont 6/08 and York 10/08
- manufacture convention prototype cars, present offerings, and initiate sales at Vermont 6/08, display prototypes at York 10/08
- initiate publicity and sell convention items at Vermont 6/08 and York 10/08 – we will have tables available to us at each venue
- finalize and sign all tour contracts - 3/08
- finalize JW Marriott convention needs including Banquet and Welcome Party menus/costs - 3/08
- sign security contract - 6/08
- develop web site and have available by 1/01/09
- develop registration package and convention program by 9/08, send to national guidelines chair by 11/01/08
- finalize convention displays and develop layout plan - 10/08
- finalize sponsors and donations - 10/08
- purchase convention store items to be sold in Vermont, York, and the Convention – throughout 2008

Hopefully these updates are providing you with an idea of the level of effort it takes to put together a successful Convention that will be an exciting and memorable experience for TCA members and their families. Join with us to create the memory.

Ed Micale  
Co-Chair

**RAILROAD**



**-CHANGE**



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ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT! – New arrivals-Lionel UP FEF in Black or Gray w/all the goodies list \$1160 sale \$1099.99 – MTH RailKing Imperial SP Cab Forward makes 031 curves! List \$700 sale \$664.95 RED DOT SPECIAL Lionel C&O 4-6-2 RS 5.0 w/odyssey reg \$1160 priced for TCA members \$927.99 – Harry Potter Ready-To-Run sets list \$300 TCA price \$224.99 - Stop in and have your locomotive get a free lube and checkout – We service what we sell and always ask for your TCA club member discount - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 - open late Wed. – Now carrying ATLAS O gauge freight cars.

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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](http://www.train-station.com)

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FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit my web site, [sykesvillehistory.us](http://sykesvillehistory.us), for a current list.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

WANTED – Standard Gauge preferred, or Gauge 1: Rich-Art McKeen motor cars, Rich-Art Cascade Bipolar Electric, MTH Ives black diamond set, MTH Flyer President’s Special, Roberts Lines Burlington Zephyr, Lyle Cain’s Toonerville Depot with figures, Delton Santa Fe railtruck with tools and garage set. Condition: C-7 or better. Donald Neely, 7 Allen St. – STE 300, Hanover, NJ 03755-2065. E-mail [doualdjneely@earthlink.net](mailto:doualdjneely@earthlink.net) Phone 603-643-1200 or FAX 603-643-9269.

FOR SALE – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail [4aztrains@earthlink.net](mailto:4aztrains@earthlink.net).

WANTED – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.  
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor  
Desert Division Dispatch  
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

**POSTMASTER:** This Federal 501c3 Newsletter  
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**COMING EVENTS**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 8  | New Board/Old Board Dinner, The Quilted Bear, Scottsdale, AZ – 6:30 PM  |
| February 9  | 2009 Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Meet – 9 AM<br>Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, 8201 E. Jackrabbit Road, Scottsdale, AZ  |
| February 16 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM - 10 AM<br>Contact: Greg Palmer (505-898-3840 or e-mail <a href="mailto:mechele@nmia.com">mechele@nmia.com</a> ) |
| February 23 | Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Mid-Winter Meet, 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street Armory, Phoenix, AZ – 10 AM<br>Contact: John Pryor (602-799-8570)   |
| March 8     | 2009 Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Meet – 9 AM<br>Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ   |
| March 14-16 | Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara, CA   |
| March 22    | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM  |
| April 5     | Spring Picnic, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ – 11 AM   |
| April 12    | 2009 Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM, followed by Pizza Meetza and Auction – 9 AM<br>Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ  |
| April 16-19 | Eastern Division Meet, York, PA   |
| May 10      | 2009 Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Meet – 9 AM   |
| May 17      | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM  |
| June 14     | Desert Division Board Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Division Meet – 9 AM  |
| June 22-29  | 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual TCA Convention, Burlington, VT  |