

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

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Volume 44, No. 1

Winter, 2014-15

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

Back in the mid '60's there was a TV show on NBC called, That Was The Week That Was, and for eight crazy days, Desert Division had just such a week. All humor and satire aside, three different committees comprised of many of the same groups of volunteers put together the November Thanksgiving weekend Auction, the Arizona Toy Train Show, and the annual Christmas Holiday Party.

Wow! What a finish to a year that had many surprises (just how many auctions did we have last year?) along with the debut of the Division Module trailer and emergencies that we worked together to overcome and handle with our normal Division's esprit de corps. How could we possibly top all that? Well, let's kick off the New Year by having a toy train auction, but instead of just any train auction let's hold it on Super Bowl weekend! But before we get too carried away with 2015, let's look back at the final months of 2014 and all the fun we had closing out the year.

Chet Henry and Peter Atonna put together a great auction on the traditional Thanksgiving weekend that we used to hold the Turkey Meet on. The well attended auction had a wide variety of railroad

roadnames and although there was a smattering of postwar items, the auction consisted of fairly recent locomotives, passenger car sets and rolling stock in mint condition. Those operators present snapped up many beautiful Northern Pacific, Alaska Railway, and Milwaukee Road sets along with a wide diversity of layout buildings including the Pride Line reissue of the Ives Station. Something that speaks volumes of where we are as a hobby today was our first ever auction of a MTH Z-4000 transformer. While it fetched a very respectable price at the auction, the tried and true Lionel ZW's were hard pressed to break past a C note. Such are the times we live in.

Following on the heels of the auction and scarcely six days later, Arizona Toy Train Show Chair John Upshur and his crew showed up bright and early Friday morning and began decorating the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale for the return of the Arizona Toy Train Show. Christmas trees needed to be assembled and decorated along with the platform that was to be Santa's Village for all the children to stop and sit on Santa's lap and make their Christmas wishes known to the jolly old elf. All Friday John was fighting off some

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9-10 - **Gadsden-Pacific TTOM Toy Train Show** – Show flyer inside

January 10 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Annual Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ

January 17 - **Rio Grande Chapter Annual Business Meeting** – Albuquerque, NM

January 31 – Desert Division presents - “**Super Saturday Auction**” – Phoenix, AZ

February 14 – **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ

February 21 - **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – Albuquerque, NM

February 28 – GCMR “**The Armory Meet**” – Phoenix, AZ – Show flyer inside

medical issues that finally caught up with him and he needed to be checked into the hospital late Friday night. With the ATTS Supreme Commander knocked out of commission, Eva Upshur rose to the challenge and with the help of Art Triant and Beth Stange hardly anyone was able to notice that there had been a quiet coup and Eva was now in charge of the show.

And what a show it was! From start to finish it was everything that last year's show was with all the new "tweaks" that were implemented to help smooth the huge amount of volunteer hours that are needed for a show of this size. The biggest hit of the show was the new train ride. John found a gentleman that actually had a battery powered indoor ride that looked like a train. Not only did the ride look like a train but the engineer actually dressed liked one and had a smile wider and more beautiful than an Arizona sunset. The train ride was immensely popular and was full of riders from the start to the finish of the day. Of course Santa was also a popular stop and we are sure that many a wish that was whispered to Mr. Claus was filled on Christmas morning.

Attendance was up from the previous year and while the Division has many tough decisions ahead, there was no doubt that the Arizona Toy Train Show format works and is a popular attraction. In just the simple terms of paid gate attendance, it continues to be the largest drawing train show in Arizona. How that fits into the Division's long term plans and philosophy continues to be subject for much discussion. For the moment, all the hard work and countless volunteer hours put into the show brought smiles and no complaints from the public that attended. If, for no other reason that the show provided an insight into this hobby of toy trains and brought a little bit of Christmas joy into the lives of so many children, the ATTS was a huge success!



Beverly Locke was part of the Friday setup crew and was caught working to make the tree "just right".

Those of you who were not in attendance might be wondering who won the Hudson this year. As per our tradition the winning ticket is pulled at the end of the Train show and this year Art Triant was the winner and chose the Hudson over the \$750 cash alternative prize.

The Division module trailer was also at the ATTS and was manned by Janet Mattern. Terry Bunish put together a Standard Gauge layout that was manned by him and Division member friends that he recruited like Jack Eaton who did double duty at Terry's and two other modules brought in from members of the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders.

The trailer module had not been "in the barn" for more than a day when the Christmas Holiday Party crew took over. Many of the same volunteers from the past week again stepped up to help host the event for the benefit of all the three clubs involved.

The food was again plentiful and delicious and it is no secret why we travel a bit to the downtown Mesa area to get such great service from the staff at the Mesa Marriott. Not only does the staff at the hotel provide excellent service but the Holiday Committee worked throughout the year to insure member and spouses gifts for those in attendance along with a wide variety of raffle prizes to include a little bit of something for every age and interest. The "business" portion of the Party was short and President Allen announced that the Member of the Year and Volunteer of the Year was awarded to John and Eva Upshur for all the hard work they did in putting together the Arizona Toy Train Show. Of course the end of the party was the annual centerpiece auction and this year several unique items caught everyone's eye and auctioneer Peter Atonna made sure the bidding was fun and lively.

The next Division meeting is set for January 10th and I hope you plan to attend to kick off the New Year.



Sue and Bob Johnston working on another of the "few" trees that had to be done before we opened



The doors are opened!



A very busy morning crowd



As always, Santa was a great photo op for Mom & Dad



The Division's Brio table and floor trains got a workout



Operating layouts as far as you can see. Cactus Brick Lego user's group was a returning crowd favorite



Look out, here comes the train! This year's train looked like an actual train and was busy the whole day

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting

There was no Division BOD meeting held in November or December. The next scheduled meeting is January 7th 7:00 PM at the home of Chris and Laurel Allen. Members are welcome to attend but please call in advance so we can insure enough seating for everyone. Instead of the regularly published minutes we will share additional photos from the Arizona Toy Train Show.



Barbara Lautazi and Shirley Hunter take a break after decorating the Division Trailer Module



We caught Trudy Matthews doing another one of the “few” remaining trees



Kay and son Craig Vokac working on, you guessed it, another tree



Sue Johnston, tree decorator on Friday and working the front counter on Saturday along with Diane Martin



Janet Mattern's MTH Coors Light Special was a big hit every time she “opened the doors”



The curious fingers and minds were very respectful and we had “no touches” from the yard help

President's Message

Well let me be among the first to wish you a Happy New Year! The older I get the more time flies on past and it seems this past year was no exception, but while we all have memories of the past, the future lies ahead and we cannot rest on what we accomplished last year but need to look forward at the opportunities that lie ahead.

Running Desert Division is the work of a handful of Officers and Directors. While they are elected to serve the membership they certainly cannot do it themselves and coordinate the efforts of other members that are not elected but serve all of us as Chair of various committees. Those Chairs rely heavily on the membership at large to help a few hours each year. Unfortunately what has happened in the past few years is that our list of volunteers has begun to be tapped for several events and while some members enjoy helping out wherever they can, others need a break.

From Pizza Meetza's to Picnics, from auctions to operators on the trailer module, your help is needed. You don't need to commit to every activity and every event, but we will be looking for new faces to help out this year and to paraphrase, "Just say yes".

Speaking of members stepping up I was pleased to announce the Member of the Year and the Volunteer of the year at the Christmas Holiday Party. To my knowledge this is the first time it has ever been awarded to a husband and wife and we honestly cannot think of a more deserving couple this past year than John and Eva Upshur.

John of course has been the chair of the Arizona Toy Train Show for the past two years and Eva has been working next to him for all that time. John's dedication to the Train Show concept is to expose families and children to toy trains and make the experience enjoyable for them so they can become the next generation of train collectors, operators and buyers. Together, this husband and wife team has enlisted the help of family and close friends and have worked tirelessly with them the past few years putting

this concept into action. Because they were unable to attend the Christmas Party I will make the formal presentation at the January Annual Business Meeting.

The January Annual Business Meeting serves two purposes. Besides being a requirement of our National and Division Bylaws it is a great opportunity for the members to hear about the new year's plans and goals along with where we stand financially after the three largest events the Division holds each year. Questions are always welcome from our members year round but many times the annual meeting is a great place for your input and opinions on the events we just completed.

Noted author and Division member Bruce Greenberg, has offered us a unique fundraising opportunity by selling copies of his just released book on Standard Gauge Trains. I will have a few copies available at the January Meet and all profits from the sale of this book go directly to the Desert Division. If you ever had a question about Standard Gauge trains this excellent book will provide an excellent resource guide. My sincere thank you to Bruce for allowing us this excellent fundraising resource.

To kick off the New Year we are having a Super Saturday Auction of Trains which will be held on Saturday January 31st, which of course is Super Bowl weekend here in town. Auction catalogs are on sale now and this auction features a nice mixture of postwar and modern era trains along with some American Flyer tossed in as well. Operating and static accessories for your layout are almost too numerous to mention. We had our first MTH Z-4000 transformer go under the hammer at the November auction, the January auction will feature two of them. Modern era locomotives from Lionel, K-Line and MTH will again be featured along with rolling stock and everything from tubular track to clocks and signs for your train room.





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TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By David Nyocz – TCA 94-38787



Holiday greetings from Albuquerque! As this is being written it is mid December. It is amazing how fast a year goes in retirement. The next project is swapping out the layout trains, adding Christmas trains for the fast approaching holiday.

Toy trains and model railroading is alive and well in New Mexico. The train season started with a restrained TTOS September meet. The Belen Harvey House meet was well attended. Possible due to the sad fact the train club is being evicted from the Harvey House Museum. A beautiful large HO layout is now in search for a new home. Duplicating their layout in a new location will be difficult. Their local ladies artist guild had painted murals on the walls of regional landmarks.

The TCA Pumpkin meet was a profitable success with 48 tables sold and slightly higher attendance than last year. We will discuss the results at our January meeting. The Santa Fe Model Railway club hosted layout tours with open houses on four separate weekends in October. Their club is an all scales club. Their club also operates a Christmas layout in a bank on the decorated Santa Fe's Old Town Square during the holidays. I believe that this layout is an over 50 year tradition. www.santafemodelrailroadclub.org

The biggest train meet for the year was the 2-day NMRA meet at the National Guard Armory, "The Rails Across the Rio Grande." Everyone who attended was impressed. The gate was 1,546 paid adults. They had over 105 tables with numerous module setups of varies scales. Other organizations, such as the Railrunner, Cumbers & Toltec (C&T), Rio Grande Scenic Railroad, and Operation Life Saver had a presence. The most unusually nice touch was the two busy catering trucks in the parking lot.

The last event was a successful TTOS December meet for both attendance and table sales. All together the train season did well considering the weak Albuquerque economy.

Warren Smalley came through once again, obtaining ad space in the December "Friends of the Cumbers & Toltec" newsletter for the fundraiser car. They have over 2,900 members.

The next Rio Grande Chapter meeting is January 17, 2015 @ 10:00am at Los Altos Christian Church. We will need to start promptly on time due to time constraints. The after meet activity is a visit to Frank Dean's home for lunch. This is an opportunity to observe the significant progress since last January.



The winner of the Copper Range train set was Antoinette Delarue from Rio Rancho, NM.

The winning ticket was purchased at the NMRA train show.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. See you at the January meeting.

Hello members of Desert Division. My name is Stuart Rankin and I'm the President of the Metropolitan Division of TCA (METCA) and the Chairman for the 2015 TCA National Convention. It is this second hat that I wear which brings me to you today.

For the first time in TCA history, the National Convention will be visiting the Big Apple. I want each and every member of Desert Division to consider yourself personally invited to attend the 2015 Convention in the New York metro area. This week long event will be unlike any other; there's a reason that New York City is one of the world's most popular destinations.



The first half of the week will consist of the “best of the best” trips and tours. During the week we'll have something for everyone; train related activities including a combination steam train and riverboat cruise, a tour of Grand Central Terminal, a trip to the TCA Headquarters, Museum, and Library in Strasburg PA and more; history related tours such as a visit to the home of FDR with lunch at a restaurant owner by a graduate of the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America, a tour of Sleepy Hollow (yes, of headless horseman fame) and more; military themed tours such as West Point and the aircraft carrier Intrepid; science and technology related tours such as the Cradle of Aviation and the Thomas Alva Edison laboratory and more. Finally what trip to New York wouldn't be complete without the most famous NYC sights; a daytime ride on the Circle Line going completely around Manhattan, a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, or an emotional visit to the 9/11 memorial and museum, and more.

In addition to trips and tours, the second half of the week will include the Welcome Party with a decidedly local “flavor”, the sunset Dinner Cruise along the illuminated Manhattan nighttime skyline, home layout and collection visits (some world class and some more modest), and the concluding Banquet. Not to be left out is the trading hall swap meet. Here's your chance to find that item for your collection from a new/different set of vendors than you normally see at your local meets. We'll also have participation from some of the hobby's leading train manufacturers.

The weather in the northeast is particularly nice in June. Although spring will be behind us, typically the hazy, hot and humid dog days of summer haven't begun yet. This really will be a once in a lifetime experience to have a TCA National Convention in such a location.

Be prepared to have the time of your life as you put yourself in a New York state of mind. I really hope that I do see you in June 2015. For further details and complete descriptions of every trip, tour and event, check out the new permanent TCA convention website at:

www.TCAconvention.org

GUESS WHO?



We only had one new submission this year for our Christmas issue featuring train layouts from our past. This picture was taken at Christmas 1952, and you see this couple at just about every Division Meet where they have called Arizona their home for over 20 years. They have been married for over 60 years and still have their original two 1939 Lionel passenger trains. Who is it? The answer is elsewhere in this edition.



Peter Atonna sent along this photo of this year's Christmas layout featuring his 1950 Golden Anniversary passenger -AND - freight set running together for the first time



Desert Division Membership Form



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____ TCA No. _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per year. (Members may pay up to 5 years in advance). No of Years: X \$10.00 =

A Desert Division Badge is \$10.00 (optional):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 . G or #1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. AMT / Kusan | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Q. Plasticville | <input type="checkbox"/> 23II. Colber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. O or O-27 Tinplate | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Other - Please Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> 23R. Littletown/Skyline | <input type="checkbox"/> 23JJ. Unique |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 . S | <input type="checkbox"/> 23A. Bassett / Lowke | <input type="checkbox"/> 23S. Pride Lines | <input type="checkbox"/> 23KK. Sakai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. HO | <input type="checkbox"/> 23B. Bing | <input type="checkbox"/> 23T. REA / Aristo-Craft | <input type="checkbox"/> 23LL. Bowser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. OO / American | <input type="checkbox"/> 23C. Boucher | <input type="checkbox"/> 23U. Right-O-Way | <input type="checkbox"/> 23MM. T-Reproductions |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Z | <input type="checkbox"/> 23E. Buddy-L | <input type="checkbox"/> 23W. Voltamp | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Figures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Live Steam | <input type="checkbox"/> 23F. Carlisle / Finch | <input type="checkbox"/> 23X. Weaver | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Toys |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Marx / Mars / Allstate | <input type="checkbox"/> 23J. Hornby | <input type="checkbox"/> 23BB. S-Helper Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Do You Have a Layout? |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23K. Issmayer | <input type="checkbox"/> 23CC. Astor | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. YES <input type="checkbox"/> 25. NO |

Member or Applicant's Signature

Date

Mail to: **Angelo Lautazi**, Div. Secretary
6109 E Sonoran Trl
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again. Desert Division dues are due. How do you know whether you owe dues? Look at your address label. If it is highlighted in purple, you owe dues. Please remit \$10 per year for up to five years in advance in a check made payable to Desert Division – TCA and include it in an envelope with the Registration Form which appears elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatch. If you don't want to pull apart your newsletter you may also print out the form from the Desert Division website. Visit TCADD.ORG and click on the "How to Join" button on the left, at the bottom of that page is the link for the current Registration Form. Mail forms and checks to Angelo Lautazi, Division Secretary, at 6109 E. Sonoran Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266 on or before February 29, 2015. That will help us create the Desert Division roster and membership cards which will be distributed in March.

IN MEMORIAM Franklin Nickerson



It is with great sadness that I report the passing of long time Desert Division member Franklin Nickerson on December 26. Franklin hated to have his picture taken at meets but we have this one from our days at the Jaycees Hall where we caught him helping out as usual. Franklin and wife Nancy helped out Laurel and myself at the Registration Desk during the 2009 TCA Convention often showing up early or staying late helping us stuff the goodie bags for the next morning's tour buses or just manning the desk and answering questions with his perpetual smile. There will be a memorial service Saturday January 17th 11:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church of Gilbert, 331 South Cooper Road, Gilbert, AZ 85233.



Hard to see all the help from the trains setting up the November Thanksgiving Auction



Auctioneer Peter Atonna giving "the speech". If you have never attended a Division Auction you are missing out on a day of fun

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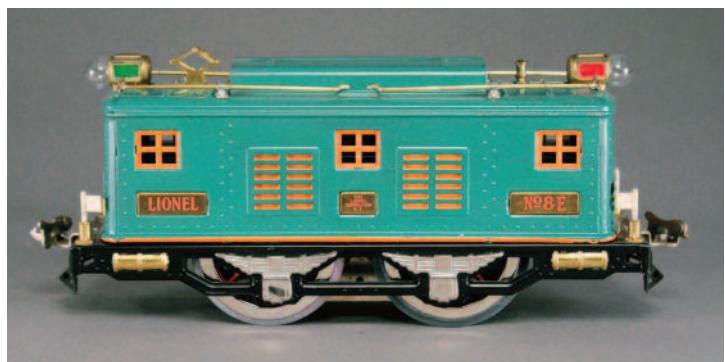


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Top: "The Grand-Daddy:" the prototype for Lionel Standard Gauge steam locomotives. **Center:** No. 8E locomotive in unusual colors for Macy's Department Stores. **Bottom:** 381U Bild-A-Loco in original box.

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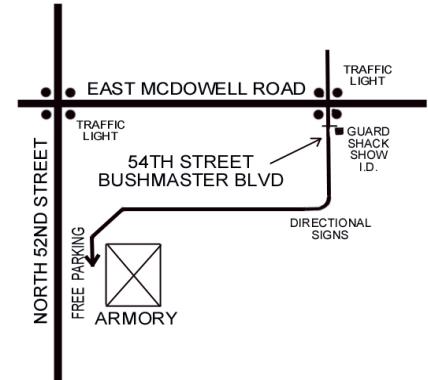
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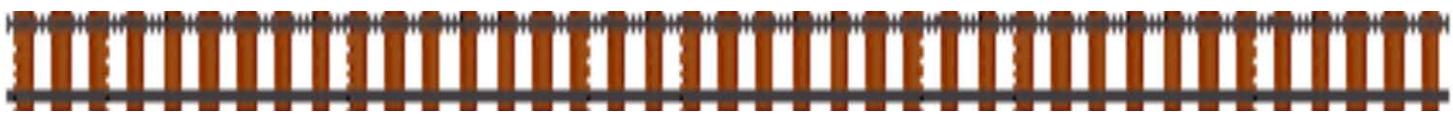
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WANTED : Are you looking for the answer to the Guess Who picture in this edition? Well you looked in the right place and the answer might surprise you. The mystery couple is John and Darlene Wiley who have been very active in Desert Division since they joined. John has many other interests besides trains that might surprise you so stop by and give them a chat at the next meet.

FOR SALE : Lionel #269 E O-gauge freight train set. Prewar celebration series, rail sounds/whistle and bell. \$400 contact Don Locke 480-854-2546

For Sale NTTM Golden Anniversary Box Car \$50, 6-52408 The End of The Line Gary Lavinus Maintenance of Way Caboose \$50. 2000 TCA National Convention Grand Rapids & Indiana Woodside reefer and reverse color Banquet Car both for \$100 Please call/email for additional bargains. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

FOR SALE: Ives standard gauge track aprox. 12 curved, 10 straight, pair manual switches (one switch throw repaired by me), 45 degree crossover. Includes genuine patina of age! \$15 for all. Peter Atonna mjatonna@gmail.com 928-636-4228

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-24177 Balloon Ride \$200 - K Line UP MP-15 Switcher w/lighted caboose \$80 - Lionel 6-52078 TTOS 30th Anniversary SD9 w/matching SP Division caboose \$175 - Scale O 6-52500 Desert Division ATSF Grand Canyon Reefer \$50, Lionel 6-18562 SP GP9 w/TMCC \$150 – 356 Freight Station w/carts no box \$50- 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

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE or BREAKING NEWS!



It's hard to see in this picture but the big smile on Bob Dennison's face meant the Buckeye's won the day before



With the dinner service over the bidding on the table centerpieces must be underway



Several nice Dept 56 handmade scenes were highly sought after and had some active bidding



Beth Stange's mother was the high bidder and won a beautiful angle tree topper

The 61st [TCA National Convention](#)

New York, New York



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015



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