

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



Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

Volume 44, No. 3

March, 2015

SPRING TRAINING

Love it or hate it, March always brings an influx of visitors to the Valley of the Sun and this year with all the bad weather elsewhere it seems they arrived a few weeks early!

We had a very large turnout in February for our meeting that caught many of us by surprise since we were located a few blocks away at a temporary meeting location. Another surprise came when I learned that our new coffee club chair Janet Mattern announced she does not drink coffee! Janet does not have room in her car for the large coolers but will bring a limited supply of sodas to the meet. Once they are gone you are back to water or coffee. Check with Janet at the March meet for more details. As I mentioned last month, we will continue to have sodas for the lunch break at the upcoming Pizza Meetza in May and of course at the Spring Picnic.

As I mentioned, it was nice to see such a large crowd and many folks just stopped by to pay their dues and leave, after checking out the sales tables first of course. This is a difficult time for many as members downsize collections or their interests change from collecting to operating. Being a TCA member is more

than just collecting trains, but it still remains our primary focus. TCA was founded on the preserving the history of tin plate and scale trains. There is a recent “buzz” about the hobby that many of the current manufacturers wish us to drop the word “toy” when we describe and advertise train shows. I’ll talk a little more about this in my President’s column this month.

Being a TCA and Desert Division member gets you exposed to numerous manufacturers, the history and joy of mixing old with new, as well as some of the latest wiz-bang technology out there. No matter what area you might be interested in, we have members with a vast experience of knowledge willing to share that with you. Keep that in mind as your TCA and Division dues come up for renewal. It’s hard to place a value on knowledge, helpful opinions on a vintage item you are interested in purchasing or the fun and fellowship of belonging to an active club such as ours.

President Allen welcomed everyone and started the meeting light on cue at 10:00 AM. He greeted Ken Backus who was visiting us from Annapolis Maryland and thankful to be enjoying Desert Division weather rather than what was waiting for him back home.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 21 - **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – 10:00 AM - Albuquerque, NM

April 11 – **Desert Division Meet** - 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ

April 11 - **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – 9:00 AM member only swap – Business Meeting follows - Albuquerque, NM

April 18 – Multi Club Annual Spring Picnic 11:00 AM Asti Ramada – McCormick Stillman Railroad Park

May 9 – Desert Division **PIZZA MEETZA!**

Division Secretary Angelo Lautazi announced our current membership was 285. Angelo also reminded everyone that dues were due by the end of February. Having an accurate membership database is important as the roster will be distributed at the March meeting. (Contact Angelo if you are delinquent and he can make arrangements with you) At present almost 30% of the Division members still have not paid their dues.

Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the savings account has \$27,782.22 and the checking account had \$15,202. (Editor's note: some of the influx in cash is from the Rio Grande fundraiser car. That Invoice will be paid in full when Lionel sends the invoice later this spring) Bob also had a letter from TCA National thanking us for our \$25 donation in memory of Franklin Nickerson.

President Allen mentioned that the sales of the Rio Grande Chapter's first fundraising car were off to a slower than expected start. He mentioned that sales to the Division members residing in Arizona were alarming low since so few Arizona members have yet to purchase a car according to Peter Atonna, fundraiser chair. Chris asked all members to consider supporting the Chapter and buy one car to help fund the initial program.

Next Chris announced that a work party would be held at the Division storage facility in Mesa. The idea is to add a "mezzanine" level above our existing shelving to store the once a year Arizona Toy Train Show items out of the way so that we can recapture some much needed space. (The work party was successful look for an article elsewhere)

John Upshur announced that there was a scheduling conflict with the Renaissance Hotel for the December 5th date. Both John and Fred Hunter will continue to work with the hotel and other venues and report to the membership at the March meeting.

Katie Elgar was up next asking for volunteers to help out at "Transportation Day" at our normal meeting place, Shepherd of the Valley Church. The plan is to setup a small simple layout for the school, preschool and daycare students Friday morning for a few hours. Setup is scheduled for 8:00 and the event is scheduled to be over by 11:00 AM. (Pictures from the event are in this issue)

Terry Haas introduced his guest for the day, John Meyers, President of the Arizona Big Train Operators. Terry and John talked about the dozen plus homes that will be on the club's Spring Open House March 28 and 29. ABTO has supported the Division at our various shows over the years and if you ever thought about expanding your empire into your

backyard this Open House would be a great opportunity for you to do get some inside information. Maps and times for the event can be downloaded from the ABTO website at <http://azbigtrains.org/>

Dave Brown announced the after meet visitation at his house and provided everyone with driving directions.

Ivan English spoke about the upcoming GPD TTOM Rail fan trip to the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad this fall. Ivan mentioned that if there was enough interest from Valley residents the bus could make a Phoenix area stop otherwise the trip will depart from Tucson.

The Mystery Greeter this month was Vice President Mike Dietrich and announced that the biggest smile and warmest welcome was from Dallas Dixon. Remember to wear your name badge to the meet!

The educational segment started off with Gordon and Christie Wilson speaking on their recent trip to Australia and Malaysia. Gordon was able to get a cab ride on one excursion train and a behind the scenes shop and yard visit at another. Besides numerous rail photos Gordon and Christie told the tale of being "chased" by a Komodo Dragon, Koalas, and Orangutans'. However it seems that their brief appearance on ESPN (at 2 AM local) and on the JumboTron at the Australian Open was memorable as well. Greg Palmer visiting from Albuquerque had numerous paper items including catalogs of a seldom seen Scale Craft catalog that included a dealer price sheet. Beth Stange stayed true to the Valentine theme and brought in both the Life Savers and Tootsie Roll tank cars. She also explained that when she first wanted to display them Tom had to build a special shelf section for her cars since he didn't want them "mixed in" with his collection. Jonathan Peiffer brought in the sample shells for the 2015 TCA Convention trolleys which looked very attractive. Chris Allen wrapped up the segment with one unconventional convention car offering, the 1995 Seattle semi truck and trailer that went with the TTUX offered the same year. He also brought in a special Banquet Car from the St. Louis Convention he recently acquired from Beth and told the story of how important it was to both of them.

Winners of the monthly raffle prizes in no particular order; Chris Allen - Hudson ticket, Katie Elgar - Lionel Train Guide, Dallas Dixon - Lionel Box Car, Ivan English - car and trailer, Dave Kuszyński - Fire Engine, Glenn Gordon - CTT subscription, Loren Hess - Train DVD's Nick Schnakenber - Union Station kit, John Wiley - Lionel Flat Car. The first winner of the monthly Hudson Hundred - Christie Wilson.



Looks like DeLon Freije had some parts for everybody



Sales tables and chats start the day off right



We had a very nice turnout for the meeting



Christie and Gordon retelling the tales from their just completed trip



Beth Stange recounting how Tom allowed her to keep her trains, but on "her" shelf



Jonathan displaying the just arrived shells that are part of this year's TCA Convention. Made your reservations yet?

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – February 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM at the home of Phil and Dotty Todd

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Michael Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Beth Stange, Phil Todd, on teleconference Greg Palmer and David Nycz Guests; John and Eva Upshur

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved as distributed

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account has \$27,797.47 and Checking has \$15,202.62. Bob submitted the Income/Expense Report for January.

Membership Report - Angelo reported that membership stands at 285 members. He also reported that many members paid dues either at the January Meet or mailed them in, however we still have 68 members that have not paid up for the year ahead. Angelo will send an email to Rio Grande Chapter at the end of the month for all lapsed members in the Chapter. The Quarterly drop list from TCA should be out shortly so we can begin to reconcile between the two lists to figure where the membership stands at the next BOD meeting.

BOD Annual Dinner - The Annual No-Host BOD Dinner will be held at the Chaparral Suites on Friday Feb. 13th. This being an election off year the attendance is lower than normal but a fun evening is still planned.

Old Business:

Rio Grande Fundraiser Sales – Sales picked up following the advertising in Classic Toy Trains but it continues to highlight the lack of participation of Arizona Division members. Chris will bring this up at the February General Meeting.

2015 Hudson Raffle – The offering this year is for the 1964 Hudson. Tickets have been made and will begin being sold at the February Meet. The drawing will be at the annual Christmas Holiday Party rather than the ATTS.

Spring Raffle Drawing – We have no items in the clubs inventory that would make for an attractive spring raffle. Ticket sales have been declining so that the purchase of items for the raffle produces little profit to the Division. It was decided that the proposal from Beth to go back to the 50/50 raffle made the most sense for this year. Because the BOD had guests present to discuss the ATTS the Board will discuss the details of the raffle at the March meeting.

New Business

Arizona Toy Train Show – Chair John Upshur thanked the BOD for their continued support. John commented on his continued tracking of where our attendees heard about the show. He stated that this year he plans to revamp the advertising to focus more attention on what worked and to eliminate those areas that have not worked for the show. Newspaper, school flyers and electronic mediums continue to give a good return for the cost. John then announced that the show had a scheduling conflict with another event that was already booked at the hotel for this year. Alternate available dates were discussed including Saturday November 28 (date for the Fall Auction) and Sunday December 6 (date of the annual Christmas Party). There was much discussion as both alternate dates affected not only our club but other local clubs. John stated that he could get a very attractive price if the show was held on Sunday, however the BOD voiced their concerns about the long hours that the volunteers would be needed to put on a Sunday show. After further discussion the BOD decided against hosting the ATTS on Sunday. Although the fall auction is already 70% full it could be moved opening up the date of Saturday November 28 for the show. Chris will work with Katie Elgar to secure possible other dates for the fall auction that will not conflict with Cal-Stewart and the Tuscon TTOM show. Chris will contact John Draftz GCMR President regarding any conflicts the show/auction will have on any events they have planned.

Storage Work Party – The Division currently rents two storage lockers, one for the ATTS items and trailer module and one for auction items, Division inventory and historical items. After discussion the matter with auction chair Chet Henry, Chris feels that both lockers could be combined into one with a little repurposing of our current shelving. Director Phil Todd recommended a work party for Saturday February 21 so that the work can get accomplished and the items moved into one unit. Chris will make an announcement at the meet and Angelo will follow it up with an eBlast reminder.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next board meeting is scheduled to be on February 11th at Phil Todd's home.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

President's Message

March Madness. Although you may think I am referring to college basketball, here in the Division it is all the crazy behind the scenes planning going into our events the next few months. As the old saying goes, this is the quiet before the storm.

The multi-club spring picnic will be here before you know it. I have had several conversations with John Pryor President of the GCMR to work out the details for a fun day for all the clubs and we are looking at having a great day ahead of us. Mark your calendar as the picnic will be Saturday April 18 and I promise beautiful Chamber of Commerce weather.

The month of May will feature our annual Pizza Meetza. This year promises to be extra special. We have seeded the beginning lots with some quality items that came in too late for the Winter auction. There is still plenty of room for your items so begin looking under the train table or bed or recapture that spare bedroom closet. Peter Atonna is scheduled to be the auctioneer for our May 9th afternoon of fun. Contact Chet Henry for additional information.

By the time June rolls around many of us will be looking forward to vacation time and I hope yours includes some time at the national TCA Convention in New York, New York. Usually conventions mean a busy schedule for me with National Board of Directors meetings leaving little time for sightseeing. About all I have ever seen of the Big Apple is from the air or transferring flights at the airport so I am excited about this year's convention. I hope you are also and have already made your plans to attend.

I have recently been told that current train manufacturers bristle at the notion that their products are "toy" trains. Certainly the marketing has changed and the prices for some of the newest offerings realistically put them out of reach for what many would consider as a gift for a child.

So for the near term I have begun to relearn a new trick. When I am speaking of current production they are model trains and when I refer to my classic collection, and note I said classic and not classy, they

are toy trains and maybe that is where the modern disconnect is.

I have several runners that I let my grandkids play with and they have as much fun with them as I did when I was their age. Usually the train is but one aspect of an entire empire or city they will build, but at the end of the day they were grandpa's trains and not something they dreamed about, worked and saved money for, or had numerous catalogs to dream over. In other words there is no connection with the current marketplace and children except for Lego and Brio type trains.

Now it might seem that I am advocating not doing public shows or having activities like Kids Club at future events but nothing could be further from the truth. But simply put children will not be what saves the future of our hobby. Sure, exposing the next generation to the hobby will plant a seed, but we need to face the reality that model trains are no longer toys and the younger generation is more sophisticated and technically advanced than we were two plus generations ago.

The future of the hobby will always be an individual that wants to build his own empire, show off his creative talents or simply one who appreciates the art and craftsmanship that many of the early trains had. There will always be individuals who will be attracted to the beauty of a Blue Comet or Presidential Set just as there will be people forever drawn to Erector Sets or the Santa Fe Warbonnet scheme, they are timeless classics.

The hobby of model trains is vast with so many niches to fill. TCA does a pretty job of consolidating them while at the same time preserving the history of where they all came from. The TCA umbrella of varied interests, the friendships we make, and the exposure to the diversity of collecting and operating is hard to match.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chet Henry", is located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL PICTURES



Stephen Parker had this 1956 Lionel set that that has been his since his childhood



Greg Palmer brought in more items than we could list including some rare Voltamp medical devices



Randy Logan brought in a nice Marx locomotive and a story to tell



Frank Dean and his Allstate Marx set that he found complete with all the accessories



We'd recognize that shirt anywhere, Jim Trevor and two Lionel flatcars. Is that the submarine from the 1959 movie Operation Petticoat?



Almost hidden from view behind the winter scene, after meet visitation to Chapter President David Nycz' home as he chats with Stephen Parker



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By David Nycz – TCA 94-38787



The February Rio Grande Chapter meeting was held on February 21, 2015 at Los Altos Christian Church with 19 TCA members attending. This was the second meeting for Stephen Parker a new member, additionally Bill Lubert joined as a new member after attending as a guest in January. Randy Logan a TCA member attended his first Chapter Meeting.

Show and Tell: David Nycz showed his Santa Fe two tone Blue Goose engine and tender which was a surprise Christmas present purchased by his wife along with passenger cars. Frank Dean showed a Sears Allstate (Marx) Train set complete with accessories and the box. Randy Logan showed his Marx steam engine. Stephen Parker showed his 1956 Southern Pacific Train set from his childhood. Greg Palmer showed Voltamp medical devices, AC Gilbert Microscope set, Gilbert Polar Cub Fan, a Knapp (leader) motor, and numerous paper items. Jim Trever showed an American Flyer by Lionel Navy Flat Car with Army Trucks, also a 1959 Modern Era Flat Car with a pink submarine, by Windy City Trains labeled 1959 US Sea Turtle (Operator Petticoat Movie)

President's Report: David Nycz reported on Desert Division Board Meeting membership which stands at 285 members. David and Greg Palmer discussed the difficulties encountered with locating and planning for the 2015 Arizona Toy Train Show.

Secretary's Report:

Scott Eckstein reminded members that Chapter dues are due and can be paid to Don Kuster at 918 Piedra Vista Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Treasurer's Report: Don Kuster reported a balance of \$2,350.19 in our checking account.

Board Members at Large: Art Lites reported that the Thomas the Tank controller has been replaced by Lionel and is ready for raffle. We tested the Locomotive and controller prior to the raffle due to problems with other sets.

Old Business: Convention Fundraiser cars – 138 cars have been sold – 27 from New Mexico – 16

from Colorado – 4 from Arizona and the rest from around the country. When raffle prizes were requested, Jim Trever offered the club a Flyer Set.

New Business: Officer Election Committee – Scott will recruit members and officers, since next year is an election year. For the 2015 Pumpkin Meet Nov. 1 we paid the deposit to the Sheraton. This year's contract added that storage will be available at 4pm the day before for module delivery. When discussing meet publicity- Frank Dean volunteered to take flyers to Multi-generational centers and the YMCA as he has in the past for political events. It was suggested we distribute flyers at the TTOS Convention and 2926 Open House. Art Lites suggested we contact the 2926 group and ask about using their mailing list to publicize the Pumpkin meet. Box Car Sales- Lionel expects to ship the C&T box cars in May. The Chapter voted to acquire a sales table at the 20th Annual Albuquerque Rail Fare in May. The Chapter also voted to purchase a table for sales and onsite delivery at the August TTOS National Convention in Albuquerque. National Train Day has been cancelled by AMTRAK which is moving to rotating regional events. John Spargo will keep us informed and move to secure the Chapter display space.

The next meeting is March 21, 2015 (10am) Los Altos Church – after meet will be at the Eckstein's house. Followed by April 11, 2015 (9:00am) Los Altos Church – members only swap meet, meeting to follow promptly.

The Albuquerque train community lost Phil Nerkowski a great individual earlier this month. He was AMTRAK Road Forman of engines for the Southwest. Phil a TTOS member supported all the local train shows and brought Operation Lifesaver to the events. John Spargo noted Phil bent over backwards supporting the 2926 restoration providing switching. Some merely exist, some enrich those they touch, Phil will be missed.

The Future of TCA

By Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

I joined TCA about the time when our membership was peaking and I was amazed at the open friendships and fellowship in an organization that size. I was a neophyte and learned all my collecting skills from fellow TCA members. Just as important, I rediscovered the joy of running trains for my family, friends and the public. There is something magical about trains regardless if they are from our youth or freshly offered from the largest choice of manufacturers we have seen since our childhood. I felt honored to be elected not only Division President but also National TCA President in 2008.

During my time as National Officer I worked with Treasurer Bill Miles and Bill Kotek and recently as re-elected Division President, I have worked with current Treasurer Bob Mintz. All three gentlemen brought their professional skills and qualifications to TCA to serve to the best of their ability. Following TCA's 50th Anniversary celebration I noticed a trend that began to trouble me, a lack of vision and confidence in the future of our organization. What began as a few seemingly good moves to trim the budget by the Board of Directors soon became an unending erosion of member benefits.

The much needed dues increase was long overdue. It was during my term as National President that the membership voted to raise dues from \$32 to \$35 a year. It was a hard lobbying effort to convince why such an increase was necessary. At that time we actually needed dues to increase to \$40 a year but knew the membership would not approve such an increase.

The Bylaws revision of 2010 put the membership dues in the hands of the National Board of Directors, but rather than increase the dues to the levels that were needed a different approach and one that had been already in place was continued, trim the operating budget.

Quite frankly, that plan has failed since many of our friends no longer saw any value in staying a member of TCA as more and more member benefits were eliminated. Since this program of budget cuts

began a decade ago, membership growth slowed, stagnated and is now declining to levels we have not seen in almost three decades. This drop is not through natural attrition, but simply people no longer seeing any value of being a TCA member.

Who or what is to blame for the current condition of TCA? The treasurers work with a set of figures, simply put, Income and Expenses. The two most recent treasurers, both with diverse professional financial backgrounds, have tried to right the ship the best way they knew how and made recommendations to both the Finance Committee and then to the Board of Directors that accepted them. That method has been to trim expenses to match income.

For many people, what was once viewed as our crowning asset, The National Toy Train Museum, has become our biggest liability. Throughout our history countless hours of volunteer work has been done by an army of dedicated volunteers to run and maintain the museum, all without professional guidance. It is hard to fault the work of these volunteers or the dedication and pride they have in something that some feel, is now such a drain of our resources. Closing the door and shutting off the lights will not miraculously cure our budget woes.

I prefer to be positive about our future and I believe it is time for professional help. Last year the Board decided to "kick the can down the road" and did not hire a replacement for the Operations Manager. Instead, a temporary position was created to help balance the budget and supervise the day to day operation at TCA Headquarters. This person is doing just that, but as an organization, we are just existing day to day.

Regardless of our professional background, the Board of Directors are still a group of volunteers and none of us has the background or time required to devote to running a non-profit organization. At this critical point in our history we must realize that we need professional help and that help will cost money.

It reported that there is over a million dollars worth of inventory in storage and on display between

the Toy Train Museum and the Toy Train Reference Library. How would you manage an asset that large? We need to hire an Executive Director with experience to evaluate and manage this asset. It is our ethical responsibility to those that have donated trains to the museum over the past decades that we minister to their contributions with the highest degree of professionalism.

How best to send a message to our leadership? This is difficult but I will take an analogy from professional sports. Coaches take the heat when a team loses vision of their goal. I ask that you join with me and instead of voting for the treasurer leave it blank or instead write no cuts or no confidence in the write in space on your TCA ballot. This is not a reflection of the individual. Bob Mintz is a professional accountant, making income meet expenses, but there is more to running a business than balancing a budget. We will continue to cut expenses until TCA becomes just another club in a rented office space in some nondescript industrial park.

What a huge discredit to those members who took out Life Memberships to get the seed money to build the original building, those that had faith in TCA and not only paid off the mortgage early but then immediately set out plans for the expansion.

We cannot continue to cut the budget and hope to turn things around, that policy has failed for over a decade. Instead we need to invest in the value of TCA membership and recognize our volunteers as the asset and talent that allow us to do amazing

things. It is time for professional leadership as TCA begins its 7th decade as the single most recognized source of toy train history. We have a unique fellowship of members willing to meet and share this knowledge to all, a diverse world renowned collection of trains and reference material and a knowledgeable staff and their volunteers that gladly work and share that information with anyone who has an interest in toy trains. That is the TCA I joined and the TCA I want for the future.

The Librarian and volunteers of the Toy Train Reference Library worked untold hours to manually scan all the issues of the TC Quarterly and have them digitally available online for our membership to view whenever they wanted. No more cuts, instead let's look at the vast resources we currently have and how best to utilize them for all our members in the new digital age. Let's continue to make all of our resources available to all of our membership.

As a member of the National TCA Board of Directors, I pledge to challenge the other members not to accept the status quo. We are preparing for a fabulous convention in the premier example of American optimism and pride, New York, New York. Let's work together and present constructive ideas to rebuild and re-energize TCA... ideas that will put value back in TCA membership.

Let me hear your thoughts at the March General Meeting and let's start a meaningful dialog of ideas about the future of TCA.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

President:	Chris Allen	480-820-9559	Directors:	David Nycz	505-296-8905
Vice-President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-575-7006		Beth Stange	480-947-5663
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Phil Todd	480-288-0094

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

President:	David Nycz	505-296-8905	Directors:	Art Lites	505-463-1951
Vice-President:	George Domeny	505-282-1934		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Secretary:	Scott Eckstein	505-332-0947		Jon Spargo	575-835-1606
Treasurer:	Don Kuster	505-293-3109			

SOUPER BOWL I

Because of space limitations this page only appeared in the electronic version of the February DISPATCH. What a great idea and one that everyone who attended enjoyed being a part of. Yes, we had that much fun!



Volunteers setting up the day before the auction



The crowd arrives early for the auction!



Everyone is looking for a bargain and many found them



Everyone is ready, Let the bidding begin!



The lunchtime break was delicious homemade soup along with corn bread muffins



The Chef's behind Souper Bowl I, without their help it couldn't have been done. THANK YOU!

STORAGE WORK PARTY PICTURES

On Saturday February 21 a crew of volunteers worked to move and repurpose storage shelves at the Division storage facility. Many thanks to these hard working members who made it happen; Chet Henry, Bob Herman, Phil Todd, Terry and Jan Fagan, Art Triant, Dave Kuszynski.



Storage Locker #1, where auction items and Division inventory were kept



Storage Locker #2 where ATTS items and trailer is parked



First task move out the ATTS items and move in the shelves from the other unit



8' legs were attached to the existing shelves along with the framework to support the new floor



That's Dave Kuszynski way up top stacking the boxes. The new "floor" is sturdy enough to support him.



The once a year ATTS items are now stored out of the way and shelf space is now available for Division inventory

Transportation Day at Shepherd of the Valley School



Hard to compete with helicopters and fire trucks but TCA National President Katie Elgar and Larry Teresi did just that!



The children had many choices but the trains had their attention, if it was even for a brief moment.



Mail trucks, semi's, ambulances, cement trucks even a city bus and the SWAT Command post showed up!



The little layout that could, lots of action, even a trolley!

MARCH EDUCATIONAL THEME

Well it's March and while I'd love to see how our members could make the connection between Corn Beef and Cabbage to trains, let's play it safe. Green trains (does that mean a plethora of GG1's?), lucky trains, however you want to twist and turn March and the beginning of spring into an educational item to bring to the March General Meeting. We will award 10 raffle tickets to the member who brings in the cleverest item that either makes us smile or groan the loudest with their interpretation of the theme.

DIVISION DUES HAVE EXPIRED

Division dues expired on February 28th. If your label shows that your dues have expired this is your **LAST** newsletter until you bring them up to date. Division dues are payable at \$10 per year and may be paid up to five years in advance. You will be protected from any Division dues increases that might occur that time. Don't miss out on the fun and excitement of being a Division member and the chance to learn collecting and operating tips and visitations to some of the Valley's premier layouts and collections. Renew your dues today!

*All Gauges
Railroad Related Items
+ Parts!*



*Buy - Sell - Trade
View Operating Layouts!*

Summer Show & Meet

TOY TRAIN SHOW

Operated as a Benefit Fundraiser for
Gadsden Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum
3975 N. Miller Avenue Tucson, AZ
www.gpdToyTrainMuseum.com

Tucson Expo Center

3750 E. Irvington Road at Palo Verde
(From 1-10, exit 264)

Great Location, Free Parking, Snack Bar
Entrance on South side of Building (Banquet Hall)

Friday, May 29, 2015

Open to the Public 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 30, 2015

Open to the Public 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

ADMISSION \$6.00 PER PERSON (daily)

FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 13 ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Need Vendor Tables?
MEET CHAIRMAN DAVID HOVERSTOCK
(520) 909-0722

E-MAIL: TrainShow@gpdToyTrainMuseum.com

Future Shows: November 13-14, 2015

January 08-09, 2016



COME TO NEW MEXICO!

and help us celebrate the 2019 TCA Convention
with this first in a series of Commemorative Cars



Lionel Double Sheathed boxcar

Visit the Cumbres and Toltec Narrow Gauge
at Chama, New Mexico

Only 300 made! - Order your now!
Expected delivery: Spring 2015

Please send me:

_____ cars @79.99ea

Shipping @\$10 per car

AZ residents, please add \$ _____ per car

Total Enclosed

\$ _____

Make checks to: DESERT DIVISION and mail to:
25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd. Paulden, AZ 86334

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARENELL SERVICE & REPAIR – **AUTHORIZED Lionel & MTH Service Station** located in the rear of the Arizona Train Depot - Visit "RAYS CAVE" for Lionel Postwar, MPC, LTI & more for sale at great prices - I buy train collections large or small, old or new - Large consignment of MTH Premier trains arriving weekly and priced to sell fast – Still have great selection of Dept 56 on hand - If you are looking for a special item let Ray be your extra set of eyes – VISA & M/C - 755 E. McKellips, Mesa, AZ 602-565-6603

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

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different "Set of the Month" each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11 AM to 5 PM, M – F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com **AUTHORIZED LIONEL SERVICE CENTER**

GERRY'S TRAINS – Parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Dr., Scottsdale, AZ Phone 480- 998-5349

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.

ARIZONA TOY TRAIN REPAIR – Complete parts and repair service for ONLY Lionel postwar and prewar trains and accessories at reasonable rates by a long-time hobbyist. Rapid turnaround usually within a week, if parts are in stock – two weeks or less if parts need to be ordered. Repairs guaranteed for a year. Occasionally postwar items for sale. Complete access to Lionel postwar and prewar service and operating documents at central Phoenix' only Lionel repair facility. TCA members mention this ad and get the first hour of labor FREE. Tony Ford, 5547 N. 10th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602)369-5938

3rd RAIL & GOLDEN GATE DEPOT DISCOUNTED TRAINS: Taking your preorders for now for EMD F7s in lots of road names including many Santa Fe Schemes. Also taking your preorders for the first correct Budd El Capitan cars of 1956 in Santa Fe and Amtrak. What else are you are interested in? Call Jonathan Peiffer at 602-561-4131. Your authorized 3rd Rail and GGD dealer in Arizona. Now accepting credit cards!

Lionel and American Flyer Parts - Expanded selection now includes numerous parts for postwar locomotives including wheels, trucks, and side rods - Call or stop by my table at the Meet - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

For Sale 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, 2008 Burlington, VT Cabot Creamery Reefer by Weaver Banquet Car \$200, 2010 Baltimore American Brewery Inc. Banquet Car \$150, 2011 Sacramento Banquet Spreckles Sugar PS-2 Covered Hopper Gray/Red GACX 42692 \$125, 2012 Atlanta TCA Convention 34' Box Car Banquet Car \$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.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME -Magazines: Classic Toy Ttrains 1988 to 2014; TTOS Bulletins from 1972 forward; a box full of Lionel and MTH Catalogs; Classic Trains issues from the 1990's; and 15 issues of Garden/Outdoor Railroading. Please call Glenn or Nancy Hill at 602-810-2605 to save these from a trip to Goodwill.

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-24177 Balloon Ride \$200/obo - 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

WANTED: Looking for neon Lionel sign used in hobby stores – 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!



Christie Wilson hard at work selling the 2015 Hudson Raffle tickets, she later won the first Hudson Hundred for the year



Swapping tales or swapping treasures?



First view of the paint sample trolley's that will be available if you attend the TCA National Convention this year



Division Director Greg Palmer visiting from Albuquerque brought along several interesting paper items

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



Click the
button to
follow us on
Facebook