

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 45, No. 7

Summer, 2016

## TIME TO BEAT THE HEAT

Gee, big surprise, its summer and it's hot. I guess what is the big surprise is that it is hot everywhere in the Division territory. Even our friends over in the Rio Grande Chapter are having a warmer than usual summer, so we all are feeling the effects of the heat and are looking for some relief and relief is on the horizon. Even if it is only for a weekend.

With the monsoon season upon us it can only mean one thing for many of us and that is a travel up the hill to Prescott Valley and the annual Beat the Heat Meet. This annual show is as much of a tradition to the folks in Arizona as complaining about the heat all summer long. The new location with ample parking, air conditioning (yes, even in Prescott) and good friends is a great get-away weekend we look forward to.

The Division does not print a July newsletter. Your editor and his predecessor have historically been busy with the TCA National Convention to get an issue out in a timely manner. That means that the July mini-meet can often have a very mixed attendance. There was a time when we did not have a meet in July with the popular thinking that most members escaped the heat and travelled all summer long. While that might be the case for some, most of us tough it out and look

forward to getting together each July just to keep in touch. If you missed the July meet, read the President's message for an update on National TCA events.

Let's look back at both the June and July meets to see where we are today. President Allen was out of town on family business for the June General Meeting and Vice President Mike Dietrich called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Mike announced that raffle prizes, some bought some donated, are a source of extra income for the Division. With lighter than normal attendance it was decided that a June raffle would not be profitable for the club to hold this month and that was the reason no raffle tickets were sold, however we would still hold the Hudson drawing at the end of the meet.

Secretary Lautazi announced that the current paid Division membership is at 241 members. Angelo also introduced the newest Division member, Larry Stencil. Larry told those present that he liked to collect and operate 0 gauge tinsplate trains, a passion that is shared by many within the Division so welcome aboard Larry!

Treasurer Bob Herman was up next stating that the Savings account had a balance of \$27,801.11 and

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 13 – CAMRRC BEAT THE HEAT MEET – 9 AM – 1 PM Liberty Traditional School – Prescott Valley, AZ
- September 10 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- September 17 – **Desert Division G GAUGE ONLY AUCTION** – Preview 9 AM Auction starts 10 AM – Phoenix, AZ
- September 24 – GCMR Mini-Swap 9:00 Am – 11:00 AM – 1212 E Glendale Ave, Phoenix AZ
- October 8 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- October 8 – 9 – RAIL FAIR 2016 – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – Scottsdale, AZ
- October 30 – 2016 Pumpkin Meet – Sheraton Uptown Hotel - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Albuquerque, NM

that the Checking account had a balance of \$36,951.14. Bob went on to say that he had received the invoice from Lionel and that would reduce the checking account considerably.

On that note Vice President Dietrich announced that Peter Atonna notified us that the shipment of the Los Alamos Mint Cars was on the way and scheduled to arrive sometime the following week. Peter would begin shipping out the cars to those who paid for shipping first and that those members who wished to pick up their cars at the meet would be able to do so in July at the mini-meet. Mike went on to say that the first fundraising car, the Cumbres and Toltec boxcar had paid all the expenses for the project and was now earning a profit for the 2019 Convention fund.

Sam McElwee spoke about the passing of friend and Desert Division member Tony Saulina. Sam also had the funeral arrangement information for Tony's funeral that was being held the next week. There was a sympathy card on the front table for members to sign.

It was announced that the date of December 10<sup>th</sup> was picked for this year's train show. With two contracts already signed for the November 26 auction and the December 3 Christmas Party that was the only days left to hold the show this year. The location has been narrowed down to two hotels in Mesa (editor's note; that was the information in June, however things worked out better than we thought) Don Locke asked if we expected a sales tax issue with the city of Mesa if the show was going to be held in the city limits again. Fred Hunter replied that he did not expect any problems since the venues will not be held in a city venue.

The April Pizza Meet had a very good turnout and auction itself posted a small profit for the club after all expenses were paid. The fact that everyone who attended left with full stomachs and had a great time was just extra cheese on the pie, so to speak.

Mike concluded the business meeting with the announcement that the Division is looking for a coordinator for the recently completed portable trailer module. While there is some minor work that needs to be completed including an upgrade on the trailer wheels and tires, the trailer will begin making appearances this fall at Rail Fair and the December train show. The coordinator will work with the Board of Directors and the Division members to represent the TCA and the Division at public meets and events within the Division area. Although it would be preferable if you have a vehicle that could tow the trailer, it is not essential and we can have the trailer dropped off and picked up for you. We are mainly looking for someone to coordinate the events and the volunteers. Contact Chris or any officer for more information or questions.

Terry Bunish brought I a wonderful train diorama for the June Educational Segment. Terry enjoys building these dioramas with parts and items he finds in his travels. The American Flyer standard gauge caboose that was the focal point of the present diorama was missing its trucks but it worked well as a display piece. Some of the pieces are found at local crafts stores but the biggest challenge continues to be finding standard gauge figures to bring his pieces to "life".

As mentioned earlier there was no raffle prize drawing this month but Bill Richardson was glad he attended the June meet since he was the winner of the Hudson \$100 raffle.

The July "mini-meet" was held July 9<sup>th</sup> and we had a surprisingly large turnout. It appears more than a few of us tough out the summers here in town and braved the heat to attend the meet.

One thing for sure we had plenty of free donuts to go around since there was a breakdown in who was to bring what we ended up with six dozen donuts or turnovers, more than enough!

President Allen conducted a question and answer session for all those who attended regarding both the National Convention he just attended and also questions about the fall and winter activities within the Division. Highlights from the convention will be published next month in the September issue of the Dispatch to cover items that the membership will be asked to vote on in November. Chris also reported on the progress for the winter train show. He and Fred Hunter have been to many locations throughout the central and east valley looking for an affordable location. More news of local interest was that World's Greatest Hobby is going to be into town early next year. Unfortunately they picked the weekend of our Souper Bowl Auction. Chris reported that the auction must now be moved and we have begun to look for an alternate site. The new date for that auction will be Saturday January 21. At the present time it is still planned to be called the Souper Bowl with our usual Soup contest at lunch, even though the teams that play in the real Super Bowl won't be determined yet.

The educational segment was quite busy with Jonathan Peiffer bringing in an AMTRAK "toaster" and the story and facts behind it, including its legacy compared to the GG-1. Gordon Wilson had an unusual pair SAKAI locomotives, identical in color schemes but one had a very unique roadname. We've all seen a CP Rail in warbonnet regalia haven't we? Chris Allen rounded things out with his Joe's Diner telephone and trailer hitch cover he made and one he bought from the TCA store at the convention. That's all since there was no raffles or drawings at the mini-meet we'll see you in September for your next opportunity for those.



**Vice President Mike Dietrich running the show at the June Meeting**



**Terry Bunish talking about his Standard gauge diorama and where he finds the items he needs**



**An American Flyer caboose minus trucks served as the starting point for this one**



**Bill Richardson couldn't have been happier that he was present at the June meet and the Hudson Hundred found a new pocket**



**The other side of the hall had a few tables set-up as well, though the sellers were most likely getting a second donut**



**Sales tables were out and the crowd arrived early for the July mni-meet**

## **TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – June 8, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM at the home of Angelo and Barbara Lautazi

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Mike Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Terry Haas. On teleconference Dr. Paul Wassermann, Greg Palmer and David Nycz

**Approval of Agenda** -The agenda was approved as distributed

**Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes** – The previous meeting's minutes were approved as distributed.

**Membership Report** – Secretary Angelo Lautazi reported that membership currently stands at 241 members.

**Treasurers Report** - Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account has \$27,801.67 and Checking has \$36,951.14. Bob submitted the Income/Expense report for May 2016. He also noted that he had received the invoice for the Lionel Los Alamos cars from Peter Atonna but that the figures do not reflect that payment.

### **Old Business:**

**Fall Toy Train Meet 2016** – There is no commitment to a location yet but the date of the meet will be Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. The search has been narrowed to the Mesa Marriott and the Hilton which is also in Mesa. Both locations are smaller venues and the meet will probably have about 130 tables available.

**Rio Grande Fundraising Cars** - The Los Alamos mint car is being delivered to Peter this week. Peter will begin to ship out all orders to those who paid for shipping the week of June 12<sup>th</sup>. Angelo will send out an e-blast and change the website next week informing all that the cars are available for immediate shipment on all new orders. We will have the cars on hand for the July mini-meet for member's who did not pay for shipping and insure that the Rio Grande members who did not pay for shipping have the cars available to them as quickly as possible. We will also send a few unsold cars to the Chapter so they can sell them during the summer at various meets in the New Mexico area.

**Pizza Meet** - The Pizza Meetza Meet and Auction was another fun meet. The auction had a small profit and there was plenty of pizza to go around.

**Christmas Party** – Fred has ordered the Lenox ornaments for spouse's gift. The Board decided to upgrade this year's members gift and Angelo will make the purchase.

**Storage Unit** – The second storage unit has not become available yet. It looks like the end of June before it opens up.

### **New Business**

**Rio Grande Chapter Treasury** – The BOD was informed of Rio Grande's Treasurer, Don Kuster's serious illness and his need to resign his duties. In as much as the Rio Grande chapter is a subsidiary of the Desert Division, Chris has instructed David Nycz to have Don's name removed from having access to the Rio Grande Chapter's account. David will contact the appropriate person at the US Eagle Credit Union and ask that Don Kuster's signature be removed from the Rio Grande's account and have his name on the account until a new Chapter Treasurer has been appointed. The Board wishes Don a rapid recovery and thanks him for his service to the Chapter and Division.

**September G Gauge Auction** - This auction will be on Sept 17 and Peter will be the auctioneer. Word was put out that there is room for additional G gauge items to add to this auction. A second consignment may become available.

**Trailer at Rail Fair** – Rail Fair contacted Chris and he confirmed that we intend to have our Trailer present. Chris asked Mike to ask for a volunteer Module chairman at Saturdays meet.

**RMD News** – The cancellation of the RMD December train show echoed the problems that all the clubs are experiencing with overworked volunteers.

**September BOD meeting** – There is no location set for next BOD meeting. Paul said that he will check his calendar.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on September 10, 2016 at a location yet to be determined.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi



## Presidents Message

When Laurel and I were raising our family, summer usually involved family vacations filled with travel, adventure, and new experiences. Even when we visited family we looked for things to do with the kids in the area both to keep them entertained and to open new experiences with them. Since we have retired, our summers continue to be filled with travel but rather than fight all the crowds of other vacationers, we are a bit more selective. After all, we can visit many of the same spots "off season" at a cheaper price and have a better experience.

One of the stops we have made for the last fifteen plus year is the TCA National Convention. Getting ready for the convention has always been a labor of love for me since it involves quite a bit of preparation. As the Division President I am required to give an Annual Report to the Board of Directors. It is essentially the Division's year in review and since Fred Hunter's term as Division President, the report has been very detailed report of all our activities, with a good deal of bragging thrown in highlighting all the events and activities we accomplish each year.

For most Divisions, it is all about the train meet's, buying and selling trains. In fact for many Divisions that's all they do, train meets. Sure, that is an important and fun part of being in an active club. Last year when we were unable to find an alternate site for our show, many members expressed many of those same feelings to us. Train shows are a vital part of every clubs yearly planning and they will be for ours as well.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on our winter train show. For certain it will be downsized from the previous two shows, but it will be as exciting as we can make it. Reserve the date, Saturday December 10. Location and table seller information will be available in next month's issue, online and at the September meeting.

But Desert Division has always been multi-dimensional, and we do a lot more than just shows. With hard working volunteers and Board members, our group has taken it up a notch and provides multiple activities each year, all year. From pizzas to picnics, coffee to Christmas Parties, one thing we continue to have is good fun and close friendships with each other regardless of how many or what kind of trains we have. Or even don't have. Those

members who have decided to downsize collections or even get out of the hobby altogether are welcomed just as warmly by longtime friends.

While you might not be running or collecting G and Gauge 1 trains many members and the public find this size of trains very desirable to run. Following a very successful G gauge auction last year we decided to accept a few more consignments and repeat this auction in September. If you know of any friends or family members that like their trains BIG invite them out for the G gauge only auction.

As Mike Dietrich mentioned at the June meeting we will have the trailer out at Rail Fair this year. Many of our volunteers are also members of other clubs that will be participating at Rail Fair so that is a great opportunity for you to get involved. It doesn't take a big time commitment, in fact a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday is all it takes for you to not only run trains and take in all the other exhibits and displays at the park. Don't have any trains? That's not a problem either as the Division has plenty of trains that have been donated by our members over the years. With loops of Standard, O and S there is plenty of room for everyone.

I never get tired of writing and recording the story about the Desert Division and the friend and friendships made over the years. In the forty-five years this club has been serving hobbyists in Arizona and New Mexico we have become a very tight knit group with friendships as big as the country we live in. I've written seven Annual Reports during my terms as Division President, and I enjoy sharing all the events and volunteer activities that we do to keep the Division alive and active rather than just another train club.

The Annual reports from all the TCA Divisions can be found on the National TCA website. You should have the website bookmarked since it is the gateway to making your TCA membership more enjoyable and worthwhile. From the ease of paying your dues online to the free member ads and excellent reference articles in the eTrain publication [tcamembers.org](http://tcamembers.org) should be your first stop. Have a great summer and I will see you at the September Meet, or maybe even Prescott.





# TOY TRAIN SHOW

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**Please return form with payment by October 21, 2016**

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I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of Train Collectors Association (TCA) committees and any actions and rulings of TCA committees. I also agree that all items sold by me to any TA member at any TCA-sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufacturers' original condition unless I have caused and such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction.



## TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By David Nycz – TCA 94-38787

The Rio Grande Chapter does not have meetings in the summer months. The next meeting is September 17, 2016.

The Albuquerque Railfair was on May 21<sup>st</sup>. While mainly a Railroadiana Show there are always modules from the Albuquerque area. This year there were the TTOS 12' x 32', the Ashome HO modules, a new ON'30 group, the HON<sup>3</sup> modules, N Scale module, 5 switching HO modules, and a Kids Club setup. Some of these groups have

Toltec (C&T) car was sold and at least one Los Alamos car was ordered.



When looking at the picture, you will notice a hole where a post-war marine caboose had resided. The caboose was sold to a retired marine.

Greg Palmer's table was next to our setup.



For the Labor Day weekend, Warren Smalley took 2 boxes of C&T cars to the opening weekend of the railroad.

participated in the show for over 20 years. The main theme of the show is railroad related artifacts. Such as: dining car china, locks, keys, signs, lanterns, time tables, passes, brochures, books, etc. At the show there are always numerous tables selling model and toy trains.

In an effort to sell convention cars, promote the Pumpkin Meet and attract new members the Rio Grande Chapter had a sales table and was allowed to utilize our self contained display case and tri-pod with signs. Scott Eckstein helped setup the display on Friday. On Saturday George Domeny, Art Lites, Warren Smalley, Chris Wieclaw, and David Nycz were the volunteers who manned the table. Jim Trever provided the post-war military cars and vehicles for the display case.

During the show we sold \$99 of raffle tickets and promoted the TCA. Two or three people seemed interest in the TCA, taking brochures and application forms. As a follow up one Cumbres and

On June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> the Santa Fe Model Railroad Club hosted their Annual Spring Weekend Show at the Santa Fe Fairgrounds. This event is free to the public with numerous modules group including HO, N, O and a large G scale that is setup on the floor. Their events are listed on the Santa Fe Model Railroad Club website.

### Up Coming Activities:

- Aug. 3-6 Model Trains at Santa Fe Fairgrounds
- Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> Socorro Train Show
- Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> TTOS Meet & 2926 Open House
- Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin Meet
- Nov. Santa Fe MRR Club Open Houses
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Rails Along the Rio Grande
- Dec. Holiday Trains Bank of Santa Fe on Plaza

See you at the September 17<sup>th</sup> Rio Grande Chapter meeting. At the meeting we will vote on the new treasurer to fill the remainder of Don Kusters' term.



## DIVISION MEMBERS AT THE GCMR SUMMER CACTUS MEET



The Three Amigo's, Bill Gonyea, Ray Pomper, Paul Malek



Bob Dennison deep in conversation with Jack Eaton



Terry Haas with a big smile after another good sale



Loren Hess helping out the Division by passing out the G Gauge Auction Flyers

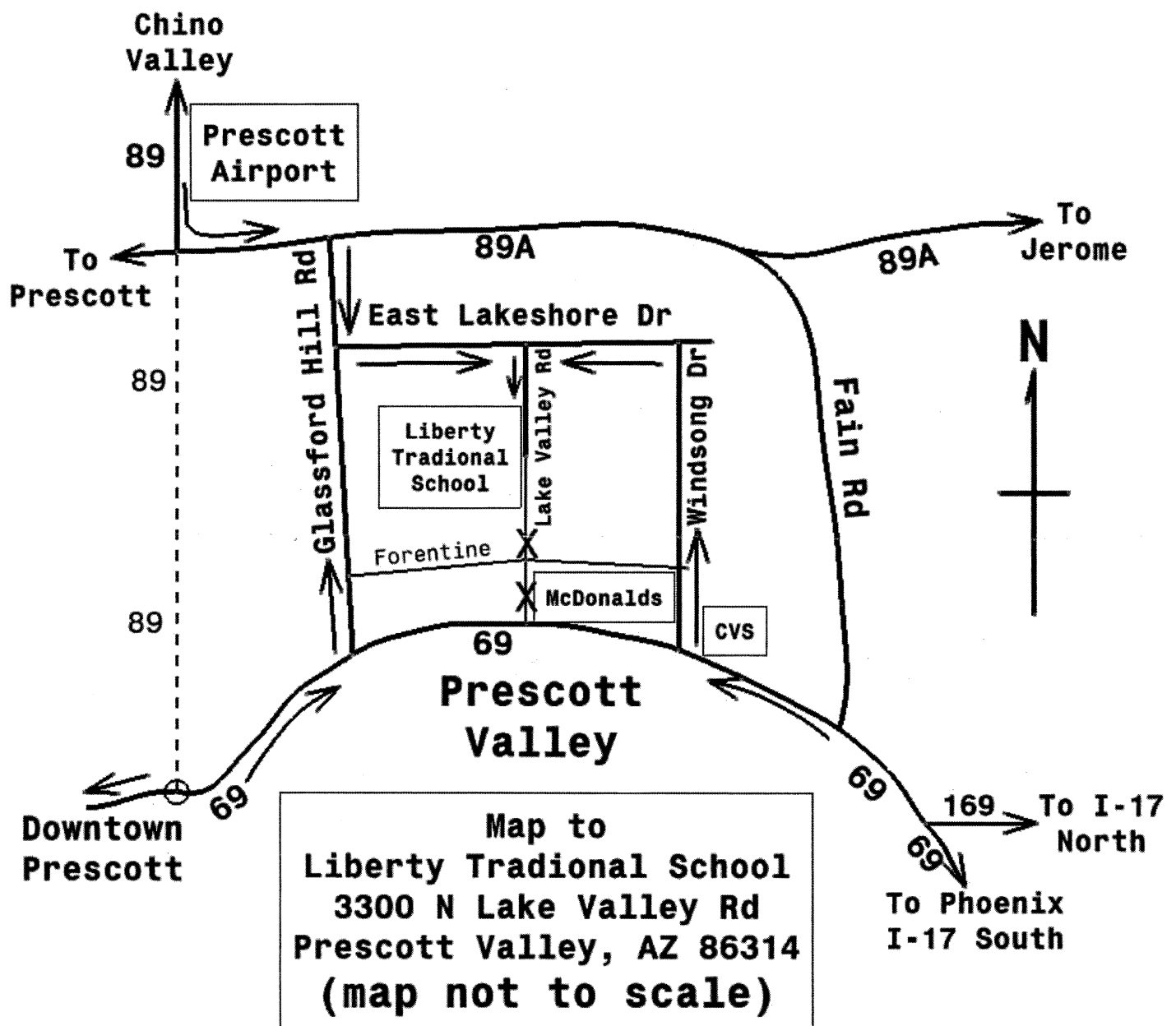


How many Division members can fit in one photo? Ralph Treichel, Roland LaHaie, Gordon Wilson and maybe the back of Sally Treichel



Peter and Mary Jane Atonna were having a good time when we stopped by the table





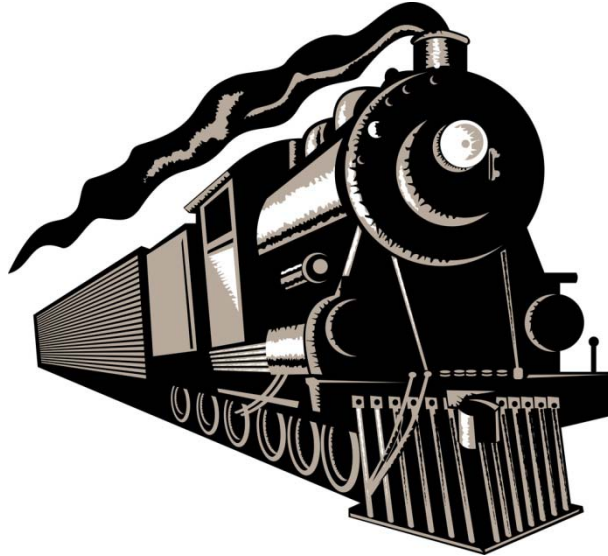
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# **TOY TRAIN AUCTION**

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**FOR SALE** Weaver GACX 42692 Speckles Sugar Hopper Nor-Cal Banquet Car Sold @ Banquet for \$225. Now \$49 Please call/email for additional info and bargains. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 [dannieaz@cox.net](mailto:dannieaz@cox.net)

**FOR SALE** - **BRIDGES!** Lionel Bascule 6-12948 - MTH Steel Arch-silver RK40-1013 - MTH Rust RK40-103 - MTH Girder Bridge Silver RK 40-1014 (3 ea) MTH Girder Bridge Rust RK 40-4032 All NIB Call for info - Phil Todd 480-288-0094

**FOR SALE:** Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges, 1901-1940. \$100 plus \$7.00 shipping. Please call Bruce Greenberg, 703-461-6991, 9-9 Eastern to order or visit his web site, [www.sykesvillehistory.us](http://www.sykesvillehistory.us)

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

**WANTED:** Neon Lionel sign used in hobby stores - I have the bell now I am looking for a cradle and yoke for a 12" locomotive bell - semaphore working or pieces - Call me Chris Allen 480-820-9559 [sparkyshome@cox.net](mailto:sparkyshome@cox.net)

**WANTED: PASSENGER SET:** I'm working with a friend who is putting some train sets for a youth group and he is hoping to find an inexpensive passenger set, such as one of the MPC Amtrak sets. Track and boxes not important. If you can help, would you let me know and I could pick it up at the Pizza meet. Peter Atonna [mjatonna@gmail.com](mailto:mjatonna@gmail.com) 928-636-4228

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



Gordon Wilson had a pair of SAKAI in traditional War Bonnet livery, but they were marked for the Hudson Pacific and Canadian Pacific Railway



Jonathan Peiffer talked about the AEM-7 brought into service to replace the GG-1. Four plus decades later the "Toaster" itself is being removed from AMTRAK service



Need a trailer hitch cover? The one on the right is available from the TCA Museum Store and was purchased at the National Convention. The one on the left was made from an eBay purchase of a ZW medallion



After a long wait Chris Allen was able to add "Joe's Diner" to his layout. The "diner" is fully detailed inside and is actually a telephone

**Get Your Caboose to  
The 63rd TCA National Convention  
Pittsburgh, PA**



### DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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