

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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Volume 45, No. 4

April, 2016

SQUEEZED IN A BIT OF SPRING

March came to the Valley in full force with many days setting record high temperatures. None the less the faithful Division members trekked off to the smaller meeting room with smiles on their faces and settled in for a cozy meeting. The March meeting provided a few surprises as well with some long lost members making a brief, but welcome return.

President Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM thanking everyone present for making the smaller accommodations work and for the sharing of sales tables where needed. He noted the reason for the last minute change and thanked our hosts for not only providing an alternate room but making it rent free.

Secretary Angelo Lautazi introduced our newest member Opal Fiori, who joined to learn about trains her husband has collected and reported that we had 236 members currently on the roster with quite a few still owing their dues. President Allen reminded everyone that you not only had to be current with your Desert Division dues but also TCA National dues as well. For some it might be an oversight that they did not know that their national dues had lapsed, others need the reminder that both dues need to be current since we

are an affiliated national train club. Currently the Board has two officers working on rebuilding our membership using both the Division and national TCA drop lists.

Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account had a balance of \$27,844.00 and the Checking Account had a balance of \$25,935.85.

Peter Atonna was in town for the weekend and he gave a report on the progress of the Los Alamos Mint Car. Peter reported that at the time of the meeting and scarcely two months of advertising in place the sales had already reached 216 units. The car with a 500 unit production run is still expected to sell out before delivery, so if you want one it is best to pre-order one now rather than take your chances once the cars are delivered this summer.

President Allen reported that during the most recent Board of Directors meeting the Board voted to update the names inscribed on the bricks in the "Desert Division" area of the National Toy Train Museum. Past Division President's Katie Elgar and Jonathan Peiffer will join the President's roll call that lists every Desert Division President since 1971. At the same time we will update the Division Life Member area that lists Division

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 2 **Multi-Club Spring Picnic** – Stillman Ramada – McCormick-Stillman RR Park Scottsdale, AZ
April 12 – **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
April 14 – 16 Eastern Division TCA **Spring York Meet** – York, PA
April 19 - **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – Albuquerque, NM
May 14 - **Division Meet & WORLD FAMOUS PIZZA MEETZA!** 8:30 AM member only swap
10:00 AM Business Meeting, 11:00 – 12:00 LUNCH & ALL THE FREE PIZZA YOU CAN EAT
12:00 – 12:30 PM Auction Preview - 12:30 PM Auction Begins! - Phoenix, AZ
May 21 – WVRHS Train Swap Meet 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Glendale, AZ

members that have received that award. Joining the list will be new Life Members Christie Wilson, Beth Stange and Bob Herman who have received the award since the last time the bricks were updated. As a reminder you can also add your name to the walkway for a very modest donation. Information on the Outside the Rails program can be found in the National Headquarter News or you can contact the National Business Office by phone or email.

There was no other old or new business so Chris proceeded to the general announcements.

Chris reported on a visit to a church hall in east Scottsdale. The hall is large enough to hold a medium size train meet and accommodate about 130 tables. There was ample parking at the church and loading and unloading should pose no major issues. It is a bit off the beaten path but fits the Division's need for a medium sized facility to host the train swap meet. He also mentioned that the club is looking to host a second swap meet in the spring in the west valley, also at a less expensive church hall that usually host craft fairs. Dates and alternate locations are currently being worked out to avoid conflicts with other existing train meets in the area.

The upcoming spring picnic was discussed. Chris was very excited to announce that this year instead of the back shop tours at the train park we will visit a layout we haven't seen in four years. The backshop tours are always fun but this year we will make a short 30 minute drive from the park following the picnic to visit a very detailed highrail layout. Desert Division last visited Herb and Becky Andreen's house in the early spring of 2012. At that time Herb had just completed most of the benchwork. Chris mentioned that this is reminiscent of the original spring picnics at Ray and Virginia Korte's house where Ray's train room was open to guests. Herb and Becky are graciously allowing us in following the picnic to view all the progress made since our initial visit.

Next a serious discussion followed about the future of this newsletter. With the continuing decline in Division membership it is getting harder to maintain the 200 addresses required to get our discounted non-profit postage rate. The difference between non-profit and First Class postage for the year is an additional \$1,100 at today's postage rates. No one wants to reduce the amount of newsletters per year as many use them as a reminder of upcoming meets and events in the local area. In addition for many of our members it is the only real contact they have with us each month. There was good input from those members that were present and suggestions from going all electronic to a surcharge for those members who wished to receive the newsletter in

the mail were offered. As editor, Chris announced that the budget is in place for this year and that any changes would be well announced and would become effective in 2017.

The Educational Segment had Gordon Wilson presenting a piece that Ken Burling had walk into his store, a pre war dual crossing gate made by the French company JEP. The tinplate crossing was in very good condition and Gordon was asking for additional information from the members.

John Wiley was up next and spun a story that had everyone guessing about the origins of the GG1 he brought along. He was at work one day when a fellow employee came up and said he was quitting and needed to sell everything he owned since he was leaving the country for Canada. Sounding like a tale from this year's political season, John revealed that the year was 1968 and his co-worker was fleeing the draft and the Viet Nam war! John did mention that he passed on the offer for a free car, a 1951 Fiat 500.

Peter Atonna was up next and he gave a brief history of the trials and tribulations working with train manufacturers for fund raising campaigns. Peter's story begins in the mid 1990's when he approached Lionel with his concept of Wiley Coyote and Road Runner chasing themselves around a gondola like the cop and hobo car. Lionel said it couldn't be done so back to the drawing board and he came up with the prospector chasing the mule that we are so familiar with. Two years later Lionel came out with, you guessed it, the Wiley Coyote and Road Runner gondola. Desert Division has featured a lot of cars that were the "firsts" including the lighted interior mint car. This years Los Alamos car was no exception and a lot of credit should be given to Peter for not only his ingenuity when it comes to conceiving these cars but also sticking to his guns and seeing them produced for our Division.

Chris Allen brought along the 1977 TCA Convention McCoy standard gauge tank car. In those days the cars were not sold by subscription and often there were excess cars. Chris brought along four of the excess repainted tank cars done by Newbraugh Brothers Toys and Pleasant Valley Process. He knows a total of 250 cars were repainted just not how many of each one. He will continue his research at the National Toy Train Library hoping to find out.

Raffle winners in no particular order; Jack Eaton Hudson ticket, Ralph Treichel Lionel Ore Car and Train Puzzle, John Upshur Lionel Rock Island Hopper, Peter Atonna two diecast trucks and crossing light, Bill Richardson Lionel gondola and tanker, Art Triant Reindeer Novelty. Ken Barnes was glad he attended and was the winner of the Hudson \$100 raffle prize drawing.



The small space didn't keep anyone from getting updated on how they have been doing recently



The other side of the room was just as busy with tables sales going in full swing



Gordon Wilson displayed Ken Burling's JEP crossing that "walked" into the shop last month



John Wiley spun a very good tale about the GG1 that he bought and the vintage car that he passed on



Peter Atonna relating the fun times he has had working on fundraising cars for the Division for the past twenty years



Ken Barnes was happy he stayed for the whole meeting since he won the Hudson Hundred for March while Christie Wilson peaks over his shoulder

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – March 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM at the home of Mike and Michelle Dietrich

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Mike Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Terry Haas. On teleconference 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 - Angelo reported that membership stands at 236 members. At the present time 21 members still owe Division Dues.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer, Bob Herman, reported that the Savings Account has \$27,800.44 and Checking has \$25935.85. Bob submitted the Income/Expense report for Feb. 2016. One correction is that the budgeted Dues YTD should be \$2000.

Old Business:

BOD Annual Dinner - The Side Door Restaurant in Scottsdale is the venue and Sunday evening March 13 is the date. Paul reported to Chris that we have secured our minimum reservation requirement for the no host event.

Rio Grande Fundraising Cars - Sales of the C&T car have reached 230 and are past the breakeven point. Sales of the Los Alamos Mint car continue to be strong at 216 preorders. The advertising is complete except for a free eBlast from TCA and a hoped for free placement in Classic Toy Trains New Product announcements in the May 2016 issue.

New Business

Fall Toy Train Meet 2016 – Chris reported on a visit to a church hall in Scottsdale. The facility would hold 130-140 tables and has plenty of parking. There may also be a west side venue available, which will be reported on next month. The idea of 2 meets was discussed however finding an open date that does not conflict with another clubs meeting or existing venue stalled the process. Terry volunteered to contact a Mesa official to see if anything could be changed regarding their sales tax collection. The search will continue for availability of both dates and facilities.

Spring Picnic – The picnic is set for Saturday April 2. Chris met with the Presidents of the GCMR and the P&P. They all agreed that they want to use this venue to reach out to the other clubs in the Valley. An overwhelming majority of the members who attend the event belong to two or all three of the sponsoring clubs so it was decided that the picnic cost will be distributed among the three clubs. Last year some of the invited clubs did not understand the timing needed for the food to be cooked and ready. This year there will be a published cooking grill time so everyone can enjoy a hot meal and the grill masters can enjoy the picnic as well. We will try to keep to a schedule so there will be time for a visit to Herb Andreen's layout in the afternoon.

Newsletter minimums – The drop in membership will impact the cost of mailing the newsletter. The minimum number for bulk mailing is 200 units. The Board discussed possible changes that could save the club the increasing postal costs. Decreasing the number of issues published and a member surcharge for those wishing to get a mailed copy were two suggestions. Chris will bring this up at the March meeting for discussion.

National Toy Train Museum Brick Program – The Board has decided to purchase three bricks from the Outside the Rails program. They will be used to recognize life members and past Division Presidents that have not been added since the last update was done previously. The same protocol will be followed as in the past, the three Life Members will share a common brick and each Division President will have their own individual brick denoting their term.

Surplus Trolleys available – The National Business Office has a few surplus trolleys left over from the TCA National Convention last year and is offering to sell them to the Divisions at a reduced cost. The Board agreed to purchase 10 units from the NBO.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on April 6, 2016 at the home of Angelo Lautazi.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

President's Message

This is a no foolin' President's message. As we have been going through the renewal process this year it seems like a few more than normal have decided for various reasons to drop out of the Division and TCA.

This is hard for me to understand but I do appreciate your honesty when we call and find out why you are leaving. All of your reasons help us to build and keep the Division running that will attract and retain our membership. If we are going in the wrong direction we only hear about it at this time of year.

We are the only club in the Valley that focuses on various manufacturers and all the gauges. Sometimes we might not address everyone's chosen favorite scale or manufacturer, but I truly believe we make up for it by having fun. With such a wide and diverse membership, we do have buckets of fun.

In fact, I really enjoy hanging out with everyone. You all are some really neat people and I love the stories I hear about the experiences you've had. Some of you are fortunate enough to have a layout or a collection and I enjoy hearing about the progress you are making or the most recent acquisition you've made. Sometimes you might even spark a little bug in me to follow suit. Sharing ideas is the joy of membership.

You see I'm a train nut. Always have been, always will be. I don't mind being stopped at a crossing to watch a train go by. I have even been known to take a few pictures of them. I also like to collect and run them. Nothing in particular, I love them all, but a train has to "speak" to me and catch my inner soul before it gets added to my collection, and I run what I collect. I love to watch trains run on any layout from the most elaborate to the simplest, and I love a child's joy in watching and doing the same thing that I do.

Yes, I'm addicted and the only cure is a lifelong involvement with people like you that share my same desires and affection for everything on rails.

But like I said you all make it easy. If I sold everything in my collection today I would still be with you tomorrow for one simple reason. You are the greatest and funnest folks I know. I look forward to

meeting you each month or in some case every few months. I travel to Albuquerque to hang out with the folks there whenever I can. Very early in my days with TCA I met several members who would drive over to Phoenix from New Mexico to be part of our Turkey Meet and Auction. They taught me that indeed the trains bring us together, but it is the friendships that hold us together. I do travel to York as often as I can and seldom do I come home with a train, but I am by far a richer person because of my renewed friendships and people I meet there every time. And Tucson? Why that's just a short drive down the road.

We keep our local dues crazy low because we realize you have to pay national dues as well. One of the more frequent comments we hear is that many of our members don't get \$50 of value from being a TCA member. I disagree, without national TCA you wouldn't have "us". It was and still is that national umbrella that organizes like minded toy, model and scale train enthusiasts together so they can reach out and connect with other niches. Your roster is coded with people who shall you same interests, many of them locally. It also list members nearby that you can establish new friendships with. Without the national organization to keep all of the members organized we wouldn't have been able to form the Rio Grande Chapter. We currently are serving members from Arizona City to Yuma all with the same common interests, toy, model or scale trains.

The Board is working hard to keep our friendships alive. Secretary Angelo Lautazi is contacting members who have dropped from the Division and Vice President Mike Dietrich is reaching out to others who have dropped from TCA completely.

TCA and Desert Division is more than just stuff sitting on a shelf. Everyone has stuff. You all are a great group of people that share great times and friendships regardless of how much, how old or what you do with all that stuff that has brought us all together. As the song goes, "Thank-you for being a friend."



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL PICTURES



Greg Palmer had a wide assortment of transformers on display



Jim Trevor, who is part of the 2019 Convention Car Committee with a wide assortment of area 51



Boyd Reasor had this cute Thomas the Tank engine with a simple to use remote control



Dale Schafer with a Lionel 2452 gondola with unusual sprial backed wheels



John Wiley's GG1 from the Division Educational Segment. John picked up a few more trains but not the Fiat 500, which even today, he has no regrets about.



Some of the fundraising cars Peter Atonna has conceived and developed over the years to benefit the Division convention coffers.



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By David Nycz – TCA 94-38787



The March Rio Grande Chapter meeting was held on March 19, 2016 at Los Altos Christian Church with 15 TCA members attending. Chapter President David Nycz did not attend the meeting due to illness, and the desire not to infect the other members. This month's report was authored by Scott and Elaine Eckstein. The meeting began with show and tell.

Show and Tell: Dale Schafer showed a Lionel 1945 #2452 Gondola with one of a kind spiral backed wheels. Boyd Reasor showed his Fisher Price Thomas the Train remote controlled train. Jim Trever showed his collection of Alien Area 51 cars and Zombie car, which he had brought to the Car Committee meeting as ideas for our third fundraising car. Greg Palmer showed a car he assembled to resemble the Jumbo containment unit used at the Trinity test site. He also showed transformers from the 1920's by Dorfan and American Flyer and odd Lionel transformers 1011x, 25 cycle: RW250 220 volt: RX25 cycle and Marx installation sheets.

President's report: George read report from David: Desert Division has \$27,800 in savings and \$25,936 in checking including funds from car sales. The Division has 237 members paid. C&T car sales are at 229 and Los Alamos car sales at 212.

Treasurer's report: Don Kuster reported a balance in the checking account of \$3,318.46. Motion to accept by Greg Palmer, seconded by John Trever, approved.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the February 20, 2016 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Greg Palmer seconded by Don Kuster, motion carried.

Old Business: 2016 Pumpkin Meet, October 30, 2016 at Sheraton Uptown, deposit for hall has been paid. Scott showed members an K-Line mining set that could be used for a money making raffle the set cost \$35. There was a motion by Greg Palmer and a second by Art Lites to purchase the mining set, motion carried. Jim Trever has another train set he will donate for a second raffle. Motion by Art Lites and seconded by Greg Palmer to draw for one set at the Pumpkin Meet and the second set at the December 3 TTOS Swap Meet, motion carried. We need door prizes.

2019 Convention Logo – John Trever showed enlarged draft for convention logo that was the popular choice from the first four presented. Motion to approve Dale Schafer seconded Elaine Eckstein, motion carried.

Dale inquired if there is enough club interest in having two antique toy shows this year at the Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. General consensus was to do both.

Remaining 2016 TCA Chapter Meeting Dates:

- April 16, 2016 (9am at Los Altos Church) Member swap meet. Meeting after swap meet.
- September 17, 2016 (10am at Los Altos Church)
- October 30, 2016 Pumpkin Meet (10am to 4 pm at Sheraton Hotel)

The next scheduled meeting will be April 16th at Los Altos Christian Church. It will begin with a member only swap meet at 9 AM. Members are encouraged to bring their own sales tables. TCA members who do not belong to the Chapter are encouraged to attend, check us out and join in the fun.

Proposed Merger of TCA, TTOS, LOTS and LCCA Building Steam

Scott C. Russell, TCA 96-44125

Recent rumors have been confirmed. Four major national train clubs/associations, which have been discussing a merger for several years, have decided to combine in 2017. During the Club Liaison Meetings held during the York Train Meet, leaders of the four clubs have decided this is the most productive mechanism for moving the hobby forward at this difficult time. Part of the initiative to combine the clubs begins with the blurring in recent decades of the artificial differences between operators and collectors. Another stimulus was the combining in 2012 of the Lionel Railroaders Club into LCCA. These changes were the catalyst for TTOS and LOTS to consider combining which in turn led to LCCA and TCA discussing a merger.

Needless, this merger issue has been discussed in previous decades, but became sidetracked. All four clubs have seen a declining and aging membership and this trend is only increasing. These liabilities have affected all aspects of the hobby and put a damper on the ability of the organizations to expand or perhaps even survive in the long-term.

One club official, who wished to remain anonymous, stated "If we don't merge now, there will be no clubs left to combine in 20 years. We must unite all our efforts soon to change future trends." While each of the organizations has their own strengths in the O scale world, combining them would result in a single organization that covers the multiple aspects of the hobby. All four clubs readily admit that many of their members also belong to the other clubs. In reality, all that will be merged are the four business office and administration units. "Why have four organizations and budgets, it will be much more efficient to have only one. This will result in considerable long-term cost savings and we will have a true model train club concept," stated the same club official. Cost savings would be used to expand and promote the hobby.

Many issues still need to be resolved. Each club now operates their own national convention each year. Will there be only one national convention in the

future? One proposal under discussion envisions either an Eastern or Western convention in even numbered years and a Midwestern convention in odd numbered years. Each club also has their own club magazine. Combining these into one publication will significantly reduce costs. Another proposal is to put the new magazine solely online. While a significant cost savings, this combined publication featuring the best from each club, would have a broader appeal to today's multifaceted member.

One of the most contentious and unresolved issues in the merger is the name of the new entity. Among the clubs there is no consensus on a particular name for the new organization. As example, the TCA leadership is not overly concerned with keeping the organizations name or logo. Many actually want an entirely new identity to move the organization into the Twitter friendly twenty-first century. Since no agreement on the name has been secured in the negotiations, this matter may well be left up to the new groups' membership. Members could be asked to submit a new name with a small sample then going to a vote of the membership.

New membership numbers are also an area of an animated discussion. Earlier numbers carry more prestige and members don't want to lose them. To solve this, the membership of all four organizations might be put on one computerized database, with the earliest members (from any club) obtaining the lowest new membership numbers. Alternatively, early numbers could be raffled off to benefit the new organization financially.

Both Rod Stewart or Neil Young, well known train hobbyists, have been suggested as potential spokespersons for the new club. They could be used in commercials to promote the hobby and bring it back to national attention in a similar fashion to the way Jonny Cash was used by Lionel in their advertisements in the 1970s. Somehow the excitement of model trains must be re-instilled into the American public.

Members of the four clubs may well applaud the merger as it should result in reduced financial outlays for them. Rather than paying dues for four clubs or purchasing multiple convention cars or attending several conventions each year, these costs should decline in future years with the combining of the clubs. The four clubs, once joined, might also consider the purchase of a larger target, such as Classic Toy

Trains magazine or a train manufacturer. Train collectors could then influence what trains are produced rather than leaving it up to the companies and their bottom lines. Finally, the hobbyists will be in complete control! Look for an official announcement of the merger on April 1, 2017. All aboard!

MARCH HOW-TO CLINIC – USING PINK FOAM BOARD ON YOUR LAYOUT

Paul Boston, who is a member of the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders and the Paradise & Pacific Railroad Club, stopped by following the March General Meeting and gave a quick demonstration on how to use pink foam board insulation panels commonly available from various manufacturers and many big box home improvement centers. Paul instructed on using, gluing the panels together and how to cut, shape and even prepare them for landscaping. Also covered was how quickly a unique tunnel portal could be built on the layout.



Covering everything from what constructive adhesive works best to the tools needed, Paul gave a great clinic



Want a unique tunnel portal fast? Paul showed how and even gave a few tips on making it stand out from the store bought ones



Paul shared several tricks he has learned “the hard way” including different paint washes that produce the best results on the foam board



Want a stream or culvert? Use a heat gun available from sources such as Harbor Freight and not the wife’s hair dryer for best results (trust me on that one)

AFTER MEET “HOW TO” CLINIC

Did you like all the uses of LED's on Herb Andreen's layout? If so be sure to plan and stay with us following the April Meet when Dave Brown will give a clinic on how he made many of those changes. Dave has been working with LED's longer than most here in the Valley and now is your time to learn from one of the best innovators in the area.

APRIL EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT

While the calendar might say April and spring is only a few weeks old we have a wide variety of choices to choose from for our educational segment. Now as always we only list a few ideas, which you may follow or not, after all most months I am typing this section of the newsletter at 5 AM while still working on my first cup of coffee so let's just say my creative juices along with my brain cells just aren't firing on all cylinders yet. But wait, what does that have to do with the April Educational segment? Well, while I might be the editor of the newsletter I am also Chief Financial Officer of the Allen household and I still haven't finished our taxes yet, so if you have a train you bought with your refund, or a picture of a train you had to sell to pay your taxes bring them along, or for that matter anything that reminds you of April 15. If not, well you can always fall back on the tried and true Arbor Day or Earth Day Celebrations. Now where did I leave my coffee cup?



We saw this beautiful #8 set with original boxes and an extra car at the March Meet for a great price. I found out later it went home unsold, times are a changin'



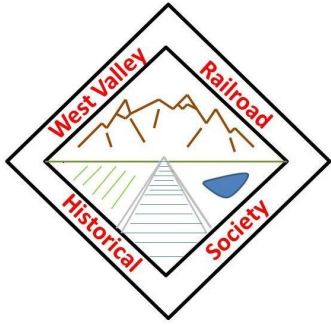
Ken Barnes, Loren Hess, Kay Vokac, Eva and John Upshur sure seem to be catching up on the latest news

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

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Vice-President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538		Terry Haas	480-827-8604
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Lionel and American Flyer Parts - Expanded selection now includes numerous parts for postwar locomotives including pilot wheels, trucks, and side rods - Call or stop by my table - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

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

FOR SALE or Trade Husbands old blue Locomotive with matching blue cars, I would like help repainting it or will trade for new black locomotive with freight cars and red caboose that I can give to my grandkids. They don't think this old train looks like Thomas and won't play with it. I will be selling all his other trains also. New member see me at picnic or next meeting. Opal Florio

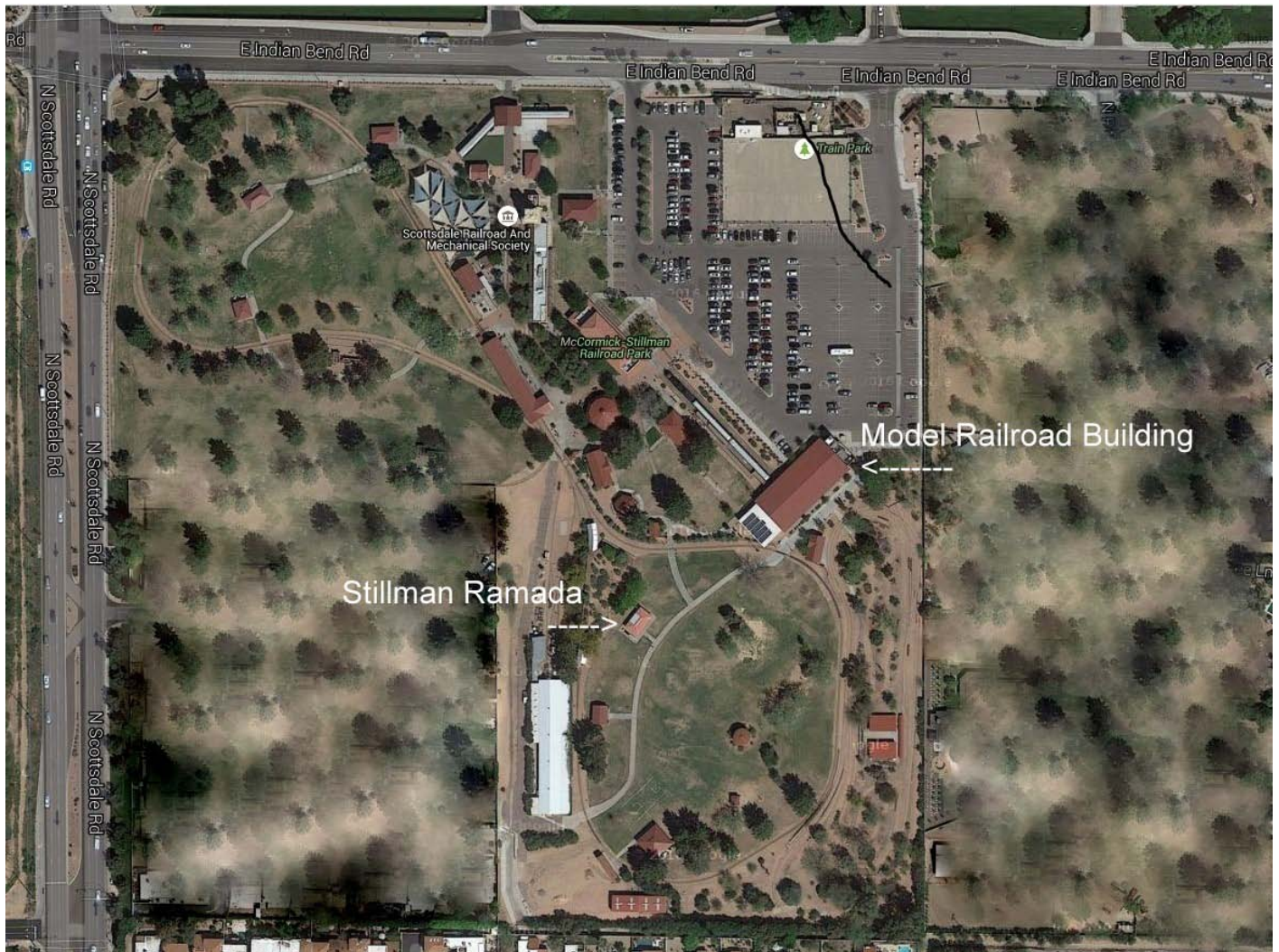
FOR SALE: Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges, 1901-1940. \$100 plus \$7.00 shipping. Please call Bruce Greenberg, 703-461-6991, 9-9 Eastern to order or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us

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: 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

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****

EXTRA REMINDER
2016 SPRING PICNIC
April 2nd 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



The 2016 Multi Club Spring Picnic will be held on Saturday April 2nd at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park located at the southeast corner of Indian Bend Rd and Scottsdale Blvd. in Scottsdale. We will be back in the Stillman Ramada which will make it easier for the members of the clubs located in the Model Railroad building to stop by and join us as we celebrate the wonderful weather and sharing our hobby with each other and our families.

The Spring Picnic is an offshoot of the Ray Korte Open House that Ray would host each year. For those of us who remember the special day at Ray's would begin with a small swap meet in Ray's carport, a picnic, an afternoon auction and of course Ray's marvelous layout that was open for all to enjoy. This year we will recapture some of that magic by visiting the layout of Herb and Becky Andreen following the

midday picnic. It will be an approximate 30 minute drive to the Andreen's from the park for this unique opportunity to visit a layout that has undergone quite a transformation.

Plan to join us for a great mid-day picnic of food, fellowship and of course trains. The Clubs will provide burgers, hot dogs and returning again this year will be baked and fried chicken. We will also have chips, ice cream, soda and water. We ask that you bring a side dish to share or dessert to delight all our taste buds. The chefs will be setting up for food service to begin at 11:00 AM. The grill will shutdown at 12:00 noon and the raffle prize drawings will begin at 12:30 and run until 1:00 PM

Maps and driving instructions will be available at the picnic with the Open House scheduled to begin at 1:30 PM. We all hope to see you there!

THE BACK PAGE

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE or BREAKING NEWS



Chris Allen and his selection of the McCoy 1977 TCA Convention car and the repainted re-issued tank cars



Gordon Wilson's displayed Ken Burling's JEP pre-war track crossing in very good condition



Marty Wik and Roger Meekof seem to have found something interesting



In case your wondering like I was what a 1951 Fiat 500 looked like, wonder no more. Seems to us John Wiley made a great decision

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

The 62nd [TCA National Convention](#)

Houston, Texas



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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