

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 46, No. 7

Summer, 2017

CONVENTION UPDATE

For the first time in more than a dozen years we did not host a July Mini-Meet. I usually make a report at that meeting about what took place at the TCA National convention and answer any questions that our members have. I've decided to try something a little different. With so little news to report on over the summer I've decided to report on the convention in this issue. The September issue will welcome everyone back, both Division and Chapter, to the fall train season.

There are still plenty of things to do this summer. I met many of you a few weeks ago at the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Summer Cactus Meet. And hope to run into many more of you at the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club's "Beat the Heat Meet" coming up in mid-August.

After hosting two and getting ready to help in our third National TCA Convention, the end of June each year is something I look forward to. Laurel and I head off to a different city and look forward to learning about a new area of the country and hanging out with the many friends we've made in this hobby over the past several decades. This past year was a return trip to the city of Pittsburgh, a city we last visited in 2004. For

those of you who do not attend National Conventions let me encourage you to add this to your summer travel plans.

As usual we fly to the convention city and take an airport shuttle to the host hotel. Our flight this time had a few extra delays and when we arrived at the Wyndham Grand Downtown Hotel we just collapsed into bed. Waking up later that morning and opening the window blinds presented a beautiful view of "The Point", one of Pittsburgh's most famous locations. Located at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, the "Three Rivers" area and Point State Park is also the location of historic Fort Pitt, for which the hosting Division is named for.

Our first day was spent playing tourist as we located restaurants in the area that we wanted to try during the upcoming week, exploring Point State Park, and just enjoying the great weather. One thing we couldn't help but notice were a lot of life size furry creators running about outside. In fact, just about everywhere we turned over the course of the week we were met by more and more of these furries. More about these "furries" later in my President's message.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12 – **CAMRRC BEAT THE HEAT Meet** – 9 AM – 1 PM – Prescott Valley, AZ

September 9 – **September Desert Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting-Phoenix, AZ

September 16 – **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – 9:00 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Albuquerque, NM

September 23 – **GCMR Mini-Swap** - 9:00 Am – 11:00 AM – 1212 E Glendale Ave, Phoenix AZ

October 7 - 8 – **RAIL FAIR 2017** – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – Scottsdale, AZ

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

October 14 - **WVRHS Train Swap Meet** – Glendale Christian Church 9 AM - 1 PM – Glendale, AZ

If you follow the Desert Division on facebook we reported quite a bit from the convention that week. The public layouts were spectacular and in every gauge from HO up to G and Standard Gauge. Most were very user interactive with a lot of exciting scenes that came to life with the push of a button.

The night before the Board of Directors meets, the hosting Chapter or Division usually holds an informal social get-together for us. This provides all the officers and Division Presidents a great venue to relax and get reacquainted prior to our board meetings the following days. For some of us it is a chance to answer questions about upcoming business at the BOD meetings, for others it is a chance to relax before getting down to business, for me it's a mixture of both.

This past convention the social was held at the home of John DeSantis. John is a well know collector within the ranks of TCA and his home and collection provided our own personal highlight of our trip and the convention week. John is the ultimate host and having a chance to once again visit his beautifully restored Victorian home was a treat all in itself. Of course, his collection speaks is world famous and John freely answers all questions about the variations he has collected and tips for those of us still on the prowl to add to our own collection.

The following morning the Board of Directors Meeting began. If you read the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting they can be confusing and maybe to some, a bit boring, so let me give you the highlights of what happened and the news of what was reported.

One of the first things on the agenda was a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a complete reworking of the TCA National websites. This proposal called for extensive updating of not just the national members website, but also the National Toy Train Museum and the Toy Train Reference Library as well. Most tourists in the area are using smartphones to access family attractions in the area and our websites have not kept up with the times. Since this RFP is web based, the request can be implemented by any company nationwide. The BOD agreed and the RFP is currently out looking for companies to respond. If you know of a web design company

that would like a copy of the TCA RFP have them contact me and I will forward it to them.

Next item up was the budget. Well, let me jump back a step and report our membership numbers since they play a pivotal role in the budget process. At the convention, our total TCA membership reported was 22,902. Breaking the numbers down we have 237 Life Members, 920 Honor Role Members, 27 Heritage Members, 28 Junior Members, and 65 Trial Members. I'll report on Kid's Club in another section of the newsletter.

Although the numbers might look a bit down, they are relatively unchanged year-to-year. The TCA Board of Directors has been working very hard the past five years changing the business model of the Association. New classes of membership have been implemented and are beginning to take root. "Idle" money in investment accounts (CD's) that were drawing little return have been moved into more higher yielding accounts, while at the same time diversifying them to remain fully insured. The new Heritage Membership (Desert Division has two Heritage Members of the 27 nationwide) and other fund-raising efforts from the METCA Division matching funds challenge have secured the beginning of TCA's Endowment Fund.

For each of the past five years, the proposed budget has been approved with a modest cash surplus, which was met each time. This year's budget forecast is to again post a modest savings. Why is this good news for you? By continuing to keep expenses trimmed while looking to increase non-dues income in other areas, there will be no need for a dues increase for the next several years.

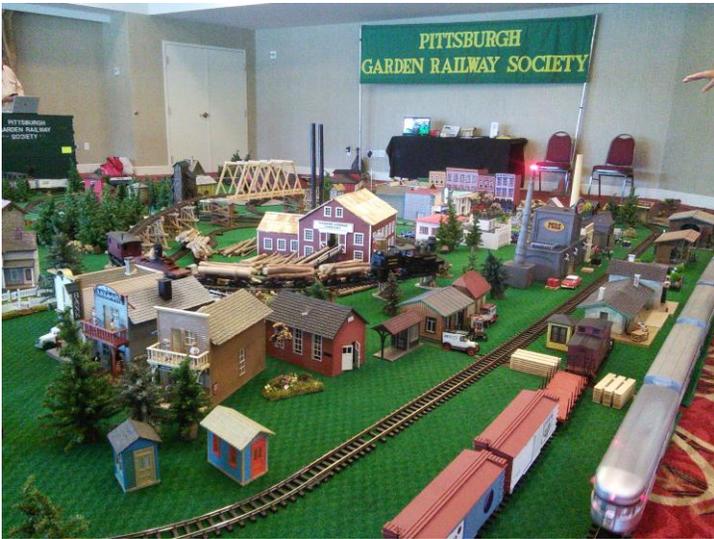
Once the budget was put to bed, the BOD moved onto other topics. The 2020 Convention bid for Jacksonville Florida was approved. The current 2017 NETCA Convention cars are currently available for purchase. Remember the sale of these convention cars now ends in October so don't delay if you would like to own one. There is a unique Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream reefer in S gauge and great graphics on a G gauge beer reefer available. I reported on the plans for the 2019 TCA Convention in Albuquerque. At \$99 a night we will have one of the lowest room rates in recent history. (continued on Page 4.)



The view of the Three Rivers from our hotel window



Convention Hotel and city skyline from Point State Park



The G layout was on the floor and massive



Large HO Layout with interactive modules



Ft. Pitt Kids Club had a large module setup



Trading pits were very busy & filled with many treasures

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting

To keep with the theme of this month's issue, the June BOD Minutes will be published in the September issue.

Other convention news impacted us directly as the Rio Grande Chapter gets ready to host the 2019 Convention. Registration is typically handled by the hosting convention. A change that was approved during the Board of Directors meeting was that TCA National would begin handling convention registration from now on. The devil is in the details, but one of the biggest obstacles and hardest to learn for each convention committee is the registration software. This change now puts it in the hands of the TCA Business Office. Although there will still need to be the local support "boots on the ground" during the convention week, the workload has been greatly reduced. More details will be forthcoming as the initial kinks get worked out of the system and we get ready to handle the 2019 registration which is only 16 months away.

Next it was approved that deaccessioned items from the Toy Train Museum could be made available to future conventions for auction. These deaccessioned items would now be available to a wider group of our membership as the conventions travel around the country. Currently they are only available to those members who travel to the National Toy Train Museum Open House at the York Meet.

Recognizing the hard work that many put into the Association, the process and criteria for the President's Award was approved. In addition, several new classes of Benefactor Awards were defined and approved. Patrons and Benefactors of TCA, the National Toy Train Museum and the Toy Train Reference Library will now receive recognition with a plaque in the atrium area of the TCA headquarters campus. Like the brick program that is nearly complete, these awards will allow TCA to continue to list the individuals, Division, Chapters and business's that financially support TCA.

The Kid's Club program is undergoing a big change over the next year. First, and most importantly although often overlooked is the simple fact that Kid's Club is exactly that, a club. TCA does have a Junior Membership for those under the age of 18, but this class of membership is really for those young adults who are heavily involved in the hobby. Kid's Club is still free while Junior Members pay reduced yearly dues to stay active on the rolls.

One of the biggest obstacles facing Kids Club was the sharp falloff once these Club members

became teens. With Junior Membership now in place, Kid's Club is reinventing itself into two separate groups with those 12 years of age and younger staying in the original Kid's Club. Those 13 years and older will now be enrolled into TCA Teens. The work will be challenging as this new concept continues to evolve. TCA Teens hopes to involve already established youth train groups into the Association. If this happens we should see the ranks of Junior membership grow over the upcoming years. It's an ambitious project, but another way we look to involve today's youth that have already shown an interest in the hobby. The BOD approved that those Junior Members who convert to Regular Members at their 18th birthday pay the reduced rate of 50% Regular Membership dues until they attain their 24th birthday.

One motion was soundly defeated, and it was something we talked about earlier this year at our own meetings. It was proposed that all voting in future TCA elections be 100% electronic. With rising paper, printing, and postage costs the Internet Committee was tasked to find a way to reduce these costs. Adding electronic voting to the existing process would increase the cost, so the proposal was to convert to 100% electronic voting instead. As the Chairman of the Internet Committee and the originator of the motion, I heard time and again from officers and other Division President's that this was a bad idea and we would alienate our membership if implemented. Just as the passions ran high at our meeting over taking this newsletter 100% electronic, speaker after speaker voiced concerns about an all-electronic election. As I mentioned this motion was defeated, but later in the meeting I announced that the Internet Committee would revisit the electronic voting issue and present a new motion in 2018 that we feel could provide and either/or option for voting at no cost increase to the budget. It won't be the proposed \$15,000 annual savings that all-electronic voting would have achieved, but it will be a step in the right direction. As more members choose this option TCA should begin to realize additional savings.

So that is my report from the 63rd TCA National Convention. I'm sure you will have additional questions to ask so bring them to the September meeting on September 9th. Until then stay cool and I hope to see you at the Beat the Heat Meet in Prescott Valley later this month.

Presidents Message

Dear Friends, I have started too many emails this past summer with these heartfelt words. As I sit here and try to compose my thoughts for this newsletter I ache over the members we have lost in not just the past few months, but over the past few years.

"Aging Out" is what they like to politely call it. A hobby, club or organization of volunteers and friends who come together to share in each other's passion and joy in doing something we all like, but as we all march along, our ranks become smaller with fewer people coming onboard to replace us. It's a challenge, for all of us to help those whose health might not be what it once was, to get to meetings or even to make an occasional phone call to check-in and see if everything is ok or if there was something we could do to help out.

The sudden passing of Division founding member Bob Johnston was a shock to all of us. I will have more details on Bob's Celebration of Life service that is planned for September 9th in the September issue of the DISPATCH. That service is scheduled for 1 PM and I plan to end the September meeting on time so our members can attend.

It has been a busy summer for us and maybe for you as well. As I reported elsewhere in this issue I spent a week in Pittsburgh at the TCA National

highly detailed costumes. These "furries" as they called themselves, were having a convention in Pittsburgh as well. Well, not a convention but rather a "ANTHROCON" which is the world's largest convention for those fascinated with anthropomorphics. Yes, I had to look up the word but I could have guessed it. Anthropomorphics are humanlike animal characters dating back to antiquity but are more commonly seen today in many adult animated movies. They have a huge following outside of the United States in such places as Japan and Europe.

Now, what pray tell you might ask, does this have to do with TCA, train collecting or reality? Well, after the convention I was on the phone talking with a close friend and 6464 collector who was updating me on his search. I'm an extra pair of eyes looking for some variations he is still pursuing. During the conversation, he mentioned he was watching the news and a report on the San Diego Comic-Con being held and the huge number of fans it was drawing. Wouldn't it be great if we could get the public excited about a train convention or swap meet he mused?

Of course, that got me thinking. You can relax I'm not going to propose we all dress up as animals or Mr. Spock, or even Storm Troopers. What it did bring to mind was the cliché that the younger generation isn't social they are buried into their smartphones. They don't belong to any clubs or organizations anymore. You know the mantra, maybe you have even repeated it yourself, I know I have.

Sure, times change and with that change we can either accept the change or remain where we were. As a Division President and National Director in TCA I am always looking at ways to tweak membership in ways that we can attract future members. I still continue to believe that our future lies in those individuals who want to express their creativity through modeling and creating miniature worlds. From a purely artistic point of view, either creating a caricature of an animal or building a miniature city, are all in the minds of their own creators.

The artistic talent of the younger generation is all around us. Sometimes it takes a multicolored one to wake me up out of my slumber and realize that they do belong to organizations just like I do. Hope isn't lost for the hobby, but the next generation of hobbyists might come from a different background than we could have ever imagine.



Photo copywrite anthrocon.org

Convention. While we were there we noticed many people dressed up as animals. Some wore simple masks, gloves that resembled paws and a tail while others had complete head to toe custom made and

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HARVEY CAR UPDATE
by Peter Atonna

I've just today received an email from my Lionel contact that our Harvey cars will be shipped on time and are due to arrive at my home by August 28! That means that I should be able to get them labeled and to my Paulden post office that week for those of you who preordered one or more of them.

Now as to the "special - pick up cars", Chris will pick them up here, so they should be at the September 9th meet in Phoenix for you to pickup and he will get them to Albuquerque for the September 16th meeting.

To my surprise, to date I have received pick up orders from only five Rio Grande members and eighteen members to be picked up in Phoenix (and I have three for here in Prescott!). I thought more DD members would take advantage of this offer for the last of our convention fund raising cars. Remember, if you have been thinking about it, you still have time. If I RECEIVE your order by August 31, then you will have your car delivered to you and you save \$5 per car!

Order Yours Now!

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Please send _____ cars at \$74.95 each

Total \$_____ Make check payable to: Desert Division and mail to;

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TCA Member Table # _____ @ \$20.00 ea _____

Non Member Table # _____ @ \$25.00 ea _____

Send a check payable to: TCA-Rio Grande Chapter

Mail to: Bill Spofford, 9609 San Rafael N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109

Please return form with payment by October 21, 2017

Visit our web site at: www.tcadd.org

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.

BEAT THE HEAT UPDATE

by Peter Atonna

Our Central Arizona Model Railroad fellows are getting to the final arrangements for this year's swap meet and are hoping to host a lot of Desert Division members. As noted earlier, tables have been sold out for a couple of months now, so all 96 tables will be full of goodies. If you have not been up to here for a few years, we are in our third year at our new location, the gym of the Liberty Traditional School in Prescott Valley.

It is right off SR 69 in the heart of Prescott Valley. The only thing to watch for is that you need to make a circle north and then south to enter the school's parking lot. You will turn right from SR69 onto Windsong Dr (there is a CVS Pharmacy on your right at the corner. We will have a sign there to direct

you). Then turn left at Lakeshore Drive and take the next left at Lake Valley Road. That takes you right to the school. We have additional parking available this year (and it is not all accessible from northbound on Lake Valley, hence the circle to get you going for a right hand turn into the school).

At the meet, you will be given maps to seven club members' open houses. So enjoy HO gauge, O gauge and outdoor G gauge layouts during the afternoon. Finally, if you are making a weekend of it in the Prescott area, you are welcome to come for a layout visit at my house Friday evening. I admit, I love to see the layout in the dark with all its lights on. Having visitors gives me an excuse to do so. Just send me an email and I will email you directions.



If you look closely you can see a UP Dash heading up a consist of Auto Carriers going under the Three Rivers Bridge



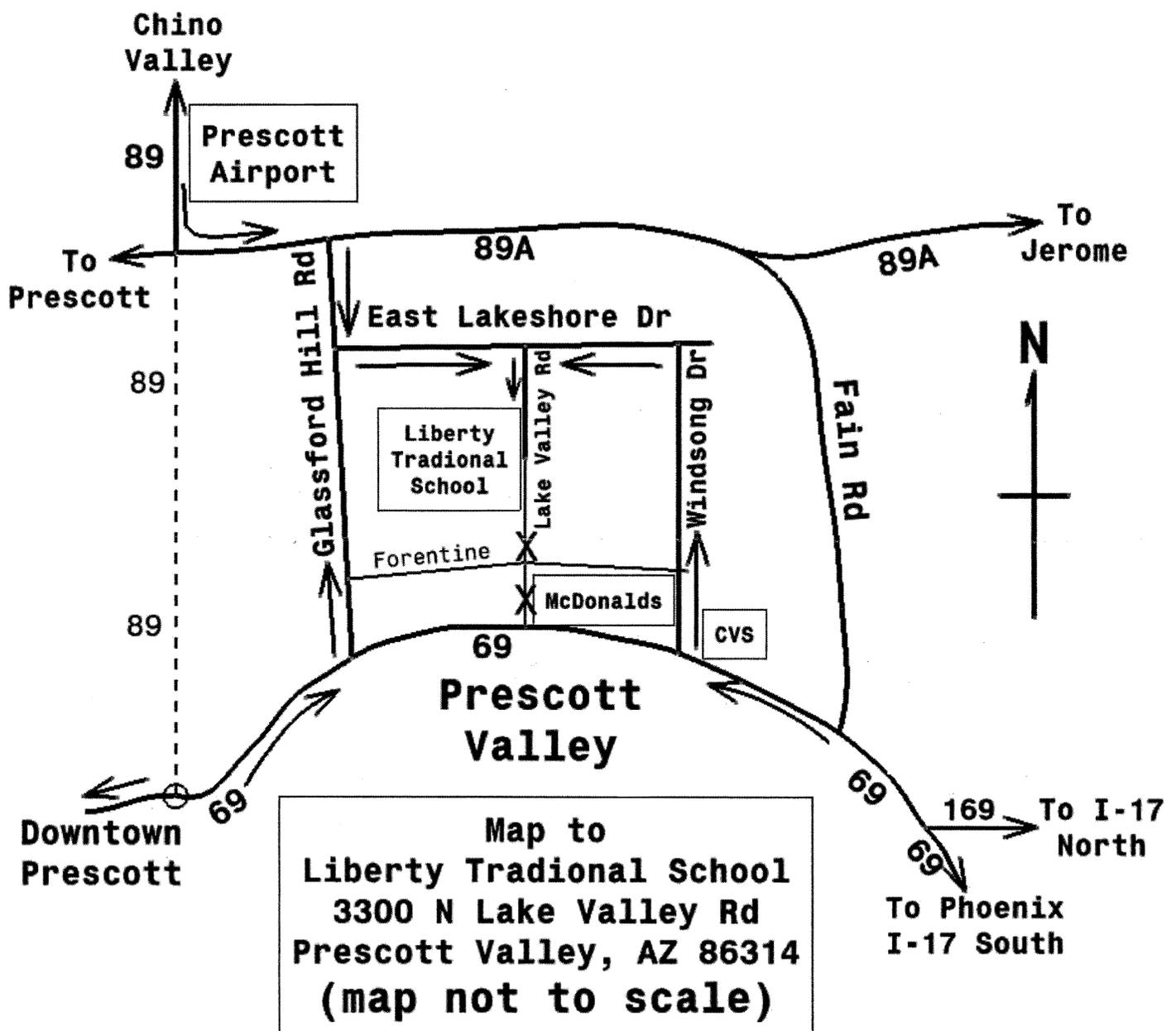
One of the Amphibious "Duck" tours getting out of the Allegheny River in front of Heinz Field



Part of the Ft. Pitt Kids Club Module

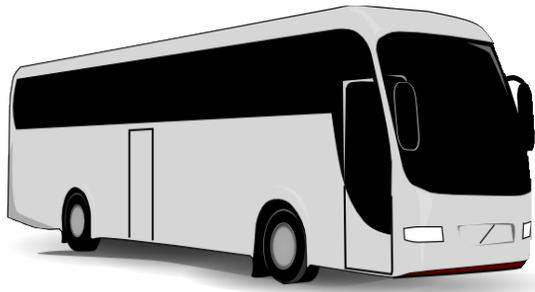


A lot of action in just a small space



--- VERY IMPORTANT ---

DO NOT use north bound Lake Valley Rd.
Access the school from the North at
E. Lakeshore Dr. & Lake Valley Rd.
Turn South on Lake Valley Rd. to school
'PV Police will ticket people making
Left or U-turns to the School'



IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE ANNUAL

BEAT THE HEAT

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IN COOL PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ

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OPTIONAL BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH BEVERAGE AT SWAP

(swap meet entrance fees are not included)

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Select Your Pickup Location

Arizona Mills at 6:30 AM _____

Paradise Valley Mall at 7:00 AM _____

Metrocenter Mall at 7:30 AM _____

Carefree Highway at 7:45 AM _____

Number of adult GCMR club members: _____ at \$30 each = \$ _____

Number of adult Non-GCMR members: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____

Number of children under 14: _____ at \$15 each = \$ _____

Number of lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each = \$ _____

Total: **Make checks payable to "GCMR"** \$ _____

(no refunds after August 6, 2016)

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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 160 Station Platform, Black roof, C-7, OB-P-6 \$290, 161 Bungalow C-8, OB-P-8,\$240, 162 Factory C-8 OB-P-8 \$250, 166 Church C-8 OB P-7,\$300 50 District School C-9, OB P-8, \$225, 788 Station C-9,OB P-8 \$65. Unique Lines 1950 0-4-0 electric & 4 wheel tender C-6, no box \$50, Hafner 10000 windup red ends, chrome body, 3 Pullmans, one observation, Track Set \$175. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 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

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-11956 UP GP-9 Lash Up TMCC power and dummy \$175 – MTH 20-2309-1, Two WP GP-40 in two different cab #'s \$250 each – Lionel AMTRAK RDC 8868-8871 4 car set w/OB's \$250- Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: for my collection. Lionel prewar and postwar engines in master cartons, scarce separate sale items such as Lionel scrapers, bulldozers, 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

WANTED: Cradle and yoke for 12" locomotive bell – Eye catching railroadania items - Chris Allen sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: PASSENGER SET: I'm working with a friend who is putting some train sets for a youth group. Track and boxes not important. If you can help, would you let me know. Peter Atonna 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



More layout pictures from the convention. All of the interiors were detailed and lighted on this module



One of the display cases had a nice display of Hafner transitioning to Marx



This picture was taken during the setup which is the reason for the boxes in the background. Note more of the lighted detailed buildings make the scene come to life



Lions, Tigers and Bears! Wonderful circus scene with lots of action. Everywhere you looked the scene changed. Part of the Ft. Pitt Kids Club module.



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
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