

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 52, No. 2

February 2023

## SOUPER BOWL TIME!

Things are getting busy here in the Division hometown. We understand there suppose to be some sort of football game going on over in Glendale. Funny, I thought the Cardinals season ended a few weeks ago. I know some of you say it ended months ago, but that's another story.

January saw a New Year begin with a great turn out, except for one member. How's that Country song go, "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone". Sure came true in January when Janet Mattern lost track on her dates and missed a meeting. For awhile there we thought she's been abducted by aliens in a UFO. Janet, miss a meeting? Hasn't happened in recent memory. Well folks, you thought the world ended that bleak and dreary Saturday morn. Actually it was bright, clear, and sunny but you couldn't tell it by looking at all the forlorn faces on the Division

membership who came for doughnuts and not trains, somehow we survived.

President Dietrich called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 10:02 amidst all the rumbling tummies in the room. Secretary Lautazi announced our membership at 163 dues paying members of the 223 total TCA members that live in the geographical boundaries of the Division. Treasurer Thompson reported the following balances: Checking \$12,571.35, Savings \$3,489.97 PayPal \$1,720.92 and the CD \$20,195.56. Mark reported that the Division had a financial net gain of \$1,036.01 for the year 2022. Mike asked if there were any questions about the reports and hearing none closed the Annual Business Meeting and continued with the January General Membership Meeting.

Secretary Lautazi reported that we had three

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **February 4 - Desert Division SOUPER BOWL IX – Toy Train Auction**

Auction Preview 8 AM – 9 AM – Auction starts 9 AM – Paradise Valley United Methodist Church (PVUMC)  
Fellowship Hall - 4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

#### **February 11 – February Division Meet**

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – PVUMC Room H-1, Paradise Valley, AZ  
**Educational Theme – What train made you fall in love with the hobby?**

#### **February 18 - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting**

9:30 AM - Wheels Museum - 1110 2<sup>nd</sup> SW, Albuquerque, NM

#### **March 11 – March Division Meet**

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – PVUMC, Paradise Valley, AZ

visitors with us today. Bill Wright, a TCA member from Virginia was in town visiting and decided to stop by and check things out. John Cody is a local train collector and Rick Gill also a local train operator and collector stopped in to check things as potential new members.

Under Old Business, President Dietrich expanded on the treasurer's report about the November Train Show which resulted in a financial loss. Several factors contributed to the loss, poor attendance, fewer tables sold than last year, and increased costs to rent the Shrine Auditorium. The goal remains the same, continue to host the longest running Toy and Model Train Meet in Phoenix as a benefit for our members while not operating the show at a financial loss. The search for a new less expensive location for 2023 has begun.

Another long running tradition, the joint Christmas Party also suffered from lower-than-expected attendance. For many years the show was held earlier on Sunday afternoon, Mike asked if an earlier time would be preferable with the response being about 50/50. He also thanked Angelo and Barbara Lautazi who are retiring as the Holiday Party Committee Chairs.

Under New Business Mike announced that the February **Super Bowl Auction** will be next door at the large **Fellowship Hall** on **Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>**. There is a signup sheet on the front table for volunteers to list what soup or chili they plan to bring in to help the kitchen staff plan for the half time break. The **February Meeting** will be the following week on **February 11**, back here in our usual meeting **room H-1**. It will also be the beginning of the Hudson Raffle drawing for 2023 and your first chance to score the Hudson Hundred.

March will be our quiet month with only the General Meeting planned on March 11.

April 1<sup>st</sup> brings the Multi-Club Spring Picnic at the Asti Ramada located at the north end of McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. More details and how you can help to make this an enjoyable event for everyone will be coming up.

The regular April General Meet will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the day before Easter in our regular H-1 Meeting room at the church.

Rounding out the springtime activities will be the Pizza Meet Train Auction on May 13. This will be an

upgraded auction this year with a few small consignments and several very nice donations we have received over the past few years. There will be a small flyer with a description of the lots distributed ahead of time so you will want to stick around after the pizza lunch and join in the action.

Last item for the meeting Mike announced the committee chairs for the upcoming year. Chris Allen has agreed to stay on as the Editor for another year, Paul Malek will continue as the Auction Chair, the website continues to be manned by Angelo Lautazi with this our 21st year anniversary of the Division being on the internet under Angelo's care. The Holiday Party will be Co-Chaired this year by Mark and Linda Thompson along with Chris and Laurel Allen.

Educational Segment had **Terry Haas** bringing his first train, the exact same train that was written about in the January *TC Quarterly*. Just like the one in the article Terry had his in the original box with all the inserts and paperwork. This was Terry's first train he received when he was 2. **Phil Todd** saw an auction listing for some MTH USPS box cars and a caboose made in 1999. He bought the cars for Janet Mattern who gives away them away to fellow postal employees at their retirement. "Santa" brought **Katie Elgar** her latest car, a Menards flat car with a colorful and detailed pickup truck load. **Chris Allen** ended a five-year search and finally was able to add a uncommon variation to his growing Marx Auto Carrier empire. The blue Marx flat car sported a yellow auto carrier which is hard to find. Chris mentioned that he enjoys running long trains of the same type of cars and he now owns 18 of these cars, with number 19 in the mail. "Santa" also brought him a new 1964 Hudson by way of the Division Hudson drawing at the Christmas Party and he had it on display and plans to sell it since he has another '64 Hudson that he runs on a regular basis.

Raffle prize winners in no particular order. **John Upshur** Lionel Christmas Box Car, **Pete Zwerin** Lionel Conrail Caboose, **Nick Schnakenber** MTH NYC Stock Car, **Dan Casagrande** K Line Vat Car, **Katie Elgar** PRR Box Car, and **Christie Wilson** Elgin train clock.

Hudson tickets go on sale at the February meet for the first Hudson Drawing and Hudson ticket in the monthly raffle prize mix.



## JANUARY DIVISION MEET PHOTOS



**If you arrive early enough you can stake claim to premium seating for the meeting**



**So that's why they call it a laptop. Chris Allen live broadcasting the meeting to our Facebook page**



**Terry Haas talking about the article in the *TC Quarterly* about his first train, the Schilling #700 Electric Train**



**Phil Todd missed more than Janet's doughnuts. He bought this USPS train for her to take home...**



**Katie Elgar holding one of her Christmas presents, a Menards flat car with pickup truck load**



**Nick Schnakenber can hardly contain his excitement at winning a raffle prize**

## **TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – January 11, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM at the home of Paul and Irene Wassermann

In Attendance; Mike Dietrich, Angelo Lautazi, Mark Thompson, Terry Haas, Paul Wassermann, and John Zaval. On teleconference: Art Lites and Chris Allen

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

**Secretary's Report** - Angelo reported that membership stands at 163 paid members with 70 members owing dues for the upcoming year.

**Treasurers Report** - Treasurer Mark Thompson reported that the Savings Account is \$3,495.97 and Checking is \$12,571.35, CD Account 20,195.56 and PayPal with \$1,720.92. The club's CD is maturing shortly, Mark would like the Board to agree moving to a different bank that is offering a higher interest rate. The board agreed to the move once the CD matured.

### **Old Business:**

**November Train Auction** – The November auction was a profitable auction, with several high ticket lots. Many of the consignors were non-members which resulted in a higher commission rate for the club. Chris will report on the upcoming auctions under New Business.

**Desert Division Train Show 2022:** – The show operated at a loss of \$1,300 to the club. A poor showing at the gate and table sales did not match the capacity of the Shrine Auditorium were the contributing factors. In conversations with the Shrine Chris discovered that the rates will again increase for the 2023 Show. We have the date reserved but Chris is looking for a new location.

**Christmas Party:** – Attendance was down but the party was enjoyed by those present. There was discussion among the board as to how much the club should subsidize this event. Mike would like everyone to come up with suggestions for the party going forward.

**BOD Luncheon** – Might be pushed to March. Mike will meet with a restaurant on the west side that he is familiar with and see if they can accommodate our party.

### **New Business:**

#### **Committee Appointments 2023:**

Newsletter – Chris Allen, Editor

Website – Angelo Lautazi, Webmaster

Auction – Paul Malek Chair

Train Show – Meet Chair Chris Allen

Holiday Party – Co-Chairs - Chris and Laurel Allen, Mark and Linda Thompson

**Auctions 2023-24** – Chris reported on behalf of Paul Malek that there are no large consignments for the fall 2023 and Winter 2024 Auctions. **Auction Committee selling on eBay:** Chris has been approached by a club member to have the club put his items on Ebay. In the past we have placed a few items on eBay for a commission paid to the club minus the eBay fees. The club has an Ebay account, but Chris suggests that the club opens a separate checking account for the Ebay sales. Chris said he would be willing to handle some items, but he would limit it to 10 a month. Scheduled start; spring 2023

**Division Lifetime Membership; Ron White TCA 63-943** – Motion by Paul Wassermann to confer Division Lifetime Membership to Division Founding Member Ron White. Motion Passed

**Rio Grande Chapter** - Art Lites would like to simplify the process of dues collection for the chapter. The Board agreed to let the Chapter collect and keep the dues for their members. They will keep track of their membership and send a completed list to the Desert Division's secretary.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on Wednesday February 8, 2023, at the home of Terry and Adrienne Haas.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

## Presidents Message

Friends,

Welcome to February and train love is in the air...

February is a busy time in the Valley of the Sun as we are playing host to tens of thousands of visitors from around the world. The "game whose name must not be mentioned without paying the proper fees", the golf tournament, the car auctions, and the start of Spring Training keep us busy.

The Desert Division is also busy this time of year as we are back to our regular meeting and the highly anticipated Souper-bowl auction. I'd encourage you to check out the auction page for the listing of some incredible items in this auction. There is something for everyone in this offering and as always, there is no buyer's premium and bargains a plenty.

It's dues season and I hope you will take the time to renew both your TCA and Desert Division dues. The Board works tirelessly to make sure you receive maximum value for your membership. This year we are redoubling our efforts to continue to offer auctions, a fantastic Turkey Meet, a picnic, and a fun Holiday Party. We've heard your concerns and will do all we can to make each of these events cost effective and amazing experiences.

I do want to challenge you to attend and participate in what we do. If you're reading this newsletter, consider coming to a meeting, the picnic, an auction, the Turkey Meet and the

Holiday Party. Showing up to these events can help rekindle the friendships and the spark of why you joined the hobby. The Division is not about trains, it's about people.

Ear to the rail. Here's some dates to mark on your calendar:

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** Souper-Bowl Auction, many different soups will be offered as we sell fantastic trains! This is in the fellowship center at the PVUMC. See the website for details.

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** Regular meeting and member sales tables.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** Regular meeting and member sales tables.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** Annual tri-club picnic at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (Asti ramada)

As I will close each newsletter, I hope to welcome you to one of our events or meetings and I'd like to add two more "C's" to the Chamber of Commerce slogan: Collecting and Camaraderie, as the latter is what keeps us going!

**February's education segment: What train caused you to fall in love with the hobby?**



### DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2024

President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538	Directors:	Art Lites	505-463-1951
Vice-President:	John Craft	480-7852432		Terry Haas	480-827-8604
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-575-7006		Paul Wassermann	480-949-1620
Treasurer:	Mark Thompson	307-631-4474		John Zaval	602-843-4909





## TCA RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

By Art Lites TCA 97-44623



As I write this message, it is 18 degrees with the high going to 38 degrees. It is a perfect day to be inside and working/playing with your layout. I hope you take some time to enjoy your trains.

I am happy to report that 2022 was a success for our chapter. Early in the year, I stated that we must adjust what we were doing in order to keep the club viable. We did start that process and the results were positive. Here are some of the results:

1. We made money on the Pumpkin meet.
2. We added over 200 new names to our e-mail through our raffle.
3. We donated over \$350 to the Wheels Museum.
4. The Wheels layout is almost completely operational (thanks John Westfall).
5. We added 8 new members (our goal was 4).

So, congratulations to all. We are on the right track (pun intended).

Some notes from the January Meet. We have a change to an officer position. After over a decade of service, Scott Eckstein with help from his wife Elaine has stepped down as Secretary. We thank him for his service, but he will remain on as Pumpkin Meet coordinator among other things he does to assist us. Chris Wieclaw volunteered to take Scott's place and was approved as our new Secretary.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Everett Hagan reported a balance in checking of \$5021.06 and CD of \$15,021.06. Everett and Art set up savings account at Sandia Area Federal Credit Union.

We approved a new budget which is essentially the same as last years and has to be a somewhat uncertain as we variables such as

gate at the Pumpkin Meet or donations. Everett distributed his best guess as to where we would end the year, but we don't expect much negative deviation. Our total savings and checking stands almost the same as it was one year ago.

We had an interesting Show and Tell followed by a Run session. Show and Tell had several interesting items. **Jim Trevor** brought a US Navy Rapid Strike Boxcar. The car was fitted with a voltmeter and a flashing LED. The car is one of many "prototypes" produced as special runs by Modelmain Train Works who specialize in modifying Lionel cars with analog voltmeters. **Boyd Reasor** reviewed the book "Overhaul" which tells the story of how the railroad shops made the city of Albuquerque the growth center of the state. **John Trevor** reviewed the new Lionel catalogue for 2023. The catalogue was breathtaking not for the product offerings but price increases of the of products. \$2900 for a Bigboy? **Art Lites** brought a new RMT tank car and compared it to a recent Menards tank car. It seemed that the molds were the same however RMT offers diecast trucks.

After the show, several members brought trains to run. We have three loops and had three trains running much to the delight of the public attending. There have been several significant additions to the Wheels layout. First, you can run both TMCC and Legacy engines on all tracks. We have modified the controls to allow Cab/Legacy from the front of the layout. We will also be able to run conventional engines with the Cab. Next, you American Flyer collectors should be able to operate on the expansion of Wheels layout however, this will require your participation if you want this to happen. **The Wheels layout**

**is a significant benefit to almost every Chapter member.** Most of us don't have large layouts but the layout at the Wheels Museum allows us to run long trains. Additionally, If you have to down size your layout, you do not have to get rid of your trains. You can still run them on a very large layout. Get down to the Wheels and take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Meeting dates for 2022:**

**February 18** at the Wheels Museum,

**March 18** We will be meeting at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center to interact with the public. At some point we will participate in a planes, trains, and automobile show again at the multigenerational center. The date is yet to be determined.

**April 15** We will again be back at the Wheels Museum.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at Boyd Reasor's house to run trains on his large layout. His layout includes both O and S track.

**In June** we will be doing a joint picnic with TTOS. In addition, John Spargo is organizing a trip to Belen to view the Belen Yard. We don't have a firm date, but we will do this when the weather warms up. As you can see a lot going

on at the meetings. Plan to attend these meetings and join in the fun with your friends.

### **Other Events:**

**February 25** - TTOS Swap Meet Netherwood Church - Albuquerque, NM 9AM - 2 PM

**April 1 & 2** - Rocky Mountain Train Show, National Western Complex - Denver, CO.

One final thought. Last year our future looked dim. Several members had passed on and the membership rooster had been dwindling for several years. Fortunately, this improved in 2022 however, we must continue to build membership. The future of this club and the hobby's future depends on adding new members. We need you to make a difference.

First look over the literature that we have at the Museum specifically the benefits of joining the TCA and our Chapter.

Secondly, I ask everyone to take a couple of hours each month and run your train at the Wheels layout. While running your trains, interact with the public. When someone seems interested in the hobby invite them to the next meeting.

This should be a fun activity and if we do this consistently, we will build our membership. It is in your hands to keep this hobby going.



**John Westfall at the Wheels Museum layout**



**Modelmain Train Works Voltmeter Box Car just like John Trevor's (photo ebay farfall2222)**



## TRANSPORTATION DAY 2023 – TEMPE, ARIZONA



Module trailer ready for the children. Since it was only for two hours we went with a simple layout



Our first guests arrive. Not too many places in TCA where you can run trains outdoors on a January morning



This event is open to children from other preschools in the area as well as the public



Waiting for a turn to run the Lionel First Responders LionChief set



Running around the layout trying to beat the Williams GG1 Passenger train



With all the preschoolers we only had two derailments playing "touch the train"



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## - CHANGE



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**FOR SALE: ON CONSIGNMENT** Lionel TMCC Command Base and handheld, from clubs old module layout \$75 – MTH 50-1004 AIU New in Box \$125 (we have two) The club can do credit card for purchase. Contact Chris for details

**FOR SALE:** Lionel 38071 SP Cab Forward 4-8-8-4 Brand new, never run \$750. Lionel 51008 Burlington Pioneer Zephyr brand new, never run \$900. Lionel 38014 D&RG Challenger 4-6-6-4 OB \$750. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #10 set, Peacock, 332, 339, 341 cars. Individual boxes and set box \$325. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #8 set, Red, 337, 338 cars plus transformer. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Lionel Santa Fe 2333-20 P X AB Diesel, battery compartment clean. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Chet Henry 480-532-3065 or [bchenry@cox.net](mailto:bchenry@cox.net).

**FOR SALE:** TMK Lionel Prewar 0 & Standard 1900-43, Lionel Postwar 1945-69 TM Lionel 1970-89, 3-Rail price guide, Lionel 1901-95, Lionel 1970-1992, Lionel 1901-1997 each \$20, Greenberg's Repair & Operating Manual 736 pages \$30, Lionel Train Book 131 pages \$20, Hess Toy Truck & Racer 1997 \$15, Southern Crescent Limited 9530-34 new \$75, MDH Track Layout & Accessory Manual 64 pages \$20, MDH Operating 0&027 Trains 237 pages \$20. Dan Martin 520-360-0519 [danniez@cox.net](mailto:danniez@cox.net)

**FOR SALE:** Lionel Model Builder magazine, complete run #1 thru #80 (1937-1949) plus the pre-release Sample Copy of Lionel Model Engineering. All with covers, no cut-outs; \$495 + S/H, or I'll bring to DD meet. Tim Halchuck, Fountain Hills, AZ. Cell 213-700-5455 or email [tim@sound-sources.com](mailto:tim@sound-sources.com)

**FOR SALE:** Lionel 6-38057 Weyerhaeuser Timber Lumber Company 3 Truck Shay Locomotive (2002) \$750 – MTH 30-4158-1 RailKing R-T-R Alaska SW-1500 PS2 4 car set, track & transformer mint in box w/shipper \$200 – Lionel CAB-1 Remote and Base \$75 - PayPal & credit cards - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 [sparkyshome@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:mrwls911@yahoo.com)

**WANTED:** I'm in town for the winter for all your parts needs or if you have a postwar Lionel steam engine laying around that you are stripping for parts? Contact me I want to bring those old engines back to life. - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

**WANTED:** VHS Tapes, Lionel - The Great Years 1955 & 1956 by Joe Algozzini/Don Varda (I have 1954) - Marx 51100 Southern Double Deck Auto Carrier or Flat Cars with trailers - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 [sparkyshome@cox.net](mailto: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 – MORE PHOTOS FROM THE PAST MONTH



Another photo from Transportation Day.  
Sometimes you just can't compete against a shiny  
Police Motorcycle



Chis Allen at the January Meet sharing his  
experiences trying to collect the Marx Auto  
Transport Carrier and all the variations



A smiling Katie Elgar with her raffle prize winnings a  
PRR Box Car. You can't win if you don't buy a ticket



Pete Zwerin was also a happy raffle prize winner in  
January. Thanks to all who bought tickets and help  
support the club



[2023 TCA National Convention](#)  
[New England TCA Division](#)  
[Burlington, Vermont](#)  
[June 24 – July 2](#)

### NEXT DIVISION MEET

February 12, 2023 8:30 - 11:00 AM  
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church  
Room H-1  
4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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