

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

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Volume 52, No. 6

June 2023

GOOD PIZZA AND A GREAT AUCTION

The May General Meet was prequel to an afternoon of good food and a lively auction. With summer temperatures on the rise, the May meet is usually the last big meet prior to our fall season regathering. Of course, having a free pizza lunch helps things as well.

The Auction crew showed up well before the meeting and unloaded a van full of auction items. Sorting out all the trains and accessories, the crew was pretty much set up prior to the table sellers walking in the door. That was no small feat considering almost a hundred lots were consigned or donated.

President Mike added bringing donuts to his list of responsibilities since Janet was enjoying some much-needed vacation time in Hawaii. Mike also had the coffee brewing early, which was a

welcome treat to the auction crew having finished up early and got first choice at the donuts.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 and President Mike welcomed everyone, noting that there was a train show on the west side going on at the same time. Attendance was about 40 members and guests. Mike reported that Treasurer Mark Thompson was recovering from knee replacement surgery and hopes to be back with us in June.

Secretary Angelo Lautazi had double duty with Mark's absence. He reported that our current membership at 154 dues paying members. Angelo introduced our guest, Russell Howry, who was moving into the Valley. Russell is a former TCA member and postwar collector and was planning to rejoin TCA and become active again.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10 – June Division Meet (Last Meet before Summer Break)

Educational Theme – Summer Vacations

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting - Room H-1 (the small room)
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church (PVUMC) 4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

June 24 - Rio Grande Chapter/TTOS New Mexico Division - Joint Picnic

Join us for a fun BBQ Picnic at Chris Weiclaw's home – watch for details

July 22 – GCMR Summer “Mini-Meet”

9:00AM – 11:00 PM Our Savior Lutheran Church – Phoenix, AZ

July 29 – CAMRRC “Beat the Heat Meet”

9:00AM – 1:00 PM Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ

Angelo next gave the treasurers report provided by Treasurer Thompson: reported the following balances: Checking \$9,684.60, Savings \$1,496.58 PayPal \$1100.62, the combined total in the three CD accounts is \$22,025.40.

Mike reported on the progress of the Division Bylaws amendment moving the election and officer cycle back to the calendar year rather than the Division fiscal year. The change was approved by a unanimous vote by the TCA Rules and Regulations committee. It will be placed on the June TCA Board of Directors agenda where it is expected to pass as well.

The search for the fall train show location continues. The Fellowship Hall, where we hold the auctions, is an example of the size requirements we need. The Hall measures about 60' x 90', which is about half the size as the Shrine, and it will only hold about 65-70 tables per fire code. Chris mentioned that he believed that the Phoenix Elks Lodge which has been reserved for our "Plan B", is smaller and will not hold as many tables. While the church could be used, and is well known to our Division members, it is tucked away in Paradise Valley and would not easily be found or freeway accessible for the public.

Next, Mike reported that the pizzas were scheduled to be delivered at 11:00 AM and turned the floor over to Chris to explain how the auction was going to run following lunch.

He explained that Peter had a schedule conflict and was unable to be the auctioneer today and he would try to fill his shoes. There were going to be two parts to the auction with the first being a consignment auction where bidder cards would be used. The auction will then pause briefly while those lots are paid for and closed out then the second, tabletop auction would be held. That auction would be a cash and carry between the winning bidder and the table holder. As he pointed out there was a wide selection from HO and N all the way up to G and Standard Gauge and that his auctioneering skills were not as refined as Peter's so things would likely run a little faster.

Mike is still hopeful to have the TCA membership certificates for the September

"welcome back from summer" first meet of the fall train season. He also mentioned that the next Division Board of Directors Meeting was going to be held prior to the June General Meet in room H-1 here at the church. He encouraged anyone interested in seeing how the Division operates behind the scenes to attend the meeting.

The Educational segment was, "May the 4th be with you or other space themed trains. It was expected to bring out a variety of post war Lionel space loads on flat cars. Unfortunately, that did not materialize. Instead, **Paul Wassermann** took us down memory lane instead and related the story of his meeting Buster Crabbe who late in his life lived in Scottsdale. Crabbe was an Olympic medal swimmer who later went on to a Hollywood career starring in various roles but for today's theme Paul focused on one of his more famous roles as Buck Rogers. Paul had three Tootsietoy metal spaceships the #1031 Battle Cruiser, #1032 Venus Dou - Destroyer and the #1033 Flash Blast Attack Ship. Paul mentioned that the Smithsonian Museum has these toys on display in the *Air and Space Museum* and they are meant to slide down a string that was included with the original toy. **Chris Allen** brought two Lionel sets from his collection. One was the Postwar Celebration Series reissue of the Lionel 2527 Missile Launcher set, the other was the R-T-R Area 51 set. He mentioned he regretted not bringing in some of his favorite postwar cars because he didn't want to duplicate other's efforts and that the space cars were among his favorite postwar collectibles.

Raffle prize winners in no particular order, although our newer members seemed to rule the roost that day. **Terry Haas** Hudson Ticket, **Ralph Treichel** Weaver Box Car, **Dave Brown** The Rock Box Car, **Guy Ferranti** Lionel Caboose, **John Upshur** Lionel Ore Car, **Christie Wilson** Lionel Erie Box Car. Ever hear the old saying, the last shall be first? **Mike Dietrich** won a new in the box vintage Airbush kit that might be older than he. The winner for the Hudson Hundred was "Wilson", and she was present so Christie pocketed the \$100 bill presented by President Mike.

MAY DIVISION MEET PHOTOS



The two rows of tables in the foreground were auction items and table sellers filled the back row.



Looks like a meeting of the minds over some of the "mystery" boxes.



Jon Craft checking out the sales tables before the meet.



Christie Wilson was one of the "Wilson's" in attendance at meet and went home the Franklin.



Paul Wassermann had a great space theme display of Buck Rogers TootsieToy spaceships.



Bill Gonyea filled in for treasurer Mark Thompson during the auction.

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – May 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM at the home of Mike and Michelle Dietrich

In Attendance; Mike Dietrich, John Craft, Angelo Lautazi, Terry Haas, 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 154 paid members.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Mark Thompson had surgery earlier in the day and previously provided the financial data beforehand. Savings Account is \$1,496.58 and Checking is \$9684.60, CD Accounts 22,025.40 and PayPal with \$1,039.63.

Old Business:

Bylaws Change: – Mike sent the proposed Bylaws change to TCA Secretary Katie Elgar. Chris who happens to be on the TCA Rules and Regulations Committee said that they were approved as submitted and will be put on the agenda for the June National Board of Directors Meeting for approval.

Pizza Meet: – The meeting will be on May 13. With the thought that we had leftover pizza last year, Angelo provided a selection of 16 pizzas. Paul is scheduled to return, and Mike will pass the menu selection to him to place with DeVito's. With a shortage of volunteers, it was decided to pay a little extra for delivery.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Fall Train Show: There was a short discussion on whether it was viable to return to the Shrine Auditorium. Its location and costs were voiced as the main concerns. It was agreed not to return to the Shrine. Chris has a few more leads to check on and said he needs to get the room measurements of the rooms at the Elks Lodge and PVUMC so he can plan a table count and floor plan.

Pizza Meet Auction: Chris reported that he received an email from Peter about a scheduling conflict and he will not be the auctioneer on Saturday. He will do his best to cover. With Mark missing the front table will be handled by Angelo and an auction committee member. The Division received a donation from Fred Hunter's family. Half will be in the Pizza the other half in the January 2024 auction. There appears to be about 100 lots total.

Christmas Holiday Party: The date of December 10th and the Elks Lodge has been secured for the party. Catering details will be worked on next.

Member Milestone Certificates: Mike will order the membership certificates from the National Business office. These are offered in five-year increments to Division members who joined TCA with years ending in a 3 or 8. The plan is to award them at the September Meet.

Rio Grande Chapter: Art provided updates on the Rio Grande Chapter activities including a planned field trip to the BNSF railyard in Belen.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on Saturday June 10, prior to the General Meet at PVUMC.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to June and the final meeting before the summer and our regular break. Many of our regulars have drifted off to cooler climes but we are looking forward to a fun and educational meeting.

Memorial Day is historically a day of solemn reflection to honor the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. This fact seems lost these days and it is more the kickoff to summer. We all know that as the calendar moves into June the Valley takes on a noticeably slower pace with school breaks, fewer visitors and noticeably higher temperatures.

The April Pizza-Meetza Auction was a great success, and we want to thank everyone who helped with this unique event. The pizza from DeVito's was another tasty hit with big slices and plenty of toppings. With some last-minute donations and a good cleaning out of the storage locker some very nice items moved to new homes.

We did miss Mark "Smurf" Thompson as he was out of commission due to knee surgery. We know he's recovering and is eager to join us for meetings and events soon. He's got to get tuned up for his next great cruise adventure.

Many will be traveling this summer so I thought the theme of the June meet should revolve around "your favorite summer vacation". Get creative, go back in time, relive your childhood or last week! Try to incorporate trains into the presentation, but it's not required.

The board is actively finalizing the Train Show, Fall Auction, and Christmas Party. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter and dispatches from Angelo.

Ear to the rail:

June 10th Regular meeting back in H1

July 29th Beat the Heat Meet in Prescott

September 9 The Fall train season resumes.

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!

May education segment: June, "are you ready for the summer" or my favorite summer vacation.



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

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER PHOTOS – Boyd Reasor's layout



Boyd's layout has some nice long mainlines so you can stretch out some long trains.



Nice wide sweeping curves along with long passing sidings will be a feature of this layout still being planned.



A view from across the layout to the operator's position



Our host for the day, Boyd Reasor, at the control panel



Everett Hagan's Genesis passenger set had room to run and looked great while doing it



Freight trains also made the circuit on the layout. Everyone had plenty of throttle time.



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Art Lites TCA 97-44623



May was a busy month for train enthusiasts in New Mexico. Things started with a tour of the Belen Yards on the 4th. On May 6th the 2926 Northern 20 years in restoration came out of the barn. Then on the 20th we met at Boyd's train barn for a meeting and a running session.

John Spargo organized a terrific day for the Rio Grande Chapter on May 4th. We met at an old time Mexican restaurant in Belen for lunch. If you haven't eaten at Pete's, you have missed one of the best New Mexican style restaurants in the state and the price is half of the Santa Fe establishments.

During lunch we were introduced to the BNSF Division Manager, who happens to be an O gauger, and along with the staff gave us a rare behind the scenes tour of the Belen railyard. See the separate article for photos of our visit. To wrap the day up, on the way back we visited Col James Brenholdt's USAF retired train layouts.

The layouts are in a dedicated 3,000 sq. ft. building with most of the area devoted to the O gauge layout, a smaller HO layout and all four walls are filled with his favorite trains. His collection rivals any of those I have seen in either NM or Arizona.

Colonel Bernholdt had an interesting Air Force career including 100 missions over North Vietnam in the F-4. This was followed by his role as a test pilot. Sadly, he is not able to run his trains much anymore and has begun cataloging the collection for future sale. This is a task we all will be facing.

The next exciting event here in Albuquerque was the firing up and running of the Santa Fe Northern #2926. The locomotive ran out of the barn several blocks and parked by the Tractor Brewery. This was the first time it was run more than a few feet and has been 20 years and millions of dollars in restoration. Several of our Chapter members have been actively involved in the restoration. The NM Historical Society has plans to operate the engine as an excursion train probably to Lamy NM.

Finally, The May meeting was held at **Boyd Resor's** home. Before and after the meeting we had

several members operating trains on his layout. Both O and S could be operated as the layout accommodates both scales. **Bob Schmidt's** brought a American Flyer 353 circus consist, and a 332 steamer. **George Domeny's** had a PA Rocket Diesel passenger set. **Art Lites** brought a 1952 American Flyer Hudson 332 which was donated to the club. **Scott Eckstien** brought a Flyer Silver streak set. **Chris Wieclaw** brought a Flyer 295 and a Silver Streak Diesel.

The O gaugers were also represented. **Everett Hagen** brought a new Lionel Genesis with double deck passenger cars. **Scott Eckstien** brought some K Line O gauge and **Ross Jordan** brought a spectacular Prewar Lionel 763 which he restored to look new. Several members said they had not been able to run these trains in years. We saw some items that we had never seen run before.

The club is proceeding with plans to add an S gauge running display at the Wheels Museum. Chris Wieclaw is heading up this project. Please contact him or me if you would like to help. Another event at Wheels is in the planning stages. How many cars can your engine pull? Do you think your loco is the top puller? Well, you may find out with the pulling contest John Westfall has planned. Stay tuned for an e-mail with details. This will be done at the Wheels and should generate public interest.

Next month will be the club BBQ with TTOS at Chris Wieclaw's place. An e-mail with directions will be forthcoming.

Two items that I will leave you with. First, if you are not going to You Tube and looking at the videos of model trains you are missing a lot of information and entertainment. Look for O/S gauge layouts or repair for specific models. Secondly, we need people to run your train at Wheels. During the summer we have a chance to interact with the public and promote our club. We all have a couple of hours a month which we could use to promote TCA and the hobby. Contact John Westfall for times.

Art

Photos from Rio Grande Chapter Visit to the BNSF Railyard in Belen, NM

John Spargo organized a terrific day for the Rio Grande Chapter. We met in Belen for lunch first where we were introduced to the BNSF Division Manager. He is responsible for everything from Needles to Fort Worth. We also met our hosts for the Belen tour which included the Trainmaster and the Yard Supervisor.

We started the tour after lunch at the BNSF Division which was located literally across the street from the restaurant and rail side next the Belen Harvey House Museum. From the control room we could view the traffic control in both the yard and on

the main lines. Belen handles over 100 trains a day with some container trains being two miles long. Some of the jobs at Belen include refueling, train makeup, inspection refuel, and repair. Engines coming in are pulled and serviced or repaired as needed. An interesting note, engines in the yard are operated by remote control. The radio control looks a lot like the Lionel Cab-1, so Command Control is prototypical. We had a rare opportunity to view the BNSF operations in Belen and came away with a better appreciation of the dedication and of modern railroad operations.



This is TCA, lunch always comes first. Chapter members at Pete's Café in Belen.



This photo of the Belen BNSF railyard hangs in the office views the yard looking towards the northwest.



At the north end of the yard looking across the tracks to the Belen Harvey House. The roof on the middle far left of the photo is Pete's Café.



This poor SD 40 ex BN #3704 in Cascade Green looks a little forlorn and out of place as BNSF 1837 in Belen handling yard duties.

MORE PHOTOS FROM BELEN



An overview of the control room still leaves you wondering where to look first



Part of the yard and sidings. You can see both north and south refueling stations as well



Refueling is done at both the north and south end of the yard. The islands can handle two trains at once, or four trains total at each end of the yard.



The Roundhouse in Belen fell the the wrecking ball in 1987, the turntable alone has survived.



Since Belen is the Division Headquarters for BNSF the maintenance yard has a lot of wheel sets.



The sand tower sits off to the side in the yard.

PHOTOS FROM THE LAYOUT TOUR

The Photos on this page are from the home layout and collection of Col. James Brenholdt USAF retired. We were privileged to have the opportunity to view this hidden gem on our way back to Albuquerque following our field trip to the BNSF railyard in Belen. Thank you to Jon Spargo for making the arrangements.



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FOR SALE: CLUB EXCESS EQUIPMENT: MTH 50-1004 AIU New in Box \$125 (we have two) - Lionel 6-128687 Powermaster NIB \$50 - Used RailRax O gauge 6' sections \$10 each. Division 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.

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

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

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-38057 Weyerhaeuser Timber Lumber Company 3 Truck Shay Locomotive (2002) \$600 – 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

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: 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/tractors, Marx E-7's - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members.

****DEADLINE FOR AD's – THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

THE BACK PAGE – PHOTOS FROM THE PIZZA MEET



Thank you to all the volunteers who had the lunch pizza “express” working like a Swiss watch. Barbara Lautazi checking and sorting all the pies.



John Upshur at Window #1 taking your order and passing it back to the kitchen



Pickup at Window #2. Eva Upshur handing the slice over to Chet Henry



Happy customers Katie Elgar and Paul Malek looking for a place to sit and enjoy the fresh and still hot pizza.



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

NEXT DIVISION MEET

June 10, 2023 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

Room H-1 (the small room)

4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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