

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

Volume 35, No. 3

April, 2006

MARCH MADNESS IN THE DESERT

A packed house welcomed Leo Deuster of Muskegon, MI, Secretary of the West Michigan Chapter of the Great Lakes Division, who was visiting the Desert Division while in town visiting a brother in Apache Junction.

Treasurer Bob Herman reported the following balances: Checking Account: \$5832.43, Savings Account: \$25149.15, Trains for Kids \$49.35. A reminder was made of the Spring Picnic on Saturday, March 18, 2006 at noon, at the Aste Ramada, Scottsdale Railroad Park, with Brad Martin and Frank Nickerson cooking and games for all. Chet Henry announced that he still has lot tickets for sale for the Pizza Meetza Auction at the April Meet. An announcement was made that the Turkey Meet for 2006 and 2007 will be at the Mesa Centennial Hall. Spring Raffle tickets and Hudson Raffle tickets are available for sale.

There was a small discussion of the Copper Spike Railway, which is currently running from Historic Downtown Globe to the Apache Gold Casino Resort. This will run through April. Thought is being given to having a club trip. There was also discussion regarding the trolley museum at Central and Culver, near the Mayor Hance Park and the Phoenix Library. Clark McClure spoke about all the railroad work currently going on downtown for the light rail system.

Don Locke nominated Fred Hunter for the TCA National Investment Committee, seconded by Steve Bienstock and Frank Nickerson. Approved by the membership. His name has been forwarded to National for inclusion on the ballot.

The Education section of the meeting was led off with an unusual GG-1 brought in by Clark McClure. Referring to it as a "home-brewed," Clark doesn't know if it runs or who made it, but he wanted to share it. Ken Barnes demonstrated a styrofoam cutter with a Marx transformer that he had constructed after deciding not to purchase a manufactured one. John Craft shared some interesting Gauge 1 Marklin items, accompanied with pictures. Bob Mancus discussed his 2 #114 Ives stations from the 1920's. Interestingly, the washrooms are in a different order on each. Paul Wassermann brought in a transformer with marbled Bakelite and explained the interesting process of making Bakelite. He also had a catalog of a monorail, as well as the 1931 Gilbert Erector set which showed the 254 style locomotive. Paul also gave a mini-presentation on e-bay bidding and sniping.

Raffle Prizes were drawn:

1. Hudson Ticket - Ralph Treichel
2. MTH Bubbling Water Tower - Thomas Plies
3. MTH Sunoco Tank Car, donated by Steve Palmer @AZ Depot - John Wiley
4. OSH Calendar and Mini Cars - Sam McElwee
5. K-Line Coca Cola 3-D billboard, donated by Trainland Express - Bob Keller
6. DVD and Switch Tower - Ivan English
7. Calendar, Chocolate Train and PRR Mug - Ralph Treichel
8. Santa Sleigh Set and Train Sign - Angelo Lautazi
9. Catalogs and DVD - Larry Teresi

The \$100 prize for the Monthly Hudson Raffle tickets was won by Brad Martin.



Brad Martin accepts the \$100 bill from Treasurer Bob Herman.

COMING UP . . .

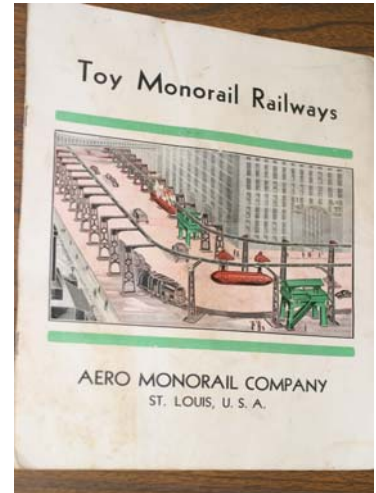
APRIL 8 "PIZZA MEETZA" – Jaycees Hall – 9 AM
APRIL 20-22 TCA EASTERN DIVISION MEET – York, PA
MAY 13 DIVISION MEET, Jaycees Hall – 9 AM
MAY 20 RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET, Albuquerque – 10 AM

MARCH MADNESS MELANGE



Clark McClure and his mystery GG-1.
Sorry, but we don't have a large photo of it.

Ken Barnes proudly shows his home-made Marx transformer.



A very rare and unusual Monorail system catalog and Instruction sheet.



Bob Mancus "stopped the show" by bringing his two #114 Ives stations. The restrooms are reversed. Is that an unusual variation or what!



These are two of John Craft's Marklin #1 gauge Electric locos and supporting paper-work.



Left: Paul Wassermann brought in a "marbleized" Balelite Type V Lionel transformer. Right: Dave Schneider and Bill Bahle share an interest in American Flyer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

March certainly was showing off its lion persona at the monthly meet. But even the rain and snow couldn't keep loyal Desert Division members away from their train meet! It was cold, it was wet, but the camaraderie inside was heartwarming. Sales were brisk at the tables as well as the coffee and doughnuts, which were an early sell out!

A great education program kept the attention of the members and, as we had no microphone, everyone was very accommodating in keeping the noise levels down. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the after-the-meet visitation was cancelled, but even that was taken in stride.

On the 18th was the Annual Ray Korte Memorial Picnic, which was held at the Railroad Park along with the TTOS Grand Canyon Division. Fortunately the weather did cooperate with us this time so we were able to cook, eat and clean up before the weather turned cold again. A wide variety of delicious foods were brought to the table, along with a box of yummy chocolate engines. A tip of the hat to Brad Martin and Frank Nickerson for an excellent job of cooking! Also a big thank you to Beth Stange, who once again did a super job of organizing the games. There was the egg toss, ring toss, and a rousing game of scatch with hook and loop paddles which is always a lot drier than water balloons! All participants received tickets for playing and more successful players received extra tickets for a chance to win a K-Line Kiddie Klassic car.

For those of you who have been wondering and asking, the "Trains Planes, Automobiles and Up on 2 Wheels" event is expected to take place next year in March. Mark your calendar for this fun event!

Don't forget, next month we will be having our Annual Pizza Meetza Auction. You never know what gems will show up at this auction! If you wish to donate items to the Division, their sale will benefit the 2009 Convention and you will receive a letter for your 2006 taxes! Can't lose there! Remember it is not too late to enter your items in this Auction. Call Chet Henry for more information. There will be pizza for lunch, and coffee, soda and doughnuts sold prior to the meeting as well as during lunch and during the auction. Well, maybe not doughnuts!

I am looking forward to hearing what good things were found at the Nor-Cal meet that many of our members attended. If you went please be sure to share your adventures with the rest of the Division! The Nor-Cal meet is always a good meet to attend. I am sure that this year was great too!

Remember that the Convention Committee is collecting de-activated cell phones as a fund raising project. Bring them to the next meet to deposit them into the box. No accessories, just the phones please.

See you at the April Meet!
Happy trains!

Katie

DESERT DIVISION 773 HUDSON RAFFLE

Beginning its 17th train season, and the brainstorm of Cole Gibbs, the oldest and best 773 Hudson Raffle in the Toy Train World continues again this February. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the Desert Division originated this unique affair in 1989. Here is how it works. First and foremost, all the proceeds derived from the sale of raffle tickets go directly back into the Desert Division's treasury.

One hundred (100) numbered tickets are printed. From February through October they are available ONLY to Desert Division members and their family members. Any tickets remaining unsold after the October Meet are offered to all TCA members. The cost per raffle ticket is \$25.00, which may be considered a donation to all non-winners. Therefore, because TCA is a 501c3 organization, it may be used as a tax deduction.

At each Division meeting from February through June, plus September and October, a ticket will be drawn that will be worth \$100 cash, if the person whose name is on the ticket is in attendance. The selected stub is then returned to the entire group. Theoretically, the same ticket could win each time.

In November, at the Turkey Meet, the final drawing is held and the winner of the Hudson is finally determined. This year we are pleased to offer a Boxed, Like New/(C8), 1965 New York Central 773 Hudson and Tender. Feel free to check it out at our meet on February 11. Buy your tickets early and be the first to win a nice new green picture of Ben Franklin.

ROOMMATE NEEDED

Thomas Plies, Kids Club Co-Chair, has a suite with two double beds at the Crown Plaza for the San Antonio Convention, from Thursday, June 22 to Sunday, June 25. He is looking for a roommate to share room costs. Call 602-264-5192.

SPRING PICNIC ESCAPES THE RAIN

March 18 was predicted to be cold, windy, and rainy. Even so, it had been the date selected for this year's Spring Picnic six months in advance. Once again the toy train enthusiasts beat out the weatherman, as sun shone on our venue, the Aste Ramada at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, until all the food was gone, games played, and prizes awarded.

Brad Martin again served as our chef, ably assisted by Frank Nickerson. The clubs provided hot dogs, chips, ice cream, sodas, and condiments, while individual members brought side dishes and desserts. Deviled eggs, salads, baked beans, brownies, and cakes filled the table, as hungry train collectors gorged themselves on all that was available.

Beth Stange was again in charge of games. Everyone who participated won a ticket; and if a participant was successful, he or she received bonus tickets. At the end of the afternoon, eleven of those tickets were drawn, each one worth a miniature K-Line automobile. Thank you Trainland Express for the generous donation of prizes.

Raffle sales were brisk and prizes were varied. There was something for everyone. Next came the Mystery Boxes. TCA chose a gift from K-Line, two February Fair Days cars, with appropriate poetry and black and gold wrapping paper to give multiple hints. Brad Martin was the successful bidder for these items. TTOS chose a gift suited to the weather (a bummer) and the grill (fire and ashes). Bob Prehara was the high bidder on the Lionel Hobo Campfire. Next were the men's and ladies' door prizes. Gordon Wilson and Janice Rasmussen respectively won these gift certificates.

The day ended much too early, as folks made their way to the carousel, the train ride through the park, or the stores on the premises before heading home with full bellies and happy faces. The clubs thank anyone and everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Games at the Picnic – Everyone Wins.



Hot dogs are ready – Join the food line.



Above: Al and Selma enjoy the Railroad Park.
Below: Al and Cole pose for the camera.



Chefs Nickerson and Martin



BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

by Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

The following is a proposed change to our Division Bylaws. What it will do, if approved, is to make all the officers' positions, including the Immediate Past President/Director, a two-year term. Currently only the President's term is a two-year term and all of the other offices are a one-year term.

All other TCA Divisions, as well as National, when electing officers, elect all of them for the same length of time. This proposal would bring us in line with all of the other Divisions. It will also eliminate the expenses incurred for having an election every year. Additionally, it will allow for a better continuity of administering the Division's business.

If approved, the changes would go into effect immediately. A question was raised asking if it was legal to make a change in Bylaws retroactive. Paul Wassermann, who raised the question, and Gordon Wilson, who proposed the motion, both contacted legal authorities about this question. One was Paul's National Parliamentarian, when he was TCA President. The other was a Philadelphia Attorney from whom Gordon sought advice during his TCA Presidency. Both cited the same answer, according to Roberts Rules of Order. It states that, unless the current Bylaws prohibit such a procedure, the approved change goes into effect immediately. Therefore, the answer to the query is "Yes, it is legal."

This motion will be published in three consecutive issues of the Desert Division Dispatch, this one being the second, before a ballot is issued. A vote for this motion will bring us in line with the rest of TCA. Disapproval of this motion will mean maintaining the status quo.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

Motion: Be it moved that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section B, be changed to read, "The terms of office for the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors, and all Chapter officers shall be for ***TWO*** years." {It currently reads "for ONE year."}; that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section D be altered to read, "The immediate Past President shall serve on the Board of Directors immediately following the term of office," {It currently has the following words after 'office' – "for a one year term."}; and that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section E read, "During the ***TERM*** in which the current Past President serves, two (2) Directors shall be elected. In subsequent years, three (3) Directors shall be elected." The current word in place of TERM is YEAR.

Rationale: 1. It will allow for a greater degree of continuity of leadership. Currently it is possible for a sitting President to have a completely new BOD for each year of his/her term. That is tantamount to reinventing the wheel every year.

2. It will bring the Desert Division in line with all the other TCA Divisions so far as the length of officers' terms of office. All of the other 19 TCA Divisions elect all of their officers for the same length of time, be it one or two years for all.

3. It will be cost effective, as an election will only need to be held every other year, rather than yearly. That will save the Division a significant amount of money as the elections result in special printing of ballots (every member gets one, not the one to a household as happens with the DISPATCH mailings), Special paper for the ballots, First Class postage, and two sizes of self-addressed return envelopes. The costs for an election vary, depending upon the volunteer work or materials donated to the Division, from a low of \$100 to as much as \$400.

Cost Impact: The savings to the Division, depending on printing, handling, and postage costs, will be from \$100 to \$400 every other year.

Special Note: Assuming passage of this proposed motion, it shall be effective upon its approval.

DESERT DIVISION-TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957
Vice President:	Gordon Wilson	480-837-5344
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344
Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9227
	Don Locke	480-854-2546
	Phil Monahan	480-607-3956

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 5, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Gordon and Christie Wilson. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-837-5344 to be sure there are enough chairs.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

By Gregory Palmer TCA #94-39039

The Rio Grande Chapter held its first official meeting on March 18 in Albuquerque. About half of the membership of the Chapter attended. The Educational Session included a Lionel Caboose that was part of an estate purchase. The owner was a former Albuquerque Police Officer. He stated that the set was purchased new as a set. However, the caboose is not the garden variety N5 caboose such as the 2457. It is printed 4457 on the bottom of the frame, and it lacks the electronic control. The store must have taken the control module out of it and then sold it as a regular N5 caboose.

Questionable Caboose



The second part of the Education Session was a discussion of the new TCA standards. Many questions came up, and the session will continue at the next meet, scheduled for May 20 at the Sombra Del Monte Christian Church, the same venue as the March Meet.

The meeting was called to order and the slate of officers was voted on. The entire slate passed. Next was the presentation of the Bylaws, which also passed. The Rio Grande Chapter now has officers and Bylaws. The officers for 2006-2008 are:

President Gregory Palmer (TCA #94-39039), Albuquerque, NM
Vice-President Dale Schafer (TCA #90-32477), Albuquerque, NM
Secretary Brenna-Leigh Bosch (TCA 95-40754), Albuquerque, NM
Treasurer William Harris (TCA #83-19728), Albuquerque, NM
Director Carl Cataline (TCA 06-59955), Albuquerque, NM
Director Scott Eckstein (TCA #91-36114), Albuquerque, NM
Director William Mischen (TCA #88-27809), El Paso, TX

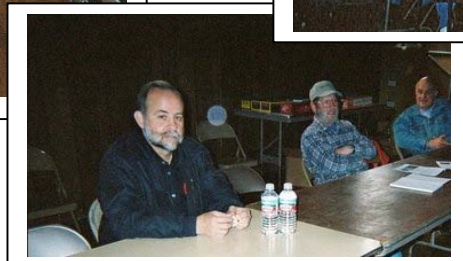
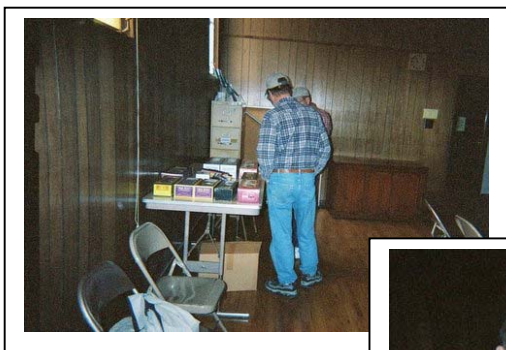
Secretary Bosch



At this Meet, the Rio Grande Chapter started a raffle for the Lionel 6-29933 New Mexico Box Car, donated by Greg Palmer, to help raise funds for upcoming activities. The raffle will continue at the May 20 Meet. You must buy the tickets at the Meet, but you do not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The Rio Grande Chapter is looking for donations of new items to help with future raffles and fund raising activities. The Chapter is also in the process of looking at various other types of fundraisers. Future raffles are in the planning stages. At the May 20 Chapter Meet, ideas for these activities will be discussed. Member input is deeply appreciated.

For the rest of the March Meet, the Chapter considered future goals. Education and fun will be the focus of the Chapter. Currently planned are two swap meets a year, one in October in Albuquerque and one in the spring in the Las Cruces-El Paso area. There will also be a layout-collection visit after every regular meet. The next meet is May 20, 10 AM, at the Sombra Del Monte Christian Church, 2528 Utah NE in Albuquerque. Contact Greg Palmer, President, at 505-898-3840 for selling tables (two for \$5) or further information about the Rio Grande Chapter. Bring items for "Show and Tell" during the Education Session. Also bring any items you would like to have evaluated under the new TCA Standards. Plan now to join us in Albuquerque on May 20.

SCENES FROM THE MEET



YOU CAN DO YOUR PART

by Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

Suppose YOU could help produce a superior National TCA Convention and be rewarded for it? Do we have your attention? Here is how it works and how YOU can help. For starters there are three preliminary ways. Read on!

1. Do you have some quality toy trains, accessories, or toy train paper? (We cannot use track or “beat up” items.) Have you tried to sell it without success? Tired of carrying it around? Donate it to the Division to be liquidated at the Pizza Meetza. In exchange, you will receive from the Division Secretary a letter thanking you for your donation to a tax-exempt 501c3 organization. This means you may declare the item’s value and claim it as a deduction on your 2006 Federal Income Tax Return.

2. At our meets we will have Silent Auction items whose proceeds will go directly into the 2009 Convention Committee budget. Here again we can and will offer a letter of thanks for YOUR donation to the winning silent auction BID. We will offer catalogued issued items which have had their collector’s value increased by a significant addition to the item, such as an artist’s signature. According to the law, you may claim the difference between what you pay and the manufacturer’s list price for the common item. If you’re the successful bidder, we will once again provide you with the proper documentation for your next Federal Tax Return. Items from Areas 1 and 3 may also be used for the Silent Auction each month. The “what” and “when” will be determined by your donations.

3. Do you have some hidden, but salable talent? Perhaps woodworking? Perhaps you or the company for which you work would be willing to donate a useful product, service, or gift? Things such as a round of golf, a gift certificate good at a mall or certain store, a weekend room at a resort/hotel, dinner for two at a nice restaurant and/or a myriad of other such niceties. Maybe you have culinary talents than can produce delectable pies, candies, cookies, cakes, or something else that might be a tasty treat. In addition to trains and Pizza at our Pizza Meetza, we hope to be able to offer many of these wonderful items and culinary treats for auction with the proceeds going to benefit the 2009 Convention.

That’s it! Three ways to help our Division raise funds for the 2009 TCA Convention; the Convention we are hosting for the whole of TCA at the J. W. Marriott in North Phoenix/Scottsdale. Think you can help? May we count of your support? Thank you in advance.

If you have trains to donate, as outlined in Area # 1, please bring them with you to our April 8th Meet. Give them to Ed Micale or Bill Mack. If you are contributing items from Area #3, please contact Christie Wilson by phone (480-837-5344) or e-mail at christie1wilson@aol.com as soon as possible. If no one is home, leave a message. Once again, thank you for your continuing support of the Desert Division.

FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE NOW FORMING

by Cathy Kuhn TCA #90-32462

The 2009 TCA National Convention is coming! We are looking for fun-loving, talented, creative minds to serve on the Fund-Raising Committee. If you have interest, talent, or just want to have fun (Remember, ¾ of Fund is Fun), let’s get together to strategize. Come one, come all - members and significant others are welcome. If you would like to be on the Fund-Raising Team, be at the Pizza Meetza on April 8. We will gather after the Educational Segment and before the arrival of the Pizza at the Jaycees Hall. If you can’t wait until April 8 to join the Committee, call Cathy Kuhn now (480-816-8632).

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Ferraris, a loyal member of the Desert Division during the 13 years of his membership in TCA, passed away on Saturday, May 11, while recuperating from an earlier operation. Paul was an active, fun-loving member who loved a joke, even if it was on him. When he read of Scott Russell’s trip to York (England), his first reaction was not “April Fool,” but rather, “What kind of airline does he fly on that feeds you twice from here to York?” Only when he reread the article and noted the date did he laugh, not only at Scott’s joke, but at himself as well.

Paul attended meets wherever they might be. He was often seen at Cal-Stewart, a November meet held in Pasadena, California; and he was a regular at York in April and October. Of course, York is a short hop from his son who still lives in New Jersey. Desert Division Meets were always on his calendar, and he supported the club in all its endeavors.

Our condolences go out to Paul’s widow Julie and all of Paul’s family at this time of grief.

VARIATIONS OF THE #313 BASCULE BRIDGE

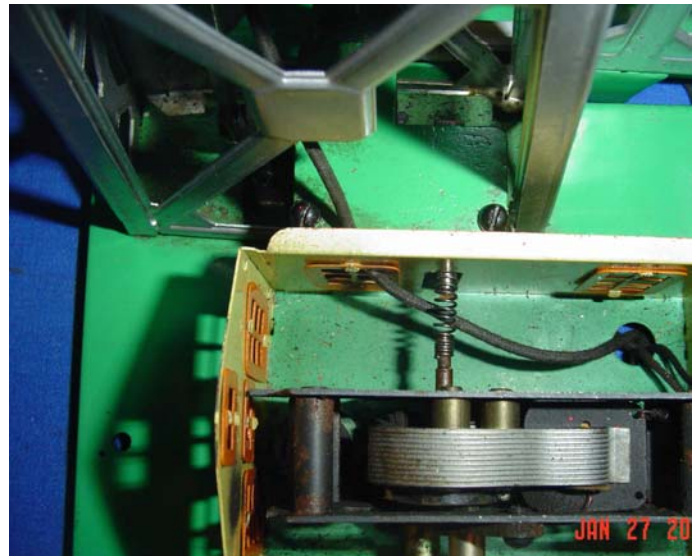
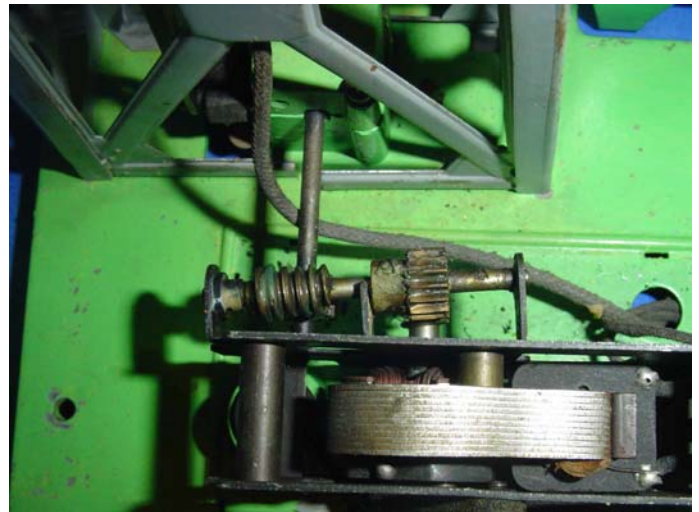
by Robert Mancus TCA 00-52122

A year ago I purchased a Lionel #313 Bascule Bridge from Bob Dennison; at the time I didn't know what I was going to do with it. After making repairs to it and getting it to operate, I became interested in learning more about the variations of the bridge. My brother Alan became interested in purchasing one on E-bay so I got involved. The first thing I noticed was a variation of the drive gear motor and gear-box assembly. The one that I have has the same motor as the #97 coal elevator, but the armature shaft directly coupled to the gear box with a spring coupling. (See Photo 1.) The other variation uses the #97 coal elevator motor with a worm gear attached to the armature shaft which drives another shaft which is geared to the gear box. (See Photo 2.) The pictures of the second variation are courtesy of Paul Wassermann. While both of these work, from an engineering standpoint there is no safety feature to prevent damage to the gear box or the motor if the bridge jams during operation. The first variation (Photo 1) has a spring coupling which will allow the spring to wind up instead of damaging the motor or the gearing, whereas the second variation will not.

The third variation of the bridge is related to the building which houses the motor. The cutout where the motor shaft goes through is in between the windows on the spring coupling, whereas on the directly coupled version the shaft goes through the window. (See Photo 3.)

A fourth variation of the bridge involves the colors. The #313 Bascule bridge used aluminum color paint before World War II. During 1942, due to a shortage of aluminum paint, the bridge superstructure was painted gray.

The Bascule Bridge is an asset to any layout for operation, although it does take up some room, I believe it is worth having.



ROSTERS ARE "IN THE MAIL"

The 2006 Desert Division Rosters and Membership Badges were mailed out on March 23. Hopefully you put the pale blue roster in a safe place and the darker blue laminated badge into your wallet. For your information, the badge includes your TCA number and your Desert Division dues expiration date, as well as your name. This mailing went to all members of record as of March 21, 2006.

* Desert Division's ** 2006 Spring Raffle *

1st Prize K-Line SP Daylight GS-4 w/TMCC!

2nd Prize Lionel #11716 Lionelville Circus Special Set



Tickets are on sale at the April 8th meet!

\$10.00 ea 3/\$25.00

Drawing date: June 10th, 2006 - Need not be present to win

2006 DESERT DIVISION SPRING RAFFLE SALES CONTINUE THIS MONTH



**3rd Prize
Lionel #6-12930
"Lionelville" Oil
Derrick**

In 2003 the Desert Division had its first Spring Raffle in response to our many members who were operating trains in addition to collecting them and wanted to expand their pike with some quality modern pieces or maybe an unusual or hard-to-find item. We are pleased to announce that again this year you will find a wide selection of some not so common pieces. First prize this year is a beautiful K-Line Southern Pacific GS-4. This new (test run and checked ok) locomotive with matching die-cast tender was offered in 2001 and really is loaded with TMCC, Railsounds, illuminated marker, headlights, flashing MARS light, simulated firebox glow, and smoke. (List price - \$570.) Second prize is a Lionel #11716 Lionelville Circus Special set that continues to attract a lot of attention when it shows up. Issued in 1990, this mint OB set still fetches a premium price today. (One recently on e-Bay had a buy-it-now price of \$250.) Not to be outdone, we are offering an oil derrick for the Third prize, but as you would expect, not just an ordinary oil derrick. Lionel 6-12930 was issued in 1995 and had a very limited production run with the Lionelville markings, which makes this N/OB piece not one of your everyday run of the mill oil derricks. Don't believe me? Check out eBay auction #6036702452 and you'll find that someone just paid \$115 for one. We think you'll agree this is raffle contains a little bit of everything with retail values totaling almost \$1,000! As the saying goes, you can't win if you don't play. Tickets are on sale now for \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. The drawing date is set for the June 10th Meet and you do not need to be present to win. If you can't make the Monthly Meet, contact Treasurer Bob Herman for tickets. For our out of town Desert Division supporters, we will deliver or pay for the postage if your ticket wins! Best of Luck to all of you!

KIDS CLUB NEWS

“NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN”

by Chris Allen, Jeanine Monahan, and Thomas Plies

The February 25 Swap Meet at the Italian-American Club was a huge success. There were 130 vendors and at least 400 patrons who bought entrance tickets. The Kids Club room was a beehive of activity. TCADD-KC set up a Brio play area, a G-scale battery operated Bachmann Hauler, radio controled set that was recently donated to the Kids Club, and the electric train set, all set up hands-on by the kids. Parents as well as tykes enjoyed playing in the Kids Club Room. Chis Allen, Thomas Plies, DeLon Freije, and Katie Elgar were all involved with the kids and the parents. We handed out a dozen applications for TCA and Desert Division memberships, with oral instructions. Hopefully our efforts will pay off with new members. Engineer hats and grab bag items were also handed out.

The Zoo Module, a Kids Club project from a few years ago, is still running, with periodic repairs made by the club. You can see this display at the Phoenix Zoo, any day, any time. The next big project for the Kids Club will be a display of train items in the secured glass cases at Sky Harbor Airport the year before our Convention. Though the Convention may seem a long way off, long-term planning is required for this project. If you are willing to house some of your treasures in this environment, please contact Thomas Plies (602-264-5192) to be included.

DeLon Freije works with kids and parents in the Kids Club play area.

Kids in Am-Trak hats play with trains.

The youngest kids learn with the Brios.



To enroll a child in the Kids Club, simply fill out the form below and give it to any Kids Club Co-Chair or BOD member. It will be forwarded to the TCA Business Office for inclusion in the National Kids Club so that your child can receive their official membership card and certificate.

Kids Club Registration Form

Name: _____
(First Name - Middle Initial - Last Name)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Date of Birth: _____ - _____ - _____
(Month Day Year)

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name: _____
(First Name - Middle Initial - Last Name)

Sponsor TCA Membership #: _____ - _____

Sponsor Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Relationship to Kids Club Applicant: _____



Division's Kids Club mascot "Cub-oose"



RAILROAD -CHANGE



ANTIQUÉ TRAINS - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We specialize in “O” but handle all gauges, both new and pre-owned. We have the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona. See our different “Set of the Month” each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 1:00 to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

CONSIGNMENTS – Too many to list, so call to find your new loco or look at these: Lionel Lionmaster UP Challenger, TMCC, Railsounds, Odyssey, list \$800, sale \$499.95 – MTH SP&S Challenger PS2 w/the works, list \$700, sale \$499.95 – NEW RAIL KING F-3 A-B-A w/PS2, reg. \$320, club price \$279.95, or get just the UP F-3 AA's. reg. \$250, club priced at \$224.95 – MTH muchas cabeeses pieces 4 different styles in UP, ATSF, Pennsy, BNSF, and D&RG, 10% off - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa. 480-833-9486, open late Wednesday.

GERRY'S TRAINS – Complete parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Drive, Scottsdale, AZ Phone (480) 991-2536.

BUILDING A LAYOUT? - We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100” and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

PETER'S VIDEO SHOP will be open at the April Pizza Meet. Dozens of gently used commercial videos – tinplate, model railroad, and prototype topics. T&M, Pentrex, and more. Most are only \$5 each. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail mjatonna@commspeed.net.

REPAIRS - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthruetime.com>.

FOR SALE – Replacement bulbs for your trains – over 80 different ones in stock. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

FOR SALE – Atlas “O” Gauge Freight Cars from early 1970's - \$25 each or 4 for \$80. Call Bryan Jewell at 602-234-6970.

WANTED – Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist – can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

EXCITING TRAIN TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD – 2006: Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; New England Fall Foliage; Washington Wineries; California Railroad Museum; and Many More. For further information, contact Travel Consultant Linda Kopff, representing Bon Voyage Travel, at 623-556-1391.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

FOR SALE - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 “O” Gauge Tinplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: dzedo2@earthlink.net.

FOR SALE – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail 4aztrains@earthlink.net.

WANTED – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

FOR SALE – Lionel #621 Jersey Central SW-2 w/magne-traction and horn, C-8, \$100 firm. Gordon Wilson - 480-837-5344.

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
15231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

POSTMASTER: This Federal 501c3 Newsletter contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before **April 1, 2006**

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SCOTTSDALE AZ
PERMIT NO. 253

**Every Childhood Should Have A Train
Enroll your children in Kid's Club Today!**

COMING EVENTS

- April 8 Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald
- April 20-22 TCA Eastern Division Meet – York, PA
- May 13 Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
- May 20 Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer – 505-898-3840
- June 10 Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
- June 18-25 52nd TCA National Convention, San Antonio, TX

PIZZA MEETZA AUCTION

Look under your tables. Look in those boxes. You'll find many treasures you haven't needed in quite a while. Bring them to the Pizza Meetza Auction and unclutter your room. Lots are \$5 each and you may include as many items as you want in each lot. For more valuable items, you may place a reserve on the lot. If you choose to donate items to Desert Division, those lots will be "no charge." The auction is limited to the first 100 lots. If you want to reserve your lots prior to the meet, call Chet Henry 480-838-0783 otherwise just bring them to the Pizza Meetza Auction at our next meet April 8.

PADE PROMOTIONS

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. Various members have made contributions to the club this month.

Bryan Jewell was the first club member to respond to the call for dinners to be auctioned at the April Pizza Meetza, with proceeds going to the Convention. Also, Art Triant was the first to respond to the call for used cell phones. Thank you to both of them. Bob Mancus has contributed an article, which appears in this issue. The success of the March Picnic can be directly credited to Dave Brown, who procured the Aste Ramada; Brad Martin and Frank Nickerson, who cooked the hot dogs; Beth Stange, who organized the games. Thank you also to everyone who contributed food or prizes.

Your name could appear in this column. You need only do something generous to improve the Division.