

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



Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

Volume 41, No. 1

Winter, 2012

THE TURKEY'S BACK

For an appreciation of this year's Turkey Meet, first let's go to the "Way Back Machine." In November of 1993, we moved the Turkey Meet from The Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs to the then Embassy Suites at Chaparral and Scottsdale Roads. That's correct – the very same address! At that time owner Tom Silverman had what he referred to as a Pavilion where we held the Turkey Meet this past November 26 and 27. Pavilion was merely a synonym for Circus Tent, albeit air conditioned and carpeted. We were quite happy here for the next several years, until Mr. Silverman decided to replace the fabric facility with a permanent walled one. In the meantime, we found a new home, at the Centennial Hall in Mesa, beginning in 1999.

We are now back "home," so to speak. This is where the Desert Division's Turkey Meet achieved a new level of success in 1993 and judging from the comments of both the vendors and attendees, we feel certain that the decision to return to our previous venue of success was absolutely the correct move.

Tables for vendors went on sale via ads in all the Kalmbach publications from September to November, through mass mailings, hobby shop posters, and *Dispatch* announcements. By the first week of November, we were SOLD OUT. To everyone's memory, that was a first in the 36 year history of this, the Southwest's oldest Train Show and Auction.

The major upgrades over the Mesa Hall were many. First and foremost was the disappearance of their annual "Tax Man" threat to all of our casual and once-a-year vendors. Another real perk was the full cooperation of the Chaparral Suites staff in that THEY set up all the tables so that when our sellers began arriving for setup on Friday morning, everything was ready! The "Fourth Floor Grille" had superb, affordable food and no one got upset if the Division brought in their own donuts. Thanks to Chairman Art Triant, this was done on Friday and Saturday: free coffee and donuts for the table holders. There was ample, close-in parking and the hotel provided moving carts for use by the vendors, both at the setup and tear down. What cooperation! Talk about organization – Beth Stange's middle name should be EFFICIENCY! Everyone's registration envelope was ready for pickup and if there was the slightest problem, it was handled promptly, in a matter of minutes. Back after a year's hiatus were those wonderful Exhibitor Badges promoting this, the 36th Annual "Turkey Meet." They have become a sought after collectible.

COMING UP

JANUARY 14, 2012 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

JANUARY 21, 2012 – Gadsden-Pacific Train Show & Meet – 9 AM

JANUARY 21, 2012 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM - 10 AM

FEBRUARY 11 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

FEBRUARY 18 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

FEBRUARY 25 – Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Swap Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MARCH 10 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MARCH 17 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

In the entrance way and lobby were kid friendly operating toy train layouts, including the super “hands on, do it yourself” one by our own Kids Club, hosted by Dwane and Barbara Turner. They were kept busy all day long by many eager young “Engineers and Conductors!” We wish to thank Peter and Mary Jane Atonna, Terry and Keineth Bunish, Arizona Big Train Operators, and the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders for their assistance in making our return to this location so meaningful. The nearly 2,000 attendees thoroughly enjoyed these layouts. The photo at right shows Keineth Bunish at her Holiday Layout.



One thing we’ve done for the benefit of our table holders has been to conduct a Division Commission Free Table Top Auction. Table holders can place items for sale in a total dealer-seller venue. Peter Atonna has been the auctioneer for years and his unique brand of humor adds to the fun of the event. This year was no different, as about ten vendors availed themselves of this opportunity.

Finally, as the day drew to a close, the piece de resistance, the raffle drawings and prizes, took place. Table holders who remained set up until 3 PM were eligible for cash awards: Jerry Sienkiewicz was the first prize winner and Terry Fagan was second. Tessa and Jeremy Rouse helped with the raffle drawings, each pulling tickets of winners. Those winners were as follows:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Art Triant | 3 Lionel cars and 1 K-Line car |
| Diane Eitel | #364 Lumber Loader |
| Gordon Wilson | TW TrainWorx Bridge Kit |
| Vicky Bratcher | Harry Potter Train Set |
| Ken Barnes | 4 Lionel items and 2 K-Line cars |
| Angelo Lautazi | Burro Crane and Log Dump Car |
| John Moline | City of Phoenix Diner Car, RailKing flatcar with T-Bird Cars, and 2 Ore Cars |
| Patty Stetson | Bachmann Union Station and 2 Lionel cars |
| Jonathan Peiffer | Lionel car, K-Line car, and 3 Weaver cars |
| Bill Lazenby | Vapor Christmas car and 2 Lionel cars |
| John Upshur | Lionel Heliport |
| Les Ziolkowski | Mid-Atlantic Limited Set |

A special thank-you to our various donors: Burling’s Ton of Trains, The Train Station in Mountain Lakes, Fred Claassen of Alabama, David Yost of Pennsylvania, Paul Hessney of New York, John Upshur, TrainWorx, Kalmbach Publishing Company, TM Books and Videos, Hobby Bench, Weaver Models, Gadsden-Pacific TTOM, and O-Gauge Railroading.

The “My Favorite Train Contest” was won by Paul Wassermann, with his Standard Gauge Disney Set. This year’s Hudson Raffle had two prizes: the 1948 #2026 set went to Shirley Hunter, while the 1964 Boxed #773 Hudson was won by Meet Reservation Chair, Beth Stange. We hope to see everyone at the same place next year on Saturday, November 24, 2012. Mark your calendar NOW!



The Winner – Paul Wassermann’s
Standard Gauge Disney Set



Above: Chaparral Suites and Resort’s Pavilion was filled to capacity
with table holders and shoppers.

Right: This year’s Hudson winner was also the Registration Chair –
Beth Stange



AUCTION RETURNS WITH VIGOR

By Gordon L. Wilson, TCA #76-10233

After missing for the past few years, the Turkey Meet Auction returned with Gusto on Sunday, November 27, 2011. As in past years, erstwhile Auctioneer Peter Atonna's dulcet tones rang over the ballroom as several dozen eager auction goers offered their endless bids. Set up for the 280 lots of Tinsplate Toy Trains began at 7:00 AM as Chet Henry's crew diligently began assembling the auction tables. Within the hour everything was finished, giving the bidders some extra time to inspect what they would soon be bidding on.

That worked out quite well for me, as I found a treasure I hadn't planned on. My postwar collection is primarily based upon color variations of Lionel pieces. I spied a gray gondola and was sure the lettering was a different color than what I already owned. Sure enough, it was, and I was the successful bidder. But here's where the auction has surprises and fun. Another piece in that lot was a red Lehigh Valley quad hopper, to which I paid no attention until I compared it with the one I already own. Surprise! The one I own is the Super Rare version and I did not have this one, the common version "throw in" which came with this lot. You might call this "find" what Paul Wassermann coined as "The Bottom of the Box." Sometimes you get "LUCKY"!

All the more reason for everyone to check their storage bins and see what trains they have for which they no longer want, need, or have any use. What a great way to pick up some extra "change," especially if the item is of good value and quality. Contact Chet Henry and let him know how many quality lots YOU have ready to put into next year's November 25, 2012 Turkey Meet Auction. The Division already has commitments for over 250 lots for the 2012 Turkey Meet Auction. How about you? The Division will advertise and sell everything for you and the fee is merely a 10% commission, and there is NO traditional Auction Seller's Fee. Chet's e-mail address is bchenry@cox.net. Contact him now with a list of your lots of quality toy trains.

ANOTHER DIVISION FIRST

This year, we held a November a mini-meet, a first for the Desert Division. Attendance was good and camaraderie was the keyword. John Hinderer, a Division member from Michigan, joined us.

Items of discussion centered around the upcoming events: Turkey Meet, Holiday Party, and Auctions. The Holiday Party was scheduled for Sunday, December 11, beginning at 4 PM, at the Mesa Marriott. This allowed for the Tucson folks to attend both their Holiday Party the weekend before, and ours as well. The cost and the food are the same as last year and reservations were due to Ralph and Sally Treichel by December 3.

In order to offset the number of folks who attend the Turkey Meet on Sunday expecting to see sales tables and layouts, Chris Allen stated that all ads represented the show as a one-day swap meet. Beth Stange announced that set-up would begin on Friday at 10 AM, and continue with the back door open at 7 AM on Saturday. She commended the site, Chaparral Suites and Resort, for their cooperative spirit throughout our dealings with them. The Auction Committee announced that we already have 250 lots for next year. We may need to schedule a second auction in order to accommodate all sellers. Committee members are Chair Fred Hunter, assisted by Chet Henry and Marty Wik. Anyone with potential auction items should contact one of these three gentlemen.

Katie Elgar reminded everyone that aluminum cans are still being collected, with the proceeds going to TCA National as a Desert Division donation. Marty Wik announced that the S-Gauge Club is attracting many avid collectors, even those not in TCA. Hopefully some of them will join us in the future.

The two-signature rule will be a question on the March ballot. Be sure to watch for it and be sure to vote.

Jonathan Peiffer read the Certificate of Appreciation received from TCA on the occasion of our 40th Anniversary.

Mike Dietrich announced that there is a train trip from Phoenix to Matthie (near Wickenburg) on Saturday, May 19. The company is Trains & Travel (out of Reno, NV), and the website is traintrips.biz. The phone number is 1-800-359-4870. Fred Hunter volunteered to be in charge of a Desert Division excursion on this train. More information will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Dispatch.

Terry Bunish told the group to look in unexpected places for train ads. Last month Anthropology magazine featured an ad for the Standard Gauge Lionel Pink set. Katie Elgar stated that one of the popcorn can illustrations at Wal-Mart is the Coors Beer set.

The meeting adjourned, with everyone looking forward to a Super Duper Turkey Meet just two weeks later.

HOLIDAY PARTY DOINGS

Once again, the Holiday Party brought out the brightest and best in the Desert Division. Despite our usual ballroom venue being replaced by a three tier facility, the usual laughter, gaiety, and color dominated. Friends and members from Tucson joined us this year as we “packed the house.” Holiday greetings could be heard all around the hall. Ralph and Sally Treichel, Holiday Party co-chairs, had once again masterminded a gala celebration.

Janice and Earl Rasmussen greeted everyone at the front door with gifts for all and door prize tickets for members. Folks could opt for lower or upper level seats, but the middle tier was festooned with a desert bar, warming trays, and a carving station. The menu was the same as last year, with salad, rolls and butter, mashed potatoes, vegetables, Southwest chicken, and prime rib roast of beef. Each table had a decorative centerpiece which would make for a lively auction at the end of the party. About 20 raffle prizes were set up at the far end of the room, and Janet Mattern spent the first hour of the party selling tickets. “What you opt for is what you get” was the motto, as each prize had its own receptacle for tickets.

Before dinner, members opened their gifts, only to find that there were several different vehicles available. Some folks traded for preferred items; others held on to their prizes as if they were gold. After dinner, the Desert Division announced its officers for next year, as well as Member of the Year, Beth Stange, and Volunteer of the Year, Laurel Allen. Finally, Peter Atonna served as the “Jolly Old Elf” of an auctioneer, as bidding went from the ridiculous to the sublime. Once all the raffle prizes were drawn and table centerpieces sold, only two door prizes remained – gift subscriptions to Classic Toy Trains, which were won by Angelo Lautazi and James Poor. No one went away empty handed, and everyone left smiling. The Division once again ended the year in style. Happy Holidays to all, and may your New Year be filled with Toy Trains.



Party Co-Chairs Sally and Ralph Treichel made sure everyone had fun.



Greeters Janice and Earl Rasmussen had a gift for everyone in attendance.



Auctioneer Peter Atonna got the most from some reluctant bidders.

HOLIDAY WISHES FOR THE DESERT DIVISION

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

While I was sitting at my table, at this year’s Turkey Meet, I took a little time to reflect on how lucky I am, and how many friends I have who share my love of Toy Trains. Just sitting there surrounded by all of my friends and Toy Trains, I took stock of my good fortune. I think we all need to take stock of what we have, what a great Division we have, and what super people we have in this Division and in TCA. We also have fantastic collections, and I for one will be having great fun this year, since I now have two train rooms to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day running trains - a Post War Room and a Pre War Room. I even have plans of running my first train set: Lionel Outfit #1561WS/710, which is a 2065WS Freight set. It will be the first time it has run on Christmas Day since the early 1960's. It will be running on my Lionel D-291 Dealer Display Layout, which was my Christmas surprise find of last year. Now the D-291 has a Post War Room of its own, surrounded by my Post War Collection. As you can tell, I feel very blessed and lucky. However my true blessing is being a member of the TCA’s Desert Division and having such wonderful friends. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and have a great New Year. I hope to see each of you very soon.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year of Desert Division history has come to a close and what a year this one has been! Early on we made the decision to celebrate our 40th Anniversary over the course of the whole year. As we all know, when the Desert Division puts its mind on a worthy goal, we get it done! This year was no exception. We took a year to reflect on where we have been and celebrate that. We had increased monthly attendance at Division meets even adding another monthly meet. We planned activities above and beyond the normal meets including our fabulous trip to Globe, a special anniversary dinner, and special 40th anniversary mementos given to each member at nearly every meet this year. We took on a new Turkey Meet venue with excitement and saw a large increase in the number of tables sold. It seems clear we have found a new home in the Chaparral Suites. It was a great venue and a great time. Our holiday was also well attended and we celebrated the holidays with the camaraderie that the Desert Division is known for throughout the TCA.

The success of this year can be traced to two very important things; the effort of individuals who were willing to step up and lead and the hard work of those who volunteered to bring everything together. That is the key to the strength of this Division. We may be small in size, but we make up for it with the effort we put forth as a group. I can tell you as your President, if it all fell to me to do all of the things that we have accomplished this year, it would not have happened. The spirit and energy put into this year shows in the efforts of everyone in this Division. We should be proud of where we have been and where we are.

When you receive this Dispatch, you will have a new Board of Directors representing the Division. First and most importantly I want to thank each and every board member for the involvement in this task of leadership. I want to especially thank those who are leaving the Board of Directors for their service to the club including Fred Hunter, Bob Johnston and Tony Saulina. Take some time at the next Division meet to thank each of these individuals for taking their time to attend the meetings, discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of the Division. In return we welcome Art Triant to the board as your new Vice-President, Angelo Lautazi as the new Secretary and the Beth Stange as a new Director. We will start work promptly in January to attend to the business of the club.

In the New Year we have much to accomplish. While the 40th anniversary year was full of successes, our 41st anniversary is equally important, as we move the club forward into the

future. What should be the next focus of our collective efforts? What can we do as a Division to serve our members and our National organization better? What can we do to continue to enjoy the hobby and each other's company? What should we be doing that we are not? Always remember that we all have collective "ownership" over the Desert Division and our activities. While not ownership in the traditional sense, we have the ability to collectively chart our future. We need to think about our future and this is the year to do that. We have a treasury that is at a point where we must use some of the funds. We must use them to fulfill our mission as put forth in the TCA mission statement:

"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."

The time is now for the Desert Division to find a prominent project. We need a collective vision of how we can do our part to fulfill the mission of the TCA in a meaningful and sustainable way that makes wise use of the funds we have now. Such a project cannot be completed in a single year. It is going to take many years and the efforts of many people. Whatever that project is, the Division is in a position to start it now. Let's not waste such an incredible opportunity to reach current and future generations of toy train enthusiasts. As this year has clearly shown once again, when we have the will, we make it happen. That has been proven over the last 40 years and with the same effort will be possible over the next 40 years and beyond.

A final note of thanks is due at this time. This issue represents the last issue of the Dispatch edited and produced by Gordon and Christie Wilson. Their tireless 23 years of service on producing a high quality publication cannot go unrecognized. Take a special moment to thank them for all those years of service. We welcome Chris Allen as our new editor beginning with the February Dispatch.

As we move into the New Year, may it be a prosperous one for all. The first Division Meet is on Saturday, January 14th and I look forward to seeing you all there.



DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2012-13

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| President: | Jonathan Peiffer | 602-561-4131 | Directors: | Greg Palmer | 505-898-3840 |
| Vice-President: | Art Triant | 480-284-4665 | | Beth Stange | 480-947-5663 |
| Secretary: | Angelo Lautazi | 480-575-7006 | | Ralph Treichel | 602-863-6985 |
| Treasurer: | Bob Herman | 480-948-2730 | | Marty Wik | 480-488-8625 |

BOD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on January 11 at the home of Jonathan and Robyn Peiffer, beginning at 7:30 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 602-561-4131 to be sure there are enough chairs.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

You will probably read this article around the Holidays; thus I hope each and every one of you has a great Holiday season, and hope to see all of you in the new year. Speaking of the new year, our first Meet and Meeting of 2012 will be January 21st, at 10:00 AM, at the Sombra Del Monte Church which is at 2528 Utah N.E., in Albuquerque, NM. We will have the Jim Spatafora Memorial Train Room open at 9:00AM for you to run your trains on the O Gauge and S Gauge loops. Remember you can also bring items there to sell as well, so come early and have some fun; run trains; buy, sell, and swap.

At our Meeting at 10:00AM we will have our election of officers. The candidates are: President Gregory Palmer, Vice President George Swajian, Secretary Scott Eckstein, Treasurer Bill Harris, Directors Carl Cataline, Jon Spargo, and Art Lites. We will also go over plans for next year's Pumpkin Meet. Your Board of Directors have already had a Meeting and have come up with suggestions for the 2012 Pumpkin Meet. We need your help and input, so plan to come to the January 21st Meet and give us your ideas on how to improve the Pumpkin Meet. At that time, we will go over how this year's show did. Bring a Toy Train or train related item for "Show and Tell" at our Education Segment. It is always great to see what everyone collects and absorb the vast knowledge this Chapter has in relation to the collecting and operating of Toy Trains.

I look forward to seeing each of you on January 21st, first at 9:00AM in the Jim Spatafora Train Room and then at 10:00AM for our very special Meet and Meeting. Once again, the place is the Sombra Del Monte Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. See all of you there. Have a Happy New Year!

VERNE SNYDER REMEMBERED

By Beth Stange, TCA #93-36984

There once were five guys who loved their toy trains. They loved to talk about their latest find or just share their old treasures. They shared a lot of knowledge about their trains and enjoyed showing off their favorites.

They decided to meet once a month at one another's house and bring something fun to run. So once a month on a Monday night they would get together; they would rotate the venue and fun would be had by the five friends who looked forward to each meeting.

This went on for a long time, I have no idea when it stopped, but the guys remained friends.

Then we lost the first of the five; Nick Grippe was killed in a car accident. This was a sad time for us, as he was Tom's Best Man at our wedding.

Then we lost Chuck Bitter, another great friend, who was a groom's man in our wedding party. Chuck was the kind of friend who never forgot to send an Anniversary card to us, remembering our day.

Next we lost Tom Stange, my husband and friend. With his death, the club also lost a person who knew a lot about the history of this Division and how it began.

Now we have lost Verne Snyder, a great friend of Tom's and mine. He died just the other day, December 7, 2011. In his last years he did not attend the meetings, as it was just too much for him to get there any longer. However, he never gave up the love of his trains. So on December 10, 2011, I said good-bye to a friend, all the while remembering the friendship of five longtime and faithful comrades.

The final member of the "Five Amigos" is Paul Wassermann. To him I say that I am sorry for your loss that your Monday group is gone. These four great friends of yours are now in heaven playing with their trains and remembering all the good times you shared.

To the members of this great Desert Division: Start your own "Monday Night Club." Invite someone to join who may not have a layout or a room big enough to have company, but get together a group of friends and remember this Group of Five who made the time to share the hobby they all loved so dearly.

“SO LONG, FAREWELL”

by Gordon L. Wilson, TCA #76-10233

With apologies to Rogers and Hammerstein for plagiarizing lyrics from The Sound of Music, I could think of nothing more appropriate for this column. Christie and I arrived here permanently in the spring of 1988 and were immediately asked by then Desert Division President Peter Atonna to assume the responsibility for publishing a monthly newsletter. That was 23 years ago. It doesn't feel that long ago, but the calendar doesn't lie.

I had been the Post-War Editor for the Atlantic Division's newsletter and had written a number of articles for Bruce Greenberg's Lionel Post-War Guide books. A few other articles I'd penned found their way into the TCQuarterly and TTOS Bulletin. I'd also done some sports writing for the Newark Evening News, New York Daily News, The Hockey News, and The Sporting News. In short, writing was something I really enjoyed doing and still do.

When I began, the Desert Division had 82 members and I had NO budget. To me, that meant I could write VOLUMES. My basic philosophy has always been, “Why use 10 words when 100 will work even better?” I was also determined to write in “Glowing Generalities” so that members who didn't attend a monthly meet would feel badly about missing an affair that was so much fun. It WORKED and the Division began to grow. We were soon at 100 members. Then 200! But, looking at other Division newsletters, we didn't have a catchy name. Other Divisions had things called The Lockon, The Waybill, The Express, or The Roundhouse. So, we had a contest to find that catchy name. The late Frank Koenig came up with the winner – Dispatch. We started adding features about members; articles geared to “How To Do It” and lots of really fun and newsy things. Pictures of places and things added to the interest of the Dispatch's content. Before anyone realized what had happened, the Desert Division Dispatch's content was influencing the way other TCA Divisions actually viewed the way train meets were run. Other Divisions suddenly began having “Mystery Greeters.” They organized picnics; then after-meet visitations. Amazingly, it was the publicizing of our after-meet visitations that led to one of the TCA Conventions' most popular tours: the Layout Tours. The Desert Division Dispatch was literally causing TCA Divisions to do something they said they did, but didn't do: abide by their Mission Statement. The Desert Division has, in my opinion, always lived according to that creed. But not until the Dispatch began preaching about it as a “matter of fact” did most of the other Divisions change their Meet methods. That has probably been the thing of which I'm proudest in my 23 years as your editor.

Now, there is another Dispatch first that has been lots of fun. Beware the April Issue, if it has an April 1 postal date. For years Paul Wassermann and I played golf every Tuesday afternoon. The WHY I don't remember, but we've come up with some very believable train stories which had nary a word of truth in them. The Dispatch is famous for its April Fools jokes. We had a TCA President ready to set up a financial account based on one; another Division President sent us a check to cover the cost of a fictitious set we said the Division was selling; we skewed the number of water towers Lionel made; another time we had Lionel waiting for MTH to manufacture a new train. Oh, how we upset the apple cart nearly every April and laughed and laughed and then laughed some more as people at the York Meet spoke about the latest tale as if it was real. So much fun!

Why give it up? Deadlines! Christie and I find ourselves traveling abroad more and more. This is being written in early December, knowing we're leaving the USA on December 17 and won't be back until January 3. Last May we were in Paris and in September in Barcelona. After the last TCA Convention we took a month to return from Sacramento. We're fortunate to be able to travel as we do, but then someone else has to do our Dispatch “leg work.” That just isn't fair to the Division or the person (s) doing the “leg work.” So it is best to say a fond farewell. Chris Allen will do a fine job and I urge everyone to give him all the same support and encouragement you've given me. “So Long, Farewell” – I'll still be around. It's time for some new blood.

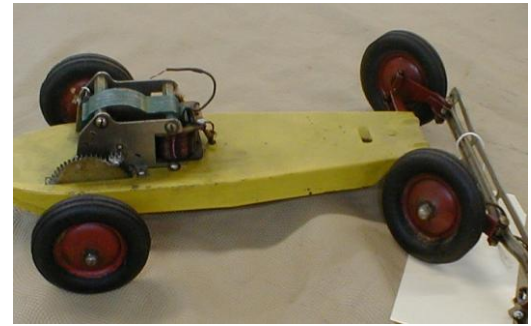
DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again. Desert Division dues are due. How do you know whether you owe dues? Look at your address label. If it is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. Please remit \$10 per year for up to five years in advance in a check made payable to Desert Division – TCA and include it in an envelope with the Registration Form which appears elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatch. Mail forms and checks to Angelo Lautazi, Division Secretary, at 6109 E. Sonoran Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266 on or before February 29, 2012. That will help us create the Desert Division roster and membership cards which will be distributed in March.

THE KOKOMO/KINGSTON ELECTRICAR

By Jerry Dzara, TCA 95-42479

In the 1920's the Kokomo Metal Stamping Company of Kokomo, Indiana, manufactured roller skates, toy guns, electric toy ranges, and toy irons. Then in 1928, they began producing a toy Race Car (See photos at right) that ran on stepped-down Alternate Current (AC), using sliding pick-ups along a fence with two (2) steel rails (See photos below).



The original 1928 Electricar, showing the body and the gear-work.

The car was claimed to be a model of a Duisenberg. It retailed for \$8.00 and came with 10 feet of track, but no transformer (See photo below, right). The first models had a gear-driven series of shunt motors with no reverse.



The 1928 model Electricar had sliding pick-ups along a fence with steel rails.

It had ten feet of track, but no transformer.

In 1930 the company was purchased by Kingston Products, also a Kokomo, Indiana company. Kingston replaced the gear drive with a less expensive rubber band drive. They redesigned the car to look somewhat like Donald Malcolm Campbell's Land-Speed record holding vehicle, "Bluebird." The body was painted red (See photo at right) and came with 14 feet of track at a cost of \$7.50.



The second series of these cars are interesting in as much as the power chassis was removable and different bodies could be used. For instance, set #730 came with the race car and a truck body that could be made into a Stakebed, a Pickup, a Dump Truck, or a Wrecker (See photo at right).



With it, 30 feet of fence track was included for a price of \$14.00. For an extra cost, a Fire Truck and a Bus Body were also available. The fence track sections were 14.5 inches long and were bolted together. Power was supplied by any AC Toy Train Transformer. To make operation easy, it was best used or set up on the floor as an oval. The vehicle was then placed inside the oval with the sliders contacting the two steel rails and away it went, showering sparks all along its route.

While it's an interesting toy, it's really limited, with only one car running on one oval at one time! The graphics on its set box are quite striking and progressive for the time period (See photo at right). For further information check out the videos on www.youtube.com by jdzara and you'll see a short clip of this unusual toy in operation.



Photos at right -

Upper: The 1930 model was painted bright red.

Middle: The #730 set came with interchangeable bodies.

Lower: The box had very striking graphics.

Get on the Train



New This Show

Gadsden-Pacific Toy Train Museum

Seeks Vendors for its

Train Show & Meet

SATURDAY JAN 21, 2012

9:00AM TO 3:00PM

LAS CAZUELITAS EVENTS CENTER

GRANT RD & I-10

TAKE GRANT RD EXIT WEST

TURN IMMEDIATELY SOUTH INTO

PARKING LOT NEXT TO GRANT INN

ENTRANCE BADGE FOR VENDORS AND HELPERS \$5.00

VENDOR/HELPER BADGES MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES

EARLY PREPAY: SIX (6) FT. TABLES ARE \$20.00 EA.

ALL TABLES PAID FOR AFTER JAN 9TH WILL BE \$25.00 EA.

TABLES MUST BE PREPAID FOR \$20.00 RATE CHECK PAYABLE TO GPD TTOM

TO: BUD STEWART 13325 E. PLACITA EL ALGODON TUCSON, AZ 85749

Questions? Contact BUD STEWART at (520) 749-0228 (leave Message)

OR EMAIL bud@at.tuccoxmail.com

Vendors, by their participation, are expected to accept and support the newly established train show rules. Set up will be 7:00 am Saturday. A snack bar/lunch counter is available in the hall. Vendors still set up at 3:00 pm will qualify for the raffle. First prize: GPD Ore Car / Second Prize: GPD Box Car

Public is welcome. There is a \$5.00 admission at the door for adults. Children under 13 are admitted free.

To register please cut bottom portion, fill out completely and return with payment to Bud Stewart

X-----

January 21st 2012 Meet Registration Form

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Name | | | | |
| Address | | | | |
| Phone | | Email Address | | |
| Number Each | | Entrance Badges | @ \$5.00 ea | |
| Number Each | | Six Foot Tables | @ \$20.00 ea | |
| Check Number | | Total | | |

ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST

MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEET



THE ARMORY MEET and SHOW

(Mid-Winter Train Swap and Show)

SATURDAY, FEB. 25th, 2012

9 AM TO 3 PM

AZ ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

1335 N 52nd Street Phoenix AZ 85008

(Next to Papago Park)



Aggressive promotion, all scales, great location, how-to demonstrations, trains running all day, train races, train demolition, food services, raffles, free parking

To reserve your space, submit this form by February 1, 2012
(Please print legibly)

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | 1 st table at \$25.00 \$25.00 |
| Address | Additional tables at \$20.00 each: _____ |
| City State Zip | Electricity needed? Yes _____ No _____ |
| Buying, selling, ethics and behavior. In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. | Total _____ |
| Signature Date | For official use only Date received: _____ |
| Make checks payable to: "Grand Canyon Model Railroaders" Mail to: John Pryor, 102 N Sierra Circle, Casa Grande, AZ 85222 Information: John Pryor 602-799-8570, Glenn Saber 602-956-6695 | Check: _____ Amount: _____ |

Security personnel are scheduled to unlock the hall for set-up at 6:00 AM
However their prompt arrival cannot be guaranteed

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - MTH Set Breakup Blow Out Specials – If you have the track and transformer we have the PS/2 engine and three car set for you! UP SD70 ACE w/three double stacks \$299.95 – Pennsy 4-6-0 steam loco and tender w/three passenger cars \$271.95 – UP 4-6-0 steam loco and tender and three car freight set \$251.95 - Always ask for your TCA member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM – **Lionel & MTH Authorized Service Station specials** - Lionel TMCC Operating Crane car and boom tender w/sounds NIB \$450 - Lionel 627 44 Ton switcher LN \$125 – 10 misc painted figures “O” scale \$5- see Ray in service station for these specials and more!

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. For a complete list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@gmail.com.

BURLING’S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different “Set of the Month” each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11 AM to 5 PM, M – F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com **AUTHORIZED LIONEL SERVICE CENTER**

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- 998-5349.

THE TRAIN STATION – Mountain Lakes, NJ. Top 10 Authorized Lionel and AF Sales and Service since 1974. New, Used, Bought, Sold, Repaired. 973-263-1979 www.train-station.com.

NOW AVAILABLE! The Titan U for HO - The new QSI Titan DC Operated After Market Sound System. Operates in either DC & DC/QARC or DCC. Automatic selection occurs at Power Up. Go to: www.The-Scaled-Tin-Rail.com for lots more features and details. Product is now available for delivery. Specify locomotive sound set desired. Price: 119.95. Introductory price is: \$99.95. Optional installation is additional. Keep checking the STR website. Art Boynton, 928-525-0755.

FOR SALE – Lock, Stock, and Barrel – Lionel Fastrack entire inventory at current Lionel retail would be \$23,167 to include 120 remote switches, every configuration of track, lighted bumpers, and accessories, etc. Sold as is and no individual items sold. Herb Andreen – 480-807-5151 or 847-640-2262.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

WANTED – 1700 engines, cars, and parts. Condition unimportant. Contact Bob Herman 480-948-2730.

FOR SALE – Ives 3255 0-4-0 black cab, red frame w/ 135,135 & 136 black body, red roof & trucks, restored is reverse colors. Excellent Condition Set \$400. Dorfan Freight Cars, 605 PRR Coal Hopper & 604 Tank Indian refining Co. each \$60, 4 Car Dorfan Set, 496 Pullman Atlanta, Boston, & Seattle with people, 497 Observation no people, 8 wheel nickel trucks, extra roof. Set \$360. LIONEL: 92 Floodlight Tower (red) Original Corrugated Box \$195; 1684 2-4-2 black w/1689WT \$60, 1679 Baby Ruth Box Orange Door (tattered box) \$30. 1680 Shell Tank 3 dome (tattered box) \$30; latch couplers, 2660 Operating Crane nickel plate (post war trucks) repo boom \$75; 607, 607 Pullmans, & 608 Observation Girard Green, Yellow windows & doors, roof repainted dark green, copper journals, latch couplers Set \$180. Lionel Set 224E Black 2224W, 2620, 3659, 2654, 2652, & 2657 \$675, some boxes. Lionel Set 225E Black 2235W Set 853W 2755, X2758, 2812X & 2757 \$675, some boxes. 681 6-8-6 Turbine tattered box no liner 2046 PRR 8 wheel tender box \$160; 736 2-8-4 w/736W Tender original boxes \$275; 2343 Santa Fe ABA Screen A Power corrugated box, A Dummy tattered box, “B” unit no box \$375; 2321 Lackawanna Grey Roof corrugated box excellent, \$425; 3461x-25 Log Car Green o/b \$75; 3472 Operating Milk Car o/b \$75; 6343 Barrel Ramp Car o/b \$30; 6457 SP-type Caboose o/b \$27; 6445 Ft. Knox Gold Reefer o/b \$90; 362 Barrel Loader, Like New o/b \$90; Lionel 1915 Outfit Set Box only \$95; Lionel Rocky Mountain 5th Anniversary Reefer, \$50 no box. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

WANTED – CTT – October 2009, Lion Roars – August 2001 and October 2002. Keith Swett, 480-332-0255 or e-mail k-swett@cox.net.

WANTED – At least three (3) 6-foot sections O-gauge Rail Rax, used or new. Contact Gordon Wilson at christielwilson@aol.com or call 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**

Chris Allen, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
1119 W. Plata Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85210-8250

POSTMASTER: This Federal 501c3 Newsletter
contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action
by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before
January 2, 2012

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



DUES ARE DUE

COMING EVENTS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| January 14, 2012 | Desert Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| January 21, 2012 | Gadsden-Pacific Train Show & Meet – 9 AM Contact: Bud Stewart 520-749-0228 or e-mail bud@at.tuccoxmail.com |
| January 21, 2012 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840 |
| February 11 | Desert Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| February 18 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| February 25 | Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Swap Meet – The Armory, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| March 10 | Desert Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| March 17 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.tcadd.org
Click on the link to our e-Bay offerings.**