

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 36, No. 1

February, 2007

Come on members! Step up and support YOUR Division!

CELEBRATE ARIZONA!
The First in a Series of Cars by the Desert Division, TCA

Buy this limited production Lionel two car set. Order deadline Feb. 14, 2007. Expected delivery, summer, 2007. Prototype cars shown.

Verde Canyon Railroad

Grand Canyon Railroad

Celebrate two famous tourist railroads that take you to some of Arizona's most spectacular scenery

Instructions:

Fill out the bottom of this form completely and enclose it with a check/money order for the total amount payable to the: TCA Desert Division

Mail form and check to:

TCA Desert Division
25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.
Paulden, AZ 86334-2713

ORDER DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2007

Last Call - Order NOW!

Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City and State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Celebrate Arizona Verde Canyon RR and Grand Canyon RR Boxcar Set	\$95.00 per set
Arizona residents add sales tax	\$ 7.35 per set
Free shipping included in the US	
Total Amount enclosed	_____

The Desert Division thanks you for the order and for your support of the Club.

DESERT DIVISION WELCOMES A NEW YEAR

New member Don Stefanis found his way to the Jaycees Hall this month, as did TCA visitors Armond Cecere from New York State and Joel Haberman from Kentucky. The crowd was full of old and new faces, the room was filled with sales tables, and the group exhibited just as much camaraderie as always.

Treasurer Bob Herman announced that there is \$11,290.73 in savings, \$11,770.46 in checking, with \$193.95 used for the Trains for Kids program.

Ed Micale gave the Convention Report. We need to raise money to foot the bill for some Convention items, such as the Welcome Party and Kids Club activities. The Celebrate Arizona cars were designed to raise such funds. The club members need to support this effort, as we have a minimum order that we must attain in order to break even, and more if we hope to make a profit. These cars must be bought as a set, as that is the way Lionel packages them. Suggestion: Someone could “sponsor” a few cars, putting the money up front, then buying them if they do not sell. Also, anyone who wants to serve should contact the Chairpersons listed in the Winter issue of the Dispatch. Marty Wik and Ivan English are working on Convention Cars, which will be presented at the TCA National Convention in 2007. We receive no funds from these cars – all of that money goes to TCA National.

President Katie Elgar asked for volunteers for various committees. Clark McClure will head the Set-up Crew, while Chris and Laurel Allen will take over the Coffee Club. The cell-phone redemption program netted another \$63 for the 2009 National Convention. Members are urged to continue to donate deactivated cell phones.

From time to time we honor members who have had a positive influence on our Division. In January we honored Tom Stange, one of our original founding members, with Life Membership status. Gordon Wilson asked the Division for money to provide bricks in the Desert Division area at the TCA National Headquarters in Strasburg, PA, for our members who have attained Live Membership status since the inception of the program about 7 years ago. Motion: Fred Hunter, seconded by Bob Dennison – “The Desert Division shall allocate \$400 for two silver bricks to honor the Life Members of the Desert Division.” Carried.

The Educational Segment began with Gordon Wilson, demonstrating the skill and craftsmanship of Hallmark Ornaments, with their 2006 Rock Candy Mountain Train ornament. It lights, talks, and has four different programs. Christie Wilson told how she came by the 6-foot tall Polar Express sign. A local hobby shop had it on display when she went to ask for donations for the Turkey Meet. Christie asked for it and was told that she could have it as soon as the season was over. That was two years ago. When she went in for it, it was “in storage” for use again this past year. After the Holiday Season, the owner decided that he was finished with it, and it now resides at the Wilson home. Sam McElwee brought a trolley car which he and his wife display each Christmas. On top are figures which dance on the roof while Santa drives and a violin player moves about the car. It not only has motion, but music as well. Bob Mancus brought in three plates given as safety awards by the Railroad. Each contains a Western scene, and all of them are inscribed on the back. One is from the Atchison and Topeka Railroad, and another is the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Jonathan Peiffer got a train for Christmas, so he displayed it this year. It is the scale Williams Congressional set from 1997. He claims he has “a place to run it, but no track and no board to put it on.” It is pulled by a GG-1. Interestingly the combine and baggage cars don’t match the rest of the set, but that is prototypical of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Names on the cars have Pennsylvania history: Thomas Edison, William Penn, Betsy Ross, Molly Pitcher, and Alexander Hamilton.

On a health note, we were reminded that Chuck Archbold, Cole Gibbs, Ron White, and Margaret Butler would all appreciate cards from members. Also Sarah Reed Lavinus, the TCA National Secretary, has health issues. She too might like a card. Bob Bates recently lost his wife, so sympathy cards are in order for him.

Mystery Greeter Doug Gilliatt announced that John Wiley should receive the ten raffle tickets. The first ticket was drawn by Rebecca Peiffer. It belonged to Tom Stange. Raffle prizes were as follows:

Tom Stange	Ready-Made Toys truck with orange and blue cars
Larry Melvin	Street lamp and figure
Bob Herman	<u>Toy Train Treasury</u> – a two-volume set
Bob Miazga	RailKing – Turkish Taffy Box Car
Angelo Lautazi	Scenics for a layout
Sam McElwee	Clock and Railroad Video
Tom Stange	<u>Greenberg Volume VI: Accessories</u>
Ed Micale	Lionel #927 Lubricating Kit
Ken Barnes	<u>Warman’s Lionel Train Field Guide</u>

The meeting adjourned to the home of Angelo Lautazi for a layout visitation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I wish each of you a belated, but sincere Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are already into February of 2007, and we are marching along at a steady pace. Just think, only three more months until Spring York, for those who are already counting the days!

For those of you who missed the chance to attend the Holiday Party in December, you missed a great meal, and a fun time. Fred and Shirley Hunter worked with the Marriott in Mesa for an impressive meal! There were raffles, favors, tabletop centerpiece auctions, mystery box auctions, and a visit for the little ones by Santa. Sam McElwee won the Lenox locomotive and caboose that was raffled. We are hoping to be able to return to the same location for the 2007 party.

Don Locke has been doing a great job of organizing folks to allow us to visit their layouts after the meetings. In January we were invited into Angelo Lautazi's home, where we were able to see a hi-rail layout complete with burning buildings, ships in the harbor, a working transfer table and many, many operating accessories. A "tip of the hat" to Don and Thank You to Angelo for opening his train room for us to play in, and Barb who had lots of tasty goodies for us to partake in as well! There will be a visit to another visit after the February meet. March is open at this point, so contact Don (480-854-2546) if you would like to have us over after a meet! Don't forget

to check with Don for the schedule of visits as well. That way you can plan your day!

Each of us has a particular interest in trains that may not be shared by everyone, be it either a certain gauge, era, or a manufacturer. But each is important and a part of being in the train club. The Convention Committee has worked hard to develop the boxcar set that it is currently offered for fundraising. This car set is a limited edition. Unlike the Convention Cars, the sale of this set of boxcars raises funds directly for the Division. Maybe it doesn't fit into your collection, but the Division voted to have the Convention, and this is a way to help raise funds for that Convention. If you have already ordered your set, a great big Thank-you! If not, there is still time. Ordering deadline is February 14. Use the form on page 1 of this newsletter, contact Peter Atonna, or check out the website at www.tcadd.org.

In keeping with a monthly theme, for the February meet, why not share your favorite 'I Love' boxcar, or maybe a Presidential or Valentine special car? I don't recall any Ground Hog's Day cars, which just may have been an oversight on the part of the manufacturers.

Whatever your favorite part of February is, come to the meet on the 10th and share the camaraderie which makes belonging to your Desert Division so much fun.

Happy Trains!



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Greg Palmer, TCA 94-39039

To say the Rio Grande Chapter has had a lot of snow this winter is an understatement. I have had, since the middle of December, around 24 inches of snow. To top off the weather problems I had to make the difficult move to cancel the January 20th Chapter Meet. I had to decide to cancel the Meet on Friday evening. The snow was just starting and it did snow a couple of inches overnight. However I was glad I did cancel the Meet because around 10:00AM on Saturday it snowed several more inches. That would have been during the Chapter Meet, and the drive home would have been difficult for some. We will move all the activities scheduled for the January 20th Meet to the February 17th and March 17th Meets.

At the February 17th Meet, I will go over several Standards Committee issues, and Chapter member Everett Hagan will bring his collection of variations of the small 027 boxcars. Art Lites will bring his collection of Lionel Missile Cars to the March 17th Meet. I am also trying to get prospective Division and Chapter member Richard Paul TCA#69-2486 to come to one of our meets to go over his new article in the January 2007 issue of the TCA Quarterly. He plans to join the Division and Chapter very soon. The next Chapter Meets will be very interesting. I encourage members to bring items to show and tell.

As always if you have Standards issues, please bring them up at our Chapter Meets. Dale Schafer and I will be happy to go over any problems or questions with you. I would like to welcome new Chapter members Tim Whalen, Ross Jordan, and George Domeny. I hope to see all of the Rio Grande Chapter members at our next two Meets, both of which start at 10:00 AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM, one on Saturday February 17th and the other on Saturday March 17th. See you at the Meets.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS MEET PHOTOS



Tom Stange receives Desert Division Life Membership award.



Christie Wilson stands beside her Polar Express poster.



Bob Mancus has train plates given as safety awards.



Sam McElwee brought his Holiday Trolley for all to enjoy.



Rebecca Peiffer pulls the first winning Raffle Ticket.

LAUTAZI VISITATION



Angelo's fountain and trolley are two highlights of his highly mechanized action-packed layout.



Young and old alike enjoy the many facets of Angelo's "Work in Progress layout.

WIN A LIONEL #773 in '07

Joshua Lionel Cowen had a favorite steam locomotive and in 1937 he made it a part of the Lionel Lines stable of engines. Since then it has reappeared countless times to the point where it has attained the status of "ICON." Since 1989 the Desert Division has made it possible for members to win/own one of these "icons" through a very unique raffle, the brainstorm of member Cole Gibbs. So, how does it work? Read on!

Your odds of winning? Only 100 tickets will be offered for sale and all of them MUST go to TCA members or TCA immediate family members. Tickets are \$25 each, and because we are a Federal 501c3 non-profit organization, if you do not win a monthly prize or the Hudson, then your receipt becomes a legal tax deduction. The monthly meet prize? Why, a \$100 bill AND the ticket is returned to the entire group. Therefore, it is theoretically possible to win \$100 seven times and also win the #773 Hudson. Naturally, the earlier in the year you purchase your tickets, the better are your chances of winning the "C" notes. The first drawing will be on February 10. There is ONE catch, however. You must be at the meet in order to win the \$100.

The monthly drawings occur in February, March, April, May, June, September, and October. Should any raffle tickets still be available following the October monthly meet, they will be offered for sale to the whole membership of TCA. The winning ticket for the #773 Hudson (a 1964-66 model issue) will be drawn at the November Turkey Meet. The winner need not be present.

So, start now to both win a great prize – the Lionel #773 Hudson in C-8 or better condition – and contribute to the running of the Desert Division while getting a tax deduction at the same time.



CELL PHONE COLLECTION

Don't toss your old, deactivated cell phone away. The Desert Division is collecting them in conjunction with a recycling program and can turn your old, unwanted cell phone into money for the upcoming 2009 Convention. Help the Desert Division and clean out your unwanted clutter, all at the same time. Take out any of your personal information and bring all your unwanted and useless cell phones to our next meeting on February 10 – no chargers or peripheral equipment, just unused and unneeded cell phones.

DUES ARE DUE

Deadline – February 28, 2007

Yes, it's that time of year again. The address label on the front of your bulletin includes the date that your dues expire. Please check to see if you need to renew. Dues are \$10 per year for up to five years in advance. This money covers any and all expenses connected with our nine open meets throughout the year, the printing of ten issues of the newsletter, food for the picnics/Pizza Meetza, raffle prizes, awards for the golf tournament, and incidental expenses which occur throughout the year.

A Desert Division Registration Form is included with this bulletin. If your label is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. If it is not highlighted, but you want to make any changes in the Membership Roster, please fill in the form and return it to the Secretary at the address on the bottom of the form. New rosters will be prepared on March 1, so don't delay. Be sure to keep your membership current by renewing today.

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
	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 7, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Don Locke. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-854-2546 to be sure there are enough chairs.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Do you want to save the Division some money and yourself some extra paper? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter online, please fill out the bottom section of this page and return it to Christie M. Wilson, Secretary, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Name _____

TCA Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ TCA No. _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse's first name _____ e-mail address _____

Enclosed is a check made payable to TCA - Desert Division in the amount of \$ _____ to cover my dues for the next _____ (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) years at \$10.00 per year.

The following is a list of categories from the Registration Form representing your preferences in toy trains and accessories. Circle numbers of all categories that apply.

TRAIN ERA

- 1 PREWAR (1850-1942)
- 2 POSTWAR (1945-1969)
- 3 MODERN (1970-Present)

GAUGE

- 4 SCALE/ NMRA
- 5 STANDARD
- 6 G or #1
- 7 O or O-27 TINPLATE
- 8 S
- 9 HO
- 10 OO/AMERICAN
- 11 N
- 12 Z
- 13 LIVE STEAM

MANUFACTURER

- 14 AMERICAN FLYER/GILBERT
- 15 LIONEL/WINNER
- 16 MARX/MARS/ALLSTATE
- 17 IVES
- 18 DORFAN/FANDOR
- 19 MTH
- 20 WILLIAMS
- 21 K-LINE
- 22 AMT/KUSAN
- 23 OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY
 - 23A BASSETT/LOWKE
 - 23B BING
 - 23C BOUCHER
 - 23D BUB/KARL
 - 23E BUDDY-L
 - 23F CARLISLE & FINCH
 - 23G ELLETREN
 - 23H HAFFNER
 - 23I HOGE
 - 23J HORNBY
 - 23K ISSMAYER
 - 23L LGB
 - 23M MARKLIN
 - 23N METZEL
 - 23O MINI-SCALE

- 23P PHOENIX LTD.
- 23Q PLASTICVILLE
- 23R LITTLETOWN/SKYLINE
- 23S PRIDE LINES
- 23T REA/ARISTO-CRAFT
- 23U RIGHT-O-WAY
- 23V ROKAL
- 23W VOLTAMP
- 23X WEAVER
- 23Y McCOY
- 23Z NATIONWIDE
- 23AA USA TRAINS
- 23BB S-HELPER SERVICE
- 23CC ASTOR
- 23DD FLEISCHMANN
- 23EE CARETTE
- 23FF EASTWOOD AUTOMOBILIA
- 23GG AMERICAN MODELS S GAUGE
- 23HH DOWNS S GAUGE
- 23II COLBER
- 23JJ UNIQUE
- 23KK SAKAI
- 23LL BOWSER
- 23MM T-REPRODUCTIONS

DO YOU HAVE A LAYOUT?

- 24 YES
- 25 NO

PERIPHERALS

- 26 FIGURES
- 27 TOYS
- 28 PAPER/BOOKS
- 29 BUILDINGS
- 30 RAILROADIANA

Mail to: **Christie Wilson**, Secretary
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ANTIQUUE 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.

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT! – Set Breakups! MTH Alaska Diesel Freight – club price \$228.95; Virginia & Truckee or Santa Fe 10-wheelers or the B&O 2-8-0 – club priced at \$246.95. Lionel scale SD-40D2 w/smoke & electronic horn, high detail, reg. \$265 – club \$199.95. Lionel SP 0-6-0 list \$110 – club \$93.49. Lionel NASCAR 3-car add-ons Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Jimmie Johnson, reg. \$130 – club \$116.99! - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 open late Wed.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We welcome Pat Eiff to our staff to better serve our customers in sales and service of both new and pre-owned trains. 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 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

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.

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. Also carry common Lionel parts: e-units, drums, brushes, coupler knuckles, etc. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

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

FOR SALE – Train table 4' x 8', with grid box frame and saw horses - \$100. Also track and switches. Bryan Jewell - 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 – Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; 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. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

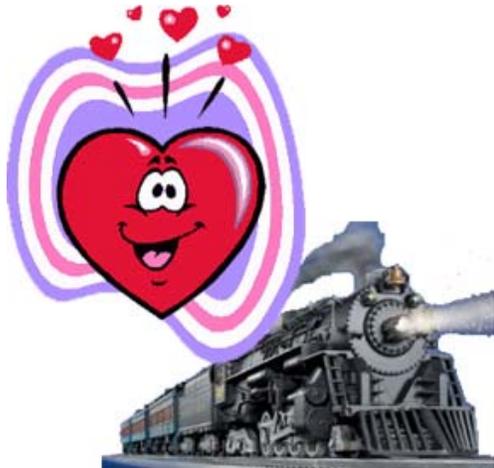
This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

POSTMASTER: This Federal 501c3 Newsletter contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before **FEBRUARY 3, 2007**

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**FINAL NOTICE
DUES ARE DUE**

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

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 10 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald |
| February 14 | Deadline for ordering Celebrate Arizona boxcars
Contact: Peter Atonna (928-636-4228) |
| February 17 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE
Contact: Greg Palmer (505-898-3840) |
| February 24 | TTOS Mid-Winter Model Railroading Meet, 52 nd Street Armory – 10 AM
Contact: John Pryor (602-799-8570) |
| March 10 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM |
| March 17 | Ray Korte Memorial Picnic, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale - Noon |
| March 17 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |

Have You **PADE** Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

PADE PROMOTIONS

Thanks to everyone who ordered the Celebrate Arizona cars. If you wish to place an order, you may use the form on Page 1 of this issue. Be sure to do so before the deadline of February 14.

Thank-you's go to Chris and Laurel Allen, who have volunteered to be the Coffee Club monitors for 2007, and Clark McClure, who volunteered to be the Meet Set-up Chair. Gordon Wilson donated the Silent Auction prize for the January Meet, and Jonathan Peiffer helped format this edition of the newsletter.

Your name could appear in this space. You need only do something to benefit the Division.