

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 40, No. 2

Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

February, 2011

40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OFF TO A BOOMING START

January 8, 2011 saw a packed house at the Desert Division Meet. John Upshur brought his sister, Trudy Matthews; John Moline joined TCA and the Desert Division; Roger Meekhof joined us from Michigan; and Lew and Evelyn Warren drove in from Goodyear, AZ. Trading and socializing were brisk for about an hour and a half before President Jonathan Peiffer announced the winner of the 50-50 for this month, Gordon Wilson.

Treasurer Bob Herman announced totals of \$42,126.19 in savings and \$27,423.19 in checking. President Peiffer announced that the Desert Division, in answer to the Division Appeal from TCA, will be making a \$750 donation towards LED lighting in the Museum. Members are also urged to make tax deductible donations to TCA.

A "straw vote" of the members in attendance indicated that the Turkey Meet name change to the Great Southwest Toy Train Expo was not very popular, but options of one day or two were split relatively evenly. Thank you to Bob Johnston and Marty Wik for chairing the 2010 event. We need for someone to chair the 2010 "Turkey Meet Toy Train Expo" so that we can begin promotions NOW. Fred Hunter asked that members e-mail any member of the BOD with suggestions – what worked, what didn't work, and how to improve this, our traditional Thanksgiving Meet and the largest Desert Division show of the year.

President Peiffer announced his goals for the year, starting with shorter meetings, proceeding through a successful 40th Anniversary Party, and stressing increased membership. With that, he turned the program over to Gordon Wilson who talked about the beginnings of the Desert Division. At this time each member in attendance received a 24 page handout about the year 1971 and the efforts to establish a TCA Division in this part of the country. Gordon then called upon Phil Todd to outline an upcoming railroad excursion aboard Copper Spike, part of the Arizona Eastern Railway. The trip would include a bus from Phoenix to Globe by way of Superior and the Ray Copper Mine, Miami to view the Arizona Eastern Railroad's Climax, and on to the station. Pulled by an E-8 engine, the train would take riders on a round-trip excursion from Globe to Bixby and back. Lunch will be bought on the train. Upon the return to Globe, another hour will be spent visiting an antique store, followed by a bus ride to Gold Canyon and a stop at the home of Phil Todd for refreshments and a tour of his "Toy Train Kingdom" before traveling back to the Phoenix pick-up point. Details of this trip appear on page 6 of this issue. Gordon ended the 40th Anniversary segment of the meeting by reminding everyone of upcoming events, starting with a surprise gift at the February Meet. Be sure to save the date of October 22, 2011, for a gala dinner party and after dinner speaker Marshall Trimble, Arizona's historian/story teller. The site is Chaparral Suites Resort, at the corner of Chaparral and Scottsdale Roads in Scottsdale, Arizona.

COMING UP....

FEBRUARY 12 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

Educational Segment – Train(s) My True Love Gave to Me

FEBRUARY 19 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

FEBRUARY 19 – GCMR Mid-Winter Meet – Phoenix, Armory – 9 AM

MARCH 12 – Regular Division Meet and Picnic – Scottsdale Railroad Park – 10 AM

MARCH 19 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

APRIL 2 – Arizona Eastern Railway Excursion – 6:30 AM

APRIL 9 – Pizza Meetza – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

Historian Chris Allen urged members to provide him with pictures with people in them. The “100 year Lionel Celebration” is well documented with pictures of the trains that were run, but not the folks who ran them. He has been working with Jan Athey, TCA’s Librarian, to elicit additional information about the history of the Desert Division. Ms. Athey told Chris that VHS tapes have a life of only about 20 years. Chris urged everyone who has old videos to have them made onto DVD’s as soon as possible in order to preserve them. He continued with a “trivia” quiz. It seems that two Divisions were created in 1971, Desert and Rocky Mountain. Which one is older? The answer is Desert, the 14th TCA Division, which was unanimously accepted on June 25, 1971. A few minutes later Rocky Mountain became the 15th TCA Division.

Phil Todd shared a copy of Trains 4 Kids, a Kalmbach publication which might well entice children and grandchildren into the joy of toy trains. Bob Dennison remarked that there was, at one time, a Standard Gauge tape. He would like to find a copy of this piece of TCA history.

President Peiffer announced the changes to the Division BOD: Katie Elgar’s term has officially ended and Tony Saulina began his term as a Director on January 1. The matter is a New Zealand/Australia Chapter is under investigation. As of this date, there are only 5 TCA members in those two countries. Fred Hunter has been charged with contacting them and continuing a dialog about how we can further develop a “Down Under” Chapter. In other Chapter news, we have submitted a request for the Rio Grande Chapter to host the TCA 2018 Convention in Albuquerque.

The March Meet will be the Joint Picnic at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. On March 12, the Desert Division will meet at the Aste Ramada, beginning at 10 AM, with the picnic to follow, and the usual camaraderie, games, and prizes. Paradise and Pacific, which provides the Ramada, and the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders will also be in attendance. Be sure to bring your trains to sell, your tales to swap, and your appetites for the hot dogs and member-provided salads and desserts.

President Peiffer announced that we need a Chair for the Educational Segment of our meets, someone to decide on a theme for each month, which will then be published in the newsletter. Today’s Educational Segment began with Jonathan Peiffer. He brought in a Williams brass T1 from 1990 and a cast Bowser HO-sized T1. He also showed us a brass K4 Pacific made by Williams in 1986. He compared it to a Bowser HO cast model and a Trix N-scale K-4 Pacific from the early ’70’s. Jonathan next displayed Gilbert’s American Flyer B-6 Switcher from the 1950’s which smoked, a rarity for HO trains. This he then compared with the Trix N-scale version. Next were Lionel’s recent E6 Atlantic which modeled a train on the Pennsylvania Reading Seashore Lines and a Pennline model from the mid 50’s. Pennline manufactured HO trains from 1947-1963 and their line of locomotives mainly featured Pennsylvania Railroad models. As there was not enough traffic to support two railroads to Atlantic City, the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads joined forces to form the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines. Today New Jersey Transit runs the “Gambler’s Special” to Atlantic City. Jonathan ended his part of the display with an HO John English Pennsylvania A5 switcher from 1955 or so. It is all cast, though this model was later re-released in plastic under the brand of Hobbyline.

John Wiley brought in a white box car with Lionel trucks. It has “tires” on both sides. One says On/Off and the other has numbers on it. When rotated, these turn on and tune in a working radio. John bought this item at the Turkey Meet, but he has no idea who made it or when. Brad Martin shared his “Entenmann’s Car,” a limited edition offering from the Lionel Railroad Museum. He grew up near the Entenmann’s factory and the aromas still linger in his mind today. Gordon Wilson told the story of his procuring the Bass Pro Shop special edition of the North Pole set. He also had his toy train trading cards with him. In 1957 Topps realized how well baseball cards were selling and how popular toy trains were so they decided to make a set of Lionel train cards, printed with a picture on one side and the written description on the other side. He had one uncut sheet of these cards, so Christie had a special frame made for him so that both sides are visible. Topps also put out “Rails and Sails,” a set of 128 cards. These he has collected in a binder for safe-keeping and easy display. Marty Wik brought in a Turkey Meet acquisition. It is a 1947 American Flyer set that someone brought to the Meet to sell for his father. Marty was available and talked with the gentleman, ultimately buying the set. It has black s-rail track, and the ’46 Atlantic engine and cars have graphics done in ink (not heat stamped) so they wear and/or wash off with time. These are in perfect condition. Also in this ’47 box were all the materials and paperwork. Also interesting to note is that there are brass buttons on the bottom. These were only used for one or two years, as they cause a ground and the engine stops. Marty also shared the newest edition of the Train Collectors Quarterly, the cover of which features a picture of Bruce Mansion’s S-gauge collection superimposed on a photo of his barn. In fact, the January issue of the TCQ has an extensive article about Bruce, who served as editor of that TCA publication for more than 25 years.

The after-meet visitations would be to the homes of Fred Hunter and Terry Bunish. Fred Hunter announced that at his home, there would be a contest – the person coming closest to the number of ornaments on the two Christmas trees (one in the living room and one near the door to the back yard) would win a piece of rolling stock. (See article on Page 10.) Katie Elgar, Visitation Chair, announced that she needs hosts for February, May, June, and September.

Dave Brown announced the grand opening of the new toy train building at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on January 27, beginning at 4 PM. Art Triant announced the February 19 Grand Canyon Model Railroaders’ Mid-Winter Meet at the 52nd Street Armory in Phoenix. Jack Palmer is selling his trains; see Jonathan Peiffer for a list. Holiday ornaments (\$20 each) and trucks (\$10 each) left over from the Holiday Party are still available for sale; contact Bob Herman.

This month's Mystery Greeter was Wayne Ross. He chose Earl Rasmussen for the 10 free raffle tickets. Raffle prizes were awarded as follows:

Art Triant	New York Central clock
Janet Mattern	1000 piece train puzzle
John Upshur	Lift truck and figures
Dwane Turner	Lionel 0-17 Remote Control Left Switch
Bill Richardson	Lionel Grand Trunk Box Car
Brad Martin	Lionel Ashley Drew & Northern Box Car
Dave Kuszynski	K-Line UP Gondola
Wayne Ross	Book – <u>World Encyclopedia Locomotives</u>
Ralph Treichel	Mug and book – <u>The Complete Book of Model Railroading</u>
Jim Vokac	Weaver Load and figures
Ken Barnes	Red truck

Folks disbanded to IHOP for lunch followed by visits to Fred Hunter's and Terry Bunish's layouts.



Historian Chris Allen and Laurel try to identify the people in the photos.



John Wiley talks about the "radio car" he bought at the "Turkey Meet."



Brad Martin displays his limited edition Entenmann's Box Car.



Gordon Wilson talks about his specially framed Lionel trading cards.

MULTIPLE 40th ANNIVERSARIES

By Gordon Wilson, TA 76-10233

Apparently 1971 was a very good year for the founding of iconic organizations having to do with highly collectible, at the time, "Boys' Toys." Ladies, please note the PHRASE "at the time." The so-called "Boys' Toys" were classic automobiles and Toy Trains.

In Anaheim, California, the Train Collectors Association took favorable action on a petition from a charter group from Arizona and granted Divisional status to the geographic area of Arizona, New Mexico, and the 12 western counties of Texas. This, the 14th Division of TCA became known as the Desert Division. Roughly one half hour later the 15th Division was welcomed into the TCA as the Rocky Mountain Division.

Also in California, a group of men who were lovers and private collectors of classic old automobiles formed what would become the world's most influential firm associated with buying and selling this type of vehicles. It would be known as the Barrett-Jackson Classic Auction. This is their 40th Anniversary year and at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona, this past January, they set all-time attendance and auction sales records. Hopefully, the members of the Desert Division will duplicate these statistical facts at our Grand 40th Anniversary Banquet Celebration on October 22, 2011.

And on January 26, we learned of yet another significant American 40th Anniversary. While attending a live performance of the Worldwide HD broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's performance of Giacomo Puccini's "American Opera," The Girl of the Golden West, a significant announcement was made about the Met's Music Director, James Levine. This year, 2011, is Maestro Levine's 40th Anniversary year at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

Happy 40th Anniversary to Us, the Desert Division; to the Rocky Mountain Division; to James Levine of the Metropolitan Opera Company; and to the Barrett-Jackson Classic Automobile Auction. May they all prosper onward toward their Golden Anniversary ten years from now!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Believe it or not, 2011 is upon us and we are in our 40th anniversary as a Division of the TCA. For those of you who were not at the well attended January meet, we had a fabulous time of socializing, discussing the year ahead, and most importantly enjoying the mutual fellowship we all share through this wonderful and diverse hobby of toy trains. It appeared that nearly a full 1/3 of our Division members were in attendance.

This year is an important one to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Like the trains we enjoy so much, the journey is more entertaining than the destination. Taking on the role of Division historian that was started by Tom Stange, Chris Allen has been sorting through the history of the Division. Everyone who attended the January meet received a handout on the early history of the Division. One great bit of fun trivia was that TCA national proposed that everyone west of the Mississippi be considered a single Division. Little was it known that there would be such devotion to the hobby from a little "cowboy" town in the middle of the desert. As much as we know about our early history, it is not complete. Chris is actively seeking out anything that can be found in terms of paper, items of interest, and most importantly pictures. We are quickly learning how much has been forgotten and one person's recollection of events may be different from someone else's. We have photos with people we cannot identify. Come to a meet and help up figure out who some of these "mystery" people are! Chris also has TCA National's voice recorder on loan as well to record the rich oral history of the Division. If you have a story to tell, see Chris.

When we look at the present state of our Division we continue to thrive in many ways. Our membership is holding steady. Our treasury is robust and in line with our approximate \$25,000 annual budget for activities. We continue to have many friendships through TCA and the other train clubs in the valley. However, it is no secret that no one is getting any younger. One of the goals as envisioned by the Board of Directors this year is to actively seek new members and grow our division by 10% this year. With your help we can make this happen. Already we have signed up our first new member of the year with John Moline who came to the meet specifically to become a member. We are also finally reaching out to our members in Australia and New Zealand to ask them to consider membership in the Division. Imagine the kind of interest the *Dispatch* would have with articles authored by our friends in the southern hemisphere. As members, we all can play an important role. Invite a friend who has an interest in trains, be a friendly face at a Division function or meet, and be an ambassador for the hobby in your everyday life.

One very important aspect of how we can attract existing and new members to be active is through our events and there will be no shortage of activities this year. In conjunction with our 40th Anniversary, the committee under the leadership of Gordon Wilson is planning a series of special trips and outings to suit everyone's interests. While the 40th anniversary was the impetus to plan many activities, there is nothing stating that we cannot repeat these activities in future years. If you attended lunch at IHOP after the meet in January, you know how many people were there. In February we are reserving a room at "The Original Wineburger" near 19th Ave. and Camelback. Plan on attending lunch after the meet! One very exciting trip in the works is a visit to the Globe/Miami area to enjoy the sites and ride the Arizona Eastern. Keep an eye out for details on this event and many others.

It is also that time of year again where the Division seeks the help of its members to take a leadership role on some important committees. Specifically our annual train show and swap meet needs a chair within the next 30 days or we risk not having a meet at all. This job is not an impossible task as shown by the numerous people who have taken it on in the past. It is a committee driven task where you WILL have the help you need.

Other leadership positions are also needed to be filled at this time. We need someone to take on the role of "education coordinator" to determine a theme for each month's education segment. Katie Elgar, our visitation chair is looking for people to show off their layouts and collections. Your layout does not need to be finished and your collection does not need to be full of rare vintage items. We want to see what interests you so we can all learn more about trains. There will be other positions to fill in the month ahead as well. Please consider making a difference and volunteering for an important role.

Finally, there has been a recent change on the Board of Directors due to the passage of the new bylaws. Everyone please take the time to thank Katie Elgar for her years of service to this Division to date, wish her well in campaign for TCA national vice president and finally welcome Tony Saulina to the BOD. The intent of the new bylaws is largely to encourage new people to take roles of leadership in our never ending quest to be the most active Division we can be. Let's make 2011 the best year ever.



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA# 94-39039

The first Chapter Meet of 2011 went off without a hitch. A great number of our members attended, despite having a few of our members attending the Tucson Show. No one came with any items to show and tell at our Education Segment; however, many said they are bringing items for the February 19th Meet. I brought items relating to my recent purchase of the Lionel D-291 Dealer Display Layout. I brought the book on Display Layout Construction by Roger Carp, and I also brought a copy of the D-291 Lionel Instruction Sheet and old newspaper ads from the Albuquerque Journal by the American Furniture Company which owned the D-291 in 1960. The ads show great Lionel Train prices and fun items. I now have photos of my layout, which I will bring to the February 19th Meet. The Business Meeting started with the Treasurers report of having \$787.63 in the Checking Account.

The 2010 Pumpkin Meet was the next topic. We had a great Meet; however, due to the changes in management at the Hotel during the year, we found ourselves with different managers to deal with. This caused some creative but legal math when it came to our final payment. Because of this fact our Meet made around \$500.00 in profit; however, we lost money on the dinner, due to the New Mexico tax laws regarding 501c3, and what gets taxed: food vs. services vs. materials. Thus for the total two day Pumpkin Meet program, Dinner, and Swap Meet, we lost \$58.00. Thus we almost broke even. Your Treasurer Bill Harris can answer any questions you may have on what happened, but the bottom line is that it will not happen again. The Chapter voted to not have a dinner again at the Hotel, and has instructed Bill Spofford and me to make sure that we are clear about the service charges and fees, which are taxed differently than the materials which are tax free to us. We are also in the process of talking with the Hotel's newest Management, which has changed again, since December, and try to get the same contract that we had in 2009, which cost us less than the contract for 2010. We will let you know at the February 19th Meet. The date for the 2011 Pumpkin Meet will be October 30th, and we are hopeful of having it at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. We are still planning on having a dinner, Carl Cataline is checking on a cheaper venue with much better food. As your President, I assume the responsibility to make sure your Treasury is spent well and the budget for activities is open and above board. We will do our best to make a little more money at this year's Pumpkin Meet. Bottom line is that everyone had a great time, sold trains, bought trains, and spent the day with great TCA friends.

Dale Schafer has donated his 072 Module to the Church we meet at. Thus at the February 19th Meet we will have an after Meet Activity downstairs at the Module. Bring trains to run, and let's have some fun. Our next regular Meet will be February 19th at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah N.E. in Albuquerque, NM. Please bring things to show and tell at the Education Segment. We will also go over the possible new contract with the Sheraton Uptown in regards to the 2011 Pumpkin Meet. A reminder that the after Meet activity following the March 19th Meet will be a trip to David Nycz's house to view his famous layout and participate in a clinic on Scenery making. David's layout has been pictured in Classic Toy Trains, and his Scenery is fantastic. So plan on going to David's after the March 19th Meet.

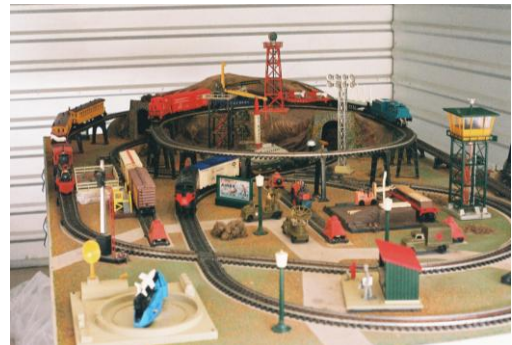
I hope to see all of you February 19th at 10:00AM. Bring trains to run, and trains to show and tell.



John Trever and his brother, new Chapter member, James Trever.



L-R: Carl Cataline, George Swajian, George Domeny, and Bill Harris gather at the January Meet.



Greg Palmer's D-291 Lionel Dealer Display

IN ERROR

The Holiday Party article in the previous issue of the Dispatch noted that an American Flyer engine was won by Boyd Reasor. This item was donated by George Swajian, who lives in Albuquerque and is an active member of the Rio Grande Chapter. Thank you George for your donation, and our apologies for the error.

COPPER SPIKE LEAVES THE STATION

The first major Desert Division trip as a group in nearly a decade is set for Saturday, April 2, 2011. Furthermore, it will most likely be our first Train Trip as a group since 1979. Our members had loads of fun then and fondly recall their trips to Denver and Tucson. We guarantee you will have a memorable time on April 2 as you mingle, kibitz, and share a day with fellow Division members in Eastern Arizona.

Here is what we have planned for this 12-hour day of camaraderie. At a cost of \$45 for adults (ages 13 to 100) or \$40 for children (up to age 12), we'll all meet at either the mall at Arizona Mills (Baseline Road and I-10) or Superstition Springs (north side of Route 60 at Power Road) and proceed to the Ray Copper Mine in Superior, where we can marvel at not only a huge "hole in the ground" (copper mine) but also a monstrous-sized shovel that helped dig that hole. Next we will stop for a visit at the Eastern Railroad Yard in Miami, Arizona, where we'll see a very unusual locomotive, the 2-2-0 Climax.

We'll then arrive at the COPPER SPIKE Excursion Train in Globe, Arizona, where we'll board a 1950's era full length Dome Car. Aboard this unique vintage car we'll order lunch (your cost and choice - \$3.50 - \$9.00, plus beverage - \$1.00 - \$5.00) which we will eat during the Round Trip excursion from Globe to Bixby and back. Upon our return to Globe, we thought our members might like to spend some time in a rather large and varied Antique Mall for an hour or so. One last stop on the way back to Phoenix/Mesa will be at the Todd Mahal in Gold Canyon. That name is a metaphor for the home of our member who has set this entire trip into motion, Phil Todd. Phil has promised us a prime view of his collection of Stoneware Hot Water Bottles, Brooms, and a Train Layout under construction, various Water Closets, and Refreshments.



At approximately 7:00 PM we should be returning to our original pick-up spots at the Superstition Springs and Arizona Mills malls. At our January Meet, better than 75% of the roughly 100 persons in attendance indicated that they would like to partake in this Division social get-together. Now we're asking you to commit to this 40th Anniversary Railroad Get-Together so we may contract with the VIA Bus Company (before they raise their rates as fuel prices escalate) and reserve the whole Dome Car for the Desert Division for April 2.

Return the attached form on or before March 15, 2011 or bring it with you to the Meet on February 12, 2011. We will have fliers from the Copper Spike available at the 2-12-11 Meet.

* * * * *

Check appropriate spaces.

Your Name _____ () \$45 adult

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Make checks payable to: Desert Division TCA Total enclosed \$ _____

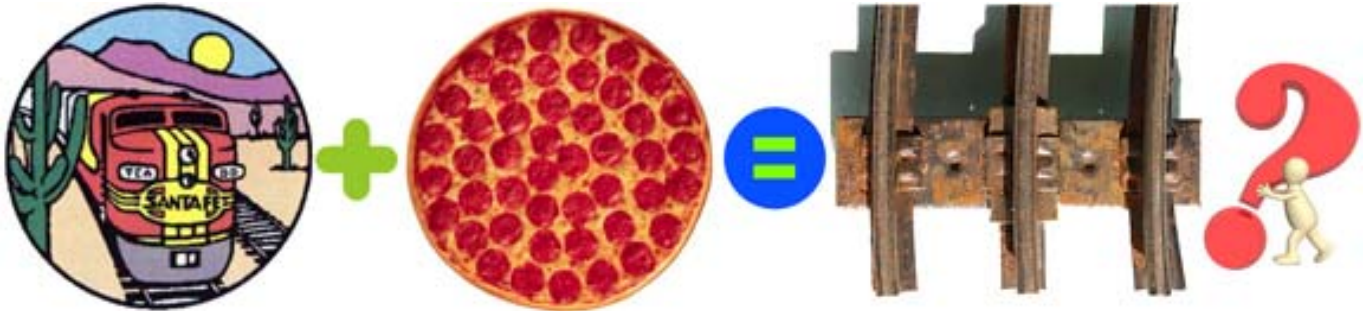
Return this form and payment to: Christie Wilson, Golden Spike
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

SO YOU WANT AN AUCTION?

By: Jonathan Peiffer TCA # 01-53047

It is coming up upon that time of the year where we are seeking items for our Spring auction better known as the "Pizza Meetza." Last year's auction was definitely an upgrade from some prior years due to some remnants from a large collection that was sold over the course of a few November auctions. However this year it is up to us to find items. Whether it is unused or unwanted pieces from your own collection or pieces that people are looking to sell on your behalf, consider entering in our "Pizza Meetza" auction. I plan on entering several items of nice quality running trains with very modest reserves. Why not consider the same? Do you really want this to be officially known as the "Rusty Track Auction"? While we can certainly have fun with our pocket change trading rusty track from member to member, it is up to the members of this Division to make it more than that, and the "All you can eat" Pizza doesn't hurt either!!

I have received many questions regarding the status of our November Auction and I simply have this response. If you would like to have an auction, it is up to the membership to acquire items to offer in such an auction. It is the responsibility of all of us to acquire collections to sell in an auction if we truly want one. Perhaps you will consider the Division when someone approaches you to sell a collection on their behalf? Can we, as a Division this year in our 40th Anniversary, have a "Pizza Meetza" on par or better than last year's? It is up to you to make that happen.



40th ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS AVAILABLE

For months now members have been asking, "Are we going to have Anniversary shirts like we did for the Convention?" The answer is a resounding "YES!" Back East in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, there is a firm which has a contract with TCA to provide apparel. Their prices and merchandise quality is superior to any company with which we've previously dealt, plus they honor our 501(c)3 tax free status.

Their cost for a men's Inner Harbor collared golf shirt with breast pocket and our 40th Anniversary logo is \$25, delivered, in a choice of white, medium blue, or black. A women's similar shirt, but without the pocket, is offered in white, pale yellow, or black. Sizes for either shirt range from Small to 3XL. We will be taking pre-paid orders at the February 12 Meet. We have been assured that orders placed by February 14 will be delivered to us in time for delivery at our March 12 picnic.

Should you wish to place an order for YOUR Desert Division 40th Anniversary Shirt, come to the Meet on February 12 ready to order and pre-pay for it at that time. If you can't make the Meet, fill in the attached order form and return it now with your check and you can still pick up your shirt(s) at the March 12 picnic.

* * * * *

(Circle your choice of size and color)

Man's Name _____ Size: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL; White, Blue, Black

Woman's Name _____ Size: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL; White, Pale Yellow, Black

Address _____

Shirts are \$25 each. Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA. Amount enclosed \$_____

Send to: Christie Wilson, DD Shirt
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

TWENTY-THREE YEARS and COUNTING!!

The Desert Division and a Lionel Icon

By Gordon Wilson TCA 76-10233

Nearly every major American Corporation of significance generally has some item which becomes an associative icon for that company. In 1937, Joshua Lionel Cowen made a decision which still defines the image of a Lionel Train when he decreed that his company would produce his favorite locomotive, the New York Central 4-6-4 "HUDSON." Since that year, that locomotive has basically been synonymous with Lionel and desirability by operators and collectors of Lionel Toy Trains.

In 1989, at the urging of the late Cole Gibbs, the Desert Division introduced a new concept in the world of Toy Train Raffles. We would offer a limited number of raffle tickets (100, printed and numbered) to be sold for \$25 each. They would be sold from February through September only to Desert Division members and if any remained, they would then be made available to non-Division TCA members. Members could purchase as many tickets as they wished. At each monthly meet from February through June, plus September and October, an additional ticket would be offered as a prize at the monthly raffle. Additionally, at each monthly meet just listed, one ticket would be drawn. If that person was present, he/she would win \$100. If not present, he/she would receive \$25. That ticket would be RE-ENTERED for a chance to win again the next month. At the end of the November Turkey Meet, one ticket would be drawn to determine the winner of the Post-War Lionel 773 Hudson Locomotive and Tender.

To this day, that is how the Desert Division's famed Hudson Raffle operates. Roughly 1/3 of the rest of TCA Divisions have instituted similar raffles based upon the Desert Division's formula. None, however, has continued unabated for the 23 consecutive years that ours has. This speaks wonders again to the original idea and the enthusiasm of our members for this true ICON of Lionel Trains.

This year's Hudson is a 1964 Hudson with a tender that originally had a Pennsylvania shell. Lionel was then besieged by Hudson "purists" who were outraged, since the Pennsy RR never ran a Hudson type locomotive. Lionel quickly manufactured and offered to 773 owners a "trade": Return the Pennsylvania shell in exchange for the correct New York Central shell OR they could also purchase the correct New York Central shell for a nominal fee. Our particular 773 is boxed in an original Lionel 773 Box with insert and it wrapped in original Lionel paper. We purchased this loco from a Lakes and Pines Division member. It had an incorrect Madison Hardware tender with it, a Pre-War repro 5344 scale-size tender without a whistle. We were able to make a trade for that tender for the New York Central one we now have, but kept the box that came with the Scale tender. This box is probably the rarest part of the entire offering. It is a 231T and belongs with the extremely rare All Black 231 Rock Island Alco dummy A unit. The tender, too, is wrapped in original Lionel paper.

Congratulations to Joe Bock. Joe was the winner of the 2010 Hudson and it now resides at its new "Round House" in Sedona, Arizona.

Raffle tickets will be sold starting at our February meet. Buy early and often. Our 2011 Hudson is in C-8/9 condition with Boxes and Lionel wrapping paper.

BADGES and RIBBONS – HELP, PLEASE!!

We've recently discovered, much to our chagrin, that many of the smaller items which we've all taken for granted as a part of Desert Division activities over the years have just NEVER found their way into our Archives. Perhaps you can help with a Donation to our Historical Collection of "Stuff."

What we need are buttons, badges, ribbons, and patches.

- We need Turkey Meet Exhibitor Badges from 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2000, and 2001.
- Railfair, in Scottsdale, for many years distributed to all who participated, Rectangular Patches with their yearly logos on them. We do not seem to have ANY of these and they date back to the 1970's.
- Most of the shopping malls, where our Module made appearances, gave all participants rather nice multi-colored ribbons. Again, we do not seem to have any, which doesn't seem unusual since they were given to individuals.

In all three of the above areas, we would be very appreciative if you have any of these items and could see fit to part with them for the benefit of the Division's Historical records. Contact Chris Allen, Historian, at sparkyshome@cox.net (480-820-9559) or Gordon Wilson at christielwilson@aol.com (480-837-5344). We appreciate any donations. Thank you.

COME EAT LUNCH

For years, when we met at the now closed Jaycees Hall in Scottsdale, about 20 members of the Desert Division would meet for lunch after the monthly meet at nearby Randy's Restaurant. Since moving to our current site, we've been "searching" for a new permanent monthly restaurant to "take care of us!" Last month's IHOP was nice, but way too small. This month, come join us at a place which has been recommended by Gordon and Christie and Vi DuBay. They've often gone there following Diamondback games and offer this explanation.

The Original Wineburger is just one block south of the IHOP, on the same side of the street. There is a separate room away from the main bar and TV's which we've been told they will hold for us if they know in advance we have a significant number of people coming at a given time. We told them about 20 people around noon, based on past performances at other places. They have large booths – each one holds 6-8 people and a menu whose non-alcoholic prices range from basically \$2.00 to \$8.75. Our personal favorites are an authentic Cajun style Shrimp Po'Boy for \$7.25 and the Iowa Pork Tenderloin Sandwich for \$6.25. For you "Man vs. Food" fans on the Travel Channel, they offer a colossal item called "The Angusaurus Rex Burger," a two-pound monster. They've been at this location at 6027 North 19th Avenue since 1965.

To get to the Wineburger from our meet location, go south on 15 Avenue to Bethany Home Road and then go west (right) to the Northeast corner of Bethany Home Road and 19th Avenue. Again, turn right for perhaps 100 feet and enter the parking lot on your immediate right. Parking spaces are limited, so you may need to search a bit if you're a late comer. This very well could be our new monthly luncheon spot. See you there, and bring an appetite!

DIVISION SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER IN QUEEN CREEK

By Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

At our meet in January I spoke to the assembled members about the plans the 40th Anniversary Committee had for this coming year. One of the things I mentioned referred to some things that were very common place when I first began frequenting the Desert Division as a visitor from the East Coast way back in 1979. That "thing" was lots of "Toy Train Socializing" at members' homes – just informal get-togethers resulting from phone calls from one person/member saying, "Come on over, visit, play trains, have a drink, talk, etc."

It was an idea I tossed out just hoping it would "land" somewhere and maybe something would happen! Wow, what a pleasant surprise when my phone rang a few days later and John Upshur was on the other end inviting Christie and me to "Come on down to Queen Creek for a visit on January 23." The last time I was in Queen Creek was to umpire a High School Baseball game as an AIA official and I called "Time Out" as a USAF B1B flew overhead while on approach to Williams Air Force Base. The truth is, the home plate umpire wanted to see THAT plane.

The "get-together" at the home of John and Eva Upshur in Queen Creek was like "old times" – just as I'd remembered it from years gone by and more. Turns out there were about 30 members of the Desert Division there, kibitzing with one another and some even telling true railroad stories. There was plenty of food and liquid refreshment for all and John's four-level train layout was in full action mode. Eva, unknown to all of us, is a very accomplished artist, and hanging in the layout room is a magnificent example of her talent: a Santa Fe War Bonnet. Concluding the day was an "Upshur Extra"! Upon arriving, everyone was given a door prize number which could be entered in either of two bags: one for a train related prize or the other one for a non-train related prize. Later in the afternoon, winning numbers were drawn from the bags. Joan Herman took home a beautiful Jewelry Box, and I luckily copped a trio of Union Pacific Box Cars as the Train Prize.

Thanks go to John and Eva Upshur for stepping up to the challenge and renewing a Desert Division tradition of hosting private social events at their home. Everyone had a great time. Now all we need is for a plethora of these events to happen on a weekly basis. How about it, members? In the words of a former TV commercial, "Try it; you'll like it!"



Above: Eva's artwork adorns the train room wall.
Below: John's four-tier layout has amazing detail.



ONE, TEN, HUNDRED and TEN, and COUNTING

By Shirley Hunter

It all started out as a little collection competition between Fred and Shirley---Who had the most STUFF??? Neither of them ever giving up on a challenge, this became a contest for the Desert Division club members to settle while on the monthly Home Visitation to the Hunter layouts and Christmas display---count the ornaments on the two Christmas trees Shirley displays every year.



The challenge was met with an avid group of members trying to measure certain places in the trees with hands placed forward in a square position, then squinting to try to count the ornaments in that square, and finally multiplying by some estimated number of squares each tree contained. I really wish I had photographed the contestants as that was, by far, the greatest fun for me. Never let it be said the Desert Division can't find some way to just have a great time!

After the visit I set out to de-trim the tree and do a count. Sounds easy! However, the challenge became a "Labor of Love" on Shirley's part since now all the ornaments had to be carefully placed somewhere rather than being immediately placed in their storage boxes so the count could be accurate. Therefore, as the trees were stripped, the ornaments were lined up on the kitchen counters and island top, the kitchen table, the floor, the coffee table, the family room sofas, the living room sofas, etc, etc, etc. Fred and Shirley ate standing up for 2 days and only Fred had a place to sit and watch TV in the family room.

The results---a successful count was made of each tree and then combined. Fred was sure he had the correct number and Shirley was way off, but we do have a winner who came within 5 of the correct number. OH---what is the number and who is the winner??? Dave Brown with an estimate of 715 was the closest to the actual number of 720. See you at the February 12th Meet.

DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again. Check the label on the front of this newsletter. If your label is highlighted in blue, you owe dues. The cost remains \$10 per year for up to 5 years in advance. Please fill out the form on Page 11 of this issue of the Dispatch and mail it along with your check, made payable to TCA – Desert Division, to the address on the bottom of the form. Should you wish to change any of your information in the Division Roster, please fill in the same form, as it will be used to create the roster during the early part of March, 2011.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 9, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Tony and Pat Saulina. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-756-1563 to be sure there are enough chairs.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131	Directors:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Vice-President:	Bob Johnston	623-582-2110		Tony Saulina	480-756-1563
Secretary:	Fred Hunter	480-947-3639		Ralph Treichel	602-863-6985
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Marty Wik	480-488-8625

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we inform you that we have lost two members of our Division. James Coombes passed away in October and Werner Hennig died on December 30 of 2010. Werner will be remembered for his love of the Blue Comet and its New Jersey connections. James Coombes had moved to assisted care before succumbing after a lengthy illness.

SAVE THIS DATE
OCTOBER 22, 2011 – 40th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

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

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Chris Allen - Historian@tcadd.org

First off this month I am happy to announce that the winner of the 1999 Hudson was Desert Division member Tim Davies. Last month down at the ATTM Coyote Meet while doing my train buyers stroll, a cheerful voice breaks me out of my trance saying, "Hey Chris, ever find out who won the missing Hudson?" Well sir, train buying stopped and a very pleasant conversation with Tim began. The story goes that Tim was flying for America West Airlines at the time and had an East Coast run scheduled for Thanksgiving Saturday cancelled. He was placed "on call" and was told he would probably be scheduled for a West Coast trip Sunday, so he decided to drive over to the Turkey Meet and check it out rather than just sit around the house. Tim bought a few things including a Hudson ticket and some raffle tickets, then went home to get ready for his flight the next day. As fate would have it, that flight was also cancelled so Tim decided to attend the auction on Sunday and won several items. It was while he was checking out of the auction that he found out he had not only won the Hudson, but second prize in the raffle that year as well, a Lionel Coast Guard set! Tim donated the Coast Guard set back to the Division for the Trains for Kids program but kept the Hudson and runs it quite often. Thanks, Tim, for filling in a missing part of Division History and a great story! By the way, Tim was actually a three-time winner that week-end. America West paid him for all that "on call" time while waiting for flights that never came about.

Speaking about Tucson, a very important but often over-looked aspect of Desert Division history is how important the Old Pueblo was in the formation of the Division and its boundaries. Some of the twenty-five charter members who signed the original petition were from outside of the Phoenix metropolitan area, and many of them were from the Tucson area. I remember speaking with Tom Stange about trying to organize a meet again in the Casa Grande area. Tom was telling me about the "good ole' days" when meets were held at the Francisco Grande Hotel and the members would travel there from all over the state and beyond. At that time many of the Phoenix group had wanted to petition TCA for an Arizona only Division. The members who attended the early meets in southern Arizona and their travel time would play the pivotal role in changing many of those minds. It was at the Casa Grande meet and a meet that was held in Tucson in the late spring of 1971 when many from the Phoenix group met with train collectors who traveled from New Mexico and the El Paso area. These members expressed a desire to be part of the new TCA Division being formed. Lone Star Division had been formed just two years earlier; however for members in far west Texas, it was over a nine hour drive for them to attend the closest Lone Star Division meet held in San Antonio. For those El Paso residents, the shorter four plus hour drive to Tucson seemed more logical, so they asked to be included within the new boundaries.

Setting up realistic Division boundaries became a high priority item in the closing days before the 1971 Convention. Jan Athey, the TCA Librarian, was able to supply me with a copy of the minutes of the TCA National Board of Directors meeting from June 1971. In piecing together the newsletters and notes in our files along with the minutes from the TCA Directors meeting, the following is the probable scenario. The meets in Tucson were large enough to attract collectors from New Mexico and El Paso exposing them to the Grand Canyon Train Collectors, who were trying to form the new TCA Division. Although it made logical sense to almost everyone, including the TCA and the El Paso members, there was some opposition by the officers of the Lone Star Division which is reflected in the minutes of the June TCA Directors meeting. The first motion of the meeting established Desert Division as the 14th Division in TCA with the boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico; it was passed unanimously. Next came two motions annexing states to various Divisions and the fourth motion to form Rocky Mountain Division. The fifth and last motion was the petition from the El Paso members wishing to become part of the newly formed Desert Division. It passed, but only by a 12 for and 4 against vote; however, the west Texas members got their wish and they became part of the new Desert Division.

Both Phoenix and Tucson have grown over the past forty years, but the simple fact remains, had it not been for the members and the meets in Tucson, it would have taken a lot longer for the Grand Canyon Train Collectors to become the Desert Division, and the boundaries might be very different than they are today.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION CONTINUES

by Katie Elgar, TCA 94-39348

The Desert Division is saving aluminum cans for the TCA National Museum. It only takes a second to set your empties in the box near the coffee table at a Meet. You may also bring in your recyclable cans from home. All will be recycled. Please continue to save aluminum cans for this collection, and bring them with you to the Desert Division meets. The Division thanks you for helping with this earth-friendly, charitable, painless method of helping your National organization.

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - New Just in Lionel Sunoco Tank Farm! 6-18851 large cylindrical or 6-37808 large spherical tanks \$94.99 and 6-16852 small cylindrical tank \$85.49 – Spectacular lighted coaling tower 6-37912 club price \$170.99 - Cell Tower w/blinking led 6-37903 club price \$56.99 – MTH SD-90 MAC in UP or EMD Demo reg. \$430 Sale \$349.95! - MTH Consignment SD40-2 w/PS-2 \$279.95- MTH Rail King Pennsy M1-A w/PS-2 and caboose only \$349.95 - **AZ TRAINMAN REPAIRS – MTH and LIONEL CERTIFIED WARRANTY SERVICE** - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM

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.

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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 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 – 92 Floodlight Tower o/b \$220, 2321 Lackawanna Gray Roof o/b \$425, 6445 Ft. Knox Gold Reefer o/b \$90. Dorfan: 610 Derrick Car 8 wheel, Brass journals \$225, 605 PRR Coal Hopper & 604 Tank Indian refining Co. each \$60. Ives 3255 0-4-0 Green/Red windows \$400, Ives 3255 0-4-0 Black/Red \$400. Set: 1684 2-4-2 Black 1689 T, 600,601,602,2601 some boxes \$500. 2660 Crane tattered box \$125, Santa Fe Set, 2343AA,2343C “B” 2530,2531,2532,2533 all boxes, Set \$1,100, Set 224E Black 2224W, 2620, 3659, 2654, 2652, &2657 \$675, 225E Black 2235W Set 853W 2755,X2758,2812X & 2757 \$675, 2343 ABA no box for the “B” \$400, 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 k-swett@cox.net.

NOTICE – **Last Call for the Apache Beer Reefers.** We are down to the last four of the second in our Division’s beer reefer series. Both numbers available. If you would like one, now is the time to order. Don’t forget, as a Division member, you pay no sales tax; and if you would like to save the postage, the car can be delivered to you at the April Pizza Meet. You can order it through the order form on the website: www.theatonnas.com.

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
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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 11 | Board Dinner – Chaparral Suites, Scottsdale, AZ – 6 PM |
| February 12 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
Educational Segment – Train(s) My True Love Gave to Me |
| February 19 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| February 19 | GCMR Mid-Winter Meet – 52 nd Street Armory, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| March 12 | Combined Picnic and Division Meet – McCormick – Stillman Railroad Park – 10 AM |
| March 19 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| April 2 | Desert Division Outing aboard the Arizona Eastern Railroad – 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM |
| April 9 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| October 22 | 40 th Anniversary Party – Chaparral Suites – 6 PM – SAVE THIS DATE NOW! |

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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