

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

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February, 2013

OFF TO A QUICK START

What a busy month January was for the Division and Chapter. Both had their first meets of the year and that was just the start. Along with the Division meet was the Annual Business Meeting and the following weekend the Division held a 460+ lot two day auction featuring the Bostwick collection of postwar to modern trains. That same weekend the Rio Grande Chapter kicked off its search for a logo with the winner getting a nice \$50 VISA gift card. Before we can look ahead, let's recap some of the highlights of the Division Meet, the Chapter Meet report and logo design contest can be found elsewhere in the issue. The January Meet rolled into town with some of the coldest weather the Valley of the Sun had seen in decades. Thankfully Barbara Lautazi had the free hot coffee flowing and ready much to the appreciation of those looking for a little warmth walking in from the weather. There were some hot deals on the sales tables also as many members unloaded some extra baggage. President Peiffer called the meeting to order welcoming everyone to a New Year. There were two visitors present Bruce Keech and Dave Debrt, both from Phoenix and checking things out. Hope to see Application forms from them soon! Ned Harris, checked in for the winter and with the car auctions in town you know we would have our annual visit from Division member Frank Pizzaia from New York City. Secretary Lautazi reported Division membership at 291 members and reminded those present that annual dues are now due. (an orange stripe on your address label means yours are due as well – ed.) Division Treasurer Bob Herman reported \$49,289.36 in Savings and \$5,188 in checking to start the New Year. President Peiffer sadly informed the membership of the passing of two Division members. Art Boyton who ran a small train business in Flagstaff and Gary Varner. Many local Phoenix members remember Gary from his Open House in 2011. The Annual Business Meeting for the year opened with the announcement that this year's budget has been approved with a small deficit. Options, including the pursuit of another fund raising car will be pursued to eliminate the deficit. Next was the report on the recently held Turkey Meet, which posted only a minor profit. Jonathan then reminded those present that this was his final year as Division President and was ineligible to run in the fall elections. Committee appointments for the year remain the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

February 9 – Division Regular Meet – Phoenix AZ – 9 AM

February 16 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

February 23 – Grand Canyon Model Railroaders Armory Swap Meet 9 AM Phoenix, AZ

March 9 – Division Regular Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

March 9-10 – Spring Cal-Stewart Meet – 9 AM - Santa Clara, CA

March 16 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM - 10 AM

April 13 – Pizza Meetza! – Division Meet, Pizza Lunch and Auction

same as last year with one exception. Because of a planned meeting of interested members regarding the 2013 Turkey Meet, the Turkey Meet Chair has been left vacant. Beth Stange will again be the Meet registrar. With no other business the Annual Business Meeting was adjourned. Continuing with regular Division business, President Peiffer mentioned the Bostwick auction would be held the following weekend in the same location. The club would provide soda and water for those attending. Director Marty Wik polled those present on lunch options from bring your own lunch to a catering truck. The catering truck slightly edged out the Hot Dog cart, pending of course, on final attendance figures at the Saturday auction. Jonathan next announced one of the goals for the Division in 2013 was to have fun at the meets and run trains. Jonathan thanked Dave Brown and his crew of volunteers who brought their modules and ran trains for all those present to enjoy. It was great to see how fast the module went up before the meeting and the plan was to stay after the meeting and run trains into the afternoon, but a last minute memorial service at the church thwarted those plans and the trains could only run until 12:30. All were invited to run or just stick around to chat or watch the trains. No further business ended the monthly general meeting and the educational segment several interesting items. Don McCombs brought a Lionel 225 and the memories of this train when he was 4 years old living in Pennsylvania. Dallas Dixon brought in a set of RMT mini passenger cars. The catalog pictures do not do these justice when you see that four of them were just slightly larger than a scale passenger car. Sam McElwee showed a Christmas gift presented to Union Pacific employees commemorating the 150th anniversary of the road, a very attractive and unique coin. Terry Bunish displayed 2 Cincinnati Railway cars he purchased on eBay. These custom painted cars were the same cars that he rode on last year during his Dinner Train excursion. Gordon Wilson brought lots of photos about his recent trip to Argentina. Quite an adventure to the near bottom of the world, a place Gordon has also visited and ran trains from. (Look for Part 1 of his article in this issue – ed.) Raffle prize winners; Jim Vokac-Classic Toy Trains subscription, Bob Miazga-MTH C&NW Caboose, Angelo Lautazi-Lioenl Columbia Boxcar, Ken Barnes-Plasticville Union Station, Jack Eaton-Weaver NP Boxcar, Bill East-S Gauge Boxcar (you were surprised?), Katie Elgar-Plastic Car and Trailer, Steve Bienstock-nice train room train plaque.



**Bostwick Auction setup “party” Friday afternoon
The first 300 lots are still boxed up**



**Saturday morning “early” bird previewers were
glad we did the work a day early**

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

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

JANUARY'S EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT



Don McCombs and his Lionel 225



Dallas Dixon with his RMT Southern Pacific passenger cars and a scale car in the background



Terry Bunish relating the story of his purchase and dinner train ride



Sam McElwee and his very special Union Pacific 150th Anniversary coin

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 orange, 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. If you don't want to pull apart your newsletter you may also print out the form from the Desert Division website. Visit TCADD.ORG and click on the "How to Join" button on the left, at the bottom of that page is the link for the current Registration Form. Mail forms and checks to Angelo Lautazi, Division Secretary, at 6109 E. Sonoran Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266 on or before February 28, 2013. That will help us create the Desert Division roster and membership cards which will be distributed in March.

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting - Jan. 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:55PM at the home of Jonathan and Robyn Peiffer

In Attendance; Jonathan Peiffer, Art Triant, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Ralph Treichel, Beth Stange and Marty Wik

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes - Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

Secretary's Report - Angelo reported that the current roster has 291 members and at the moment 159 owe dues for the year

Treasurer's Report - Bob presented the Treasurer's report. There is \$49,289.36 in the Savings account and \$5,180.06 in the checking account. Treasurer Herman also presented the end of year report and the Income/Expense report on the 2012 Turkey Meet which will be discussed in Old Business.

Old Business

2012 Turkey Meet - The income from the Turkey Meet was only \$265.25 and a result from better control of expenses. Attendance and raffle sales were down from previous years and club volunteers were minimal. Jonathan reported that he had been approached and gave permission for an ad hoc committee comprised of interested members to discuss options and ideas to improve the Turkey Meet. Jonathan encouraged Board members to participate in this committee and recruit volunteers from the general membership for this year's meet, at present there is no Chair for the committee this year.

2012 Holiday Party Review - All agreed that the party was successful and attendance grew to almost 100.

McCormick Railroad Park - Beth has volunteered to chair a committee to present a design proposal to the City of Scottsdale outlining how the Division would like to participate in the Train Display building at the RR park.

New Business

2013 Division Budget - The submitted budget has a deficit of \$2,294. After itemized review and discussion the Board approved the budget as submitted. The Board is still hopeful that the Atlas Beer reefer can get into production this year. The series was very popular with collectors and would eliminate the deficit.

2013 Hudson Raffle - The Division will modify and market a "Buy Back" to the winner of the Hudson Raffle. The winner will be offered a choice of the Hudson or \$750 in cash. This year's ticket will reflect this choice and the Board amended and approved the change in the Policy Manual.

2013 Division Goals - The demographics of the club membership seems to be changing and moving away from amassing large collections of trains to smaller collections and members running trains. Club meetings should include demos on various aspects of creating and running displays and the construction of a new module in some form should become a priority.

Bostwick Auction - Marty will contact a food vendor to be available for Saturday lunch.

501c Status for Division - Motion; Contact a lawyer to explore what is involved with the Division obtaining 501c status and insurance protection for its Board members. Passed

The next board meeting will be on February 6th at the home of Marty Wik

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm by Jonathan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What happened to January? It is hard to believe that February is already upon us. For those of us in the deserts of Arizona we've had our taste of winter, spring and of summer all within the period of one week. Desert Division has also had a diverse start to the year. At our January meet we had trains running before and after the meeting. It really made for a memorable meeting to hear the sound of steel wheels on steel rails during the trading and selling portion of the meeting and afterwards. I'd like to thank Dave Brown and all the people that helped in setting up and taking down the modules. It was a lot of fun and in my opinion added a lot to the meeting. Does anyone have a small portable layout they want to bring for February? Call me and let me know if you'd like to volunteer to bring one. It would be fun to have a train of sorts running prior to every meeting from now on. Regardless I will plan on bringing a box of 027 track for a carpet central on the stage for the fun of it. One of my goals for meetings in 2013 is to have the business portion of the meeting shorter and the social and education portions of the meetings longer. After all we come to meetings to catch up with people we don't see all time and to talk about and share our specific interests in the hobby.

If somehow you missed it, we also had a great auction the weekend after the meet. Allen Bostwick was kind enough to consign his extensive collection to the Division and once again the auction committee came together and put together a fine auction. I can't give enough thanks to everyone that makes the Desert Division auctions happen. Peter as always kept the bidding entertaining and efficient, while all the volunteers made sure lots moved smoothly through the sequence of set up, viewing, bidding and check out. Over the course of the weekend, Peter only had to give his auction lecture about six times. I think this may be a new Division record!

While it may seem pretty far out, we are beginning the planning of the 2013 Turkey Meet. The 2012 meet was a successful meet and as always Beth Stange did a wonderful job as our registration chair. For 2013 a conversation has been started about how we can improve the current meet. Do we want to expand the meet? How can we draw the public out? How can we increase the volunteerism within the Division to make this a stronger meet? We never as a Division want to discard what has proven to be successful but at the same time, we must always look at ways to improve upon what we are doing well and welcome new ideas to make our meet even better for our vendors and most importantly for the public! A meeting was held in January at Fred Hunter's house and a good group of people got together to discuss ideas. A follow-up meeting will be held in February at Fred Hunter's house and I would encourage everyone to attend and provide input. It is time to start our 2013 planning and the Turkey meet belongs to everyone in the Division. Let's put together a great plan for a great meet and place members in the key positions to make it happen.

So what's coming down the road? We of course have our Division meet on February 9th coming up with our after meet open houses in Fountain Hills. Don't forget the Division picnic at the Scottsdale Railroad Park on March 9th either. A little further out, we have our annual Pizza Meetza coming up in April. Without a collection at this year's Pizza Meetza, we will be looking for members to put their unused and unwanted items into the auction for sale. It is always a fun time. Finally, consider attending the TCA national convention in Saint Louis this summer. With a convention in the middle of the country, it is a chance to catch up with friends from the east coast and only travel half the distance.

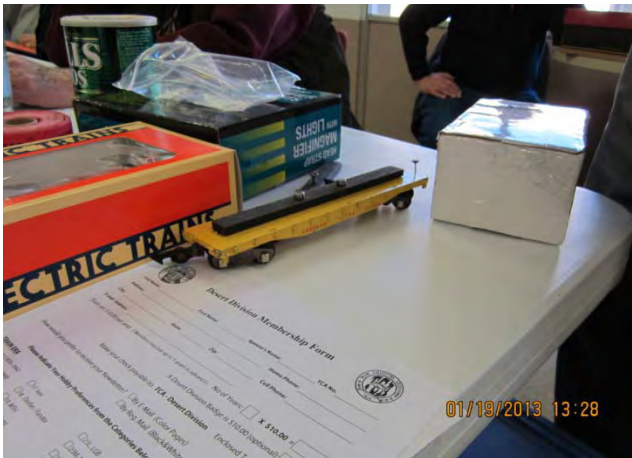
Desert Division is all about its members. As has been mentioned in this column on more than one occasion, it is the people of the Division that make us who we are. The trains are the subject we gather around, but without the people, we couldn't continue to thrive. I look forward to seeing all of you at the February Meeting.



DESERT DIVISION BOD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on February 6th at the home of Marty Wik beginning at 7:30 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-488-8625 a day in advance to be sure there are enough chairs.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET PICTURES



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER LOGO CONTEST - \$50 VISA GIFT CARD

John Trever has been tasked with helping develop a logo for our chapter and he needs your input. John is asking for suggestions you'd like to see incorporated as design elements in a logo that would best represent the chapter. Such elements might include the state outline, the river, chilies, roadrunners, yucca, a pueblo, a hot-air balloon, a DRGW F-3, the "Galloping Goose," a classic Santa Fe station, a 2926-style steam engine, the Lionel 6657 Rio Grande caboose, etc. It needs to be simple, so only 2 to 3 elements, plus lettering, to avoid clutter. Send your thoughts to John at trevertoon@comcast.net. The Contest is open to anyone, but only Rio Grande Chapter members will vote on the final design and the winner gets a \$50 VISA Gift Card.

TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

A large turn-out of TCA Rio Grande Chapter members started 2013 off with a great January Meet and we welcomed new member Chris Wieclaw. We started the Business part of the Meet first since many of our Chapter Members were part of the Joint TCA TTOS Layout Tour later in the day. I reminded the Members that this is my last year as TCA Rio Grande Chapter President and I look forward to a great 2014. First order of business was the Treasurers' Report. We have \$2010.06 in checking. This is the largest balance we have had at the start of a year since forming in January 2006. We then reviewed the 2012 Pumpkin Meet which showed a profit of \$346.59 and also had 233 people through the door. Counting the table sellers and module members from different clubs we had about 400 people in the hall, a large improvement from last year. Many members believe the Newspaper ads accounted for the increased attendance and we will discuss advertising at our February 16th Meeting. Under New Business the members approved the contract for the October 27th 2013 Pumpkin Meet. It will be held at the same location; the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. Next item of Business was the formation of a 2014 Election Nominating Committee. This committee will consist of Scott Eckstein, George Domeny, George Swajian and James Trever. Chapter members wishing to run for office can contact one of these committee members. The slate of officers will be given out at the April 20th Meeting. Our Treasurer, Bill Harris, informed the group that he will be leaving Albuquerque and moving to Mesa, AZ. This could occur as early as late March. Because of this vacancy, I appointed Don Kuster, as interim Treasurer when Bill leaves us to fill any gaps until the election. This appointment was approved by the Chapter Members present at the meet. Don will be working with Bill reviewing the Chapter's financial records to make the transition as smooth as possible. Nest the Chapter has approved a Chapter Logo Committee consisting of John and James Trever. They will come up with a series of designs and help members put their ideas to paper for any ideas being submitted for the Chapter Logo Contest. Members also voted to have a April 20th Meet and Meeting this year. The April Meet will be a Members only Swap Meet from 9:30AM to 11:00AM with a meeting to follow. So if you are not planning on travelling to York this spring plan on bringing Toy Trains to Swap or Sell, no table charge here. Since there was no other business we started our Education Segment with Ross Jordan showing us his restored 2600 Pre War Cars. All the work was done by Ross and they looked great. John Trever showed off his Lionel Red Boats on his 6416 Boat Loader. The Red Boats are original Athearn HO Boats, which is the company that made the Blue Boats for Lionel. Warren Smalley talked about the new Operators of the C&TS in Chama, NM. James Trever showed off his latest prize from TRAINZ Auction which was American Flyer Circus Flat Cars and Wagons. He also brought Marxville items including rare Airplanes and the very scarce Army Barracks. James always brings scarce items from the world of Toys and Toy Trains. Our next Meeting will be February 16th at 10:00AM at the Los Altos Christian Church South Education Building 11900 Haines N.E. which is just South of Indian School on Juan Tabo and one block East of Juan Tabo on Haines. Remember to bring something to show and Tell to the Membership, we all enjoy seeing what you collect and operate. The agenda will include advertising and fees for the 2013 Pumpkin Meet, a look at any early Chapter Logos that have been turned into the Chapter Logo Committee, along with good friends, good times and free sales tables. Mark your calendars for February 16th Meet and Meeting at 10:00AM. See all of you there.

RIO GRANDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 - 2013

President:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840	Directors:	Carl Cataline	505-450-7575
Vice-President:	George Swajian	505-298-7099		Art Lites	505-463-1951
Secretary:	Scott Eckstein	505-332-0947		Jon Spargo	575-835-1606
Treasurer:	Bill Harris	505-771-2970			

FEBRUARY AFTER MEET OPEN HOUSE

This could be the “Grand-Daddy” of our 2013 Open Houses. For sure, if you are a Post-War Lionel lover, it WILL BE your LAST TIME to see one of the most complete collections in the USA.

Following the meet on February 9, everyone is invited to three venues in Fountain Hills, plus a chance for an inexpensive and delicious Italian lunch. First is a visit to the home of Brad and Diane Martin’s operating layout, which will keep you transfixed. Diane has a Doll Collection which is second to none and is International in scope. These are not the dolls normally associated with “little girls playing house,” but rather those which one would find in museum-type settings.

Not normally open on Saturday, except by appointment, is the largest Toy Train store west of the Mississippi River – Burling’s Ton of Trains. Ken Burling, Desert Division member, has agreed to open his store from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on February 9, 2013. His stock ranges from Z gauge to G gauge, but specializes in Lionel Pre- and Post-War trains.

Gordon Wilson has one of Everything Lionel catalogued from 1945 through 1969, with virtually every variation. Have you seen all ten GG-1’s? How about all five 773 Hudsons? Every F-3 Diesel or every type of Scout style loco they made? How about an original 1945 Catalog? Or the super rare 6464’s? Every Passenger Car or a Black lettered Operating Cattle Car? Those are but a few rare items which will be disappearing starting on February 10, so this will be your last chance to see this amazing Post-War collection here in the Desert Division.

And that’s not all in the Wilson household. There’s more than just Post-War Lionel trains. Wait until you feast your eyes on the “M&M’s” memorabilia, Navajo Indian Kachina Doll collection, Sports Memorabilia and Autographed Baseballs, Priceless Museum Quality Art Work, an endless array of Musical Instruments from around the world and countless small figures and Angels holding/playing musical instruments. To top it off, if you’re of a mind, jump in the 104 degree constant temperature water in the spa adjacent to the basement Train room. One final thing, be sure to check out the one of a kind “THRONE” in the Shower Room in the basement. You will NEVER see another Lionel piece of its equal, anywhere!

Lunch? One of the best Pizza’s in the Valley is made at Pisa Pizza in Fountain Hills and they have a Luncheon Special of 2 large pieces of Cheese Pizza and a 24 oz fountain drink for \$4.45 plus tax, or one piece of Cheese Pizza, a Mixed Salad, and the 24 oz soda for \$4.25 plus tax.

Maps to the Martin’s, Burling’s Ton of Trains, the Wilson’s, and Pisa Pizza, all in Fountain Hills, will be available at the Meet on February 9, 2013. Come to the Meet and join in the Division Fun.

Hudson Raffle 2013 – The 773 or \$750!

The Hudson Raffle for 2013 features a beautiful Lionel 773 from 1964 graded C-8. The Hudson has been serviced and lubed and will make a beautiful addition to your layout or display. The rules for this year’s drawing have a new twist. **You can either choose this beautiful icon of Lionel postwar locomotives or take \$750.** The rules are simple;

- Only 100 tickets will be sold and they will be sold exclusively to Desert Division members until the October General Meet. Following that meet, any remaining unsold tickets will be made available to any TCA member or the public.
- Starting in February, and at every meet except for the July mini-meet, a name will be drawn from the tickets sold and that person awarded \$100.
- **You MUST be present to win the \$100.** If the member is not present, another name will be drawn until the name of a member in attendance is called.
- The only exception to the above rule is that if a members name is called and they are doing official business for the Division such as working a module display that conflicts with the General Meet, that member would be considered present at the meet and be awarded the \$100.

Some Extra January Meet Photos



**The Annual Business Meeting
Everyone's listening**



**Diane Martin, Sally Treichel, & Barbara
Lautazi are all smiles!**



**Organized by member Dave Brown with help
from his friends, the module was a hit
before and after the meet**



**One of the Division's goals for the New Year
are more operating layouts and
mentoring others on layout techniques**



Two happy raffle prize winners, Angelo Lautazi and Jack Eaton

Memorial - Gary Varner

DeLon Freije TCA 99-49244

I first met Gary at a "In the Heat" swap meet in 1999, but I didn't know it at the time. He was one of many "customers" that day and like most, seemed interested in several things on my table but was reluctant to make a purchase. He hung around for quite some time just looking. Sales were poor and so was I and in frustration finally I exclaimed, "BUY SOMETHING"! A bit startled, he took a Williams SOO Line boxcar and handed me some much needed cash and was gone. A few months later while at a TTOS meet in Sunnyslope I was standing next to a big guy. We were both looking at the same Johnny Cash Boxcar and struck up a conversation about music. Since this fellow never made any indication that he wanted it, I picked it up and bought it. He mentioned he had wanted it and was a bit bummed but we continued to talk trains and music until the meet closed up. He gave me his name and phone number, inviting me over to play with trains and visit. I told him that I could not guarantee I'd make it but would get back to him. Gary called two or three times wondering when I was coming over. I explained that I was a bit reluctant, as many wives didn't like bachelors like myself with time and money for trains, many thinking we were a bad influence on their husbands. I could not have been more wrong about Ruth and felt bad about postponing my visit to the Varner family after meeting her. I soon learned she also enjoyed the hobby and many others. They were both retired Air Force veterans and now had time for friends and to enjoy life, which they did! A small room near the living room was packed with postwar and modern trains and soon after, Ruth let Gary build a 22 x 24 train barn in the back yard. The walls quickly filled with all those trains, some that had been packed away and new purchases. There were four different layouts occupying the center of the room, one always being "updated". On one of my visits to the Varner's I noticed a SOO Line boxcar and Gary mentioned that he bought it from me and told the following story. He grew up in Brimfield Ohio not far from Akron and had a love for music as well as trains. Gary played in both the concert and marching bands in High School and when not playing would be working to build his train collection. A neighbor, who had quite a collection himself, would give him pieces from his train collection in exchange for yard work. His love of trains was well known locally and he would sometimes get items from others in town as well, but one incident from his childhood he remembered vividly. On his first visit to Glen Uhl's Train Shop he was in awe of so many trains in one store and walking around he just became overwhelmed. Tired of watching this kid walk around the store Mr. Uhl gruffly yelled, "BUY SOMETHING OR GET OUT!", and Gary grabbed a train car and ran to the counter with the money. Uhl took what he needed of Gary's cash and Gary ran out of the store. I guess I brought back that bad memory to Gary as he retold our first meeting years later, I am also glad he never held that against me. He was a big man with a bigger heart. During his senior year in High School Gary joined the Air Force and started Basic Training soon after his graduation in 1969. Even though Gary had sold all of his trains before joining the Air Force, he managed to build small layouts in each house or apartment at various duties stations in the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Germany as well as those stateside. Since "Half of O" was popular throughout Europe, his neighbors were impressed with those "O" gauge trains and looking at those pictures he got the most out of the very limited space he had available. Years later one of his sister's found that his mother had taken a picture of his childhood collection and sent it to him. Gary quickly identified the items and began rebuilding his collection around those photographs. From my first visit to their house, I knew Gary had a keen eye and loved the chase as much as he loved the trains themselves. I was one of Gary's sponsors when he joined TCA ten years ago and he was considering making a trip with me this spring to his first Eastern Division York Meet just to experience it. I lost a good friend on January 8. Gary and I shared a love of music as well as trains: The Beatles, Rolling Stones, rolling stock and running trains, he was a good friend, lost way too soon and will be greatly missed.

THE TRAIN AT THE END OF THE WORLD

By Gordon L. Wilson, TCA #76-10233

I have many reasons for traveling around the world as we do, not the least of which is a “wanderlust” instilled in me by a Junior High School Geography teacher named Violet Cruser. She opened my eyes to the wonders of the sights, sounds, and wonderful people in this wide world around us.

Like being a serious Toy Train Collector, it took “disposable income” to be able to go to the far reaches of the world where we’ve been fortunate to have gone. Also a great deal of luck, great “deals,” and being in the “right place at the right time.” We were among the first Americans to venture into Mainland China when it opened to USA citizens in 1980. I’ve walked on all Seven Continents and that was the reason for our most recent trip. Back to Argentina and its southernmost city of USHUAIA, on Cape Horn. When I was there some dozen years ago, I wanted to ride the Southern Most Train in the World, which is in Ushuaia. However, there simply wasn’t enough time to do so. I made myself a promise! If I ever returned to Argentina, I would ride that train.

Unknown to most members of the Toy Train Fan Club, of which I probably became a member at age 3, I do have several other equally ardent interests. I nearly played professional baseball at age 18, but before that, starting when I was 5 years old, the worlds of Ice Hockey and Music pretty well dominated my life. The way the National Hockey League was set up in the 1950’s, I was a farm hand of the New York Rangers until the age of 19, when they decided I wasn’t good enough. I resided near New York City and discovered the Metropolitan Opera at age 15. To this day, NOTHING will separate me from a Phillies baseball game or a TCA Train Meet faster than an Opera. AND . . . So it was for the Desert Division’s 37th Annual Turkey Meet on November 24-25, 2012.

You see, in May of 2012, it was announced that the one Major Opera House in the world in which I had NOT attended a live performance, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Argentina, would be presenting a World Premiere Opera by the Great Granddaughter of Richard Wagner, my most favorite Opera Composer. How could I (we) NOT go to this performance, even if 95% of the items on the Turkey Meet Auction were mine? Chet Henry had no problem with us not being in attendance and I have no reason not to trust the people who run the Turkey Meet and the Desert Division. We hated to miss our first Turkey Meet since moving to Arizona in 1988, but this was the chance of a lifetime for such an operatic performance.



Opera House - Teatro Colon

We booked the trip and with it some side trips in Argentina. First and foremost would be a trip south of Buenos Aires to fulfill that promise I’d made to myself more than a decade ago: to ride the Tren Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino, or “The Train at the End of the World.” More accurately, it is the southernmost Steam Train in the World and it is the passion and joy of one man: Enrique Diaz.



Prisoner garb – ca. 1909

The original railway was used by the Argentine government from about 1909 to 1947 to transport prisoners to and from the port in Ushuaia to an escape-proof prison and also to assist certain “trusted” prisoners in their work duties of clearing trees for the construction of buildings and for creating wood for fire, since Ushuaia is located at the very southernmost point of South America – roughly 600 miles from Antarctica. From 1947 until October 11, 1994, this piece of railroading history lay in disuse and most likely, nearly destroyed by the weather. When Mr. Diaz decided to reintroduce the railway in the early 1990’s, he had little more than an old road bed, rusty track, a few dilapidated pieces of rolling stock, and some falling-down buildings. A daunting task, to say the least. However, as he would tell me later during a chance meeting in the Buenos Aires airport, his inspiration to persevere and continue came from the building of the American Transcontinental Railroad workers of the late 1860’s. Not coincidentally, a large photo of the driving of the “Golden Spike” at Promontory, Utah hangs in the Depot at Ushuaia.



Sign designating the end of the Pan American Highway

The “Train at the End of the World” operates twice daily, at 9:30 AM and again at 2:30 PM. Each time there are three locomotives which leave the main station for the one-hour journey to the beginning of the Argentine Tierra del Fuego National Park, roughly 25 kilometers away. This National Park has many unique features, but probably its most famous two points of interest are that the Terminus for the Pan American Highway is located within its boundaries and that the Southernmost Post Office in the World is also here.



Southernmost Post Office in the World. We took the opportunity to post a card to ourselves and several close friends from this postal facility.



The No. 1 and oldest locomotive, “Rodrigo”

The locomotives, all steam, which pull the string of passenger cars on 750 mm narrow gauge track, all have names and distinct histories. They all travel at a speed which does not exceed 7 km per hour, and will occasionally need help from one another to climb some of the steeper grades. The oldest locomotive is known as “RODRIGO” and is an 0-6-0 Orenstein & Koppel engine which entered service in 1993, and was the only locomotive available for service on opening day in October of 1994. It weighs in at 8 tons.



A switch on the 750 mm narrow gauge track

Below: “Camila,” FCAF’s No. 3 locomotive and a view of the interior of her rebuilt cab

The No. 2 locomotive of the FCAF (Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino) Railway is “NORA,” believed to be the very first steam locomotive EVER manufactured in Argentina. Built in 1994, with a weight of 9 tons, it has an 0-4-0 + 0-4-0 wheel configuration. It came into service during 1994. In my opinion, it is the most attractive of the locomotives, both in color and in design. Its unique look seems to command immediate attention of any onlooker. The dark blue color and gold trim paint merely adds to the luster of this very eye-catching work horse of the FCAF Railway.



The No. 2 locomotive, “Nora”



FCAF’s No. 3 locomotive is perhaps its most famous and popular. “CAMILA” is a 2-6-2 steamer built by the Winson Engineering firm of the United Kingdom in 1995. Unfortunately, within a short period of time, it became obvious that this engine was severely underpowered for the service and workload expected of it in Ushuaia. In 1999 it underwent a nearly complete overhaul of its valve and combustion systems, plus new boiler insulation, flue tubes, and sanding gears. Many other technical redesigns were incorporated and it can be said that basically the entire locomotive was essentially rebuilt, if I may use a nautical term, “from stem to stern.” Suffice it to say, this locomotive is now one of the main “Bell Weathers” of this End of the World Railroad. It is the locomotive which pulled the train upon which Christie and I rode while in Ushuaia.



“Camila,” the engine which pulled the train that Christie and I rode in Ushuaia



A fourth train, a diesel named “TIERRA DEL FUEGO,” is used for yard work. Plans are under way for another steam engine, plus a specially designed 150 horsepower machine, which will be unique to the tourist railway industry. Hopefully this engine will be ready at about the same time as FCAF’s proposed 10-kilometer extension to the city of Ushuaia.



(Right: Small Diesel, “Tierra del Fuego”)

Our guide in Ushuaia, a vivacious young woman named Victoria, picked us up on the morning of November 24 for the 16 kilometer ride from our hotel to Estacion Fin Del Mundo, or The Station at the End of the World. On the way we drove past the Southernmost Golf Course in the World, a 9 hole layout with a par of 60. Obviously very difficult! As much as I would have liked to play it, it was golf or the train. The train won! But, I did take some photos of the golf course. Maybe next time???

(Left: Our guide, Victoria, at the Post Office at the End of the World)

(Right: Ushuaia Golf Course, 9 holes, par 60)



We pulled up to the train station and while Victoria secured our pre-arranged First-Class tickets, we toured the station and by chance, made the acquaintance of the railroad’s owner, Enrique Diaz. A very wonderful, personable man, it was easy to ascertain that this railway was a labor of love for him. He couldn’t explain enough fast enough, and I was stuck on his every work, afraid I’d miss something. He explained the difference between tourist and first class tickets and told us we would be very happy with the 1st class coach. We were, as promised, very pleased with the first class coach. It differed from the tourist coaches in accommodations. The tourist coaches had bench seats and held 20-persons, while our coach was configured with 4 small tables for food service – two tables on each side of the coach with 2 chairs at each table. This meant a maximum of 8 persons only in each 6-foot wide coach. At the rear of the coach was a padded bench style seat, which we used to hold our jackets. On our trip, we shared the coach with a young Argentinean couple. We were offered a choice of beverages and were served a light meal along our way to the National Park. It truly was done in an understated, first-class manner. Nothing ostentatious, but quite “classy.”



Station - Tren Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino
“The Train at the End of the World”



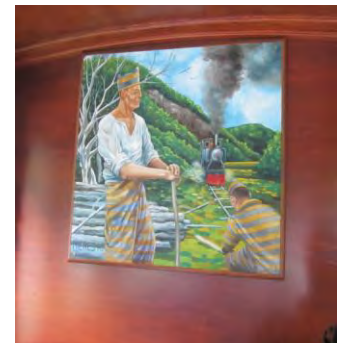
Railroad owner
Enrique Diaz



Tourist Class Coach



First Class Coach



Mural on the rear wall of the
First Class Coach



Desert Division Membership Form



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____ TCA No. _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per year. (Members may pay up to 5 years in advance). No of Years: X \$10.00 =

A Desert Division Badge is \$10.00 (optional):

Make your check payable to: **TCA - Desert Division** Enclosed Total =

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. G or #1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. AMT / Kusan | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Q. Plasticville | <input type="checkbox"/> 23II. Colber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. O or O-27 Tinplate | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Other - Please Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> 23R. Littletown/Skyline | <input type="checkbox"/> 23JJ. Unique |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. S | <input type="checkbox"/> 23A. Basset / Lowke | <input type="checkbox"/> 23S. Pride Lines | <input type="checkbox"/> 23KK. Sakai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. HO | <input type="checkbox"/> 23B. Bing | <input type="checkbox"/> 23T. REA / Aristo-Craft | <input type="checkbox"/> 23LL. Bowser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. OO / American | <input type="checkbox"/> 23C. Boucher | <input type="checkbox"/> 23U. Right-O-Way | <input type="checkbox"/> 23MM. T-Reproductions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. N | <input type="checkbox"/> 23D. Bub / Karl | <input type="checkbox"/> 23V. Rokal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Z | <input type="checkbox"/> 23E. Buddy-L | <input type="checkbox"/> 23W. Voltamp | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Live Steam | <input type="checkbox"/> 23F. Carlisle / Finch | <input type="checkbox"/> 23X. Weaver | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23G. Elletren | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Y. McCoy | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23H. Hafner | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Z. Nationwide | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23I. Hoge | <input type="checkbox"/> 23AA. USA Trains | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23J. Hornby | <input type="checkbox"/> 23BB. S-Helper Service | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23K. Issmayer | <input type="checkbox"/> 23CC. Astor | |

MANUFACTURER

- ☐ 14. American Flyer / Gilbert
☐ 15. Lionel / Winner
☐ 16. Marx / Mars / Allstate

PERIPHERALS

- ☐ 26. Figures
☐ 27. Toys
☐ 28. Paper / Books
☐ 29. Buildings
☐ 30. Railroadiana

Do You Have a Layout?

- ☐ 24. YES ☐ 25. NO

Member or Applicant's Signature

Date

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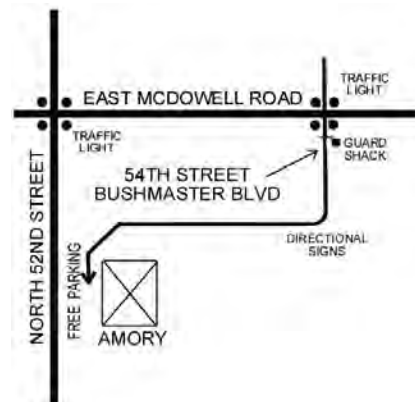
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However, their prompt arrival cannot be guaranteed. Please print form legibly.

Name	\$25.00 per 8' banquet table (Bring a table cover, if you desire) How many tables? _____ Amount enclosed? \$ _____ Requests? Admission Name Badges 1 and 2 tables = 2 badges max. Badge #1 _____ Badge #2 _____ 3 tables and above = 3 badges max. Badge #3 _____
Address	
City State Zip	
Phone Email	
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. I will not pack until 2:00 PM. Event coordinator is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.	
Signature	Date
Make check payable to: “Grand Canyon Model Railroaders” Mail to: Glenn Saber, 3415 E Pasadena Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85018 Information: Glenn Saber 602-956-6695; Rod Johnson 602-625-4168	

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for a pre-swap plated banquet dinner
Family, Fellowship, Food, Fun, Door Prizes and Raffles

Friday, February 22, 2013



Cash bar opens at 6:00 PM

Seating at 6:30 PM

Menu includes your choice of:

- * 6 oz. Prime Steak *
- * Grilled Chicken *
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Salad, Roman bread, plated desert,
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Grand Canyon
Model Railroaders
pre-swap banquet dinner
Friday, February 22, 2013
Come One – Come Couples - Come All
Please print names of those attending

\$30.00 each = _____

Is handicap seating required?

Yes _____ No _____



Make check payable to
Grand Canyon Model Railroaders

Mail to:
Glenn Saber
3415 East Pasadena Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85018
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Reservation deadline: February 18, 2013

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



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This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Deadline for ads is NLT ten days following the Division Meet. Please contact Editor when you sell an item so your ad may be deleted and the space used by another Division member.

THE BACK PAGE

LAST MINUTE UPDATES AND THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE



Item seen for sale at the January Meet
A little bit of plastic can make anything look new again



A small portion of what Gordon Wilson brought to share from his Argentina trip with the members

Unofficial report from the first meeting of the Turkey Meet Ad-Hoc Committee

The first meeting was held January 22. Division member John Upshur moderated the discussion. Topics included a possible date change, name change, location change, and increased advertising. Also covered was the alliance with a Christmas non-profit such as Toys-for-Tots, that the Division had aligned with in the past. The date change was left undecided at the moment pending a possible site change/availability. Next, those present felt the name needed to be changed. When marketing the Train Show to the public, the word "turkey" carries a negative connotation. It was also noted that the present site is already at maximum capacity with no room for expansion or additional layouts, pending review for larger facility. Advertising budget needs to be approved by Division BOD and targeted advertising and signage/Billboard will be recommended. Other ideas included a Boy Scout Merit Badge program again, incentives for large table sellers and train/hobby shops, renewed alliances with other clubs in town. A second meeting is scheduled for February 5th, contact John Upshur for info or comments.

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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June 23 – 30, 2013

Website for the convention and registration www.tca59.org