



# Desert Division

## DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



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June 2005

### MAY MEET EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

The May meet was rather special. A visit from Keystone Division member, Bill Jenkins, was notable because he lauded the Desert Division for its sense of fellowship and level of participation of the members, noting the reputation of the group has exceeded its geographic boundaries. It was also a very "compact" meet with a slightly smaller than usual crowd and a concise business meeting. But the educational segment again produced a spectacular display of rare train items.

The business section began with treasurer Bob Herman reporting that the checking account had a balance of \$7277.62 and the savings of \$21,023.34. The Trains for Kids balance is \$106.65.

The Division thanks the Nick Grippe family for their donation of several hundred catalogs to the Division from Nick's estate. His collection has been moved to California where Nick's descendents reside. The catalogs will be used to promote the Division through raffle prizes, auctions, etc.

The Division is already planning ahead to the fall and upcoming holiday season. The Turkey Meet auction is now fully subscribed with lots, and the venue will remain, for this year at least, at the Mesa Centennial Hall. However because of rising rental costs, it is possible the 2006 edition may be at a new location. The combined club Holiday Party will be held December 11, but it is possible in future years it may move to Saturday rather than Sunday.

Dave Brown announced that there will be a "Beat the Heat" bus to Prescott in August. The cost is \$25 per person, non-refundable. Any member who is interested should contact Dave (480-423-8725) about the particulars. He envisions several pick up sites so it should be quite convenient for many individuals to participate.

Each year the Desert Division, in gratitude to the Scottsdale Jaycees for allowing us the complimentary use of their hall, makes a donation to the organization. This year our gift will be the funds to replace the failing ceiling fans.

In order to help keep our members up to date on club events and activities, the division has established an e-mail hot line. Katie Elgar is the person to contact if you want to be placed on the e-message list.

Once again a surprising group of rare trains appeared for display during the educational segment. Jerry Sienkiewicz brought a rare boxed Plastimarx (Mexican Marx) set that included not just the trains, but a group of plastic accessories. Ivan English continued the Marx theme, this time with a beautiful, collector quality boxed Marx Army military set. Bob Mancus exhibited his restoration skills with two immaculately completed Dorfan locomotives and tenders. And they run! Gordon Wilson showed his single York purchase, an orange and blue Lionel Christmas ornament. Paul Wassermann brought a variety of items; a McCoy standard gauge animated handcar, a Bing electric locomotive, a WHITE 152 boxed crossing gate which appears to have been a special order item from Firestone. And perhaps his most satisfying acquisition, the culmination of a 15-year search, a Firestone 1942 Christmas catalog that features the very rare Firestone Marx Army set with the "critter."

### COMING UP...

<b>June 4</b>	<b>Toy Train Show, Rodeway Event Center, Tucson – 9 AM</b>
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM</b>
<b>June 18-26</b>	<b>TCA National Convention, Seattle, Washington</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Division Mini-Meet, Drinkwater Clubhouse, Scottsdale – 9 AM</b>

The Mystery Greeter was visitor Bill Jenkins, who chose Tom Stange as the winner of 10 free raffle tickets. Names of the winners of the raffle prizes follow:



Ken Burling	Hudson Raffle Ticket
Beth Stange	Lionelville Bungalow
Ivan English	Lionel Target Car
Angelo Lautazi	Lionel TTOS Overnight Merchandise Car
Brad Martin	Lionel Erie Box Car
Diane Martin	Lionel L&N Box Car
Dave Brown	AT&SF Box Car
John Wiley	TCA 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plate and Lionel Calendar



The \$100 Hudson Raffle Prize this month went to Chet Henry.

## MAY'S MAGICAL MARX, McCOY, & MORE



A complete boxed Mexican Marx, aka "Plasti-Marx"



A boxed, like-new Pre-War Marx Military Set from Tucson.  
It now lives with the Micale family.



The Bing Electric (top) with Dorfan locos and tenders.  
Note: 6-wheel rarity (bottom)



An assortment of store Holiday Catalogs from the 1940's. The 1942 "Firestone" one sits on the upper left.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Things are starting to heat up out here in the Desert Southwest. If you missed the May general meeting, you missed a great educational segment. Between Dorfman and Marx we had prewar pretty well covered. As many of you know, my knowledge of Marx was very limited a few years ago, even though my favorite train when I grew up in the 50's was a Marx set. I also had numerous Marx play sets that never made the move when we relocated to California from Ohio in 1962, so I have always enjoyed reliving my past through other sets of the era. There is just something timeless and unique about the litho toys most of us grew up with that allows them to retain their charm, so when one of our resident Marx gurus, Jerry Sienkiewicz steps forward, I always perk up my ears. Although Jerry's recent acquisition of a Plasti-Marx set, complete with accessories, was not exactly Marx litho, I found it to be quite unique when I looked at it during the preview before the meet started. The uniqueness of this set was not only that all of the accessories were present, but that Marx had used a paper ice cream cone wrapper turned upside down and placed onto a specially made plastic base for a one-of-a-kind "Christmas tree." Thank you Jerry for bringing in this truly rare set.

As Paul Wassermann so aptly pointed out to the membership, Bob Mancus has established himself as our resident Dorfman guru, and Bob brought another of his finds to the meet. This one was unusual, but not for the fact that it was still intact and not suffering from the typical Dorfman meltdown; but rather, as Bob pointed out, for its unusual tender. According to Bob, many Dorfman tenders were die cast for three axles, but were only punched out and equipped with two axles. Bob had a tender that was not only punched out, but also had the third axle, truly a rare and unusual find.

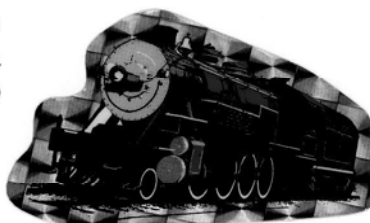
Many times in looking at trains we often wish they could talk. When you see one in pristine condition, you think, was it loved so much that it was very well cared for or was it just put in a box and forgotten? Ivan English brought up a great prewar Marx set from Tucson that had a great one-of-a-kind story. Seems in the early days of WWII an Uncle bought a Marx Military set for his niece; however she was not quite as enamored with it as you can imagine, so it did not get much play time. Ivan relayed that this was about to change when it was recently rediscovered and was destined for her grandson's sandbox! Luckily someone "saw a set just like it on eBay" and it was rescued for a trip to Phoenix for us to preview prior to its going up for sale. It now resides in the Ed Micale collection.

I often wish we could cut right through the business of the Division to get to the "fun" stuff and the educational segment actually lasted longer than our business meeting last month, so my wish was granted. Gordon Wilson found a "priceless" Lionel Christmas ornament at York and Paul Wassermann brought in numerous items and catalogs to share so we had a well-rounded and very informational educational segment. Remember, you don't have to have the rare or unusual (just ask Gordon), but if you have an entertaining story about your search for it, or why it is an important addition to your collection, bring it along and share it with everyone at our next meeting.

Speaking of things warming up and Desert Division business, I announced at the meeting that our donation to the Scottsdale Jaycees this year will go towards the replacement of the ceiling fans at the Herb Drinkwater Hall, where we hold our business meetings. One of the things that sets our Division apart from not only other TCA Divisions but other clubs and organizations that I belong to is that spirit of pitching in when a member notices that something needs to get done, and then does it. Early arrivals continue to assist the Division by setting up the hall each month and rearranging the tables to best facilitate our sellers. Of course early arrivals get the choicest locations, but they don't only set up their table but the entire hall. I have stated repeatedly during my term how honored I have been to represent you and just the simple fact that we don't have to have a hall setup and cleanup crew is just another example of everybody doing a little so no group has to do a lot. Huzzah!

The June General Meeting will feature the conclusion of the Spring Auction. Remember there is a Lionel Corvette set sitting there for the taking along with other nice prizes. All it takes from you is a ticket and a bit of luck. Don't forget a portion of the ticket sales goes towards the Trains for Kids program this fall, so everybody who purchases a ticket wins. There will be several train shows and National train conventions during the summer hiatus, and the next DISPATCH you will get will be the summer edition in early August. However, back by popular demand will be the July general meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you not only on July 9, but also on June 11 at the Scottsdale Jaycees Hall and in Tucson on June 4!



## MAY'S MAGIC – Continued



Not everything at York is expensive. A Lionel Holiday tree ornament is proof of that.



Bob McCoy hand painted each of the 150 Hand Cars, just a bit different than the last. In the rear sits a rare Lionel #152 White Crossing Gate, normally silver or gray in color.



Chet Henry won the "green" picture of Ben Franklin in the Monthly Hudson Raffle drawing. Do you have your Hudson tickets yet?



Here we see Chet filling out the Hudson Raffle Ticket (see left) which brought him the monthly \$100 prize. On the table is the 773 Hudson and the Corvette Set, our Grand Prize in this month's Spring Raffle.

### RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

If you'd like raffle tickets for either the Spring Raffle (\$10 each or 3 for \$25) or the 773 Hudson Raffle (\$25 – only 100 tickets sold), contact Treasurer Bob Herman at once. Call 480-948-2730 now to reserve your potential winning tickets.



## TCA DESERT DIVISION 2005 SPRING RAFFLE

The Train Collectors Association Desert Division is proud to announce this year's Spring Raffle. **First Place is the 1999 Lionel Corvette GP-7 Train Set mint in the box!** Second Place is a Lionel B&O Berkshire with Railsounds and smoke. Third place is a nice selection of three different Lionelville houses.



Don't miss out on any of these fine prizes this year. Remember **you do not need to be present to win** when the drawing is held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Ticket price is \$10.00 each or 3/\$25.00

# Desert



# Division

## NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

### KIDS CLUB NEWS

by John Huber, Jeanine Monahan, and Tom Plies

Attention all TCADD members! It's not too early to plan for the Turkey Meet. Kids Club is again requesting back issues of train magazines like O-Gauge or Classic Toy Trains and various catalogs. Kids Club will again put together our Turkey Meet annual Kids Club Toy Train informational kits. Anything referencing toy trains will help. Bring them to the next couple of meetings, starting June 11, and give them to Kids Club co-chair Thomas Plies.

Kids Club continues to sponsor varied and interesting pursuits. You can get a "kid" involved, and it's FREE. Just fill in the form below and turn it in to one of the Co-Chairs. We will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.



Cub-Boose  
Kids Club Mascot

### Kid's Club Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Kid's Club Member \_\_\_\_\_



### MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR SEATTLE CONVENTION GOERS

by Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

Are you planning to travel to the TCA Seattle Convention? Are you planning to do so by taking Amtrak's COAST STARLIGHTER from Union Station in Los Angeles to Seattle? If the answer to either or both of these questions is YES, chances are that you plan to fly from Sky Harbor to LAX and take a cab from there to Union Station OR you plan to drive your car to Union Station and leave it in a long-term, expensive parking facility.

Here is tip #1. Budget Rent-a-Car is offering the use of a Compact Car at \$9.99 per day or a full-size at \$17.99 a day from Phoenix to Union Station, with **NO** drop fees. Obviously you will be responsible for fuel, insurance, and taxes. This is certainly a lot lower than even Southwest or America West's lowest fares per person. To make this reservation, you will need to call 1-800-BUDGET-7. Immediately ask for a supervisor (very important to do this) and ask for Rate Code BCD # U030191.

And now for money saving tip #2. The Seattle Convention Committee will be happy to meet you and transport you to the Convention Hotel, if they know when you will be arriving. To make arrangements for this service, please call Merle Parise at 509-548-4858, e-mail [mjptrains@aol.com](mailto:mjptrains@aol.com); Barbara/Richard Flinchbaugh at 253-939-2228, e-mail [rflinchbau@aol.com](mailto:rflinchbau@aol.com); Richard/Sandy Walters at 253-565-2371, e-mail [walters1221@comcast.net](mailto:walters1221@comcast.net). This is a free service provided by the Seattle Convention Committee, BUT to be effective, they must know your time of arrival.

Hope these help. See you in Seattle June 18-26.



## BEAT THE HEAT PREVIEWS



Marlin Benson collects most of the big new engines, and displays them beautifully



Marlin Benson's Christmas layout stays up all year long.

## BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, June 11, beginning at 8:00 AM at the Jaycees Hall. Members are welcome to attend.



# Prescott's Beat the Heat

## Model Trains & Old Boys Toys ***SWAP MEET***

**Saturday, August 20th, 2005 9am to 1pm**

**Adults \$3.00, under 12 free with adult**

**At the Prescott Activity Center 800 E. Gurley**

**Presented by:**

## **The Central Az Model RR Club**

For information call: Mike Nelson 928-445-7634

Norm Delucchi 928-445-5379

Info at camrrc6@hotmail.com

**Not responsible for lost or stolen items**

**Table reservations \$15.00 per table in advance**

**Call for table availability after July 10th**

**1 free admission with each table**

**Dealer setup time 7am to 9am-No Early Public Admission**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tables \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 3.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 3.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests? \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Mike Nelson 1533 Private Rd, Prescott Az. 86301

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB**

Use the form found elsewhere in this bulletin.