

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 35, No. 5

June, 2006

MAY MERRY MAKERS

May sunshine brought out the members in droves. Tables were filled with sales items and friends gathered for tales about trains, travel, and things in general. Treasurer Bob Herman announced that the savings account has \$26,195.23; the checking account has \$3,168.50; and Trains for Kids now has \$95.85.

Chris Allen announced that he is looking for updates on Kids Club members who have now become teenagers or young adults. What are their activities? Are they in college? Do they hold jobs? What are their interests? Contact Chris with any information, as TCA National is trying to provide activities of interest to them.

Ed Micale, 2009 TCA Convention Chair, presented the new logo, a mixture of the old Desert Division theme with a 4th of July flair. This logo will be unveiled at the 2006 TCA National Convention in San Antonio this June. Antigua has our design and is working on the disk that they will use to stitch shirts for us. As soon as they finish that task, we will be able to order shirts with this new logo, in a variety of styles and colors, so long as we place a minimum order of 48 shirts. We hope to be ready to take orders for shirts by the June Meet.

This issue of the Dispatch contains a ballot about the Bylaws change, which has appeared in three consecutive monthly bulletins. Be sure to follow the directions printed on the ballots and return them by July 15 to Election Chair Earl Rasmussen, who, assisted by Ralph Treichel, will count the ballots.

Our cell phone collection is going quite well. Katie Elgar sent in what we had collected so far, and next month we will begin to fill an empty box. Everyone is encouraged to bring in deactivated cell phones to support this program, which is a 2009 Convention fundraiser.

As a result of a motion was made by Gordon Wilson, seconded by Keith Swett, and accepted unanimously by the membership, Peter Atonna and Cole Gibbs will be afforded "Life Member" status in the Desert Division.

There will be a bus to Prescott for the Beat the Heat Meet this August. The cost is \$25 per person. If you are interested, contact John Pryor. With the current cost of gas, this may be the cheapest way to go!

Ken Barnes hosted the after-meet visitation this month. Marx toys and a barber chair make up a large part of his collection, while Pez containers of all kinds belong to his wife Carol.

Spring Raffle tickets are going well. Prizewinners will be announced at the June Meet, though the winners do not have to be present to win. Hudson tickets are also available for sale.

Ivan English reminded everyone of the Summer Train Meet in Tucson on June 3. Over 90 tables and an out-of-Phoenix venue make for an ideal way to spend a Saturday morning.

The Educational Segment began with Jerry Sienkiewicz's presentation of a Pfeiffer's beer display, the label of which indicates that it was made in Detroit in 1931. Why a beer display? About a year ago Jerry had brought in a train made with recycled tin, inadvertently placed on the outside of the engine. Reading the side of the train, one can see that it is tin used for Pfeiffer's beer. When Jerry found this item, he noticed that it also had a bottle with it AND the bottle cap – made of the same tin, with the same logo, as Jerry's "inside-out" train.

COMING UP . . .

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| JUNE 10 | DIVISION MEET, Jaycees Hall – 9 AM |
| JUNE 18-25 | TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION, San Antonio, TX |
| JULY 8 | DIVISION MINI-MEET, Jaycees Hall – 9 AM |
| AUGUST 10 | "BEAT THE HEAT" Meet, Prescott, AZ – 9 AM |

Gordon Wilson shared his two Seaboard 601's, with a teaser – What's the difference between them? A few months ago Gordon had visited Jim Sattler in Hawaii. Jim pointed out some train variations to Gordon. One of these differences is in the striping of the Seaboard 601. Most (about 95%) have stripes which are rounded on the ends; the rest have stripes which are squared off on the ends. Thanks to Chris Allen at York this past April, Gordon now owns one of each. Gordon also announced that he will be running a train in Tibet within the week. Watch for a story in a later Dispatch or on E-Train.

Chet Henry is seeking items for this year's Turkey Meet Auction. Call him (480-838-0783) by mid-June to reserve spots in the 2006 Turkey Meet Auction.

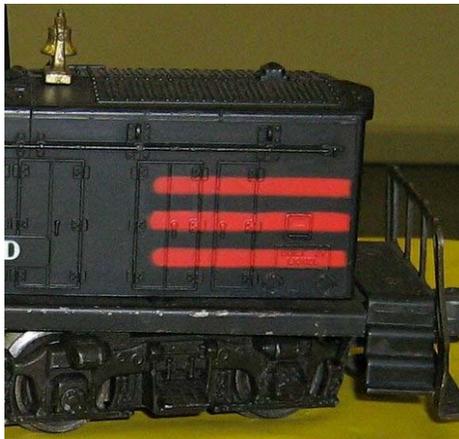
No Desert Division meet would be complete without raffle prizes. In May John Wiley was the Mystery Greeter and he selected Earl Rasmussen to receive the ten free tickets. One of those tickets would later prove to be a winner. Kids Club member Sarah Russell pulled the first raffle ticket. Winners are listed below.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Katie Elgar | Mother's Day mums in decorative watering can |
| Ralph Treichel | K-Line O-scale REA car |
| Earl Rasmussen | Hudson Raffle Ticket |
| Ed Micale | Lionel truck with Corvettes (donated to the Kids Club) |
| Ken Barnes | Rail King car (donated by Arizona Train Depot) |
| John Wiley | Lionel #246 and tender |
| John Wiley | K-Line S-scale Heinz freight car (donated to the Kids Club) |
| Bob Johnston | Books and a PRR record |
| Ernestine Bong | Billboard, mug, and candy train |

Rebecca Peiffer pulled the Hudson Raffle ticket for the monthly \$100 prize. The name on that ticket was Ken Burling.

→ Turkey Meet Auction Lots ←

This is the time of year we begin putting together the 2006 Turkey Meet Auction. If you have any train related items that you would like to put in the auction, please contact Chet Henry at 480-838-0783 or bchenry@cox.net. We need to know of your interest and an approximate number of items by July 1. We will need a detailed list of items by July 15



For all you variation collectors notice the typical rounded red stripes on the 601 engine on the left versus the very squared off stripes on the right. This undocumented variation, though not very common, is still not that hard to find. There is no valuation difference placed on the square striped switcher as opposed to the normal Seaboard 601.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

The May regular meet attendance was great, evidenced by the number of tables filled with sales items. The Meets are the place where new and old friends gather to share, buy and sell trains.

The membership in attendance unanimously approved the motion to honor Cole Gibbs and Peter Atonna with Life Membership in the Desert Division. Both of these gentlemen have always been very active in the club and have supported all of the Division activities. You only have to ask either of them for some advice or help and they are there! Congratulations to them both!

The educational section of the meeting included a bit of a surprise as Jerry Sienkiewicz had a 1931 Pfeiffer's beer store display. How was this train related? Well the metal bottle cap from this particular beer brand was actually recycled on a Hafner engine that Jerry already had in his collection. What a great and unique tie in! You never know what to expect at a meet!

Remember that June is the month that we will have our drawing for the Spring Raffle. This raffle can give you better odds at winning a prize than the Hudson Raffle, and it will only cost \$10.00 to take a chance winning one of three prizes and each of these prizes is exciting in itself.

The First Prize K-Line Southern Pacific GS4 is an awesome looking engine. K-Line has routinely produced great running engines and we know that there won't be any more of them at the reasonable prices we have seen from K-Line in the past.

The Second Prize Lionelville Circus set is very colorful and is mint in the box. This ready to run set could make some child very happy if you don't need to add it to your own collection or layout!

The Third Prize, a Lionelville Oil Derrick certainly completes any layout, and I'm sure at today's gas prices we all wish we had a 1:1 scale version pumping in our own backyard! Make sure that you take a chance to add this to great operating accessory to your layout! Help support your Desert Division activities and you just might win one of these terrific prizes. Don't miss your last opportunity to purchase tickets for the Spring Raffle at the next meeting. If you can't get there to buy tickets, contact me, or Bob Herman.

I Hope that some of you were able to attend the other train related events in the months of May and June, which afforded you opportunities to see more trains. The Phoenix area had an "In the Heat" Meet at the Phoenix Baptist Church and the fellows down in Tucson hosted their bi-annual Train Meet at the Rodeway Inn. If you missed those well then make sure you mark your calendars for the August "Beat the Heat Meet in Prescott!

There have been an increasing number of stories going around, regarding fraud on E-bay, along with numerous "phishing" schemes from both E-bay and Papal. Online auctions can be exciting but they can be risky if you are not cautious about your transactions. Online transactions remind me of the saying that was on my old Brownie pocket knife..."*Be Wise, Beware, Use Me with Care!*" If you are in doubt of the authenticity of communications from E-bay or Papal contact them directly. Report any suspicious activity or emails through the spoof email accounts they have in place. If you have any doubt about the authenticity of an item and are not getting satisfactory answers from the seller, bow out. Remember if it seems too good to be true, it may not be true!

Hopefully the TCA trading site will be operating soon so that we will have a secure website to buy and sell trains from and a back-up system with some teeth in it! We will be getting more detailed information on this at the National Convention in San Antonio the end of the month. I hope to see you there as the Convention and tours are filling up so make sure your reservations are in and next years' National Convention is scheduled for Denver, Colorado. With two National Conventions almost in our backyard I'm sure the Desert Division will be well represented at both of them! San Antonio is just a short two hour flight away and has numerous family and historic attractions. Many Desert Division and Rio Grande members already visit the Rocky Mountain area for business and pleasure and know that it is also worth the trip!

Also, don't forget to mail in your vote on the by-law change this month!

Happy Trains!

Katie



Rio Grande Chapter News

Greg Palmer TCA 94-39039

Summer has arrived throughout the Rio Grande Valley but many members braved a very hot day and came to participate in the Rio Grande Chapter Meet on May 20th. The educational segment was divided into two parts. For the show and tell section I brought two items I found at the April York Meet. First, I had on display the Ives 333 Banjo Signal that I found after several years of searching. What made my find so much sweeter was the fact that this one had the original box! Those of you who have visited my train room know that I like to collect smoke pellets, lamps, and other small items in their original packaging which I display like a small town train or hobby shop would have done, so I was quite happy when I found a Marx track connector sealed in the original envelope to add to my display area. I encouraged all those in attendance who could get to the October York Meet to go. It is a great meet, and about the most fun you can have in this hobby.

The second part of the educational segment was learning how to evaluate various toy train items using the new TCA Standards. John Trever and I brought items from several eras' including an MPC Switcher and several post war and pre war items. The items were passed around, giving all a chance to evaluate each item. Then we all came to agreement on the grade of each item was using the new TCA standards. It was quite interesting to see how we differed on some of the items, and how we all began to understand the new standards better after the segment was over.

We then brought the Business Meeting to order and the subject of public swap meets was discussed. It was voted to have one Swap Meet in Albuquerque on October 28th, 2006. Trying to sandwich in a meet was tricky as we had to consider the TTOS New Mexico Division Meet in September, Cal-Stewart, Rocky Mountain and Desert Division's Novembers Meets. Coming on the heels of the Albuquerque Pumpkin Festival and a few days before Halloween we decided to call the open swap the Pumpkin Meet. Next several members in the Southern part of our Chapter want to have asked to have a meet in Las Cruces, Look for this to happen in March of 2007 with the date being announced as soon as the final details get worked out.

The raffle for our 2006 Toy Fair Car was discussed, and the tickets will be ready for the September meets. I have contacted Division President Katie Elgar about the details of getting tickets, advertising, and how we can get members who live outside of the Chapter involved. The drawing will be held in at the Chapter meet in February.

We were asked by Division Convention Car Chairman Marty Wik, to give suggestions on a Convention car that would represent the Rio Grande Chapter. It was decided to use the New Mexico Central Railroad as the road name for a wood side boxcar. I will call Mr. Wik with all the other suggestions the membership had for alternates.

The meeting raffle prize, an "I Love New Mexico" Lionel Boxcar, was won by George Swajian. He donated it back to the Chapter for a future raffle prize. Thanks George for you great support of the Rio Grande Chapter. The membership also voted on dates for upcoming meets in 2006 and 2007. For the rest of 2006 our meets will be September 16th, the open "Pumpkin Meet" October 28th, and we are investigating a shared Christmas meet with the TTOS New Mexico Division. In 2007 we are planning on January 20th, February 17th, the Open Meet in Las Cruces in March, and May 19th, 2007. Mark your Calendars!

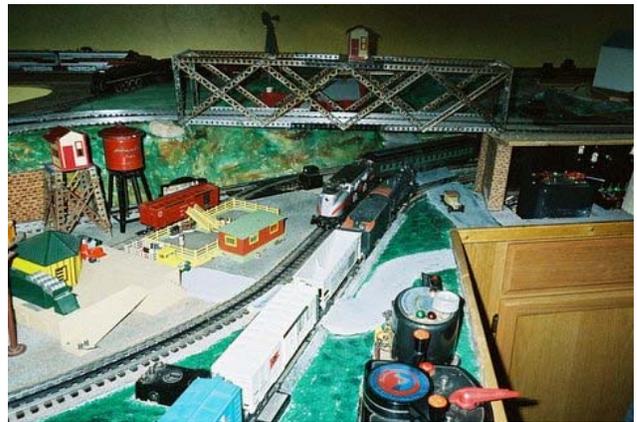
The meeting adjourned to the home of Scott Eckstein to view is layouts and collection. Scott has Standard Gauge, O Gauge, and S Scale layouts. The members who came enjoyed the trains and the refreshments. Thanks again Scott for your support of the Chapter.

Enjoy your summer! We hope to see you at the National Convention in San Antonio or any of the other conventions or meets here in the southwest the next few months. Our next Chapter Meet will be Saturday September 16th, 2006 at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Christian Church 2528 Utah N.E., Albuquerque, NM. I'll see you there! – Greg Palmer Rio Grande Chapter President

Rio Grande Meet and Open House – May 13th



Rio Grande Chapter Meet Educational segment showcasing some April York finds. Later, members “circled the wagons” as members from the local TCA Standards Committee explain the new TCA grading standards on various pieces of tinplate to those in attendance.



Scott Eckstein’s open house had many great stories including the Standard Gauge layout the rolls under the “O” and Flyer layout. The Standard Gauge trains are Scott and his wife Elaine’s original childhood trains and they need to keep their granddaughter away from them until she is older. Scott built an Erector trestle for the AC Gilbert Flyer loop for fun and a nice product line tie in. More pictures on the website. www.tcadd.org



Phoenix Area Hobby Shop News

By Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

Wow, there has been a bit of activity in the retail train business here in the Valley of the Sun. First off we would like to welcome **The Freight Yard** to the Valley as the newest store in town. Located at 2734 West Bell Road behind the Home Town Buffet in the Bell Canyon Pavilions, the store just had their Grand Opening April 20th. I stopped in for a chat and found a clean store loaded with HO and N Scale trains along with supplies to keep the model railroader busy. Carrying Kato, Athearn, Atlas, and Walthers among many others, **The Freight Yard** can also custom manufacture or mail order trains. The store has a huge selection of Thomas the Tank Engine wooden and die cast trains for that special young engineer on your list. The guys have been in the retail business for years and just relocated the store from Southern California. Though their website, www.thefreightyard.com was still under construction when I last checked, you can email them at frtyard@flash.net, call them at 602-942-1862, or better yet stop in for a visit and find out how buying one of their **The Freight Yard** T-Shirts can save you big bucks the next time you step in the door. Welcome to Phoenix!

An Affair With Trains, located at 2615 W. Bethany Rd. in Phoenix has been a long time sponsor of not only the Desert Division, but all the clubs throughout the valley. Recently they have changed their marketing focus and will no longer support "O" scale trains either by consignment or retail, and has sold their "O" scale inventory to **The Arizona Train Depot** in Mesa. One of the oldest retail shops in Phoenix, **An Affair With Trains**, will continue to have a wide selection of G, HO, and N, along with supplies and knowledge to keep you on track. Call them at 602-249-3781

Burling's Ton of Trains, has moved to a new store and is now located at 16924 E. Colony Dr. in Fountain Hills. Don't wait for the September visitation to visit Ken at his new location, Fountain Hills is freeway close and you can avoid all the radar traps on Shea Blvd, by taking the Country Club exit on the 202 and heading north for a quick 15 minute drive to the shop. For someone who does this "only to keep busy in my retirement" Ken's new store showcases Lionel products from pre-war to current production unlike any other in town. **Burling's Ton of Trains** also has a wide selection of pre-owned trains and trains of all vintage, gauges, and manufacturer. Open only 1 PM to 5 PM (isn't it great to be "retired") call Ken at 480-816-6501

This is not an endorsement by myself, the Desert Division, nor the Train Collectors Association, this is just a report of recent activity in the retail segment in Phoenix. However this IS another of my "shoutouts" to all members regardless of where you live in the Division area to **** SUPPORT ALL **** of the brick and mortar retail shops in your town, not only those listed above. If you hear of new shops opening, changing hands, changing marketing direction regardless of gauge, drop me a line so I can check it out and report to the membership from time to time.



Our host for the April after Meet visitation was Ken Barnes who shared his knowledge and joy of collecting Marx litho toys. Ken's wife, Carol Jean also has the collecting bug and has an extensive collection of PEZ dispensers. Want to see these pictures or more from Ken's open house in *color*? Visit www.tcadd.org or get your DISPATCH electronically emailed to you each month. Contact Christie Wilson and start getting the DISPATCH emailed to you in color!

VOTE NOW!

YOUR BALLOT IS INSIDE THE ENCLOSED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Per Section 1, Article IX Amendments of the Desert Division By-Laws, this motion has been published in three consecutive issues of the Desert Division Dispatch and is now ready for your vote.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT! VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Mark your ballots with a “X” or check mark in the appropriate box. **DO NOT** make any other marks, comments, nor put your TCA number, name, or any identifying mark on your official ballot itself. Place your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. Only original ballots returned in the enclosed envelope will be counted. **Ballots must be postmarked by JULY 15th, 2006.** To insure no duplication you **MUST** write your **TCA number** on the outside of the **envelope**, any ballot received without a number will be declared **VOID**. The Division Election committee will receive a list of valid current Desert Division TCA numbers from the Division Secretary and use this list as a cross reference.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

Motion: Be it moved that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section B, be changed to read, “ The terms of office for the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors, and all Chapter officers shall be for **TWO** years.” {It currently reads “for ONE year.”}; that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section D be altered to read, “The immediate Past President shall serve on the Board of Directors immediately following the term of office.” {It currently has the following words after ‘office’ – “for a one year term.”}; and that Article III, Section 3, Sub-section E read, “During the **TERM** in which the current Past President serves, two (2) Directors shall be elected. In subsequent years, three (3) Directors shall be elected.” The current word in place of TERM is YEAR.

Rationale: 1. It will allow for a greater degree of continuity of leadership. Currently it is possible for a sitting President to have a completely new BOD for each year of his/her term. That is tantamount to reinventing the wheel every year.

2. It will bring the Desert Division in line with all the other TCA Divisions so far as the length of officers’ terms of office. All of the other 19 TCA Divisions elect all of their officers for the same length of time, be it one or two years for all.

3. It will be cost effective, as an election will only need to be held every other year, rather than yearly. That will save the Division a significant amount of money as the elections result in special printing of ballots (every member gets one, not the one to a household as happens with the DISPATCH mailings), Special paper for the ballots, First Class postage, and two sizes of self-addressed return envelopes. The costs for an election vary, depending upon the volunteer work or materials donated to the Division, from a low of \$100 to as much as \$400.

Cost Impact: The savings to the Division, depending on printing, handling, and postage costs, will be from \$100 to \$400 every other year.

***** HEALTH UPDATES *****

Our best wishes for speedy recoveries go out to Chuck Archbold and Bill McClanahan, both undergoing chemotherapy at the present time. Both would appreciate your cards, as they continue their treatments. Send Chuck’s cards to him at 17650 N. 45th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032; and Bill’s to 3205 Wyndmere Drive, Richardson, TX 75082.

MY FIRST YORK

By Chris Allen TCA #95-40580

Like many of you I have heard the tales of those members who have made the trip to York, “You won’t believe your eyes!” or “Beyond large, beyond huge, beyond belief!” so with her best wishes and a very limited budget Laurel put me on a plane to meet my destiny at York. As you know it has been a Desert Division tradition to write about your first York experience, but I would like to take a slightly different approach. Sure there were the trains and all the hyperbole pales to the York “experience” itself, but I wondered to myself as I began to write this article, how many people really make the trip for that missing part of their collection? The one thing I noticed as I traveled from hall to hall was the fact that there were not that many fellows flying solo. In pairs and three’s members walked the aisles. Lou Redmond used to say as he held up a battered piece of tinplate, “This is what brings us together”, and over the years I have found that to be the most insightful statement about our hobby. You see, my trip to York was more than just a search for my childhood MARX set or a cheap streamliner to add to my collection; it was also about the friendships made and renewed.

Trying to save my limited supply of vacation time, I worked Monday and then took the afternoon flight out to Philadelphia. A four hour flight and three time zones later I was picked on the curb up very late that evening by Gordon Wilson, who whisked me away to Christie’s sister’s home in southern New Jersey where we spent the night. Tuesday morning I was transported back in time to my childhood as I stepped through the doors of Antique Trains and shook hands with Rich Bimmer for the first time. Rich has been a long supporter of the Desert Division and our Kids Club, so I requested this detour on our trip to York and was glad I did. Antique Trains is a mix of modern Lionel and MTH in one room with classic pre- and postwar trains in another. I felt as if I had arrived in Goshen. Rich’s genuine hospitality and the tales he told about owning a business as long as he has and the challenges with today’s internet savvy consumers made it hard to leave, but we had one more stop prior to checking into the hotel in York that day.

Arriving at the National Toy Train Museum for the first time, I was struck by the fact that no photograph I have ever seen of the Museum has ever accurately conveyed my first impression. It is truly a world-class showpiece that all members should be proud to be a part of. Roy and June Aydelotte have been Desert Division members and volunteers for years, and relocating to the East Coast has not slowed them down. I met Roy walking into the Museum as he and the rest of the dedicated staff of volunteers were preparing for the next day’s Open House. Graciously, Roy took ten minutes out of his busy schedule to give me the “Cook’s Tour”. I was struck by two things: the huge amount of volunteer hours that has been and continues to be poured into the museum, and just how truly beautiful this museum is. As I have said, no picture has ever portrayed the beauty and uniqueness of this magnificent place, and I doubt that the membership at large realizes the commitment made by so many fellow

members to donate both time and prize pieces from their own collection. I even saw trains on display that were on loan from the White House! Truly this Museum is recognized as “World Class.” But more than the National Toy Train Museum and the National Business Office, there was also the library, where row after row of reference material, from books to operating instructions are kept in a neat and organized matter for the members to call and have copies made or to stop in and personally view. Located a stone’s throw from the Strasburg Railroad Museum and smack in the middle of Amish country where time stands still, is the TCA National Toy Train Museum. I now know why so many people make the journey to visit our little gem and I hope you will to.

Next on the agenda was the York Meet itself. Totally overwhelming! Nothing can prepare you for York. It was almost surreal to see this many trains in one place. I cannot imagine the logistics that our friends in Eastern Division must do year after year to pull this off. I know the work and effort that goes into hosting the Turkey Meet. Multiply that by a hundred times and you would probably still fall short of what it must take to host a meet the size of York. Hall after hall filled with train after train - it truly was heaven on earth as I walked, dreamlike, trying to absorb it all. Not only did I see literally tens of thousand of trains, but the weather was like I never left home with mid 80 degree temperatures for the week. Not until Friday evening did the York weatherman bring on the wind and rain that I had heard was so typical of a spring York Meet. Nothing will ever be able to prepare you for your first York. I grew up hearing the familiar slogan of the Ringling Brothers but I beg to differ, Eastern Division has “The Greatest Show on Earth!” I came home with a few more trains to add to my collection and many more friends but I’m sad to say that I “must” return in the fall to search for my childhood MARX set. It’s hard to go to only one York Meet and even if you don’t find that missing piece for your collection you will certainly come home with many new memories and good friends.

Chris Allen joins the Desert Division Yorkies at the Round the Clock Diner. (and yes he did eat scrapple for breakfast)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY DIVISION MEET



Jerry Sienkiewicz with his now famous Pfeiffer's beer bottle. Notice the bottle cap on the store display on the upper left and then look at the driver skirt on the Hafner engine below left! Below right is Jonathan Peiffer's (yeah, my spell checker is working overtime this month) vintage all BRASS HO kit! A true Heavyweight! Bottom left Ruth Elgar assisted by Franklin Nickerson in the Coffee Club are all smiles, as is Ken Burling who took home the Hudson \$100!



BEAT THE HEAT MEET

by Peter Atonna

One of the longest running swap meets in the Southwest is gearing up for its 2006 edition. That is the Beat the Heat Swap Meet sponsored by the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club of the Prescott area. This year we will be luring the low desert folk and all others to the beautiful pine country on August 19. The meet will be held at the Prescott Activity Center, 800 E. Gurley in downtown Prescott. If you haven't come before, the Activity Center is right on the main street, a half mile after you enter town on SR 69 or 89, just follow the signs to Gurley Street. (Last year's street construction is all done, so it will be easy to get into the Activity Center and to park.) Each year we have been selling out the 100 sales tables so you will have a great selection of trains. Admission is \$3 with kids under 12 free with an adult. The show starts at 9am and runs to 1pm.

Norm Delucchi is handling table sales and they are only \$20 each and include one admission. If you would like to bring some goodies to sell, send him a check, made out to the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club. Table reservations must be paid in advance. Reservations are coming in now, so be sure to get your tables reserved early. They are usually sold out by the end of June. Dealer setup is 7 - 9am. Send your reservation with your check to Norm at 242 Thoroughbred Dr. Prescott, AZ 86301-6688. If you have questions, call him at 928-445-5379 or email to: npdelucchi@cablone.net. By the way, you can check it out at: the club's website: <http://www.camrrc.com/>.

Now here are the rest of the weekend's activities:

Shopping - Prescott has one of the finest antique and arts districts in the state and is located conveniently downtown, less than a mile from the Activity Center, the district lines Cortez and Marina Streets.

Train Rides - Both the Grand Canyon Railroad and the Verde Canyon Railroad are less than two hours from Prescott and would make a great Sunday activity. If you like train watching, there are a couple of superb locations near Williams and Ash Fork. Just check with me for the locations.

Outdoor activities - The Prescott area is a jumping off point for camping and fishing in the Bradshaw's', bike riding on many of the area highways, hiking Thumb Butte, Granite Mountain or the Peavine Rails to Trails.

Open Houses - Again this year we have five fellows who have generously opened their layouts and collections for your enjoyment. The time for visiting starts at 2pm on Saturday, right after the meet. There will be maps available at the meet registration. We have:

Brent Schnitzius - A large HO layout with broad curves and mountain scenery that features long trains running flawlessly.

Ray Dextraze - Early 20th Century American and European toys and trains all displayed in a beautiful setting. Come see his new Marklin #1 gauge steamer and two Japanese prewar handcars, but not containing who you may think. You are also welcome to stop by Friday evening, just give Ray a call at 928-777-0804.

Marlin Benson - Two huge train rooms filled with tinsplate trains and displays, From prewar and postwar to the latest gorgeous new scale steamers and diesels, Marlin's displays are a delight to see. Marlin has no trains operating yet, but the permanent layout is under way.

Stan Cedarleaf - You may have visited his delightful outdoor Large Scale layout previously. Well Stan has moved to a new home and has already built a spectacular new layout over 100 feet long and is running trains.

Peter Atonna - O gauge high rail and prewar O and Standard gauge fully scenic layouts. The Lowell branch now has the town and lots more mountains. If you are spending the weekend, and would like to stop by Friday evening for a more relaxed visit, call Peter at: 928-636-4228 or email: mjatonna@commspeed.net.

We hope you will make this weekend a mini vacation. There are lots of happenings in Prescott during the summer. If you would like great entertainment, the Arizona Review, a live musical/comedy show plays at the Historic Elks Theater Saturday nights at 7pm. For information or tickets, call 928-830-7784 or visit their website at: www.azrevue.com. Also Beat the Heat week features the 19th Annual Cowboy Poets Gathering August 17-19. This is a three-day celebration of the stories and songs of Arizona working cowboys, featuring over 125 cowboy performers. For tickets call 877-928-4253; for information call 928-445-3122.or visit www.sharlot.org.

If you would like a nearby motel for your stay here are some suggestions (the Prescott area code is 928):

- + Heritage House Motel (across the street from the Activity Center) 819 E. Gurley 445-9091
- + Apache Lodge (a genuine 30's motel) 1130 E. Gurley 445-1422
- + American Motel, 1211 E Gurley 778-4322
- + Super 8 (on the next street to the north) 1105 E. Sheldon 776-1282

If you would like to stay at a beautiful historic downtown hotel right in the middle of Prescott's arts and antique shopping district we have:

- + Hotel St. Michael 205 W. Gurley 776-1999
- + Hotel Vendome 230 S. Cortez 776-0900
- + Hassayampa Inn 122 E. Gurley 778-9434

In addition, there is the Marriott Spring Hill Suits in Depot Square downtown at 776-0998



Prescott's Beat the Heat

Model Trains & Old Boys Toys

SWAP MEET

Saturday, August 19th, 2006 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: Norm Delucchi 928-445-5379

Mike Nelson 928-445-7634

Not responsible for lost or stolen items

Table reservations \$20.00 per table in advance

Table sales subject to availability

1 free admission with each table

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of Tables _____

@\$20.00 each _____

Helper Name _____ @ 3.00 each _____

Helper Name _____ @ 3.00 each _____

Total \$ _____

Special Requests? _____

Send to Norm Delucchi 242 Thoroughbred Dr, Prescott Az. 86301-6688

*** Desert Division's ** 2006 Spring Raffle ***
*** DRAWING IS THIS MONTH! ***

1st Prize K-Line SP Daylight GS-4 w/TMCC!
2nd Prize Lionel #11716 Lionelville Circus Special Set



Get Your Tickets at the June Meet
\$10.00 ea 3/\$25.00

2006 Spring Raffle Drawing will be held at the JUNE MEET



3rd Prize
Lionel #6-12930
"Lionelville" Oil
Derrick

In 2003 the Desert Division had its first Spring Raffle in response to our many members who were operating trains in addition to collecting them and wanted to expand their pike with some quality modern pieces or maybe an unusual or hard-to-find item. We are pleased to announce that again this year you will find a wide selection of some not so common pieces. First prize this year is a beautiful K-Line Southern Pacific GS-4. This new (test run and checked ok) locomotive with matching die-cast tender was offered in 2001 and really is loaded with TMCC, Railsounds, illuminated marker, headlights, flashing MARS light, simulated firebox glow, and smoke. (List price - \$570.) Second prize is a Lionel #11716 Lionelville Circus Special set that continues to attract a lot of attention when it shows up. Issued in 1990, this mint OB set still fetches a premium price today. (One recently on e-Bay had a buy-it-now price of \$250.) Not to be outdone, we are offering an oil derrick for the Third prize, but as you would expect, not just an ordinary oil derrick. Lionel 6-12930 was issued in 1995 and had a very limited production run with the Lionelville markings, which makes this N/OB piece not one of your everyday run of the mill oil derricks. Don't believe me? Check out eBay auction #6036702452 and you'll find that someone just paid \$115 for one. We think you'll agree this raffle contains a little bit of everything with retail values totaling almost \$1,000! As the saying goes, you can't win if you don't play. Tickets are on sale now for \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. The drawing date is set for the June 10th Meet and you do not need to be present to win. If you can't make the Monthly Meet, contact Treasurer Bob Herman for tickets. For our out of town Desert Division supporters, we will deliver or pay for the postage if your ticket wins! Best of Luck to all of you!

RAILROAD -CHANGE



ANTIQUUE TRAINS - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We specialize in “O” but handle all gauges, both new and pre-owned. We have the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona. See our different “Set of the Month” each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 1:00 to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

CONSIGNMENTS – HOT! MTH Premier “Big Blow” UP Gas Turbine, w/PS2 4 motors, 2 smoke units, die cast tender reg \$1,000 club \$949.95 - MTH Imperial super detailed Santa Fe 0-6-0 w/PS2 reg \$400 club \$359.95 - Lionel 6-28656 Pennsy Berkshire “Jr.” Railsounds w/crew talk and tower com, reg \$240 sale \$189.95 - Red Dot Special going on now, 25% off list – Lionel highly detailed Std O freight cars - Needham Packing Reefer, reg. \$55 sale \$41.21 – BNSF 3 Bay Covered Hopper reg \$70 club priced \$47.65 Always ask for your TCA club member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa. 480-833-9486, open late Wednesday.

GERRY'S TRAINS – Complete parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Drive, Scottsdale, AZ Phone (480) 991-2536.

BUILDING A LAYOUT? - We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100” and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

REPAIRS - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthruetime.com>.

FOR SALE – Replacement bulbs for your trains – over 80 different ones in stock. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

FOR SALE – Atlas “O” Gauge Freight Cars from early 1970’s - \$25 each or 4 for \$80. NEEDED – Curved track and switches; will trade straight track from my layout. Call Bryan Jewell at 602-234-6970.

WANTED – Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist – can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

EXCITING TRAIN TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD – 2006: Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; New England Fall Foliage; Washington Wineries; California Railroad Museum; and Many More. For further information, contact Travel Consultant Linda Kopff, representing Bon Voyage Travel, at 623-556-1391.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

FOR SALE - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 “O” Gauge Tinsplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: dzedo2@earthlink.net.

FOR SALE – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail 4aztrains@earthlink.net.

WANTED – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

FOR SALE – 614 Alaskan SW-2 Switcher (C-7) - \$220. Call Gordon Wilson 480-837-5344.

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

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
15231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

POSTMASTER: This Federal 501c3 Newsletter
contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action
by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before
JUNE 3rd, 2006

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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VOTE!
YOUR BALLOT FOR THE BY-LAWS
CHANGE IS INSIDE

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

COMING EVENTS

- June 10 Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald
- June 18-25 52nd TCA National Convention, San Antonio, TX
- July 8 Division Mini-Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
- August 19 “Beat the Heat” Meet – Activity Center, 800 E. Gurley, Prescott, AZ – 9 AM
Contact: Norm Delucchi – 928-445-5379
- September 9 Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
- September 16 Rio Grande Chapter Meet - Sombra Del Monte Christian Church, Albuquerque, NM. – 10 AM

PADE PROMOTIONS

Have You PADE Your Way?

- P**urchase raffle tickets
- A**uthor an article for the Dispatch
- D**onate something to the club
- E**nlist to help

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. Various members have made contributions to the club this month.

Thank you Steve Palmer and Gordon Wilson for door prize donations. Also Ed Micale and John Wiley donated their raffle prizes to the Division's Kids Club. Ernestine Bong donated a tunnel and a bridge for the Kid's Club Zoo module. Helping Ruth Elgar in the kitchen this month was Frank Nickerson. Jonathan Peiffer has been helping the club by putting the Dispatch into pdf format for the benefit of our members, and this month a special Thank You to Chris Allen for acting as Newsletter Publisher while your regular editors are on vacation.

Your name could appear in this column. You need only do something generous to improve the Division.