

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*

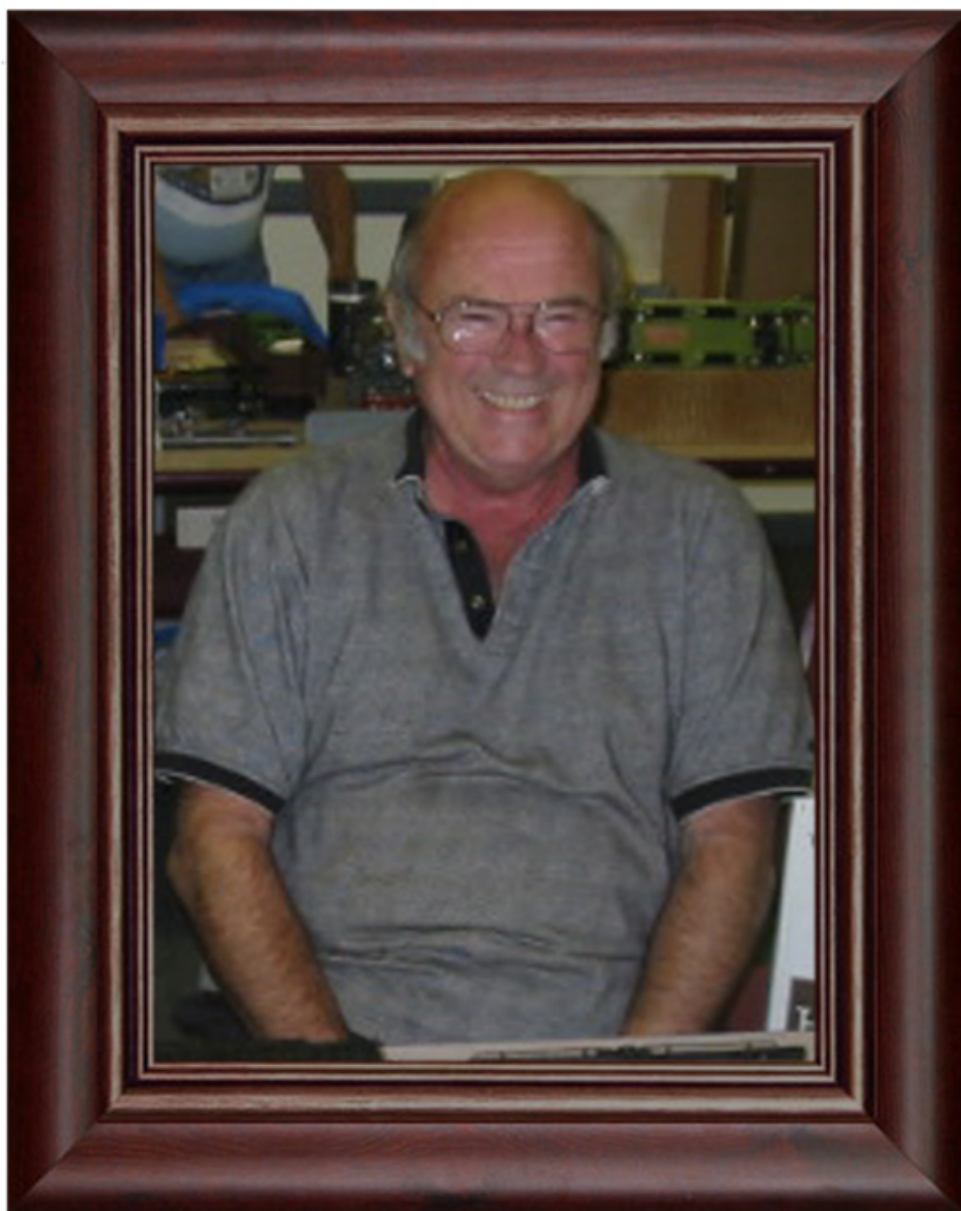
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Volume 36, No. 5

June, 2007



Cole Gibbs  
April 15 1939 – May 10 2007

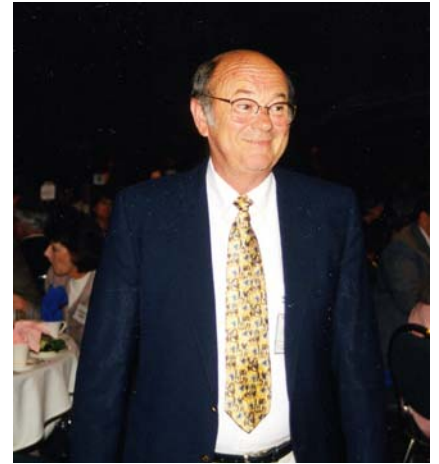
# COLE REMEMBERED

by Paul Wassermann

With the passing of Cole Gibbs the TCA and the Desert Division lost a true friend and ardent supporter. He touched the lives of so many, in so many ways, that his legacy is assured.

Cole was, as Irene liked to call him, a true “Renaissance Man.” He was a musician, chemist, father and husband, chef, Scotch and sushi connoisseur, roofer, fisherman, oyster fan, toy train enthusiast, and most of all, of course, a friend. He had a childlike, almost elfin quality. When I think of Cole, I think of a gentleman with a twinkle in his eye. He loved a good story, joked (particularly if the joke was on him), and, even in the face of a tremendous amount of physical discomfort, found the courage to smile and give life a “thumbs up.” Perhaps one of the highest compliments to his amazing life attitude came from the third floor medical surgery nurses attending him in the hospital. Uniformly they all grew to love and admire their non-complaining, courageous patient and, when he was transferred to the second floor intensive care unit, they made trips down to his new floor to see how he was doing and offer support and encouragement.

Cole loved trains - not just his, but those of others. He could always be counted on to offer you a train he knew you would like or wanted, and many times sold me trains at the price he had paid for them. Our next TCA Desert Division meet will have the theme “COLE TRAINS.” Be certain to bring a story, a train, or a memory to share with us all. Rather than write additional words for this reminiscence (words so hard to choose), I thought I would share with you the Cole pictures I found. I think they truly capture the essence of the man. We were all privileged to have known this remarkably generous, honest, and charming man. To say he will be missed is totally inadequate; to say he will be fondly remembered is totally understated.



On Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Cole Gibbs lost his brave fight with cancer. Cole was elected Desert Division President four times (when the terms were only one year in length) early in the Division's often "feisty" history. Cole was one of my sources for a "no holds barred" view of the Division's past and future and where we could make meaningful change. Not only did those of us who collect trains lose a dear friend, but so did the world. This has been a very difficult issue to put together for Gordon and Christie Wilson as they travel South America this month so if things appear to be a bit out of sync I apologize but I wanted to fit in the fond memories of the Division's "renaissance man". – Chris Allen

I've got something you need!  
Edward Georgevich TCA 97-44995

"I've got something you need!" with his finger pointing in the air he said! Cole always greeted you with a smile and a hope for a sale at every meet.

As I start my 10th year in the club, I have vivid memories of Cole as he was a friend to all. At the two National meets that I attended, Cole always reached out to me a "younger" member and talked to me and introduced me to other members from various regions across the USA. He always had a smile and wanted you to have fun! But it is another memory I have will forever be tied to a purchase from Cole.

A few years back I purchased a Locomotive and Tender from Cole with his ever famous "Pay me before York" sales pitch. Well a couple of months later I ended up in a divorce. I was lost. I was in a no mood to deal with much of anything and was not much at the meets. But I got to see Cole from another side. He learned of my situation and made it a point to come over to my house and drag me out for lunch and make sure that I was alright.

We sat in a bar/restaurant for about 5 hours and just talked about life, trains were never part of the discussion. He told me of his ups and downs and that I was just going thru a rough time and I would get through it and that I needed to be active and remain positive during the time and that everything would work out. He talked about his family and his friends and the many things he had seen and that I have everything to look forward ahead of me. He asked me what I wanted to do in the future and offered insight on how to get there. He asked about my family, hockey and even dabbled in his discussion of fine wines. For the time he talked to me like I was his own son. Of course he told me I should ask the beautiful waitress out and if didn't he would! He dropped me off back at my house and said to me not to worry about things it would get better. He also in his jovial way told me to make sure that I pay him by the following York and not to tell anyone! Well he was right. Things got better, I made an effort last year in San Antonio to thank him, and he told me, "Your welcome" and the proceeded to say "Have I got a deal for you!"

So after the meet on Saturday, I came home and set up a loop of Fastrack on the floor, took the engine and tender out of the display case and ran it for about an hour or so. I thought of Cole the whole time. Thanks Cole. I'll miss you! Conventions and meets will never be the same. Oh and for you Lionel purists out there, the engine was a Near Mint 1950 Lionel 773. I will cherish it forever. He would be so proud that I am running it!

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It will be hard to go to a Desert Division, York Meet, or National Convention and not see Cole Gibbs just about every time I turn around. Cole had boundless energy and seemed to be everywhere at every time. I first met Cole when I was on Sabbatical at Arizona State University in 1979. When I moved here permanently in 1988, the Gibbs household in Glendale was my second home. Christie had not yet moved to Arizona and Cole fed me at least 2 -3 times a week. We played trains, fed his turtles, and had loads of fun trying to keep up with one of his dogs, which he aptly named GG-1. There is, however, one happening that stands out above all others. For whatever reason, Cole and I, along with several members of the Desert Division (who shall remain nameless) would bet on just about anything and play practical jokes on one another that could, at times, prove to be fairly costly. One such time occurred at the McCormick Railroad Park at a Spring Picnic. Peter Atonna was busily auctioning off the Mystery Boxes, one of which I had prepared, so I was not bidding on it because I knew its contents. The bidding was going along quite smoothly and was reaching the \$ 50 plateau. I was standing next to Cole, just on the outskirts of the ASTE Ramada. Cole turned to me and said, "I'll bet you a quarter you can't touch that beam over your head!" Well, THAT was the easiest quarter I ever would make from Cole, so I quickly reached up and touched that beam and just as quickly Peter downed the auction item on the unsuspecting "set up pigeon!" Cole never let me forget that moment of one ups man ship and believe me; I shall never forget it either. I shall miss the kind of friendship that was unique with Cole.

Warmly and Forever, Gordon & Christie Wilson



A Friend Well Remembered  
Dan Palaschek TCA 89-29697

It was around 1986 that Bob Dennison invited me to join him at a TTOS club meeting on a Saturday. I did so with trepidation as I was re-introduced to toy trains by Bob, who sold my wife a Lionel freight set complete with transformer and operating milk car after they met at a garage sale. What did I know about trains? I felt foolish, I must admit.

About halfway through the sales side of the meeting, this bald, energetic gentleman came up to me and introduced himself. "Cole Gibbs, train enthusiast" he said. "What do you do", he inquired and I told him I was in the hotel business. So was he, he replied. "I put roofs on them"! And that started a twenty year friendship that I never wanted to end. Sadly, it ended on Thursday night, May 10<sup>th</sup>. How lucky I was to see Cole for the last time at Scottsdale Memorial North, having come to Phoenix to attend my daughter's Maddy, Masters graduation at NAU.

She was 3 years old when I first got into trains in a serious way and she is now 24. She and twin daughter Betsy grew up with Cole's friendship and attended many a meet with us while young. Like most children, at age 12 or 13 they lost the interest but never the feelings for Cole as a friend of Dad's. He video taped their first communion, attended their HS graduation and weddings. He was more than a train buddy, he was a true family friend.

As my interest in the toy train world matured, Cole became mentor and guide. He was so knowledgeable of the hobby that a mere mention of a number of an engine would evoke a dissertation of the year made and the attributes. But he never stopped there.....his knowledge of all train manufactures, foreign and domestic, past and present was without peer. He amazed me with his knowledge of Marx and other toy manufacturers too. Toys did not have to be trains, for toys of all kinds were within his toy encyclopedia, all held within his memory. Did I tell you he was also a Mensa? I guess I can tell you now. He told me that years ago but asked me to keep it to myself. Ever humble was Cole.

My first toy meet outside of Phoenix was Cal Stewart in Pasadena. I was at a meeting in Atlanta in the early 90's and flew to California to meet Cole. That trip started a ten-year run of annual treks to the California Mecca. I tried Nor Cal at his insistence but was unimpressed and only did that show; I now wish that I had done more, just to be with him. I remember that show vividly as I got a good rate at the Westin through my sources but had to hang my head low when we checked in, as Cole's luggage was a cardboard box. You see, he had driven up and packed his cloths with his trains. What a guy, always the card!

Over the years my collection grew thanks to his advice and the many "family" deals he made with me as he found collections and great deals at auctions back

East. He helped to fuel my early collections of Marx playsets with his many trips to the East coast and while he never gave stuff away, he was always satisfied with a reasonable profit from a "grandfather" deal with me. Many a time we had spirited arguments over the cost of what he paid and what I paid for one of his items. He always advised in his best business like manner, "it doesn't matter what I paid for it, what matters is you want it and this is the price."

I had that much respect for him to not argue any more. But how could I argue. He always gave me fair pricing and would intone in his best Gibbs accent, "Pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered" when he talked about those who tried to make a quick buck. It was hard to argue with that fair a guy.

Trips besides California were many, Beat the Heat, Tucson and even the Turkey meet would require overnight accommodations. With my hotel connections, I got great deals and Cole's payment was usually "in kind" meaning something that he had that I wanted. Short of that, it was drinks at dinner. That was a good deal considering our capacity.

After a successful show, I would count my take in sales and Cole would ask me to count his. Needless to say my count took seconds and Coles took many minutes. He would just empty his pockets of bill after bill, some Franklin but mostly Hamilton. I was lucky to have a few Jackson!

Unfortunately we never met at York as we talked about. We spoke many a time how I would meet him up there and then he would come down to visit Hampton Roads. It would be hard now to go there with so many memories of Cole and him not being there.

And so it went for many a year...good friends, good friendships, dinners at each other houses, gifts each Christmas, and constant phone calls. Even when I moved to Virginia, we telephoned each other a lot; he would love to talk about Hampton Roads and the many years he spent here. Me, I began to fear the loss of him as he developed the cancer that would eventually take him from us, but not without a fight. Cole would never give in to the disease, let alone death. He told me he would beat it before he lost his voice. His last words to me were his usual sign off "Have fun". How 2 words now make me sad and want to cry for it is so ironic that he was taken from us, as he was not having very much fun. I knew then as I know now that I will never hear those words again.

Goodbye dear Cole. I love you like a brother. You will always be a part of me and with me whenever I look at my 773, the Madison cars you helped me buy, the Lionel loader/un-loader from Tucson, the many Marx stuff and the other many items you bought or influenced me to buy. My world and the toy train world will never be the same without you.

I love and miss you! "Have fun" in heaven for you deserve that!

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### Cole Gibbs: My Most Unforgettable Character Denise Micale

When I was growing up, I loved to read. I come from a working class family so we couldn't afford a lot of books. However, we did subscribe to Reader's Digest and I always looked forward to reading "My Most Unforgettable Character". I have decided that Cole is MY most unforgettable character. Here are a few things that stood out for me.

His intelligence, his curiosity, and his sense of wonder. He loved to tell you about what he knew and thought, sometimes beyond my scope of understanding, but he was never boring. Even after his laryngectomy, he could fill up a writing tablet with what he wanted to share with you.

His passions: He loved certain foods: oysters (allegedly eating 10 dozen, a record, at Cartwright's), crab legs, red pork, single malt scotch, and Bass beer, for travel, spending time with friends and just people he would meet, for his trains, for his family, for the turtles and his pets, LD, Emmett, & Gigi.

His courage: to go cross country and through Alaska on his own, to fight not one, but three cancers. I have worked with many severely ill and injured patients but Cole stands out in his strength, perseverance, courage and will to live.

His humor: Cole invented the "wardrobe malfunction" which Janet Jackson later made famous. He loved comfort and would number his favorite leisure pants, such as #5. Once, he, Jerry Calkins and Fran were unloading the van when all of a sudden, his pants just dropped to the knees resulting in a "full monty" as Cole was not an aficionado of the undergarment.

His friendship: Cole had many longstanding friendships across the country and he took those friendships seriously. Ed had told Cole his wish list for a prewar baby blue Comet and sure enough, many months later, after trips across the country, Cole came home with Ed's dream train, which remains a treasure in Ed's collection, even more so because of Cole's thoughtfulness. When we became friends, it took a while for Cole and I to get to the "hug stage" but I will always remember Cole's hug- arms spread wide; it said what he didn't say in words about his welcome for you. Thursday, the charge nurse from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor came down to the ICU to tell Fran how all the nurses from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor loved him and made them laugh. It did not take long for Cole to make a friend or to create a lasting impression.

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote: "I could not, at any age, be content to take my place by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life". That was Cole's philosophy.

Cole, you will always be my and I'm sure many other people's most unforgettable character, we will love and remember you forever.

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Volume 36, No. 5

June, 2007

## MAY IN THE DESERT

The May Meet was well attended by members and guests. We welcomed Phil Todd, who still works in Alaska, but spends part of his time in Arizona. He claims to be in Phase 1 of model railroading – the buying phase. However in his new home he has a 51' x 34' train room. Truly into the activities of the Desert Division, he has already donated an item for the 2009 Convention. Russ Mosser, guest of John Pryor, became a member of TCA and the Desert Division at the Meet. He claims to be a 3-rail-aholic. He runs his trains at Paradise & Pacific. Sonny Wolf of the Rocky Mountain Division attended the meet today, as did Louise Mancus, Bob's mother.

The Treasurer announced that we have \$21,330.34 in savings, \$4,253.77 in checking, and \$300.75 in the Trains for Kids fund.

A damper on the fun and festivities was the fact that Cole Gibbs, a long-time TCA and Division Member, and a past-president of the Division, passed away on May 10, 2007. Many members related stories about Cole. He was a very positive person, always smiling, and always helpful. One member took up a collection to be used for a Desert Division floral display at the funeral.

Chris Allen displayed the Convention shirts we will be using for the next order. These are Port Authority shirts, WITH POCKETS. The plain shirt is \$35 and the one with trim is \$42.50. The shirts will be in next month and anyone who ordered one will pay Chris at that time. Chris also announced that TCA National's Toy Train X-Change is up and running. To use it, log onto [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org) and find the link to the X-Change. You will need to register, selecting your trading name and password. After that, it takes about two days to be verified. This is the Buy-Sell-Trade that has been published, and will continue to appear, in the National Headquarters News, except you can also have a picture if you view the item on line. Another feature which is available is the on-line view of the presentations by MTH and Atlas at the National Headquarters' April Open House.

Paul Wassermann announced that he is circulating a petition to get Sarah Reed's name on the ballot for TCA National Secretary. Many members signed the petition which Paul will mail to the appropriate personnel.

The Cell Phone program is going well, and we continue to request your unused, deprogrammed, unwanted cell phones.

Spring Raffle tickets are available. Everyone who bought one at the May Meet was eligible for a free Hudson Raffle Ticket. You can still buy yours at the June Meet, just prior to the drawing for the three items.

Order forms were available for the Atlas Apache Reefer, with Lionel-compatible couplers. Orders maybe placed until November 15 and the cars will be available next spring. (See order form elsewhere in this bulletin.)

The theme for the June Educational Segment is "Things We Got from Cole."

## COMING UP...

**June 9**      **Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM**  
**Educational Segment: "Cole Trains"**

**June 24-30**      **TCA National Convention – Westminster, CO**

**July 14**      **Mini-Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM**

**August 18**      **"Beat the Heat" Meet, Prescott, AZ – 9 AM**

The Dispatch is published monthly except July and December by the Train Collectors Association, Desert Division, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. This issue is Volume 36, No. 5 (June, 2007).

The May Educational Segment began with an April left-over (no pun intended), as Jonathan Peiffer brought in his food items. He had a series of highly detailed Varney reefers from the early '50's to the early '60's. These advertised the American Refrigerated Transfer Company, with such products as Carnation Milk and Gerber's Strained Vegetables. The older ones have a wooden bottom on a metal base and the newer ones have a plastic bottom. Jonathan also brought in his O-scale Ralston Purina car, and the ultimate in fast-food – an Amtrak Dining Car, in which you can have anything you want to eat, micro waved and ready to eat in 30 seconds or less. Paul Wassermann displayed some York acquisitions. One is a Lionel Jr. Streamliner. It needed some restoration, so he painted the red part. The chrome, however, presented a challenge, so he took it to Bob Herman, who did an excellent job. Paul then added interior illumination and plastic strips of people in the windows. As "projects" for the Club, Paul purchased a Lionel Station, which Bob Dennison will redecorate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July theme of our Convention, and a Classic Toy Trains Standard Gauge train set with a 4-6-0 locomotive, which Bob Herman will decorate to honor the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The Station is the very rare one, with high windows and the unusual roof. Ultimately we will auction these pieces off to help defer Convention expenses. Paul also brought in his Leland of Detroit monorail and the one MTH made more recently. MTH used Cole's as a pattern, then learned that Paul has the clip for it. When MTH asked whether Paul would sent it to the company, Paul replied, "Sure, but in exchange I think you should send me a train." Sure enough, they did.

This month's Mystery Greeter, Bob Keller, selected John Wiley as the recipient of the ten free raffle tickets. Melissa Peiffer pulled the first ticket. It belonged to Earl Rasmussen, who selected the Hudson Raffle Ticket as his prize. Other prize winners are as follows:

Bob Keller	<u>Collectors Guide to Pre-War Lionel Trains</u> by David Doyle and <u>The Art of Lionel Trains</u> by Roger Carp
Chris Gray	<u>Greenberg's Lionel Trains 1987-1995, The Kughn Era</u>
Fred Hunter	<u>Rail King Construction Flat with Dump Truck</u>
John Upshur	<u>History of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe</u> – book
Russ Mosser	Plasticville Shanty and TM Lionel price guide
Angelo Lautazi	Model car, tank, and train key chain

The winner of a free Hudson ticket for buying Spring Raffle Tickets today was Tom Stange. As soon as he placed the stub in the bucket, Rebecca Peiffer pulled the ticket for the \$100 bill – Chet Henry.

Members adjourned to lunch and an after-meet visitation at the home of John Bahne.



Top Row (LR): The crowd; Bob Mancus with Mom, Bob Dennison explains restoration to Ed Georgevich, Sam McElwee with his Erector Hudson  
 Middle Row (L-R): Train and Station to be restored for Convention, Beth Stange chooses a Convention shirt style, Melissa Peiffer draws a raffle ticket  
 Bottom Row (L-R): Thomas Plies & Phil Monahan view the Educational Items; Chris Allen describes Convention Shirt offerings, new member Russ Mosser wins a raffle prize, Melissa and Rebecca Peiffer in Kids Room





Greetings!

This month we had to say farewell to a long time train member and dear friend, Cole Gibbs. Cole in his special way touched many lives in the train world from coast to coast. Cole was always willing to help people with their trains. I can remember driving up to a train convention, not knowing if I'd know anyone, and there in the driveway was Cole! A fixture at many conventions and train meets, he always had good stuff to talk about and he was very knowledgeable about trains, as well as most other topics. I am sure that the train world will miss Cole. He fought the good fight. Be sure to read the other member comments and remembrances of Cole in this issue.

The theme of June's educational segment is "something you got from Cole". Feel free to bring anything you bought, traded or received from Cole. But please limit your speaking to one item.

Jim Ryan is now out of the hospital. At the May meeting we had a card to sign for him. He is recovering at home and sent a note thanking us for the card.

A big Desert Division welcome to new member Russ Mosser! Russ enjoys running O-scale trains. It was also great to see member Phil Todd and his wife in town from Alaska. I believe he could well be the member who traveled the furthest to a meeting in May!

This month many of us will travel to Denver for the TCA National Convention. I will be representing the Desert Division at the BOD meetings during that convention week. Hope to see many of you at the convention!

Marty Wik will be presenting the 2009 convention cars at the convention. He will be showing some of them at our June meeting! Also, don't forget to order the Apache Beer Arizona Brewing Company Car, 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Desert Division car offerings. Being from a brewery family, I'll be sure to order this one! Forms are available on line or at the Division meeting as well. I have already been receiving e-mail inquiries about this car from outside of the Division. Don't miss out!

The August Beat the Heat Swap Meet in Prescott, is soon arriving. The Grand Canyon Division of the TTOS is once again putting together a bus trip. The cost will be about \$25.00 per person and will be making 4 pick-up stops in the valley. This is a great way to go up north for the meet, and relax while someone else does the driving! See John Pryor or Dave Brown for further details. The bus also takes people into Prescott for some antique shopping if they prefer that to the trains.

I am looking forward to seeing you at your next Desert Division meeting. There will be a layout visit after the June meeting at the home of Dave and Judy Brown. We will have a map and directions at the meet.

Happy Trains,

*Katie*

## BOARD MEETING

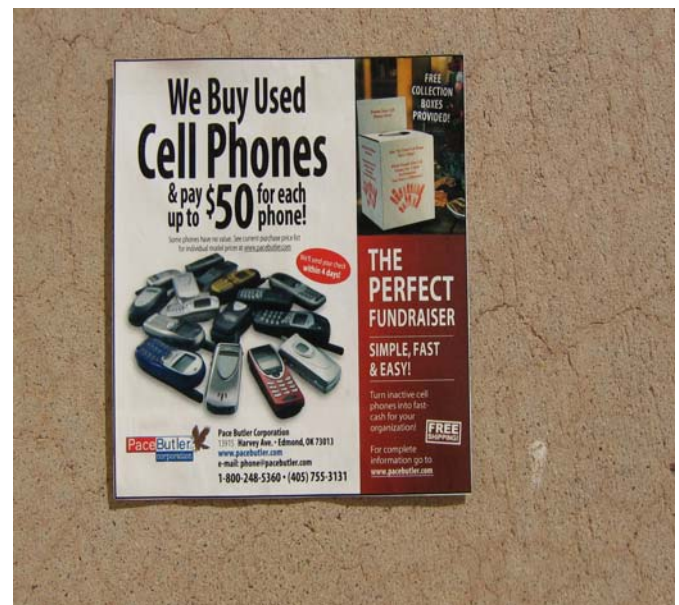
The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 8:00 AM at the Jaycees Hall. Members are welcome to attend.

## DON'T THROW AWAY OLD CELL PHONES!

With all of the new technology available almost daily, many cell phones become obsolete and useless nearly overnight. Don't toss your old, deactivated cell phone away.

The Desert Division is collecting them in conjunction with a recycling program and can turn your old, unwanted cell phone into money for the upcoming 2009 Convention. Help the Desert Division and clean out your unwanted clutter, all at the same time.

Bring all your unwanted and useless cell phones to our next meeting on June 9 – no chargers or peripheral equipment, just plain ol' unused and unneeded cell phones.





## NATIONAL TCA NEWS

Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

Many exciting things are going on at the National level of TCA to enhance your membership benefits. If you haven't already done so make sure that the National Business office has your current email address so that you will be kept up to date on all the new changes. You can update it via the internet at the main gateway for all TCA websites at: <http://traincollectors.org/> and click on the TCA logo for the TCA members' homepage for all members services or you can follow this link <http://www.tcamembers.org/membership/update.htm> to get to the membership update page directly.

One of the thrilling new changes for the membership is the inauguration of "TCA Netvision". <http://www.tcamembers.org/netvision/index.htm> Sorry, because of the large size of the files you will need a fast internet connection (cable or DSL) your slower dial up internet connection will not work. Make sure you have your sound turned on to hear the audio! Listen to President Jim Burke's introduction to first, as he will explain not only Netvision, but other programs that are online or being developed for the future.

One of the things Jim talks about is that **the BUY/SELL site, TCA X-Change, is now operational** and can be checked out at <http://www.tcabuysell.org> This is NOT an eBay auction site but rather an electronic version of the Interchange Ads found in the *National Headquarters News* with pictures if the seller posts them. Want to check it out before you jump in? No problem, an introduction video hosted by TCA Operations Manager John Luppino is also on Netvision.

In my opinion, some of the best news is the availability of videos taken during the manufacturers' presentations at the National Toy Train Museum Membership Appreciation Day Open House. Those shown were taken this past April so you can be kept up to date of new releases and exciting new products by those manufacturers who wish to display their products to the TCA membership. Want to hear about the Union Pacific settlement Mike Wolf worked out from the "horses mouth"? Listen to the MTH presentation and I think you will agree that this new medium will not only help the members who operate newer products keep up to date with products, but also current industry news. Lionel declined to participate this past Spring however we hope they will allow us to video their presentation this Fall. Almost 1/3 of the members make the trip to York each Spring and Fall but that means more than **2/3 DO NOT**. Now with Netvision, every member can hear the latest industry news that is presented at the National Toy Train Museum.

### **TURKEY MEET AUCTION LOTS NEEDED!**

Yes, its that time of year again to do a little Spring cleaning underneath the layout, closet, or garage. Those unused or unloved treasures of your past can bring you some extra cash this Fall during the Divisions 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Turkey Meet, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Chet Henry, Ed Georgevich, or any Division BOD member for details on how you can participate in the desert southwest's largest train show and auction.

### **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

Do you want to save the Division some money and get all the photos you see in the DISPATCH in color? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. During a trial period you will still receive your newsletter in the mail and online. If at the end of the trial period, you wish to discontinue your hard copy mailed bulletins, receiving only the online copy, please let the secretary know, and your bulletins will no longer be mailed to you. The savings in printing costs and postage will be used to help defray the costs of the TCA National Convention being hosted by the Desert Division in 2009. This program relates to newsletters only; all members will still receive ballots, rosters, and membership cards via the US Post Office.

If you wish to receive the newsletter online, please fill out the bottom section of this page and return it to Christie M. Wilson, Secretary, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268, or contact her at the Division Meets.

☐ Yes, I want to save printing costs and receive my newsletter online only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## **\* Desert Division's \*\* Spring Raffle 2007 \***



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**MTH RAILKING**  
**Alaska SW-1500**  
**Ready-To-Run set**  
**w/Proto Sounds 2!**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

Lionel 6-18934 Reading Alco FA-2 A-A's

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**

Lionel 6-2315 Operating Coaling Station



**Tickets on sale NOW! Tickets \$10.00 ea 3/\$25.00**

**Drawing date June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**You need not be present to win!**

## **2007 HUDSON RAFFLE** **THE RACE IS ON**

The first 50 tickets have been sold; the first four monthly winners have been drawn; the rest is up to you. This fund-raiser is now 19 years old, and going strong. Yes, you could be the winner this year, but only if you buy a ticket. What ticket, you ask? Read on.

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

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

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

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

## Railfanning in Albuquerque by Peter Atonna

One of the pleasures of retirement is to be able to do some of the things you have talked of doing, but didn't ever get to. For me, it was doing more railfanning. So, most recent years I have collected a few of our local club's similar rail nuts and put together 2 - 4 day trips of total train immersion. We always travel by Amtrak and visit layouts, ride commuter trains and light rail, go to hobby shops, whatever we can find. Our groups have run from three people to this year's record eight.

This year we just returned from Albuquerque, primarily to ride the newly installed Rail Runner Express commuter trains. But the reason for this tale is to tell you how these trips are really often made most enjoyable by friends in the area who help us making local arrangements. In this case I had been communicating with Mike Shea, former Arizonan, now living in the Albuquerque area about our visit. I then got a note from Greg Palmer, president of our New Mexico chapter, offering to help with arrangements. He had heard about our trip from Mike.

With the help of these two fellows, we had a great, fun packed two days. Leaving from Williams at 5am on Monday, we arrived in Albuquerque at noon in time to pick up our car and head to the site of the restoration of Santa Fe Northern #2926 (yes, there may soon be another beautiful historic steamer running in the West). From there we went back downtown to ride the Rail Runner, three hours of train travel for \$3 a head! Greg then joined us for dinner and a trip to his home to host us at his really nice prewar layout and collection (yes, he also has some postwar, but lots of really neat prewar trains and accessories). A house and yard full of collectables interested all of our, not really tinplaters, group.

To the motel by 11 PM, we started Tuesday with an early opening for us at the hobby shop where Greg works. Now our Prescott group is not known for throwing money around, but in this case I noted that everybody left with a bag full. From there we headed to Mike Shea's house to the south near Belen to visit his multitude of layouts in HO and O gauge (and a slot car track which Mike Nelson made sure he got to play with). Mike then led us to the BNSF yards for a visit to their servicing facility and a tour of the restored Belen Harvey House and the HO layout the local club operates there.

With a 4 PM train departure, we then headed north to the Albuquerque train station and an on time Amtrak departure. Dinner in the diner for all and we happily dozed through the sunset across eastern Arizona and our 10pm arrival back at Williams.

Thanks to neat people like Greg and Mike, this year's trip was great fun. Mary Jane says I run the fellows (and one gal) ragged, but what the heck, we are retired and can sleep in the next morning.



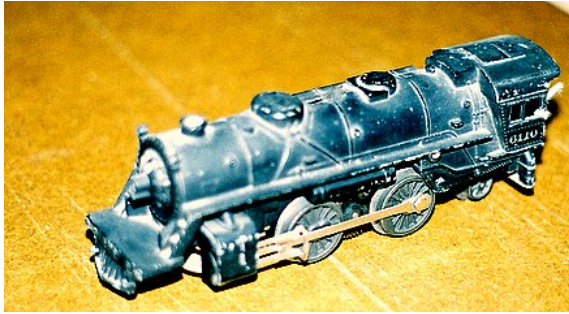
The Reason for the trip, New Mexico's "Rail Runner"



Open House at Chapter President Greg Palmer's



## Rio Grande Chapter Meet Photos



Buerette Hagan's first loco



Greg Palmer's Pre-war clockwork Marklin



Left to Right: George Domeny, Ross Jordan and George Swajian discuss trains before the business meeting



John Trever's very rare Lionel #260 silver bumper which lead to an informative discussion of variations



Tour of AT&SF #2926 restoration project with Chapter member and tour guide Jon Spargo



To follow the restoration progress visit the New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Rail Historical Society website: <http://www.nmslrhs.org>

## Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

A wonderful spring day greeted the Rio Grande Chapter members at the May 12th Meet. Tom Lawler, Mike Shea, and I brought trains to sell or swap. Over half of our membership was at this Meet. The Education Show and Tell segment started off with Ross Jordan, TCA#07-60917, who brought three Lionel semi-scale, Pre-war cars. He obtained the hard to find cars on E-bay. The cars were purchased to complete his set headed by his Lionel 226E locomotive. Ross brought his 2226W tender to the March Chapter Meet. It is a very excellent C7 set. The 2954 Boxcar, 2955 Tank Car, and the 2956 Hopper Car, are all C7 condition. Congratulations Ross! Everett Hagan, TCA# 06-59954, brought his first Lionel Steam Locomotive. He has gotten it to operate, but still keeps the Locomotive and Cars on a shelf to admire. I brought a Marklin Pre War clockwork O Gauge Locomotive and Passenger Car. John Trever, TCA#05-58604, brought, to show the members, his scarce silver Lionel 260 bumper, with its original box. During the discussion, on the Lionel 260 Bumper, Dale Schafer TCA#90-32477 gave us a lesson on the various variations of the Lionel 260 Bumper. Dale, who is a member of the TCA Standards Committee, is very knowledgeable about Lionel post war trains. If you need any information on TCA Grading Standards or variations of Lionel pre-war or postwar items please feel free to contact Dale Schafer or myself, as we both represent the Rio Grande Chapter on the TCA Standards Committee and will be more than willing to assist you and answer your toy train questions. The Chapter business meeting opened with discussion of options for the March Las Cruces Meet. Everyone was encouraged to attend the Denver TCA National Convention, in June. Several Chapter members said they were going. I will be there, in the trading pits with several tables, as well as our new Chapter Membership Display. I will also have the display at the May 19th New Mexico Railroad Fair, at the NM State Fairgrounds. Chapter fund raising activities were discussed. One item to be produced are Billboards, for use on Lionel, or High Rail layouts, using the New Mexico Railrunner Commuter Train for the advertisement subject. We will keep the Division and Chapter posted on the progress of this project. Paul Hurford, John Trever, and Ross Jordan are in charge of this fund raiser. Thanks guys for helping the Chapter. The Chapter members at the Meet also passed a motion that we form a TCA Rio Grande Chapter Kids Club, and Junior Membership Program. Vice-President Dale Schafer, TCA#90-32477, wants the Chapter to design any operating layout-module to have accessory buttons and operating controls on the outside of the layout, at kids height, to facilitate operation of the layout module by children. We adjourned to the restoration site of the Santa Fe 2926 Steam Locomotive. Chapter member Jon Spargo, TCA# 05-59326, was our tour guide. The hour and half we spent at the site was a super experience. I hope other Chapter members get on the groups website at [www.nmslrhs.org](http://www.nmslrhs.org) Once again thanks goes to Jon Spargo and the staff of the NMSLRHS.

Our next Rio Grande Chapter Meet will be Saturday September 15th at 10:00AM. It will be at the Sombra Del Monte Church 2528 Utah N.E., Albuquerque, NM. Please bring items to show and tell, and bring train items to sell and swap. Tables are free. The topics for the September 15th Chapter Meet will be Mike Shea, TCA# 02-54097, who is going to bring one of each of his collection of Lionel, MTH, K-Line, Weaver, and Williams trains. He will go over their differences and similarities. Sounds interesting. We also might have a plastics expert, from Scandia National Labs, talk about old plastic repair, and old plastic identification. So do not miss the next Chapter Meet. Have a great summer vacation, and I hope to see all of you at the TCA National Convention in Denver this June.



Above: The Chapter's new member recruitment display.  
Right: Buerette Hagan, Mike Shea, and Marlin Janzen stop and shop for trains at the meet.







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MESA MODELS/MESA TRAINS - Valley's largest selection of building and structure kits, layout details and accessories at everyday discount prices. Scales include O, On3/On30, HO and now adding G scale products. The store has just been expanded and has newly expanded hours, 12 (Noon) to 6 PM Tu-Fri; 10-5 Saturday. Visit our website at <https://www.mesamodels.net> 6032 E McKellips Road, Mesa (NE corner of McKellips/Recker Road) 480-357-8800.

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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](mailto:4aztrains@earthlink.net).

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

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

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

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
DESERT DIVISION**

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

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### COMING EVENTS

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| June 9              | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM<br>8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald Roads  |
| <b>June 24-30</b>   | <b>TCA National Convention – Westminster, CO</b>   |
| July 14             | Division Mini-Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM  |
| <b>August 18</b>    | <b>“Beat the Heat” Meet</b> – Prescott, AZ – 9 AM<br>See flyer inside for more information   |
| September 8         | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM   |
| September 15        | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM<br>Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque NM   |
| <b>September 27</b> | 2nd Annual <b>Rio Grande Chapter “Pumpkin Meet”</b> - 9 AM.<br>Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah N.E., Albuquerque, NM<br>Contact Bill Spofford ph# 505-821-4051 or Gregory Palmer ph# 505-898-3840 |

Have You **PADE** Your Way?

### PADE PROMOTIONS

**P**urchase raffle tickets

**A**uthor an article for the Dispatch

**D**onate something to the club

**E**nlist to help

Mel Firestone presented the Desert Division with a very generous monetary donation, for which we thank him.

Our May Show and Tell featured items from Paul Wassermann, and Jonathan Peiffer. Thank you to all who participate in this aspect of our Division's activities. Phil Todd and Christie Wilson contributed items to benefit to the Convention fund.

Thank-you to Laurel Allen, who ably handled the kitchen in April, and to Chris Allen for his help with the newsletter.

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