

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



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SUMMER IS AROUND THE CORNER

With all the 100° days that we have already had here in the Valley of the Sun, it's hard to believe that summer won't officially be here until we are ready to head off to the TCA National Convention in Atlanta later this month. But record heat did not deter the Division faithful from showing up for the May meet. The tables were filled early and anxious buyers were looking for "fallout" items from April's Pizza Meetza auction. Often when items are combined into one lot at an auction and the buyer was only looking for one, the unwanted pieces show up the next month at good prices, and a few tables had some of these for sale. President Peiffer opened the General Meet with the announcement that Division Secretary Angelo Lautazi was suffering from jet lag, having arrived in town only four hours earlier from his recent and well deserved vacation, so there would be no membership report. Jonathan then introduced the guests that were present. Bill Herron, a friend of Sam McElwee, was introduced and said that he would be giving a short talk about the railroads in China during the Meet. Treasurer Herman reported \$56,288.96 in Savings and \$10,653.42 in checking. Under Old Business Jonathan reminded the members to get their registration in for the National TCA Convention as tours were filling up and the early bird registration was set to expire soon. (editors note: Early Bird registration is now closed but you can still make all of your hotel, taxi, and convention registrations by visiting the Dixie Division website at <http://www.dixiedivisiontca.com>) Next under old business Jonathan reported that the third in a series of Atlas Beer reefers has seen an unfortunate delay due to the consolidation of toy train manufacturers in China. Correspondence between Peter Atonna and Atlas has indicated a delay of a year and maybe longer. Peter did contact Weaver who indicated that they could complete the reefer sooner if we decided to have them manufacture the car. Several members noted that this was the third car of a set of A-1 Beer Reefers and that the collectability and desirability of the three car set would be greatly diminished if the first two cars were manufactured by Atlas and the third car in the set by anyone else. A vote that was called to show support for having Atlas be the manufacturer of the final car in the set passed unanimously. Marty Wik then

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

*** New Location ***

June 1 – 2 Gadsden Pacific TTOM Train Swap Meet – Tucson EXPO Center – Tucson, AZ

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

June 23 – July 1 – 58th TCA National Convention – Atlanta, GA

July 14th – Desert Division “mini” Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

August 18 – Central AZ Model Railroad Club - Beat the Heat Meet – Prescott, AZ – 9 AM
(ride the bus information inside)

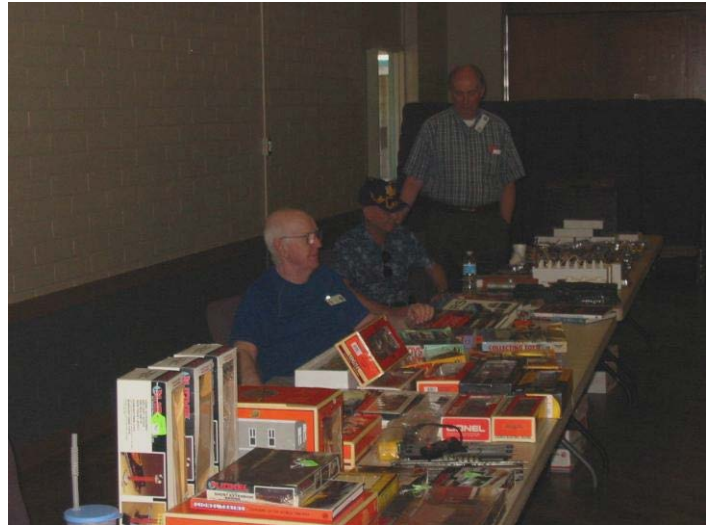
gave a detailed debriefing on the recently held Goodyear Rods and Rails show. Everyone agreed that the event was off to a great start and business was very good early in the morning. Ron White, a founding Division member, helped coordinate the sales tables and layouts along with Beth Stange. The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders brought their module and set it up outside and the “new” old guys in town, the Fountain Hills S Gaugers had a layout inside as well. Everything went well except for the early arrival of summer and the 100° plus temperatures we had that day. Once they kicked in both the Pebble Creek Car Club and the City of Goodyear who were sponsoring the food tent saw business drop off. Chris Allen reported that this was the first time in many shows that trains came walking in the door for us to buy and evaluate. Bob Johnston voiced an opinion that many others agreed with that the club should pursue this avenue of co-sponsorship with other clubs outside of our normal area. Marty pointed out that the Pebble Creek Car Club did all of the advertising at no cost to our club and that they were open to doing it again. President Peiffer then asked Marty a question about his speeder that he had on display. Seems that during the time when he and other members were providing the motive power to get the speeder into position he noticed “traction tires” were installed. Marty replied that his speeder had originated in Washington state and that the rubberized wheels were used to increase traction in the rainy weather that is common to that area. As President Peiffer opined, traction tires on toy trains are more proto-typical than we first thought. Under New Business President Peiffer noted that the Spring Raffle Drawing would be held next month at the June General Meeting and that tickets are still available. He also announced (since the next issue of the DISPATCH will be in early August as the “Summer Issue”) about the upcoming July “mini” meet. The Division started the “mini” meet for those of us who do not escape the Valley and live here year round. There is no Business Meeting and there will be no raffle or Hudson drawing but if you are in town, feel free to stop in a share a chat with friends. Also a reminder about the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club’s Beat The Heat Meet that is coming up in August. The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders will be running a bus up the hill again and contact information is available elsewhere in this issue if you’d like to leave the driving to a professional. The bus company they use is the same one the Division contracted during our last National Convention. Bill Herron then got up and spoke to the members about the Rail systems in China from his perspective as a long time business man and customer. A synopsis of his presentation is inside. The Division suffered from a lack of memorable trains or had a memory loss. Gordon Wilson had on display the four versions of the 1949 catalog mentioned in his article last month. Gordon mentioned that his bringing a display of military loads and variations to an Atlantic Division Meet lead him to meeting Bruce Greener. Bruce hired Gordon to write for his publications and in so doing, while reading Robert Osterhoff’s Greenberg’s Guide to Lionel Paper and Collectibles he first learned of a variation in the 1949 catalog. So began the search in 1985 that was finally completed at spring York. (after Gordon’s talk I know I went home and looked at my 1949 catalogs, just on the chance that my search might be little shorter than his – ed.) Terry Bunish was next up and had on display his first train from Christmas 1955. Unfortunately Terry reported that it is no longer complete as the cars in the set got separated and he accidentally sold one of them. Winners of the May raffle prizes, Ken Barnes – Hudson ticket, Brad Martin - Lionel Online Boxcar, Marty Wik – Cottonbelt Boxcar, Jonathan Peiffer C&O Boxcar, Jim Vokac – TCA visor and TCA 50th Anniversary plate and stand, Larry Teresi – Toy Trains Vol. 1 & 2, Tony Saulina – Lionel 2012 Catalog and Division Holiday members gift. The winner for the Hudson \$100 drawing was Sam McElwee. Congratulations winners and thank you all for your donations or purchasing raffle tickets to support the Desert Division.

JUNE EDUCATIONAL TOPIC – HOT TIMES/HOT TRAINS

Summer and trains don’t normally mix. We tend to spend less time with our toy trains during the summer months and more time on vacations with family and friends. A few of us are lucky to mix those vacation plans with a train excursion during that time off and there are several such trips planned this summer in Atlanta with the National Convention I hope you will be able to enjoy. But don’t just limit your thoughts to train travel. With the summer temperatures with us for good, what train reminds you of summer heat? One of my all time favorites is the Fast Eddie’s Salsa Smoking Tank Car. Let your imagination run wild! Hot cars, hot food, hot times, let’s see what sun baked ideas you can come up with and bring to the June General Meet.



Bill Freeman was selling next to John Wiley but had to get a closer look at John's items, while Gerry Klei is busy getting change for another happy customer



Business on the other side of the hall wasn't as bad as the look on Ken Barnes' face indicates. After all the coffee and donuts were still free! Sam McElwee and guest Bill "lucky charm" Herron agree



A sleepy Division Secretary sips on his coffee as the meeting gets underway. Ralph and Sally Treichel filled in for Barbara and Angelo while Diane Martin assisted at the meet.



Terry Bunish with a photo of himself playing with his then new Lionel train set from the Christmas of 1955. The set unfortunately became separated in his collection and he sold one of the cars.



Larry Teresi is all smiles with his raffle prize!



Sam McElwee says he plans to bring more guests to the meets if they can all bring him this kind of luck!