TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



Volume 34, No. 2

March, 2005

VALENTINES SWEET MEET

An overflow crowd filled the Jaycees Hall, the second Saturday of January 2005, and toy train enthusiasm was at a high pitch as all the tables and seats were filled. New members Roger Brandell and Larry Teresi along with visitors Roger Meekhof and Michael DeSantis, Great Lakes Division members, received a warm DD welcome.

Treasurer Bob Herman reported that we have \$20,997.33 in the Savings Account and \$5,106.59 in Checking. The Trains for Kids club netted \$24 from the January Meet as a result of the profit from the monthly raffles.

Work progresses on the creation of a New Mexico Chapter of the Desert Division. On Saturday, February 5, Chris Allen and Katie Elgar went to Albuquerque at the invitation of the New Mexico TTOS. They report an enthusiastic group of individuals who are excited about the prospect of having TCA functions in New Mexico.

President Allen reminded club members that Trains, Planes, Automobiles, and Up On 2 Wheels, a Rotary International Charity Program, will be held on March 5. The Kids Club Module will be set up in the hangar on Friday afternoon. Admission on Saturday is \$10, which includes admission to the Air Force Museum as well as all the displays.

Thomas Plies announced the winners of the Attendance Award for 2004. Nathaniel Davis, Mark Huber, and Abigail Davis all received awards. In addition, Angie Davis received her award for being selected the club's "Volunteer of the Year – 2004."

This year the Hudson Raffle rules have been altered. At each meet only one ticket will be drawn. If the owner is in attendance, he/she will receive the \$100 bill. If the owner is not in attendance, a \$25 check will be mailed to him/her. A second chance will not be drawn, so on some months the \$100 may not be awarded; on the other hand all ticket holders, regardless of whether or not they are in attendance, have a chance to win.

A sign-up sheet was circulated for people to indicate their interest in receiving the newsletter electronically instead of through the Post Office. At the moment this is a pilot program. Members will still receive hard copies until all the bugs have been worked out. Any savings generated by reduced printing/mailing costs will go to the Convention 2009 Fund. Rosters will be ready in early March. Updates to the roster will be available at the Meets 4 times a year or by mail, if requested, for a member.

The remaining dark blue Division shirts are being sold at \$20 each. In order to use an "in-store credit," we will order a few golf shirts in maroon. These will cost \$30 each. Katie Elgar is the person to contact concerning these last few logo shirts.

Steve Bienstock suggested that members donate quality items to the Division for sale in the April Auction. Upon receipt of an item, the Division will send the donor a tax letter, for use on 2005 returns. We hope to upgrade the quality of items sold at the April Auction. Members are asked not to offer used track or other low-bid items, but rather items which will bring in bids of \$10 or more. At the Auction, those items donated to the Division will be so labeled. Then bidders will know that the proceeds are going to the club, rather than to an individual.

The 2009 TCA National Convention is now only four and one half years away. Serious committee work is getting underway, and as part of the increased effort, Ed Micale announced that there will be a "Logo Contest" for the 2009 Convention. Anyone with an idea may sketch it out and submit it by May 1, 2005. Submit your drawings to Ed Micale either through the mail or electronically. This will be a "Star Spangled Convention" so graphic art incorporating flags, fireworks, patriotic themes, in addition to southwestern train motifs are suggested. In the year prior to the convention, Sky Harbor Airport has offered us protected display space where we can promote the TCA. This may prove to be a very productive and innovative way of promoting our club and the TCA Convention.

COMING UP...

March 5 Planes, Trains, Etc. – Falcon Field, Mesa – 10 AM
March 12 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM
March 18-20 Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara, CA
April 9 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, - 9 AM
April 16 Spring Picnic, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – Noon

The Educational Segment started with John Craft's Carlyle & Finch train, ca. 1905. This company was a pioneer manufacturer of toy trains in the United States. His set featured a #4 Engine, #11 gondola, and #46 caboose. John says he likes the old stuff. "The older the train, the younger I feel." This is truly a Museum piece and we thank John for sharing it with the rest of the club. Gordon Wilson shared his Polar Express items: a mug with a sound chip in it to sound like a train, the Polar Express extra car made by Bobby Salerno, a Lionel Dealer poster, and a Hallmark poster advertising Polar Express items. Gordon also shared a KMT (Kris Model Trains) TCA Division car made in 1975 for the Southern Division, honoring their Clearwater, Florida Convention. Ed Micale showed off a Mega Blocks (like Legos) train. It came in pieces which Ed put together in about 4 hours. He also brought his 1925 AC Gilbert Airplane. This one was factory built, and riveted together, probably as a dealer display. It has a swivel plate which one attaches to the ceiling near an electrical switch. Attached to the swivel plate are several exposed wire ends and from it hangs some separated wiring. Ed said he was afraid to plug it in, so you can imagine what might have happened in 1925 when a child tried to play with this toy! Paul Wassermann brought two Marx sets with the word "Reversible" written on the box. One has a #897 engine and features the red roof "Man in the Door" car, with the man lithographed on the side of the car. The second reversible was a UP Streamliner set, in the original box with the original inserts to hold the various pieces of the train set in place. Also exhibited was a Varney HO ten-wheeler freight set, new in the box.

The Mystery Greeter was Roger Brandell. He named Terry Hass as the winner of the 10 free tickets. Later one of those Mystery Greeter tickets won a raffle prize. Prize winners are listed below:

Roger Brandell Hudson Raffle Ticket

Terry Haas K-Line Texas and Pacific Stock Car
Diane Martin Lionel Maine Central Box Car
Chet Henry Lionel Lines Bucyrus Erie Crane Car

Peter Atonna Lionel Caboose – Holiday 93 Art Triant Corgi Lionelville Fire Truck

Margaret Butler K-Line Aviation Fighter Plane (donated to Kids Club)

Thomas Plies Book - Classic American Railroads

The winner of the \$100 bill was Roger Brandell. Looking at the ticket stub, it was noted that this was the ticket he had won as a raffle prize earlier in the meet.

The Meeting adjourned to the home of Paul Wassermann, where our After Meet Visitation was held.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Do you want to save the Division some money and yourself some extra paper? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. As you read in the lead article of this issue, we are currently doing this on a trial basis. You will still receive your newsletter in the mail until we have worked out all of the kinks, bugs, and problems. 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.

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E-Mail Address

DONATED TRAINS = TAX DEDUCTION

Many of us have train items we carry to meet after meet after meet. How would you like to dispose of that or other pieces and get some monetary credit for it? Here's how!!

Donate that piece (must have a Greenberg Guidebook value of \$10 or more) to the Division and you will receive an official letter acknowledging your tax-deductible donation. The Desert Division, one of 20 geographic Divisions of the Train Collectors Association, is a non-profit 501c3 Federal tax-exempt organization.

You may begin bringing those spare and extra toy train items with you to the March 12 Meet. If you are not going to be in attendance, you may ship the item to: Christie Wilson, Secretary, Desert Division, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. It is Christie who will provide you with your 501c3 Federal Tax Exempt letter. Be sure to include your name, address, and TCA number. Many thanks for your generosity.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 9, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Don Locke. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-854-2546 to be sure there are enough chairs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Seems like 2005 is starting as busy as 2004 left off and, with the same level of enthusiasm we had last year, it should be a great year. The February meet saw many returning faces and a few new ones, and one of them had quite a lucky day. Roger Brandell, who is returning to the hobby after many years, had one of those legendary Desert Division first meetings. As many of you regular meet attendees know, I like meeting "new comers" and often pick them as our "Mystery Greeter." I met Roger prior to meeting our other new member, Larry Teresi, and Roger agreed to be our mystery greeter that day. Both Roger and Larry moved throughout the Jaycees Hall and I'm happy to report that many of you made them feel welcome to the Division. However, another rather new member, Terry Haas, made the biggest impression and was the recipient of the ten free Mystery Greeter raffle tickets. But Roger did his part too, and purchased a few tickets of his own. Wouldn't you know it, one of Roger's tickets was the first one pulled. After truthfully explaining the nuances of how the "forlorn looking Hudson" ticket just might be the best choice for him, Roger pulled the next raffle winner, Terry Haas, who won on his "Mystery Greeter" ticket! That in itself is the stuff that Desert Division legends are made of, but the story has an unbelievable ending. You see, that Hudson ticket that we talked Roger into - you got it, it was pulled for the first \$100 prize of the year!

Speaking of the Hudson drawing, we are changing the rules ever so slightly this year to show our thanks to the many of you who live outside of the Division "commute" area. As many of you know in prior years if you weren't present when we pulled the Hudson ticket, we continued to pull them until we had a winner. While nice for those of us who live close by, what about those of you who can't make every meet yet buy the Hudson ticket to help support the Division? How can the Division show it's thanks to you? Well, this year we are trying something different. This year we will pull only one Hudson ticket each month. If you are present at the meet when it's pulled, CONGRATULATIONS, you still win the \$100. However, if you are one of our members who can't make every meet, yet still faithfully buy your ticket, THANK YOU! We will mail you \$25 for your loyalty. Let me know your thoughts on this new change to your Hudson drawing.

Also presented at the February meeting was Director Steve Bienstock's idea to jumpstart the convention bank account. Steve proposed that you select one item that is worth at least \$10 and donate it to the Desert Division for the Spring Pizza Meetza auction. You would get the tax deduction, the Pizza Auction gets some nice items, and the 2009 Convention Committee gets a nice jumpstart to their fund raising efforts. It was also suggested and adopted that

we would let the bidders know which items were donated, and that you bring your donated items to the March General Meet. By bringing your items early, you will help us take some of the stress off Chet Henry and the Pizza Meetza crew. In addition, Ed Micale, the 2009 Convention Chair reported that the steering committee is looking for ideas for a Convention logo. If you have any artistic ability or even an idea that you could relate in an e-mail, Ed would like to hear from you. Look for further information elsewhere in this issue and a new PRIZE that was added to the contest.

As always, I saved the best news for last. Vice President Katie Elgar and I were invited by the TTOS New Mexico Division to attend their February open meet held in Albuquerque so as to talk to their members and other toy train enthusiasts about establishing a New Mexico Chapter for the TCA. WOW, what a warm reception! We handed out flyers, answered questions, met old and new Division members, and had just a wonderful time. Our thanks go out to Greg Palmer, TTOS New Mexico Division President, for allowing us the opportunity to talk to the TTOS members and answer any questions they might have. The Desert Division has worked very closely with the TTOS Grand Canyon Division and both clubs share a bond that goes back many years. We would like to encourage that kind of bond in New Mexico, as two clubs working together lessens the workload of each, yet doubles the pleasure the members have as they enjoy the uniqueness each organization has to offer. It looks very encouraging that New Mexico will have an additional group of toy train aficionados shortly as they will be forming a steering committee and begin the process of organizing a new chapter in TCA. Greg, who is also a Desert Division member and attends most Turkey Meets (when the High Country weather permits), did an impromptu Open House for us Friday evening prior to the meet and I have pictures of his layout elsewhere in this issue. As a side note, in Phoenix on the trip out, the TSA confiscated my 4" crescent wrench that was in my carry on, saying it was a prohibited item. On the return trip, I hand carried a ZW transformer that I had just bought with nary a raised eyebrow. The X-Ray scanner agent said his Dad had one "just like it" when he was a kid.

Vice-President Katie Elgar will be presiding over the March Meet as my family and I take our bi-annual journey to California to cut, split, and stack firewood for next winter's heating at my Dad's house. When he retired and bought ten wooded acres in this rural area of the Sierra foothills and named it "Allen's Back Ache'rs", he wasn't kidding!

Hope to see you soon!

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An Awesome Albuquerque Layout By Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

On our recent trip to Albuquerque, Katie Elgar and I had the chance to visit with Desert Division member Greg Palmer and view his wonderful layout. Greg's train room is an eclectic mix of postwar and prewar trains and toys, and you couldn't help but notice that the way they were displayed had an almost museum-like feel. That is, until we learned that Greg is a retired school librarian. On two walls Greg has his trains on shelves as they were offered in sets, rather than the more typical, rows of engines, boxcars, tank cars and so on. On another wall he has his original boxes aligned as if you were in a 1950's hobby shop, ready to pluck your purchase off the shelf, while the remaining wall housees his ample work bench to repair trains. Close at hand is a rather unique Coke machine that dispenses your bottle for six cents! Yep, it will take a nickel and a penny to get the real thing in Greg's train room. One thing I've learned is that nobody really retires, and Greg is no exception as he works occasionally for Albuquerque's only 100% train store, Trains West. But when he's not at work, he continues to scour the high country for trains, toys, and antiques.









Some of the more unique features of Greg's room are evident in these photos. Below the shelves of trains is a section of track that contains many of Greg's operating postwar accessories. The 4' x 12' layout is strictly prewar with a loop of Standard, "O", and "027" for his collection of American Flyer, Bing, Ives, Lionel, and Marx trains. The layout also features one of Greg's favorite "kit bashes," though it's quite a stretch to call it that. Inside his prewar Power Station Greg set a working 1895 steam generator. While he doesn't "fire it up," the old classic toy looks like a natural when you view it through one of the Power Station's windows. Presently Greg is the President of the T.T.O.S. New Mexico Chapter. He has introduced us to many of the fine folks over in New Mexico who want to get their own TCA Chapter started. A Desert Division member since 1994, Greg also regularly attends the Turkey Meet each fall. So keep an eye out for him; he'll be easy to spot with his warm smile and friendly handshake.

"THERE'VE BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE"

The Desert Division's unique Hudson Raffle has been in place since 1989, the brainchild of then Treasurer Cole Gibbs. The rules and regs of this "classic" have remained constant, until this month. Prior to this coming meet in March, a ticket holder had to be present at the monthly meet in order to win the \$100 bill. That much remains the same, BUT and that BUT is where the change has been made.

We still will sell only 100 numbered raffle tickets at \$25 each. Now, however, only ONE ticket per meet will be drawn. If the person whose name is on the ticket is present, the "C" note will still be awarded. If the name on the selected ticket is NOT present, the cost of the ticket (\$25) will be awarded.

This change is being done for two reasons. First, we recognize that many persons purchase tickets but are unable to attend every meet. We wish to reward this continued loyalty to the Division. Second, and just as important, is that many of you who do not live close to where our meets are held will recognize the fact that you too have an equal opportunity to be monetarily rewarded the cost of a ticket, while still having a chance to win the Hudson.

To purchase 2005 Desert Division, 773 Hudson Raffle tickets via mail, send a check or money order made payable to "Desert Division, TCA." Tickets are \$25 each and there is no limit to the number you may purchase. Send your request for tickets to: Robert Herman, Treasurer, Desert Division TCA, 11429 N. 68th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Be sure you include your name, address, and TCA number. Good luck!!

PREPARE FOR THE FAMOUS "PIZZA MEETZA"

Are you ready? April 9 is coming and so is our Division's legendary Pizza Meetza! It is a meet like no other. First is our regular monthly meet, then comes <u>ALL</u> the pizza you can eat, and finally our afternoon concludes with a 100-lot auction.

What is in the AUCTION? Well, that is up to you, the Division Member. First, there will be the items you have donated to the club. (See article "Donated Trains = Tax Deduction" elsewhere in this bulletin.) Second, you may sell your own items. For a single entry fee of \$5.00, you may place for auction a "lot" of toy trains, either singly or in groups. For each lot there is a \$5.00 fee and, should you wish, you may designate a minimum bid on any, or none, of your lots. We will make available only 100 lot tickets. You may purchase one or all 100 (if you're first in line), but when they are gone, there will be no more until next April's Pizza Meetza. Tickets may be reserved starting at the March 12 Meet, so make sure that you do not miss out. The club takes no sales commission, regardless of what dollar amount the lot may bring - this is a service done strictly for our members.

How can you miss? A regular meet to buy, sell, trade, and swap tales with friends, then a feast of every imaginable kind of Pizza you ever dreamed about and some you may never have known existed. There will be somewhere between 30 and 40 large-sized Pizzas. Our all-time undisputed TCA record is a total of 50 at one Pizza Meetza.

So now, ARE YOU MORE READY? Mark down April 9 on your calendar. Bring your family, purchase some Auction lots, and above all – Enjoy the Day and a very special Pizza Meetza!



Here we see Greg Palmer's "6 &" Coca Cola dispenser. There's surely no inflation in Albuquerque.

How many different manufacturers' products can you identify in this "snapshot" of Greg Palmer's layout?



VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

FABULOUS FEBRUARY FUN



John Craft spoke of feeling "much younger" than his very, very old Carlyle & Finch Electric Train Set from near the turn of the 20^{th} Century.



The now highly sought after Lionel Dealers Polar Express poster was one on many P. E. items shown by Gordon Wilson.



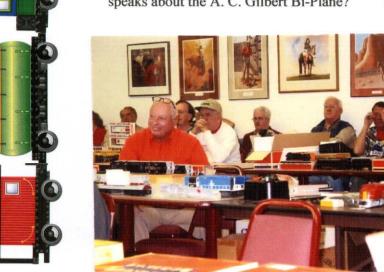
A Varney HO Locomotive Kit in a pristine box was one of Paul Wassermann's contributions.



Why is Ed Micale looking to the ceiling as he speaks about the A. C. Gilbert Bi-Plane?



Roger Brandell receives the first Hudson Raffle "C" note of the year at his first meet.



Is this an ATTENTIVE audience or What?

TCA 2009 CONVENTION LOGO CONTEST

How would you like to be eligible to win \$100 at each Desert Division Meet and the 1964 Lionel 773 Hudson in November? "Aha," you are thinking, "this is an article explaining the Division's Annual Hudson Raffle." Well, you are wrong! One *HUDSON RAFFLE* ticket is going to be offered as a prize in the recently announced **TCA 2009 CONVENTION LOGO CONTEST**.

Between your receipt of this announcement and May 1, 2005, you may conjure up (Shakespearean term) and submit as many ideas for the Desert Division to use as a LOGO to help promote the upcoming 2009 TCA National Convention as you wish. Please take notice here that the key word is IDEA(S). Yes, you are going to be asked to draw your idea on an 8.5" x 11" piece of white paper, BUT you may be as primitive or elaborate as you wish. As we stated, the optimum word is IDEA(S), not how professional your "artwork" looks, although quite obviously the better it looks the easier it will be to interpret. We have a plan for taking what the Convention Steering Committee deems as the best idea and turning it into an eye-catching, attention grabbing logo which will be synonymous with not only the Convention, but also with the well-accepted ideals of the Desert Division.

To perhaps give you a "heads up" on where you might wish to go with your "brainstorming," consider that this Convention is the first ever to be held beyond the normal dates of the last full week in June. Our concluding Banquet at the JW MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE RESORT will be held on Saturday night, JULY 4, 2009 – our Nation's Birthday. That is why we already have a MOTTO – remember the 1997 Convention and "By the Time I Get to Phoenix"? Just in case you have not heard the Motto for 2009, here it is: "A STAR-SPANGLED CONVENTION!"

The very name implies fireworks, parades, and patriotic activities. Combine all of that with TOY TRAINS, and the possibilities are not just mind-boggling, but endless.

Let your imagination flow. No idea is too wild, just as none will be too tame. We're looking for just the right mix of reality and fantasy to provide a worthy LOGO for such an earth-moving Convention. The 1997 Convention took all previous TCA Conventions to a new level of excitement. We'd like for this one to raise the bar for the next decade even higher. YOUR imagination can help do that.

Here's all you need to do: 1. Put your idea down on an 8.5" x 11" piece of white paper. That may be done in any color of ink, pencil, paint, or crayon. 2. It may be completely colored/shaded/elaborate or just plain. If you feel you have some artistic ability, show it off! The object is to be sure that your idea(s) are readily apparent to the Steering Committee 3. On the page side opposite from the drawing/sketch/artwork, be sure to plainly PRINT your name, address, phone number, and TCA number and any explanation which you feel might enhance your sketch's idea(s). 4. You may submit as many entries as you wish. 5. Place it in an envelope and address it to ED MICALE, 2009 Convention Chairperson, 7498 E. Mary Sharon Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85262 or you may send it to Ed via the Internet. His email address is: ed027@qwest.net 6. All entries must be received on or before May 1, 2005.

The winning entry will be announced at the Desert Division's JUNE Monthly Meet and the LOGO will be unveiled (with credit given to the winning entry) at the 2005 TCA National Convention in Seattle, Washington this JUNE. Should you be in attendance, we will introduce you to the entire TCA Board of Directors. The prize of one (1) 773 HUDSON RAFFLE TICKET will be awarded at the June Division Meet and will immediately become eligible to win the monthly prize, as well as the main prize in November. Theoretically, that one ticket could win for each of the next three meets (\$300 maximum & \$75 minimum) and then win the \$1,500 #773 Lionel 1964 Hudson Locomotive and Tender. It could multiply into an \$1,800 prize plus your logo will forever be connected with the 2009 TCA Convention.

There you have it, a contest with absolutely NO negatives. To win it, all you need to have is a very imaginative idea put down on paper. The winning entry will certainly gain more than the proverbial "15 minutes of fame." AND --- that entry COULD come from you!!!!!! NOW, go get a paper and pencil!!!

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

PADE PROMOTIONS

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

Margaret Butler donated her raffle prize, a K-Line plastic model airplane kit, to the Kids Club. Mel Firestone gave the club a booklet for use as a raffle prize. Greg Palmer donated a Reindeer Car for use on the Zoo Module. Ken Burling is researching information on the Berkshire Locomotive.

Greg Novak gave the Kids Club a Coal Loader accessory to be used on their big module. Tom Stange and Steve Palmer continue to donate items for use as Raffle Prizes. The ladies in the kitchen this month were Laurel Allen and Denise Micale. Your name could appear in this column. You need only do something generous to improve the Division.

Desert



Division

NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

-8-

KIDS CLUB NEWS

By Rob Davis, John Huber, and Tom Plies

Abigail and Nathanial Davis attended Kids Club in February and made train decorated Valentines with the help of Angie Davis. Kids who attended the most TCA-DD Kids Club activities in 2004 were: 1st Place – Nathanial Davis, 2nd Place – Mark Huber, 3rd Place – Abigail Davis. Nathanial got a Polar Express passenger car Christmas stocking holder; Mark, an O-scale trailer truck; and Abigail, a Kids Club mascot bear named Cub-Boose. Kids received grab bag goodies.

A word from the Co-Chairs: If a birthday card comes back to Kids Club marked "No forwarding address," we assume that child is no longer an active member. Please keep Kids Club updated on any changes in the child's status; i.e., phone, address, etc.

Several members have made donations to the Kids Club. Find their names in the PADE Section. Also keep posted on future activities. Someday you might find the Kids Club painting a REAL FREIGHT CAR.



Cub-Boose Kids Club Mascot

Do you want to enroll someone "FREE" between the ages of 4 through 18 in the TCA Kids Club? Use the form below. Give it to one of the Kids Club Chairs at the Meet on March 12, and we will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.

	PLEASE PRINT
Name	
Address	
City	State ZIP Code
	SPONSOR INFORMATION
Sponsor Name	TCA No.
Phone No.	Relationship to Kid's Club Member







<u>Left</u> – Kids Club Attendance winners Nathanial and Abigail Davis receive their awards.

Right – Angie Davis was named 2004 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her work with the Kids Club. She received her award during the February Meet.

