



# Desert Division *DISPATCH*

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



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March, 2006

## TRAINS MAKE GREAT VALENTINES

At our jam-packed February Meet, we again welcomed Roger Meekhof, a new Desert Division member as of January's Meet. Also in attendance was David Tomeraasen from San Diego. The Treasurer reported that we have \$26,127.73 in savings and \$6,532.43 in checking. The Trains for Kids program has \$25.95. Visitation Chair Don Locke announced the sites for the rest of the year, beginning with his home today. About 20-25 people in attendance planned to visit the Lockes and partake of their chili dinner. Upcoming hosts include Bob Herman, Ken Barnes, Earl Rasmussen, Bob Keller, Bill Mack, Tom Plies, Angelo Lautazi, and Paul Wassermann.

The Albuquerque group submitted a petition signed by 26 TCA members in good standing to become a Chapter, hereinafter to be called the Rio Grande Chapter. They are including all of New Mexico and the Desert Division's twelve counties of West Texas as well. Their first official meeting will be March 18, at which time they will elect officers. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The Pizza Meetza is scheduled for April 8. Members should see Chet Henry to sign up for lots at \$5 each. Additionally, the Convention Committee is asking members to donate items earmarked for the Convention. These lots will be free to the seller. Chris Allen presented the 2009 Convention Report. Fundraising projects are currently being considered. Members are requested to bring in non-train Silent Auction items, such as a weekend at a resort or a gift certificate for a meal at a restaurant. Also, beginning at the March Meet, members may "recycle" their used cell phones by donating them to the club. There will be a box specifically for the phones (but not accessories such as chargers or car converters). These will then be sent to a company which pays for old out-of-service cell phones. The next shirt sale will feature the 2009 Convention Logo; right now the logo is at Antigua where it is being formatted to go onto a shirt. As soon as we see the results, we'll be ready to take orders.

Last month a motion was presented to change the term of offices so that all are the same – namely two years in duration. That motion was tabled until members had time to read it, think about it, and decide whether or not it was legal. The legality question was answered in the affirmative by both the Parliamentarian from the Pittsburgh Convention and a Philadelphia lawyer. Today's motion, made by Chris Allen and seconded by Paul Wassermann, is to place it on a ballot for a vote by the entire Desert Division membership. After much discussion, the motion passed. It will appear in three consecutive Desert Division newsletters; then ballots will be mailed first class to every member. Earl Rasmussen will serve as Election Chair, assisted by Chris Allen and Ralph Treichel.

Next was the presentation of 5-year awards. In attendance to receive their 5-year certificates were Bob Dymacek, Bob Mancus, and Ralph Treichel. Mickey Johnson qualified for a 20-year certificate, while Jerry Sienkiewicz has been a TCA member for 30 years.

The Kids Club received a very nice letter from Against Abuse, thanking them for the toy train donation. The letter was read to those in attendance and is now in the hands of the Secretary.

Paul Wassermann nominated Chris Allen for the position of TCA President-Elect. This nomination was seconded by Al Levin. The nomination was unanimously approved.

### COMING UP . . .

**MARCH 10-12 Nor-Cal – Santa Clara, CA**

**MARCH 11 DIVISION MEET – Jaycees Hall – 9 AM**

**MARCH 18 RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET – Albuquerque, NM- 10 AM**

**MARCH 18 TCA/TTOS PICNIC – McCormick Railroad Park – NOON**

**APRIL 8 "PIZZA MEETZA" – Jaycees Hall – 9 AM**

The Spring Picnic is March 18, beginning at Noon at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Brad Martin will cook the hot dogs. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts.

TCA National Convention Alternates this year will be Gordon Wilson, Christie Wilson, and Bob Herman. The Convention Hotel is filling fast. Anyone who wants to stay at that Hotel needs to make his or her reservation ASAP. Other upcoming activities include Nor-Cal on March 11, and York in April. There will be no “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles” this year.

Our Educational Segment began with Jonathan Peiffer who brought in three cast HO engines from the '60's and '70's. He had done the custom detailing himself. First was a Hobby Town undecorated kit which he immediately painted in his favorite line's colors. Next was a Mantua Pacific loco, which Jonathan had refurbished to the New Jersey Central style. The last was a treasure he had purchased for \$20 at the Los Arcos Mall, then proceeded to put \$100 into detail parts and 6 months into labor – a Pennsy E-6 with a K-4 tender. Jonathan switched to a Bowser tender which he then painted to go with the Pennsy E-6 engine. Bob Mancus brought in a #55 Dorfman engine, which still runs, but is not very powerful. Bob pointed out the freight cars and the magnificent detail in the lithographed cars. The trucks are also different – some have boxes over the bearings; some are silver, some brass. Paul Wassermann then gave Bob an ovation for his repair work. Paul's JAD Lines (made by John Daniels) GG-1 didn't run. The motors are in the wheels with a rubber band drive. The train is just too heavy for the motor. Bob got both motors to work. Another item in the set was a passenger car made of aluimilite which had cracked. Bob got it back together so that the repair is not noticeable. These cars have great detail – the dining car has tables with lamps on them and the coaches have upholstered seats, etc. The detail is great, but the mechanics leave much to be desired. On the theme of “Strange Things We Do To Our Trains,” Paul brought in a lighted Marx streamliner that works, but has a can opener hole in the top. Marx, for play value, would add accessories to their trains; this one has an aluminum punched out coin with the prototype on it. Next was a 1924 Ives set given to Paul by a patient. It has illuminated cars, probably a mid-range 0-gauge set of the time. A rare find was a 1939 booklet, hand typed, which is probably the text of a speech to temporary sales personnel hired to assemble and run Lionel trains during the holidays. In it are various sales strategies. One is to have promo sets which are not in the catalog, as bait to get customers to purchase more expensive models. Paul also brought in a grafted 763 cab and a boiler. Only inside can you see the seam where the two were joined. Outside, a little Charlie Wood gunmetal paint helped mask the juncture of the two items. Next was an American Flyer diesel which had the front coupler at the back end so the tender has too much space between it and the engine. Paul was about to do massive alterations on it, when Roger Meekhof said that removing two screws from the bottom and turning the chassis would do the trick. Paul now has a minor repair job instead of a major restoration! Last, as a Thank You to Bob Dennison for his superb restoration, Paul showed a classic pre-war work train which had been “abused.” It was rusted, dented, and in very sad shape. Bob restored it to like-new condition.

Both Hudson and monthly raffle ticket sales had been brisk all meet. At meets end, we were ready to award the prizes. The Silent Auction Lenny Dean Car went to high bidder Al Levin. The Mystery Greeter, Jerry Kopff, chose the 15<sup>th</sup> person who said “Hello” to him, Greg Novak, to receive the ten free raffle tickets. Thomas Uko, grandson of Brad and Diane Martin, pulled the first raffle ticket, which belonged to Dave Brown. The various prizes are listed below:

Dave Brown	Hudson Raffle Ticket
Roger Meekhof	OSH Calendar and Train Video
Ken Barnes	\$20, donated to Kids Club
Christie Wilson	Lionel NYC Crew Car
Art Triant	RailKing Sunoco Tank Car (donated by Arizona Train Depot)
Jonathan Peiffer	K-Line Coca Cola Accessories, donated to Kids Club
Marty Wik	Pepsi truck bank and Plasticville Building, donated to Kids Club

Rebecca Peiffer pulled the Hudson Raffle Ticket to win the \$100, and the winner was Tom Stange.

The meeting adjourned to the home of Don Locke, where members could play with trains and eat chili.



Bob Dymacek, Bob Mancus, and Ralph Treichel receive 5-year awards; Mickey Johnson 20-years, and Jerry Sienkiewicz, a 30-year award



Beth Stange caught here buying some early Hudson Tickets (It paid off for the Stange's later in the Meet!)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

It was great to see so many members in attendance for the February meet! There were lots of trains and train-related items on the tables for sale! You don't want to miss the chance to perhaps pick up that needed item, accessory or part and the monthly meeting is just the place you may be able to do that! The education part of the meeting certainly brings out some extremely interesting pieces that members choose to share. It was exciting to see all the members receiving certificates for 5-year increments of membership! National provides these certificates, which are suitable for framing!

This time of year brings a lot of train events to attend. Some of our division members will miss the March meeting due to the Nor-Cal Meet being held March 10, 11, and 12 in Santa Clara, CA. In April, Eastern Division sponsors its ever-famous York Meet in PA. Plump in the middle of these two super events is our own Ray Korte Memorial Spring Picnic. This annual event will be held at the Scottsdale Railroad Park on March 18. The major part of this event, the eating, will start at Noon. Our own Brad Martin is once again in control of the grill. Hot dogs, chips, sodas & ice cream are provided, bring your favorite picnic dish to pass. Beth Stange will be running the games for children & adults, be sure to participate, as there will be prizes!

It is time to get your items ready for the train auction at the Pizza Meetza in April. To enter your lotted train items into the auction, see Chet Henry ASAP for tickets. Only \$5.00 per lot! This event is always an exciting one. You never know what is going to be put up on the auction block as there is no printed list as there is for the Turkey Meet Auction. So you don't want to miss this one! Peter Atonna will be the auctioneer for this event.

The Hudson Raffle and \$100 drawing got underway at the February meet! Tom Stange took home the first \$100.00 bill! Be sure you buy your tickets early to be eligible for as many of the monthly drawings as possible.

Your Desert Division will be holding a Spring Raffle again this year! Tickets will be sold starting at the March meeting! Look for the exciting details of this raffle at that meeting! Remember this will be drawn at the June meeting.

Isn't it great to see that the Rio Grande Chapter is taking off running? They have set their March meeting & it seems they have a full slate of officers

for election! Way to go! I know we will see great things happening in that chapter!

Don Locke is doing a super job lining up after meet visitations! This certainly adds to the excitement, education & sharing after our monthly meets. Way to go Don!

Each of you plays an important role in the Division! I hope to see you at the next meet!

Happy trains,

*Katie*

### NO SMOKING

The Scottsdale Jaycees, landlords of our monthly meeting hall, have decreed that from this time forward the Scottsdale Jaycees Drinkwater Clubhouse will be a NO SMOKING facility. This ban is effective immediately and covers all interior space within the hall.

If you are a smoker, the Jaycees ask that you please step outside the doors to light up. We are confident that all of our members and guests will abide by this change from past procedures.

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE NOW FORMING

by Cathy Kuhn TCA #90-32462

The 2009 TCA National Convention is coming! We are looking for fun-loving, talented, creative minds to serve on the Fund-Raising Committee. If you have interest, talent, or just want to have fun (Remember, ¾ of Fund is Fun), let's get together to strategize. Come one, come all - members and significant others are welcome. If you would like to be on the Fund-Raising Team, be at the Pizza Meetza on April 8. We will gather after the Educational Segment and before the arrival of the Pizza at the Jaycees Hall. If you can't wait until April 8 to join the Committee, call Cathy Kuhn now (480-816-8632).

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 35, No. 2 March, 2006).

## **YOU CAN DO YOUR PART**

by Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

Suppose YOU could help produce a superior National TCA Convention and be rewarded for it? Do we have your attention? Here is how it works and how YOU can help. There are three preliminary ways. Read on!

1. Do you have some quality toy trains, accessories, or toy train paper? (We cannot use track or "beat up" items.) Have you tried to sell it without success? Tired of carrying it around? Donate it to the Division to be liquidated at the Pizza Meetza. In exchange, you will receive from the Division Secretary a letter thanking you for your donation to a tax-exempt 501c3 organization. This means you may declare the item's value and claim it as a deduction on your 2006 Federal Income Tax Return.
2. At our meets we will have Silent Auction items whose proceeds will go directly into the 2009 Convention Committee budget. Here again we can and will offer a letter of thanks for YOUR donation to the winning silent auction BID. We will offer catalogued issued items which have had their collector's value increased by a significant addition to the item, such as an artist's signature. According to the law, you may claim the difference between what you pay and the manufacturer's list price for the common item. If you're the successful bidder, we will once again provide you with the proper documentation for your next Federal Tax Return. Items from Areas 1 and 3 may also be used for the Silent Auction each month. The "what" and "when" will be determined by your donations.
3. Do you have some hidden, but salable talent? Perhaps woodworking? Perhaps you or the company for which you work would be willing to donate a useful product, service, or gift? Things such as a round of golf, a gift certificate good at a mall or certain store, a weekend room at a resort/hotel, dinner for two at a nice restaurant and/or a myriad of other such niceties. Maybe you have culinary talents than can produce delectable pies, candies, cookies, cakes, or something else that might be a tasty treat. In addition to trains and Pizza at our Pizza Meetza, we hope to be able to offer many of these wonderful items and culinary treats for auction with the proceeds going to benefit the 2009 Convention.

That's it! Three ways to help our Division raise funds for the 2009 TCA Convention; the Convention we are hosting for the whole of TCA at the J. W. Marriott in North Phoenix/Scottsdale. Think you can help? May we count of your support? Thank you in advance.

If you have trains to donate, as outlined in Area # 1, please bring them with you to our March 11 and April 8 Meets. Give them to Ed Micale or Bill Mack. If you are contributing items from Area #3, please contact Christie Wilson by phone (480-837-5344) or e-mail at [christie1wilson@aol.com](mailto:christie1wilson@aol.com) as soon as possible. If no one is home, leave a message. Once again, thank you for your continuing support of the Desert Division.

### **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.

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

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

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

### **DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2006**

President:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957	Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9227
Vice President:	Gordon Wilson	480-837-5344		Don Locke	480-854-2546
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Phil Monahan	480-607-3956
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344			

## BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

by Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

The following is a proposed change to our Division Bylaws. What it will do, if approved, is to make all the officers' positions, including the Immediate Past President/Director, a two-year term. Currently only the President's term is a two-year term and all of the other offices are a one-year term.

All other TCA Divisions, as well as National, when electing officers, elect all of them for the same length of time. This proposal would bring us in line with all of the other Divisions. It will also eliminate the expenses incurred for having an election every year. Additionally, it will allow for a better continuity of administering the Division's business.

If approved, the changes would go into effect immediately. A question was raised asking if it was legal to make a change in Bylaws retroactive. Paul Wassermann, who raised the question, and Gordon Wilson, who proposed the motion, both contacted legal authorities about this question. One was Paul's National Parliamentarian, when he was TCA President. The other was a Philadelphia Attorney from whom Gordon sought advice during his TCA Presidency. Both cited the same answer, according to Roberts Rules of Order. It states that, unless the current Bylaws prohibit such a procedure, the approved change goes into effect immediately. Therefore, the answer to the query is "Yes, it is legal."

This motion will be published in three consecutive issues of the Desert Division Dispatch, this one being the first, before a ballot is issued. A vote for this motion will bring us in line with the rest of TCA. Disapproval of this motion will mean maintaining the status quo.

### 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.

**Special Note:** Assuming passage of this proposed motion, it shall be effective upon its approval.





## 2006 DESERT DIVISION SPRING RAFFLE

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. WOW! 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 currently on e-Bay has a buy-it-now price of \$250.) Not to be out done, 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 is 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

## DESERT DIVISION 773 HUDSON RAFFLE

Beginning its 17<sup>th</sup> train season, and the brainstorm of Cole Gibbs, the oldest and best 773 Hudson Raffle in the Toy Train World continues again this February. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the Desert Division originated this unique affair in 1989. Here is how it works. First and foremost, all the proceeds derived from the sale of raffle tickets go directly back into the Desert Division's treasury.

One hundred (100) numbered tickets are printed. From February through October they are available ONLY to Desert Division members and their family members. Any tickets remaining unsold after the October Meet are offered to all TCA members. The cost per raffle ticket is \$25.00, which may be considered a donation to all non-winners. Therefore, because TCA is a 501c3 organization, it may be used as a tax deduction.

At each Division meeting from February through June, plus September and October, a ticket will be drawn that will be worth \$100 cash, if the person whose name is on the ticket is in attendance. The selected stub is then returned to the entire group. Theoretically, the same ticket could win each time.

In November, at the Turkey Meet, the final drawing is held and the winner of the Hudson is finally determined. This year we are pleased to offer a Boxed, Like New/(C8), 1965 New York Central 773 Hudson and Tender. Feel free to check it out at our meet on February 11. Buy your tickets early and be the first to win a nice new green picture of Ben Franklin.



### BOARD MEETING

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

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

# **\* Desert Division's \*\* Spring Raffle 2006 \***



## **1<sup>st</sup> Prize**

**K-Line SP Daylight  
GS-4 w/TMCC!**

**Offered in 2001 this  
N/OB locomotive  
features operating  
MARS, Headlight,  
marker lights, along  
w/smoke and die cast  
tender – list \$570**

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

**Lionel – 11716**

**"Lionelville" Circus Special  
Ready-To-Run set**



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

**"Lionelville" 6-12930  
Oil Derrick**

**Tickets on sale starting March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – Drawing date June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
\$10.00 ea 3/\$25.00  
Need not be present to win!**

# WELCOME ABOARD RIO GRANDE CHAPTER!

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

Wow! Who said we are in the dark days of our hobby? Not our fellow collectors and operators in the newest chapter in TCA from the Land of Enchantment. What started out as one man's dream can now be completed through the efforts of many of his friends. More than four years ago, before I became President of the Desert Division, I struck up a conversation with Bert Adair from Belen, New Mexico, at our annual Turkey Meet Auction. Bert was checking out early trying to beat a snowstorm that was scheduled to hit I-40 later that evening. As I helped him pack up his goodies, he mentioned how much fun he had coming over to visit us and only wished there was something closer to home. When I mentioned starting up a chapter, he just shrugged his shoulders and said he was too old to do all that organizing stuff himself, but he'd give it some thought. Old Bert must have thought about it a lot. Every time I saw him he'd ask me a few more questions about how we'd finance this thing and who would show up; and the more we chatted, the more he liked the idea. As I met a few more of the fellas from New Mexico over the next few years, everyone I spoke to agreed that they just might be able to get things organized; and with Burt as the catalyst, things were beginning to take shape. Funny thing about life, you'll never know about the impact you have on another person's life. Just as things were moving along, Bert was called to his eternal rest, but he had planted and nourished a pretty good crop of eager friends who did not want to let go of his dream. After we sent out a few exploratory letters, we found even more enthusiasm; but many members said that the distances involved were just too great. New Mexico is the fifth largest land mass state in the Union, and only Alaska, Texas, California, and Montana are bigger; and even though they are growing, there still is a considerable chunk of real estate between towns. No, we would need a little boost and it came from what some would consider a most unlikely source, our friends at T.T.O.S.! Over the years the Desert Division has worked co-operatively with not only the TTOS Grand Canyon Division but several Model and Garden Railroad clubs throughout the state of Arizona, and this history of teamwork and mutual aid allowed us to organize the new TCA Chapter by promoting the idea and recruiting members at TTOS New Mexico Division Meets. It was presented that the new TCA Division would complement the train activities in New Mexico rather than compete for them, and these efforts resulted in many members of TTOS NMD becoming first time TCA members.

The Rio Grande Chapter was officially formed January 21, 2006, after a meeting of over 30 toy train collectors and operators in Albuquerque. Many names for the new Chapter were presented for discussion at that first meeting and though many identify the Rio Grande with Texas, it actually has its headwaters in Colorado and the Rio Grande Valley continues today as a major railroad route traveling through the heart of New Mexico. The Rio Grande Chapter will incorporate the twelve counties of west Texas along with the state of New Mexico and that fact, along with the strong regional identification and rich railroad history along this western landmark, played a key role in determining the new Chapter's name. The Lone Star State may have you cross the old Red River Hoss, but the Desert Division, has the Rio Grande!

We would also like to thank our friends in the TTOS New Mexico Division, who allowed us to organize the new Chapter by promoting it and recruiting members at TTOS New Mexico Division Meets. I would also like to thank Division members Greg Palmer, John Trever, Mike Shea, Bill Harris, and Dale Schafer for working out all the kinks, doing yeoman's work getting things organized at ground zero, and trusting in an old friend's dream. - Bert, we did it!



Through these doors a new TCA Chapter is starting!



Stop here for trains, friends, and fun in Albuquerque



After the meet we hang around and talk more about toy trains. (What else?)



# RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA # 94-39039

The January Meet was a great way to start the Chapter. We had several members set up to sell and swap items. Our educational segment included John Trever's collection of Lionel Post-War Cranes. He showed the group several of the variations and talked about the crane car changes over the post-war period. I brought an American Flyer pre-war set from the early 1930's. It was complete with track and transformer, but no set box. I purchased the item at an Estate Sale near Los Alamos, New Mexico. It had been owned by a former employee of the Los Alamos Labs. The meet concluded with the establishment of the Rio Grande Chapter. Thanks to all who attended the first Rio Grande Chapter Meet. I would also like to give a special thank you to Chris Allen and Katie Elgar for their help in getting the Rio Grande Chapter going. Also a thank you to all the Desert Division members who voted to change their bylaws to give us a chance to form a Chapter.

The Rio Grande Chapter will have its next meet on Saturday, March 18, at 10 AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church, Lohmann Hall, 2585 Utah NE, in Albuquerque. The meet will start at 10 with a members-only swap meet. Tables will be two for \$5. At 11 AM we will have our educational segment. At around Noon, we will start the general meeting. We will, at that time, have the election of officers and directors. We will also approve our bylaws. At this meeting we will also discuss our meet schedule for the year, as well as our open meet schedule. We need a large turnout to help get the Chapter off to a good start. For questions and table reservations, contact Greg Palmer at 505-898-3840.

The slate of officers and directors for the Rio Grande Chapter is as follows:

President:	Gregory Palmer	(TCA # 94-39039) – Albuquerque, NM
Vice-President:	Dale Schafer	(TCA # 90-32477) – Albuquerque, NM
Secretary:	Brenna-Leigh Bosch	(TCA # 95-40754) – Albuquerque, NM
Treasurer:	William Harris	(TCA # 83-19728) – Albuquerque, NM
Director:	Carl Cataline	(TCA # 06-59955) – Albuquerque, NM
Director:	Scott Eckstein	(TCA # 91-36114) – Albuquerque, NM
Director:	William Mischen	(TCA # 88-27809) – El Paso, TX

We invite you to attend our next meet and visit with old friends and perhaps make some new ones. Help get the newest chapter in TCA off to a grand start and show your support for this great slate of officers.



John Trever explaining the variations in one of the many different crane cars from his collection.



Greg Palmer talking about his newest find that showed up in an estate sale in Los Alamos.

# KIDS CLUB NEWS

## “NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN”

by Chris Allen, Jeanine Monahan, and Thomas Plies

Our Kids Club remains active, as they ran Thomas the Tank Engine along with many of the locomotives and cars donated to them by Division members at the TTOS Mid-Winter Meet on Saturday, February 25. Look for pictures in next month's newsletter. Each child in attendance also received a kid's hat and a grab bag item. The Kids Club thanks Ken Barnes, Marty Wik, and Jonathan Peiffer for donating their Raffle prizes to the Kids Club. All items are gratefully accepted and appreciated by our Kid's Club members and their guests. Pat Griffen, Executive Director of Against Abuse, Inc. sent us a nice Thank You letter for the train set donated to their shelter by the Kids Club in December. Thank you to John Huber for volunteering with Kids Club during the past two years. His hands-on assistance was of great value. Kids in attendance at our January and February Meets included Thomas Uko, Rebecca and Melissa Peiffer.



Division's Kids Club mascot "Cub-oose"

Jonathan Peiffer has volunteered to help the Zoo Module Preventive Maintenance Team and he can be seen in the Zoo Module article elsewhere in this newsletter. The Zoo table has taken on a new look, as some dioramas, animals, flat cars with Disney-type figures, a carousel, and several other items have been added. Thanks to all who helped make the "Spring Cleaning" a success.

The next big project for the Kids Club will be a display of train items in the secured glass cases at Sky Harbor Airport the year before our Convention. Though the Convention may seem a long way off, long-term planning is required for this project. If you are willing to house some of your treasures in this environment, please contact Thomas Plies to let him know of your intentions.

Do you know what Kids Club Membership includes? There is an automatic National TCA Kids Club membership card and letter dispatches; local activity calendar of special events, such as Holiday Party, Train-O-Rama, Pizza Meetza, G-Scale Gardens, Beat the Heat Meet, and others; birthday card; grab bag item at each meeting; opportunity to draw the first adult's raffle ticket at each monthly meeting; and tips on how to access games and information for kids interested in trains – [www.tcamembers.org](http://www.tcamembers.org); [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org); [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org), [www.Lionel.com](http://www.Lionel.com), [www.MTH.com](http://www.MTH.com), and others.

To enroll a child in the Kids Club, simply fill out the form below and give it to any Kids Club Co-Chair or BOD member. It will be forwarded to the TCA Business Office for inclusion in the National Kids Club so that your child can receive their official membership card and certificate.

### Kids Club Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name - Middle Initial - Last Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month Day Year)



### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name - Middle Initial - Last Name)

Sponsor TCA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Kids Club Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_





## PHOENIX ZOO MODULE GETS AN EARLY SPRING CLEANING

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

Hard to believe we've been at the Phoenix Zoo for over two years now. This past February marked that anniversary and Kid's Club Co-Chairs Thomas Plies, Jonathan Peiffer, and Chris Allen decided to lift off the Plexiglas for some much needed cleaning. This is actually the busiest time of the year for the Zoo. Many visitors are here "wintering over" from all those great states that they like to brag about that have four seasons. (You know - cold, wet and cold, snowy cold and miserable, and isn't it time to visit the kids in Arizona?) Those folks, along with the annual influx of fans here for baseball's Spring Training, mean that the Zoo will be quite popular the next few months, so getting the module cleaned up for these new guests was a much-needed task on our springtime "to-do" list. Since the module was installed, the Phoenix Zoo itself has also updated some graphics, added some new color schemes, and finished a major renovation at the Zoo's entrance that now includes a carousel. So with paintbrushes, feather dusters, and vacuum cleaners in hand, we lifted off the Plexiglas and got started. This seemed like a great time to add another action accessory item to the module and keep the little fingers busy, so we added K-Line's Carousel and wired it into one of the push buttons. Thanks to Rich Bimmer of Antique Trains, I was able to add Percy and two "troublesome trucks" to help the Thomas the Tank engine on the layout. We will be exchanging these two kid's favorites on a weekly basis to even out the wear on our engines and bring a little change to the layout. The Lionel CW-80 transformer has proven to be a real champion, though its fan is starting to sound a bit worn. We will be adding a K-Line Power Chief to test out its long-term use as well. The K-Line transformer is in a metal housing without a fan, which is good for us as you would be surprised at all the little bugs that come out at the Zoo and have plugged up the CW-80's fan over the past year. These newer transformers with their electronic power shunting circuitry are far better for our unmanned modules. It might take hours before one of the Zoo staffers notices that a train has been derailed and slowly cooking on the tracks as our old 1033's thermally cycled on and off. We have welded and melted quite a few pieces of rolling stock over the past 24 months; and even though we now have inline fuses installed, quite a bit of heat can still be generated before the fuse decides to finally do its deed. However, the new transformers completely shut down by removing track power at the first sign of a short and recover as soon as the short is removed. To date they have been very dependable. Next project for the Zoo Crew will be the relaying of new track this summer. If you'd like to join us, give any of the co-chairs a call; we'd love to welcome you aboard!



Jonathan updating the paint scheme on several buildings to reflect the Phoenix Zoo's updated look



Thomas makes an impromptu arch for little Percy to go under as he adds some benches for the new K-Line Carousel



## FANTASTIC FEBRUARY FROLICKING



Bob Mancus displayed his #55 Dorfan engine and lithographed cars.



Jonathan Peiffer's HO kits in the foreground.  
Paul Wassermann's JAD GG-1 in the back.



Paul Wassermann's Marx Streamliner and accompanying coin, with the Ives set immediately behind.



Bob Dennison is a master craftsman when it comes to restoring Pre-War trains.

## LOCKE'S LAYOUT



Blue Comet passes over a string of ore cars.



Mansions and bungalows adorn the lower level on Don Locke's scenic pike.



**RAILROAD**



**-CHANGE**



ANTIQUE 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.

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT – MTH Great Northern Coal Hopper reg \$35 buy 4 for \$119.95! Rail King UP A-B-A w/ PS2 sale priced \$279.95 - Scale Rail King DASH 8 PS2, flashing ditch lights, smoke \$269.95 – MTH D&RG 19<sup>th</sup> Century 10 wheeler w/PS2 sale \$314.95 – Lionel Pennsy Berkshire Jr. w/Railsounds & smoke \$215.99! - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa. 480-833-9486, open late Wednesday.

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

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](mailto: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.toysthruhome.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. 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 Tinplate 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, El Paso, TX 915-598-8677 Anytime or e-mail: [dzedo2@earthlink.net](mailto: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](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. 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 DIVISON**

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

**POSTMASTER:** This Federal 501c3 Newsletter  
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by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before  
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**Every Childhood Should Have A Train  
Enroll your children in Kid's Club Today!**

**COMING EVENTS**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 10-12 | Nor-Cal "Cal-Stewart Meet" – Santa Clara, CA<br>Contact: Mary Ann Nichelini – 510-547-1278   |
| March 11    | Regular Division Meet - Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ - 9 AM<br>8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald |
| March 18    | Spring Picnic – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ   |
| March 18    | Rio Grande Chapter Meeting, Sombra Del Monte Christian Church, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM<br>Contact: Greg Palmer – 505-898-3840                |
| April 8     | Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM  |
| April 20-22 | TCA Eastern Division Meet – York, PA   |
| May 13      | Regular Division Meet – Drinkwater Clubhouse, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 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 to Bob Herman, who donated 100 magazines for the Turkey Meet kits. Ken Barnes, Jonathan Peiffer, and Marty Wik all donated their raffle prizes to the Kids Club. Prizes donated by Steve Palmer of Arizona Train Depot and Tom and Beth Stange of Trainland Express helped boost raffle sales at the February Meet. Helping Ruth Elgar in the kitchen in February were Shirley Hunter, Barbara Lautazi, and Janice Rasmussen.

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