

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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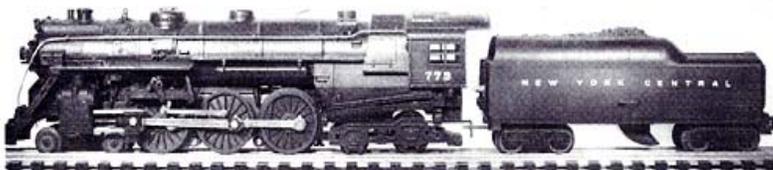
HUDSON RAFFLE VARIATIONS

At our first meet in February, when the 773 HUDSON RAFFLE TICKETS first went on sale, better than 30% of them were sold. Ironically, the ticket number selected for the first picture of Benjamin Franklin was #773. Of course, that meant \$100 for the holder of that ticket AND that ticket went back into the “mix” with an equal chance to be drawn again and again. Why, I do remember one year when Bill Freeman won the monthly Hudson drawings 4 times. Not bad for a \$25 investment! Who says, “Lightning never strikes twice in the same place?”

BUT, that doesn't help our members who for various reasons find it hard, to nigh well impossible, to attend a Division Meet. Alas! You too may also win! Purchase your 773 Hudson ticket(s) through the mail and should your ducat be drawn at a Division Meet, you will win back your \$25 contribution AND be eligible for the next month's drawing too! Make your check payable (\$25 for each Raffle ticket) to: “TCA – Desert Division” and send it to the Editor of the Dispatch. We'll send you your half of your ticket(s) and enter the other portion in the monthly drawing bin.

This year we're going to have an added drawing once the Hudson winner has been selected. We have added to this year's 773 Hudson Raffle three desirable Post-War Metal Green & Yellow Tinplate Passenger Cars, numbered 6440 (2) and 6441. They are not boxed, but are quite nicely conditioned. They were never paired with the 773 Locomotive, but did come with engines many of our members already have in their collections. These wonderful lighted passenger cars appeared in Post-War sets headed by 221s, 224s, 675s, 1666s, 2026s, and the 20-wheel Turbines. Now, this November, as a Bonus Drawing in our famous 773 Hudson Raffle, someone will also own these three Passenger Cars. Furthermore, the ticket of the person who wins the 773 Hudson will be reentered in the Passenger Car drawing.

Do you have your tickets yet? This is a Special Year! Our 40th Anniversary NOW offers you two chances to win two great Lionel pieces, plus cash at each Desert Division Regular Meet through October. Buy your chances NOW !



COMING UP

MARCH 12 – Regular Division Meet and Picnic – Scottsdale Railroad Park – 10 AM
Educational Segment – Green Trains (in honor of St. Patrick's Day)

MARCH 19 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

APRIL 2 – Arizona Eastern Railway Excursion – 7:15 AM

APRIL 9 – Pizza Meetza – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MAY 14 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MAY 21 – New Mexico Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico – 9 AM

JUNE 11 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

OCTOBER 22 – 40th Anniversary Party – Scottsdale, AZ – 6 PM

FEBRUARY FLOURISHES IN THE DESERT

Meet News

A packed house welcomed the Desert Division for their February Meet. Ken Backus joined us from Maryland. Prospective new member Alex Woronovich visited with us, as did new TCA member Ron Hinze and reunited members from the past – George Bean and Franklin Nickerson. Marlin Bumpus attended with her brother Dave Brown.

Today's 50-50 was split as a 60-40, so that two members could enjoy the profits. Ralph Treichel had the winning ticket and Katie Elgar was the runner-up. Treasurer Bob Herman announced that we have \$47,139.20 in savings and \$25,547.61 in checking. President Peiffer announced that the Desert Division had donated \$750 to TCA National to help pay for the LED lighting in the Museum.

Hudson Raffle ticket sales started. This year we are adding to this Lionel 773 engine and tender (in C-9 condition) a 3-car set of metal cars, including two 6440 Pullman cars and a 6441 Observation car. We sold 31 tickets on the first day. At the end of the Meet, one of those 31 persons would win a \$100 bill. Read on!

To begin the meeting, President Peiffer again broached the subject of the Turkey Meet. When he asked how many people liked the name change, the vote was 64 – 1 to return to "Turkey Meet." If no one steps up to Chair this event, it just might have to be cancelled. Historian Chris Allen announced that his plea for materials out of the Division's past led him to three sources: Ed Micale sent a box full of ribbons and badges from Massachusetts, Ernestine Bong donated a box of Christown ribbons, and Bob Dennison gave Chris a box of "stuff," including many of the very Turkey Meet buttons he was missing. John Wiley had a 1993 Christown video and Ivan English had pictures from the 100 year Lionel train celebration. We are filling in the gaps, slowly but surely. What we need now is stuff from the '80's, including newsletters, photographs, and Railfair badges. We also need one each of the 2009 Convention Cars. Ivan English volunteered to give us an Apache Powder car. Other folks might add the Kids Club Car (Rattlesnake Car), Smoking Salsa Car, S-gauge Transformer car, S-gauge Santa Fe Reefer, and the O-gauge Santa Fe Reefer. This will help fill in the gaps in our archives.

Gordon Wilson reported on the 40th Anniversary progress to date. We are taking shirt orders; those ordered today will be delivered at the March Picnic. Today's gift was a chocolate shaped like a wreath with the number 40 in the middle. March will be button-month. The Copper Spike train trip will be in April. Gordon showed everyone in attendance the prototype of the Hopper car with the ruby load which will be sold beginning very shortly. Meanwhile, there will be a raffle (beginning in March) for that car and a set of ruby jewelry. Tickets will be 6 for \$5 with the winning raffle ticket being drawn at the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner celebration on October 22.

Katie Elgar announced that to date she has collected enough aluminum cans to amass \$55. Bob Herman will send a check to the TCA Museum in that amount. The March Picnic will be held at the Aste Ramada of the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on March 12, with the Meet activity beginning at 10 AM and the food ready at about Noon. Brad Martin took a count of how many plan to be there so he can have enough hot dogs and sodas for everyone. Remember that the members bring the sides – salads, desserts, etc. The new Railroad Layout building is open and tours will be available on that date.

Chet Henry is in charge of the April Auction. He will have a sign-up sheet at the March Meet. If you send photos of your items to Gordon Wilson (christielwilson@aol.com) or Jonathan Peiffer (jonathanpeiffer@live.com), we will include them in a newsletter article prior to the April Auction.

A straw vote of the members in attendance at today's meet indicated that the date of Sunday, December 11 is preferable for the Holiday Party. This will not conflict with Tucson's Holiday Party, which is scheduled for the previous weekend. The room is booked, the meal will be the same as last year, and we hope for an attendance of 120-140, as we have had previously.

Shirley Hunter completed her "Count the Ornaments" contest, with a total of 720. Dave Brown's guess of 715 was the winner, and his prize was a Williams Lehigh Valley Box Car. Christie Wilson came in second with a guess of 727.

Phil Todd announced that the Copper Spike train will leave the Arizona Mills Mall (Baseline and Priest Roads) at 7:15 AM and Superstition Springs Center (Southern and Power Roads, north of US-60) at 7:45 AM on April 2, 2011. We will stop at the Ray Copper Mine, see a SP Steam Engine 2-9-0 near the Copper Spike Station, then board the train which goes to Bixby for its turn-around. Folks will be on the train for about two hours, during which time they will eat their lunches in the Dome Car. After the train ride, we will stop at Hill Street Antique Mall before returning to the pickup spots at about 7 PM.

A motion to increase the donation to TCA National by \$750 (for a total of \$1500) was defeated after some spirited discussion by a vote of 23 – 18.

The Educational Segment began with Jonathan Peiffer’s plethora of N scale Amtrak cars. He chose this display because this is the 40th Anniversary year of not only the Desert Division, but also of Amtrak. Jonathan has a special love of Amtrak because he rode that line from Indiana to New Jersey when he went to college. As this month’s theme was “Trains My True Love Gave to Me,” Fred Hunter brought in his collection of Railroad emblems offered by Post Sugar Crisp cereal during the ’50’s. He had received some of these from a Scout Master many years ago, but noted that it was not a complete set. Shirley, his true love, with the help of several e-bay purchases, completed the collection for him. In fact, he now has 2½ sets. Marty Wik attended a “Goldfinger” movie at age 14. From then on he became enamored of James Bond. He brought in a Goldfinger “action figure” produced by A. C. Gilbert in 1965, when American Flyer toy trains were a dying breed. Interestingly, there are NO action parts on it. Next he showed a 1926 picture of the Harvey Girls, a picture which now hangs in his train room. In 1926, one would disembark the train, stay at the Harvey House, then travel by cars to Navaho or Zuni reservations where they could buy silver, blankets, etc. from the Native Americans. This photo was a gift from his true love, Paula. Tony Saulina told of his divorce from the “Credit Card Queen.” He had to sell off most of his treasures to pay for that divorce. However, he did not sell his trains. As he was dating Pat, his true-love, she bought him a Lionel 238E. He knew Pat was the girl for him. Later as a wedding gift in 1990, she bought him an RS3, Union Pacific diesel engine. This he brought to the meet for all of us to see. Gordon caused a murmur in the crowd when he announced that his display didn’t come from Christie, but rather a “true love” which preceded all others – his grandmother. When he saw the 1950 Lionel catalog, he fell in love with the 2023 Union Pacific Passenger Set. He received two train sets that Christmas – a 2026 freight set came from Mom and Dad, but the 2023 gray nosed UP set came from “The Wish Book,” as “Nanny” was a Sears Roebuck employee..

Next month’s theme is “Green Trains” in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. All we had left to do was pull the winning raffle tickets. Prizes were awarded as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Boyd Reasor | Book <u>American Steam Locomotives</u> |
| Bob Miazga | Lionel Century Club Niagara Box Car |
| Tony Saulina | Lionel 100 th Anniversary Toy Fair Box Car |
| Wayne Ross | Lionel 2004 Convention Mint Car |
| Shirley Hunter | Hudson Raffle Ticket |
| Bill East | Die Cast Texaco Truck |
| Newt Durbarow | 3 unframed Train Pictures |
| Brad Martin | K-Line Southern Box Car |
| Bob Kamenca | Lionel PC Box Car |
| Bob Denison | Framed Train Picture |

The \$100 winning Hudson ticket, oddly enough numbered 773, was held by Jonathan Peiffer.



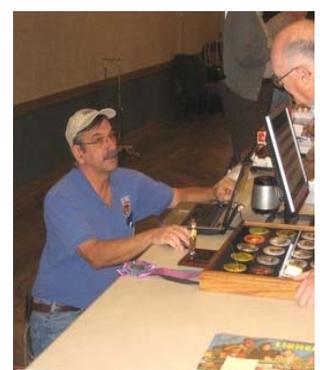
Fred Hunter’s collection of Post “Sugar Crisp” Railroad emblems.



Marty Wik’s picture of 1926 Harvey Girls.



Tony Saulina’s gift of a Union Pacific RS3.



Historian Chris Allen with ribbons and buttons.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remember that the March meet will be a bit different this year. We will be meeting at the railroad park around 10:00 am, have a very brief meeting, educational segment and at noon join with our friends from the Paradise and Pacific and the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders. Please plan on attending and enjoying an afternoon of fun with family and friends. While there will be no selling tables at this meet, come prepared to simply enjoy the social aspect of the hobby.

Also, do not forget that our annual "Pizza Meetza" in April is in need of auction lots. Please contact Chet Henry as early as you can so we do not have as much work to set up lots on the day of the meet. This auction is what we make of it, so it up to all of us as members to make a contribution or come prepared to bid early and often!

As we roll into March, the first quarter of the New Year is quickly coming to a close. We are witnessing a world in transition across the globe first hand in recent months through the power of social networking and the internet. We all know about the buying and selling of trains online, but what about the opportunities for leveraging the power of the internet with our hobby of trains? I can speak from personal experience that a presence in the online world can lead to wonderful opportunities. Having recently completed some social networking training, the rule thumb for using the internet effectively is spending 80% of your time providing information, news, and expertise that benefits others while using the remaining 20% to benefit yourself. In the fast paced world of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, people want to find information quickly to help them with their needs. Like it or not, social networking has progressed to the point where hundreds of millions of people actively use it everyday.

Model railroading is no different. As a result of a GG1 thread I started on the OGR Forum nearly three years ago, I landed a consulting opportunity with 3rd Rail Models. Upon the successful completion of that project, I am now finishing a second project and preparing for the third and fourth projects for that company. This opportunity did not present itself as a selfish act of trying to intentionally find part-time work in the model railroading industry; it arrived literally in my lap as the result of providing the benefit of my knowledge for others. In other words, an outwardly focused series of events led to personal opportunity to the mutual benefit of the manufacturer, the buying public, and me.

How can TCA Desert Division be outwardly focused? What avenues can we spread word of the incredible wealth of knowledge we possess as a Division. Our Dispatch is the main voice of the Division to the outside world, being sent to not only members, but all National Officers and Division Presidents. This is a place to contribute an article to share knowledge that many of us probably don't know. If you think you have an article that might play well in another Division, their newsletters are looking for articles as well and this is an opportunity to promote the Division outside the confines of our boundaries.

How can we expand that circle? Desert Division has a Facebook page that is pretty easy to find. There has not been a lot of activity there yet, but if those of us who have jumped into that form of social networking were to "like" the page, we could use that as a way to reach out to people all over the world. As interest in the page grows, so will the content. Consider that a place to show the unique knowledge we all have where anyone can look at it. Providing our expertise for the public will return itself to the Division many times over as the public looks to Desert Division and the TCA as true leaders in the interest of toy and model trains.

When you talk about trains to friends, family, or even complete strangers, do you mention that you belong to the TCA? I often find that stating that the national organization has nearly 30,000 members is a way to lend an extra hand when it comes to people who may question adults who "still play with trains."

In my chosen profession of architecture, there is a term that has been around a while known as "citizen architect." It refers to those who use their personal knowledge to benefit the community at large. What can we do as "citizen train enthusiasts"? Do you share your hobby with anyone who will listen or even those who don't listen but are polite?

We have a goal of growing the Division and this is the key to successfully doing that. We all can take some time to share our vision of the hobby with others while gently mentioning that we are members of a fine organization dedicated to the hobby.

Finally, remember that we have an opportunity to ride a real train on the 2nd of April and this trip should be an outstanding adventure. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events.



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Greg Palmer, TCA# 94-39039

The Chapter Meet was overflowing with Chapter Members and guests. First, a big Chapter welcome to new member Bill Anderson and his wife Rebecca; also Ross Jordan's son, Wayne. The education segment once again proved how diverse our Chapter Membership is. It started off with my Soviet Union O-gauge block signal made in 1957 in Moscow. Warren Smalley brought a Standard Gauge pre-War tin train floor toy. He wants to know for whom and when it was made. He is going to send it in to the "Who Done It" section of the TCA Quarterly. Next up was Ross Jordan who talked about his article in the TCA Quarterly on old Hobby Shops. He then showed us his latest project, a restored 763E Locomotive plus the cars. Good looking set. Art Lites was next with his variations of the 2500 series cars, hex rivet vs. glued plates. Bill McIntyre showed off his latest purchase, a Lionel Vision Line 0-6-6-0 Locomotive. The prototype was used on the Pennsy's Horseshoe Loop area. New member James Trever brought several scarce Marx boxed sets, including the Marx Wells Fargo Play Set. It was complete. John Trever showed us his Aluminum Version of the Lionel 3459 which was made in 1946. As you can see, we have all kinds of interesting items at our Education Segment.

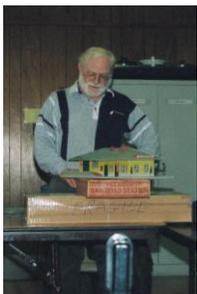
The business Meeting started with approval of the 2011-2012 Chapter Budget. The membership voted to continue with the Pumpkin Meet which will be October 30th, 2011, at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. The Hotel cost has gone up to \$2000.00 which includes the 22% service fee and tax. We voted to increase the table fee to \$20.00 and the admission fee to \$4.00. We also need to increase the public attendance to the level of 400 or more. The Chapter voted to go ahead even if there is a chance to lose some money. We only have one Swap Meet a year and everyone has a great time. It is also the largest Toy Train and Model Railroad Show in New Mexico. So, Rio Grande Chapter Members, we need your support. That goes for Desert Division Members as well. We need Raffle Prize donations, Table Sellers, and anything else you can help us with. Once again the TCA Rio Grande Chapter wants to insure its Membership that they will have fun and also be educated about all aspects of Toy Trains. If you have any ideas on improving the 2011 Pumpkin Meet, please come to the March 19th Meet and Meeting at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church 2528 Utah N.E.

We finished the Meet with a great After Meet Activity at the Church. Dale Schafer has donated his 072 Module to the Church, and has made it available to the TCA Rio Grande Chapter Members. Call Dale for times to operate the Module. Dale will have the Module room open during or regular Meet times. Every Member who brought Locomotives to run had a great time. Thanks to Dale Schafer and Tom Lawler for all their hard work getting it ready to operate. After the March 19th Meet we will have an after Meet Activity at the home of David Nycz. He will show off his layout and collection, plus give a clinic on Scenery. This is a must-see activity. Do not forget the March 19th Meet at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church. See all of you there.



Above (L-R): Greg Palmer's Soviet Union Block Signal c. 1957; Ross Jordan's restored 763E set; new member Bill Anderson looks at Warren Smalley's (standing) pre-War Standard Gauge Floor Toy; Bill McIntyre's Lionel Vision Line Locomotive.

Below (L-R): New member James Trever and his collection of Marx boxed items; John Trever with his aluminum Lionel Dump Car; Dale Schafer's donated module after meet activity; Dale Schafer and Bill Harris watch trains go around the layout.



COPPER SPIKE TRIP PLANS COMPLETE

The Desert Division train trip is rapidly approaching. We guarantee a memorable time on Saturday, April 2, 2011, as Division members mingle, kibitz, and share a day of camaraderie in Eastern Arizona. The cost is \$45 for adults (ages 13 to 100) or \$40 for children (up to age 12).

The bus will depart at 7:15 AM from the East side door of J. C. Penney at the Arizona Mills Mall (Baseline Road and I-10) and at 7:45 from the East side door of Dillard's at Superstition Springs Center (north side of Route 60 at Power Road). From there it will proceed to the Ray Copper Mine in Superior, where we can marvel at not only a huge "hole in the ground" (copper mine) but also a monstrous-sized shovel that helped dig that hole. Next we will stop at the Southern Pacific Steam Engine in Globe, only one block from the train depot.

We'll then arrive at the COPPER SPIKE Excursion Train in Globe, Arizona, where we'll board a 1950's era full length Dome Car. Aboard this unique vintage car we'll order lunch (your cost and choice - \$3.50 - \$9.00, plus beverage - \$1.00 - \$5.00) which we will eat during the Round Trip excursion from Globe to Bixby and back. Upon our return to Globe, we will spend some time at the Hill Street Antique Mall before our last stop on the way back to Phoenix/Mesa, the Todd Mahal in Gold Canyon, the home of our member who has set this entire trip into motion, Phil Todd. Phil has promised us a prime view of his collections and Train Layout under Construction, hosted by his wife Dottie.

At approximately 6:00 PM we should be returning to our original pick-up spots at the Superstition Springs and Arizona Mills malls. At our January Meet, better than 75% of the roughly 100 persons in attendance indicated that they would like to partake in this Division social get-together. As of our publication date, we have 33 paid participants. If you haven't already signed up for this trip, do so now, as there is limited seating for dining in the Dome Car. We need 15 more members to insure that this trip is a "go."

Return the attached form on or before March 15, 2011 or bring it with you to the Picnic at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on March 12, 2011.



* * * * *

Check appropriate spaces.

Your Name _____ () \$45 adult

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Name of person with you _____ () \$45 adult; () \$40 child

Make checks payable to: Desert Division TCA Total enclosed \$ _____

Return this form and payment to: Christie Wilson, Golden Spike
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

TCA NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMING UP

You may already have received your March National Headquarters News. If not, you will be receiving it soon. In it will be a ballot for the purpose of electing the new slate of officers for TCA National. These are the VOLUNTEERS who will be leading and making the decisions for YOUR club for the fiscal year of July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012. Not surprisingly, Desert Division members are among the candidates for three of the offices.

The following persons are seeking your votes: for President-Elect are Carol McGinnis of Eastern Division's WB&A Chapter and Wayne Sheriff, current President of the Western Division; seeking the office of Vice-President are three persons: Bob Obara of the New England Division; Pat Halpin, current President of the Lone Star Division; and Katie Elgar of our own Desert Division; seeking reelection as Treasurer is New England, Southern, Desert Division member and the incumbent Treasurer, Bill Kotek; also seeking reelection as National Secretary is Desert Division member and TCA's incumbent Secretary, Christie Wilson. Current President-Elect, Paul Edgar from the Keystone Division, automatically assumes the position of President on July 1, 2011, during our 57th Annual Convention in Sacramento.

We urge everyone to read the resumes that will accompany the ballots and then vote for the candidates you feel will best lead the TCA during the next year. Of course, we urge each of you to seriously consider voting for the Desert Division candidates. Be sure to follow the directions printed in your Election Booklet found in the March issue of the National Headquarters News. All ballots must be returned via first-class mail, postmarked no later than April 1, 2011.

Christie Wilson has served this Division previously for 10 years as the Division's Secretary and since being elected as the TCA National Secretary in 2007, she has continued to serve as the Division's Membership Committee Chair. Additionally she has served on the Division's highly successful 2009 Convention Committee and is currently on the 40th Anniversary Committee. Nationally she's served on the Rules and Regulations Committee and the TCA Executive Committee. She is a strong advocate of the Desert Division and the TCA.

Katie Elgar writes this: As a Desert Division TCA member since 1994, I have worked with both the Division and National board. This has helped to give me the necessary experiences to run for the office of Vice President of the TCA. I have worked on many local and national committees since becoming a member and while serving as your Division president for four years, as well as volunteering to help with both of our national conventions and also helping with other Divisions' conventions. I promote participation in activities within our division and those on the national level. During my terms as Division president, we expanded to having an active chapter in New Mexico, increased our boundaries to include Australia and New Zealand, and have increased our running of trains with our module at more community events. Getting members involved, improving and growing the hobby is important for TCA, and I would like to have the opportunity to further both by serving on the National Board. I would appreciate your support by voting for me as the Desert Division candidate for the office of Vice President in the upcoming TCA election.

40th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED "RUBY" HOPPERS NOW AVAILABLE

The Desert Division's 40th Anniversary Commemorative "Ruby" Hoppers are going on sale, beginning at the March Picnic, starting at 10 AM on March 12 at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. These beautifully detailed cars cost \$65 each and are limited in number to 100. A sparkly ruby red load tops a copper hopper car adorned with the 40th Anniversary logo and dated and numbered for the occasion.

To order your car, fill out the form below, and attach it to your check, made payable to Desert Division – TCA, in the amount of \$65 for each car ordered. Bring it to a Meet or mail it to Christie Wilson, Ruby Hoppers, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. Orders will be filled at the next Meet date.

* * * * *

Please reserve _____ Ruby Hoppers for me at \$65 each. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____ TCA Number _____

Address _____

MARCH COMBINED PICNIC

Once again this year the Desert Division, Grand Canyon Model Railroaders, and Paradise and Pacific Clubs will hold their joint Spring Picnic at the Aste Ramada of the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on March 12, beginning at 10 AM. There will be brief Division business before the Noon meal is ready. The clubs provide hot dogs, rolls, chips, condiments, and sodas. While the normal "PICNIC FOOD" is provided by the Division, we strongly urge our members to share some extra goodies with everyone else in attendance. Things like your favorite casseroles! How about an unusual, but delicious salad? Homemade cookies, cakes, pies, and other desserts are more than welcome. Forget about Calories – Diets can start on Sunday, right? Above all else, don't be shy! Creativity is what our picnics are all about, so let's see who can bring to this picnic the MOST CREATIVE CULINARY item. Once upon a time someone brought some marinated pickles – and they were definitely DIFFERENT, and delicious, I might add. This year you might bring the most unusual side. Remember the date, March 12, and the location – the Railroad Park. We can hardly wait to taste the picnic fare.

Since January, attendees at the Desert Division Meets have been given gifts pertinent to our 40th Anniversary as a Division. January's gift was a history of the first year of the club; February was a chocolate candy shaped into a wreath with the number 40 emblazoned on it; March will be buttons designed from our logo. As a Division member, be sure to pick up your gift at the Picnic.

Also, the 2011 Desert Division Rosters and laminated membership cards will be available at the picnic. If you paid your Desert Division dues by March 1, you may pick up your roster and membership card at that time. The afternoon will be devoted to games, train rides, and visits to the new Train building at the east end of the complex.

40th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE "RUBY" HOPPER RAFFLE

In addition to the custom designed Ruby Hopper Cars (see order form on previous page), there is one special car, the prototype, number 1. With the car comes a ruby and pink sapphire jewelry set, including ring, earrings, and necklace. Sizing of the ring is included, once the winner is announced. The entire collection (jewelry and prototype hopper car) will be a raffle prize drawn from the tickets sold between now and the Anniversary Party on October 22, when the winning raffle ticket will be drawn. Tickets, which cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5, will be available for sale beginning at the March Picnic.

SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS

We are still collecting aluminum cans, with the proceeds going to TCA National to help defray the cost of LED lighting in the Museum. The picnic will be a wonderful opportunity for you to help with this project. Bring your crushed aluminum cans from home and recycle the ones you use on March 12 at the Picnic. Cans go to Katie Elgar, who is coordinating this project.

IN MEMORIAM

TCA member Steve Gerstenfeld passed away January 25. Steve was not a member of the Division, but many of us knew him as the AZ Trainman who ran the repair shop in the back of the AZ Train Depot. Close friend Ray Pomper has bought the business from Steve's widow and is currently doing the repair work.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131	Directors:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Vice-President:	Bob Johnston	623-582-2110		Tony Saulina	480-756-1563
Secretary:	Fred Hunter	480-947-3639		Ralph Treichel	602-863-6985
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Marty Wik	480-488-8625

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, March 9, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Bob and Sue Johnston. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 623-582-2110 to be sure there are enough chairs.

PIZZA MEETZA APPROACHES

Once again the Desert Division will host its Pizza Meetza on Saturday, April 9, beginning at 9 AM with a social gathering and train sales, followed by our monthly business meeting and educational segment. You all know what follows that – Right? Pizza! Each year our members devour about 40 pizzas, while awaiting the Auction which fills the afternoon.

Do you have something to sell? This April might be the perfect time to clean out that space you need for your new acquisitions. Chet Henry will once again act as Auction Chair, with lot tickets available at the March Meet. Each lot is \$5, and you may purchase as many lots as your wish. Donations to the club are not charged a fee, and proceeds from the sale of such items will help defray the cost of the pizzas.

In 2010 a serious attempt was made to upgrade the quality of the auction merchandise. We no longer accepted lots that were filled with “rusty” or junky looking track. As a result, members consigned some really nice trains and accessories and they were rewarded with some appreciative bidding by our members.

Once again this year we urge our members to withhold auction lots of “DUBIOUS” value and quality. Since each lot costs the consigner \$5.00, we feel it only fair to ask for at least an opening bid of \$5.00 on each lot, thus assuring at least a “break-even” point for each consigner.

To encourage active and “deep pocket” bidding, we wish to ask of our consigners the following: Please send to the editor of the Dispatch some photos of items you are going to place in the Pizza Meetza Auction. We will devote space in the April issue of the Dispatch to show as many of your pieces as space will permit. By all means, please identify the piece and tell of its condition and anything unusual about it. You may send the photos via USPS to the Editor or by e-mail to christielwilson@aol.com. We will need the pictures by March 25, 2011.

Each lot may have one item or many items in it, but no matter which, it will be sold as One Lot, as is, and with no guarantee. Each lot will cost \$5.00 and the consigner may designate a reserve price, but there are no refunds if the item fails to meet the reserve. Buy/Reserve your Lot Tickets at the March Picnic – Bring the Lots in April, and enjoy a regular morning Division Meet, all the Pizza you can eat, and then our fabled Pizza Meetza Auction all afternoon. Ciao!

40th ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS AVAILABLE

For months members asked, “Are we going to have Anniversary shirts like we did for the Convention?” The answer is a resounding “YES!” Those who ordered their shirts in February should have them at the Picnic on March 12. You may still order a shirt, if you missed the deadline or if you were waiting to see just what they look like. Once you see them at McCormick Railroad Park, you may decide that you need 2 (or 3).



The cost for a men’s Inner Harbor collared golf shirt with breast pocket and our 40th Anniversary logo is \$25, delivered, in a choice of white, medium blue, or black. A women’s similar shirt, but without the pocket, is offered in white, pale yellow, or black. Sizes for either shirt range from Small to 3XL. We will continue to take pre-paid orders at the March 12 Picnic. We have been assured that orders placed by March 15 will reach us in time for delivery at the April Pizza Meetza.

Should you wish to place an order for YOUR Desert Division 40th Anniversary Shirt, come to the Picnic on March 12 ready to order and pre-pay for it at that time. If you can’t make the Meet, fill in the attached order form and return it now with your check and you can still pick up your shirt(s) at the April 9 Meet.

* * * * *

(Circle your choice of size and color)

Man’s Name _____ Size: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL; White, Blue, Black

Woman’s Name _____ Size: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL; White, Pale Yellow, Black

Address _____

Shirts are \$25 each. Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA. Amount enclosed \$ _____

Send to: Christie Wilson, DD Shirt
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

HISTORIAN'S CORNER – BUTTONS, PATCHES, RIBBONS, OH MY!

by Chris Allen - Historian@tcadd.org

Last month's article brought a very good response from several members and, as I have discovered since taking on this job, opened up more questions. First I must thank Ernestine Bong, Bob Dennison, Ed Micale, and Gordon Wilson, who donated Chris-Town ribbons, Turkey Meet and Division Convention buttons, and a nice assortment of badges and patches from several events in Division history. At the February Meet, Bob Dennison gave me a large box containing Chris-Town ribbons and buttons that had been "hanging around the train room," and "out of the blue," former Division member Ed Micale mailed a box of badges and buttons all the way from Massachusetts. Ed followed up the box with a nice phone call and we chatted about our own "good old days" and the time we spent together on modules and other Division activities. Not to be overlooked, Ernestine Bong called and donated all of Jim's Chris-Town ribbons. For those of you who may recall, Jim ran his special Christmas train every year at Chris-Town and many of us have special memories of that train and the joy it brought to everyone who saw it. Gordon Wilson also chipped in with what Gordon is known for best, variations. Not only does the Division now have a complete set of 1997 and 2009 TCA National Convention buttons (in every known variation), but we also have buttons from the ill-fated Convention bid from 1996 that the Division had hoped to have as part of our then 25th Anniversary celebration. Thank you all for your wonderful response, but as I mentioned the quest continues with more questions.

The earliest Chris-Town ribbon we now have is from 1986; it is pretty ornate compared to later ones, so I asked my trusted module source Peter Atonna when the first ribbon was given out. Peter remembers the first ribbons that were given out began a few years after we began Chris-Town in 1980, perhaps as early as 1983. He also recalls that the first few years the ribbons were simple and rather plain straight ribbons. If you have any ribbons earlier than 1986 and would like to donate them to the Division, please let me know. If you would like to keep them in your collection, I would appreciate it if you would allow me the opportunity to photograph them for the Division archives.

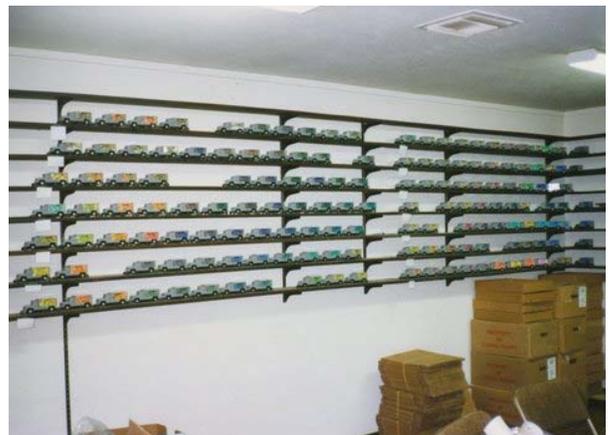
After we establish the earliest Chris-Town ribbon, we also need to document the earliest Railfair patch. Running the Division module at Railfair also became an annual event early in Division history; however there were years when Rail Fair was not held because the park was undergoing renovation and remodeling. The earliest patch we have is from 1994 and we are missing 1996, 1998, and 2000. If you have a patch from Railfair that no longer is significant in your collection, the Division would like to add it to our archives, but a photograph would also allow us to document it for everyone.

The photographs and videos continue to roll in and I cannot tell you how much I and other Division members appreciate your efforts. However, we would like you to be on the lookout for a video tape that Bob Dennison describes as "the last time all us standard gauge guys got together." Please let me know if you made a copy of this tape so I can get it on DVD. Peter Atonna, Beth Stange, and John Wiley all added to our collection of Division faces. Angelo Lautazi has done an absolutely fabulous job getting some of these old VHS videos up on the website. Look for the video link from the Division homepage and enjoy a trip down memory lane.



On the left:
Turkey Meet
badges 1993 to
2009

On the right:
Tom Stange's
train room
before the
layout with
100's of 25th
Anniversary
Step Vans



RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - Just in! Beautiful MTH Canadian grain hoppers five different paint schemes Club price \$49.95 each – SP and UP steel drop bottom gondolas six car set club price \$251.95 or only two left from a set breakup at \$44.95 – UP scale crane and tender only 2 left club price \$121.44 – New Atlas Industrial Rail 4-4-2 with bell and smoke sale price \$69.95- Consignment - MTH Rail King four car 60' Madison Blue Comet set \$149.95- **AZ TRAINMAN REPAIRS – MTH and LIONEL CERTIFIED WARRANTY SERVICE** - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM.

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FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

WANTED – 1700 engines, cars, and parts. Condition unimportant. Contact Bob Herman 480-948-2730.

FOR SALE – 92 Floodlight Tower o/b \$220, 2321 Lackawanna Gray Roof o/b \$425, 6445 Ft. Knox Gold Reefer o/b \$90. Dorfan: 610 Derrick Car 8 wheel, Brass journals \$225, 605 PRR Coal Hopper & 604 Tank Indian refining Co. each \$60. Ives 3255 0-4-0 Green/Red windows \$400, Ives 3255 0-4-0 Black/Red \$400. Set: 1684 2-4-2 Black 1689 T, 600,601,602,2601 some boxes \$500. 2660 Crane tattered box \$125, Santa Fe Set, 2343AA,2343C “B” 2530,2531,2532,2533 all boxes, Set \$1,100, Set 224E Black 2224W, 2620, 3659, 2654, 2652, &2657 \$675, 225E Black 2235W Set 853W 2755,X2758,2812X & 2757 \$675, 2343 ABA no box for the “B” \$400, Lionel Rocky Mountain 5th Anniversary Reefer, \$50 no box. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

WANTED – CTT – October 2009, Lion Roars – August 2001 and October 2002. Keith Swett, call 480-332-0255 or e-mail k-swett@cox.net.

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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 12 | Combined Picnic and Division Meet – McCormick – Stillman Railroad Park – 10 AM |
| March 19 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| April 2 | Desert Division Outing aboard the Arizona Eastern Railroad – 7:15 AM to 6:00 PM |
| April 9 | Division Pizza Meetza and Auction – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM to??? -- Free Pizza |
| May 14 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| May 21 | New Mexico Rail Fair Meet – School Arts Building Expo New Mexico
Contact Greg Palmer: 505-898-3840 |
| June 11 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| October 22 | 40 th Anniversary Party – Chaparral Suites – 6 PM – SAVE THIS DATE NOW! |

MARCH MEET LOCATION

McCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK, SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Meet – 10 AM ASTE RAMADA Picnic – Noon