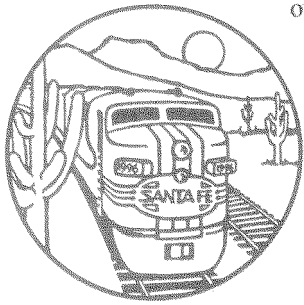


TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



Volume 33, No. 4

May, 2004

LET'SA EATSA PIZZA MEETSA!!

Once again a room filled with 40 large Dominos Pizzas proved it would attract a lot of Desert Division Membership interest. Throw in a sixty-lot auction, and you have the elements for another successful April Desert Division Meet. Anticipating the fun to come, the business meeting was quick and to the point. Christie Wilson distributed the new membership roster to the members in attendance; the remainder of the rosters will be mailed.

Tim Kamper was introduced as our newest member. Having collected trains 40 years ago, Tim now returns to the hobby. He served as mystery greeter and chose Dan Kline as the most cordial stranger! This netted Dan a string of ten free raffle tickets.

Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Division has \$13,943.52 in savings and \$9,457.08 in checking. March proceeds for Trains 4 Kids was \$20.40; a portion of the raffle proceeds is funding this project.

The announcements that followed included a discussion of the 2004 edition of the Holiday Party. Katie Elgar informed us that the date is set for December 12 and we have a new venue, the Holiday Inn on 44th and Washington. This site will comfortably accommodate the 150 plus diners we have had in the past and serve twice as fast with a total of four food-serving lines.

About 100 lots are still needed to complete the Turkey Meet Auction, which, along with the Meet will again be held at Centennial Hall in Mesa, Thanksgiving weekend.

Our Phoenix Zoo layout has proved to be a real success, running for hours daily. Chris Allen had to make an emergency "house call" as a windstorm deposited cottonwood seeds inside the Plexiglas shell, resulting in clogged motors! Still needed are animal theme related cars like Giraffe cars, aquarium cars, flats with animal loads, etc. If you have some of these items in useable condition, please contact Chris or Tom Plies.

Ivan English announced that Gadsden-Pacific will have its Summer Meet on June 5 at the Rodeway Inn in Tucson.

National President Paul Wassermann gave a report on the 50th Anniversary Convention. It promises to be one of the largest conventions in TCA's history. Three hotels are already sold out and many others are approaching capacity. As part of the anniversary celebration the club will offer several new items. These include four USA manufactured Pride Lines items including a Trolley, Glass Dome Shed, Lamp post and a pair of clown figures. These are all gold plated. In addition a commemorative 24 carat gold plated medal/coin is being manufactured, which carries the TCA logos and is designed to fit in the slot of any Lionel mint car (particularly appropriate for the 50th Anniversary Mint Car offered in this year's convention car offerings).

Congratulations to Tom and Beth Stange (published in Classic Toy Trains) and Dave Brown, chosen Member of the Month.

COMING UP...

May 8 Regular Division Meet – Jaycees Hall – 9 AM

June 5 Toy Train Show – Tucson – 9 AM

June 12 Regular Division Meet – Jaycees Hall – 9 AM

June 20-27 TCA National Convention – Pittsburgh, PA

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Rebecca and Melissa Peiffer were a hit at the raffle pull. The girls extracted the winning tickets with eager excitement. The winners were:

John Wiley	Hudson Raffle Ticket
Chris Allen	Railroad books
Earl Rasmussen	Airport Hangar
Dave Brown	Lionel Reading Caboose (donated by Bob Dymacek)
Sam McElwee	Lionel Flat Car with logs
Peter Atonna	Weaver Reading 3-bay hopper
Ken Burling	American Models TCA 2003 Convention Tanker
Werner Hennig	Lionel Helicopter and Truck set
Steve Bienstock	HO Boxcar (which he then donated to the Kids Club)

The \$100 winner in the Hudson Raffle was Ivan English and the Thomas the Tank set was won by James Allen.

Following the raffle, the pizza's arrived. Again Beth Stange coordinated this project and once again all 40 pizzas found their way into the Desert Division's midsection. As the eating concluded, the auction preview began; and by mid-day, Peter Atonna was once again entertaining the audience with his train appropriate humor and at the same time extracting the best price possible for the variety of items offered for sale. Almost all lots sold and prizes of all shapes, sizes, and values found their way to new owners.

DESERT DIVISION SPRING RAFFLE '04

The Desert Division is proud to announce this year's Spring Raffle. First Place is the highly sought after K-Line Black Santa Fe Warbonnet F-3 A-B-A with TMCC and the works! Second Place is a Lionel B&O Berkshire with Railsounds and smoke, while Third place is a nice operating accessory, the Lionel Hobo Hotel.



Don't miss out on any of these fine prizes this year. Remember you do not need to be present to win when the drawing is held on June 12th at the June meet. Price is \$10.00 each or 3/\$25.00

I won't crack any jokes about Peter Atonna's newest layout addition, however I've heard that you'll split your britches over it.



Mooning Amtrak in California



Yes, the rail crew has a funny "face."

Yes, those are J.B.Hunt's on the piggyback.

No, I won't tell you where the picture was taken.

Greetings to you all!

Pass the Pepto! Whew, did we eat pizza! Another 320 slices of pizza are now recorded into the annals of Desert Division lore. Thank you's to a long list of people who helped make the 9th annual Pizza Meetza such a success. Listed as my brain recalls them: Beth Stange for getting such a wide selection of pizzas at a great price, Denise Micale and my wife Laurel for staffing the coffee club, Chet Henry and his great support crew who were too numerous to mention, and of course auctioneer extraordinaire Peter Atonna.

As promised, I researched the historical records to update the pizza pie tally sheets. With this year's addition, the Desert Division continues to sit alone at the top of the pizza hilltop with a new total of 377 pies eaten for a new grand total of 3,016 slices! Now, I love totally useless trivia, and the internet makes it way too easy for me to come up with some of this stuff. By visiting the website of our friends over at DOMINOS and using some other nutritional information I found on the web, we get some really interesting numbers the Division can be "proud" to claim. The U.S. national average is that every man, woman, and child in America eats 46 slices of pizza a year, (unless you attend Desert Division meets, which will make your numbers vary) and that the average pizza weighs in at 4 pounds. Using the updated information from the Pizza Meetza of a total of 377 pies, we have consumed 1508 pounds or over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ton of pizza the last nine years. But let's not stop there. I also found that there is an average of 350 calories per slice of pizza, so the Desert Division will have to burn off 1,055,600 calories to negate the impact from all those pizzas. Since a brisk walk will burn 450 calories an hour it will take us 2,346 hours and 11,730 miles to work off all that pizza. I don't know about you, but I'm not succeeding!

What we are succeeding in is having a great time. Last month's DISPATCH had our normal April Fool's spoofs, and one oddity that proved true. Check out this month's trivia to find the answer about the real electric steam powered Swiss

locomotive that was featured last month. Continuing with the bizarre and offbeat, auction maestro Peter Atonna was encouraged to talk about the newest addition to his layout. Seems that every year in Southern California (where else?) folks get together for a day of "mooning Amtrak." In doing my research for the trivia questions I "stumbled" onto this site. I was planning on using this item with a harvest moon type of tie in this fall, but now the cat is out of the bag, so to speak. For those of you so inclined and to those I promised the website to verify the existence of said event, now celebrating its 25 anniversary, you can check out www.moonamtrak.org (clever, huh?) It is a PG rated site, and I've seen more butts hanging out of britches every time I drive by the local high school, but it is kind of a fun sight, ummmm I mean site.

Continuing our internet theme if you would like to spend several hours of your life looking at some of the real true oddities of the engineering world might I recommend www.dsself.dsl.pipex.com/ Since I've used the website for last month's trivia, I won't be able to go back to it for awhile, so I'll divulge this gem of the net. Click on the Museum of RetroTech link for a truly wonderful experience in all types of over-engineering. There are several wonderful examples of early steam locomotives including plans from the Baldwin locomotive company to introduce not only a Quadruplex but a huge, and I do mean huge, 2-10-10-10-10-10-2 Quintuplex with an articulated BOILER! This website is packed with such wonderful rail oddities that I both want to share it with everyone and keep it a secret for the treasure trove of future trivia contests we could get out of it. Like trying to eat one M&M or potato chip, you won't be able to stop at just one photo. The webmaster of this site has found and placed online some all time great engineering oddities. Have fun, I have this page bookmarked and go back to it often.

Hope to see you soon!



GOT YOUR TICKET? SPRING RAFFLE HAS BEGUN

This year's Spring Raffle is sure to please everyone. The prizes, which can be viewed on our website (www.tcadd.org) include the following: A) Black Santa Fe F-3's by K-Line, B) Lionel Berkshire locomotive and tender, and C) Lionel Hobo Hotel. Tickets for the three superb prizes in this raffle will be available for purchase during the May meet, and continuing through June. You do not need to be present to win a prize, so be sure to buy your tickets, fill out the stubs with your name and address, and place the stubs in the appropriate raffle tin. The cost is \$10 per ticket or three for \$25. Yours could be a winning ticket on June 12th, but only if you participate. Don't forget! Get your tickets during the next meet and support your Division in this fund-raising activity.

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, May 5, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Gordon and Christie Wilson. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-837-5344 for directions.

PADE PROMOTIONS

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. Kids Club thanks the following: John Huber for house kits; Keith Swett for a "Tucker" car; Christie Wilson for train magazines; Steve Bienstock for an HO freight car kit; Bob Herman for the airport board for the module; Ken Burling for 5 gondolas turned into animal carrying cars for the Zoo layout. Steve Martin of Arizona Train Depot continues to supply us with substantial raffle prizes. Beth Stange saw to it that no one went hungry at the Pizza Meetza. We thank all of you who bought Thomas the Tank raffle tickets, and hope you are also purchasing Spring Raffle tickets. The efforts of Denise Micale and Laurel Allen, who staffed the kitchen this month, were greatly appreciated. Finally, as a result of your generosity, the Kids Club earned \$20.40 in March.

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



Above: Rebecca (L) and Melissa (R) Peiffer pull the winning raffle tickets from the drum.



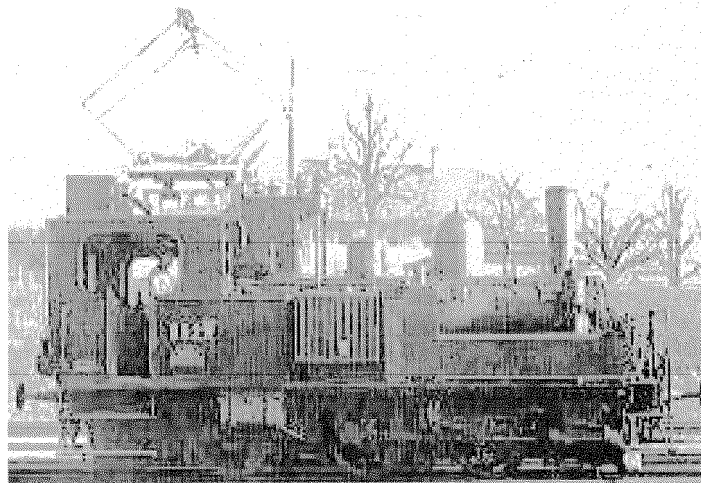
Right: Rebecca Peiffer builds houses as a Kids Club project, under the tutelage of Tom Plies and John Huber.

**** TRIVIA ****



Railfans should know what this is, but that is not the question this month. The photo was taken somewhere within the Desert Division boundaries, WHERE? Remember only one guess per member, first correct answer to Chris Allen at 480-820-9559 or email at TCADD.org@cox.net gets 10 free raffle tickets for the May meet. Remember if you're not at the meet the best prize available when your ticket is pulled will be mailed to you at our expense!

ANSWER TO THE APRIL TRIVIA QUESTION



VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

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<http://www.dself.dsl.pipex.com/MUSEUM/LOCOLOCO/swisselec/swisselec.htm>

As I mentioned in my Presidents article this is truly a wonderful website and all credit is due the author and webmaster. For those of you without access to the internet I've copied the key paragraph in total "The Swiss Federal Railways had a highly electrified system during the Second World War, but retained little 0-6-0 tank engines for shunting. Due to war conditions coal was in short supply, but hydro-electricity remained plentiful. Therefore some of these small steam locomotives were converted to raise steam by electric heating. Power was taken at 15 kV, 16.6 Hz* from overhead lines by a pantograph, and fed to resistance heating elements in the boiler, via two transformers rated together at 480 kW. Water feed was by normal steam injectors. These unique locomotives also retained the capability of being fired by coal in the usual way" No April Fool story, and to my knowledge these were the only electric steam locomotive in the world.

Desert



Division

NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

By Rob Davis, John Huber, and Tom Plies

Here are three more thoughts on the subject of kids' collecting, edited from an article "Young Collectors" by H. Rinker.

F. Teach the child and yourself patience. Resist the temptation to rush out and buy your child dozens or hundreds of his "favorite" collectible of the moment. A child does not have to own everything he desires immediately. Allow the child to unearth his own treasures. The story behind the acquisition enhances the perceived value of any object to the collector. Further, collecting is a great deal more fun when it stretches over decades rather than months. Children's collecting interests can shift on a whim. Increase your level of support in assisting the child to add to his collection the longer he remains focused. Avoid allowing collecting to become an obsession or worse, an addiction. Collecting should never be allowed to dominate a child's life. Help your child develop a sense of perspective.



G. Encourage your child to use his own money to buy objects for his collection. Not only will he value them more, he will begin to understand that collecting requires a sacrifice. When you spend your money on an object, you do not have it to spend on something else. Ideally, collecting should be discretionary-income driven. Allow your child to make purchasing mistakes. A child often buys the first example he sees and frequently overpays. Adults know the value of comparison shopping. The child needs to learn the lesson firsthand. He will learn it when he finds a second, third, and fourth example priced well below what he paid.

Thanks to Bob Herman for making a 50" x 18" x 12" airport board to be inserted in the center of the module. Tom Plies did the Falcon Field in abstract and the dioramas. The Zoo train table now has a "Jiminy Cricket" standing next to Ward Kimball, who created Jiminy at Walt Disney Studios, thanks to Marjorie Fink. John Huber donated several house kits to the Kids Club. They will go on three different table tops of various sizes which are being worked on and will be given out to some lucky child when finished. Train magazines are always welcome for Kids Club packets.

Do you want to enroll someone "FREE" between the ages of 4 through 18 in the Kids Club? Use the form below. Give it to one of the Kids Club Chairs at the Meet on May 8, and we will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.

Kid's Club Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name _____ TCA No. _____

Phone No. _____ Relationship to Kid's Club Member _____

ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB

IT'S APRIL – NO FOOLIN'



Danielle Georgevich's smile helped to light up the Pizza Meetza revelers, especially husband Ed, seen here in the background.



(L-R) Barbara Lautazi, Diane Martin, and Brad Martin are surely enjoying their slices of Pizza.



Auctioneer Atonna and President Allen are seen here "hustling" a few of the un-used Pizzas. They were dinner, or perhaps cold pizza breakfast for some lucky bidders.



Katie Elgar, Chet Henry, and Ed Micale are busy at work during the Pizza Meetza Auction.



Beth Stange is all smiles as she sorts out the 40 pizzas for our Annual Pizza Meetza.



Paul Ferraris seems at ease and quite relaxed while awaiting the arrival of the 40 pizza pies.

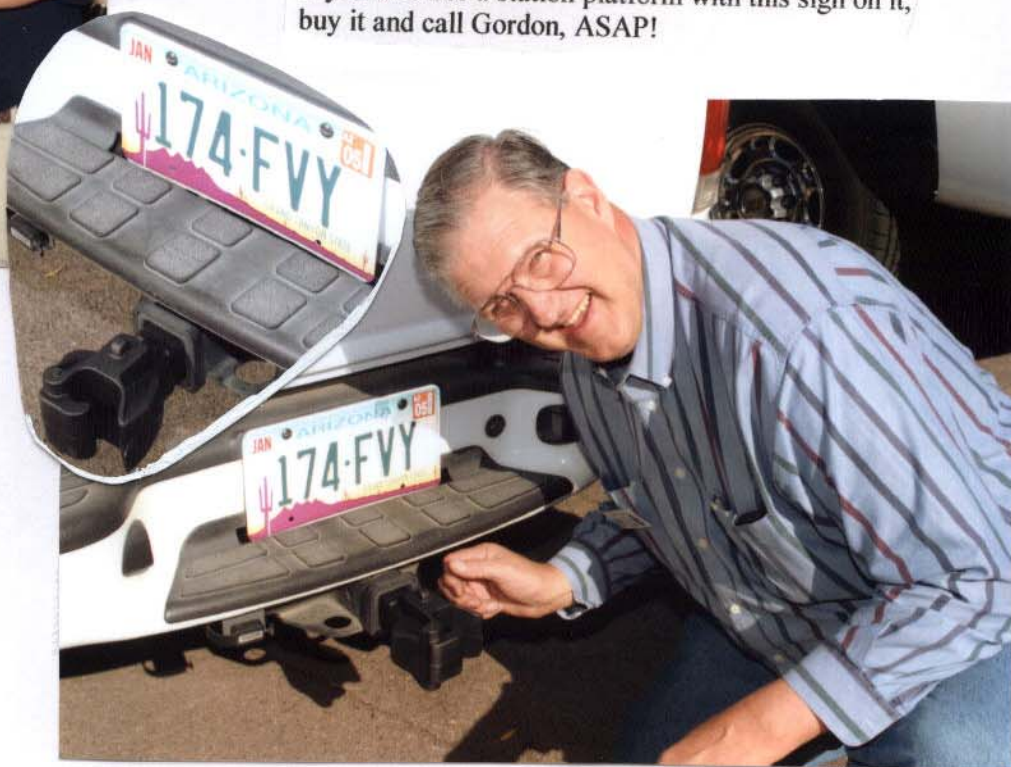


Bill Mack and Ed Georgevich seem to be asking each other Pizza Trivia questions as they help transport 40 pizzas to the "Eatin' Room."

Some SUV's trailer hitches pull trailers; Ron Kuhn's does heavy duty as it boasts a replica Lionel Knuckle Coupler.



If you ever see a station platform with this sign on it, buy it and call Gordon, ASAP!

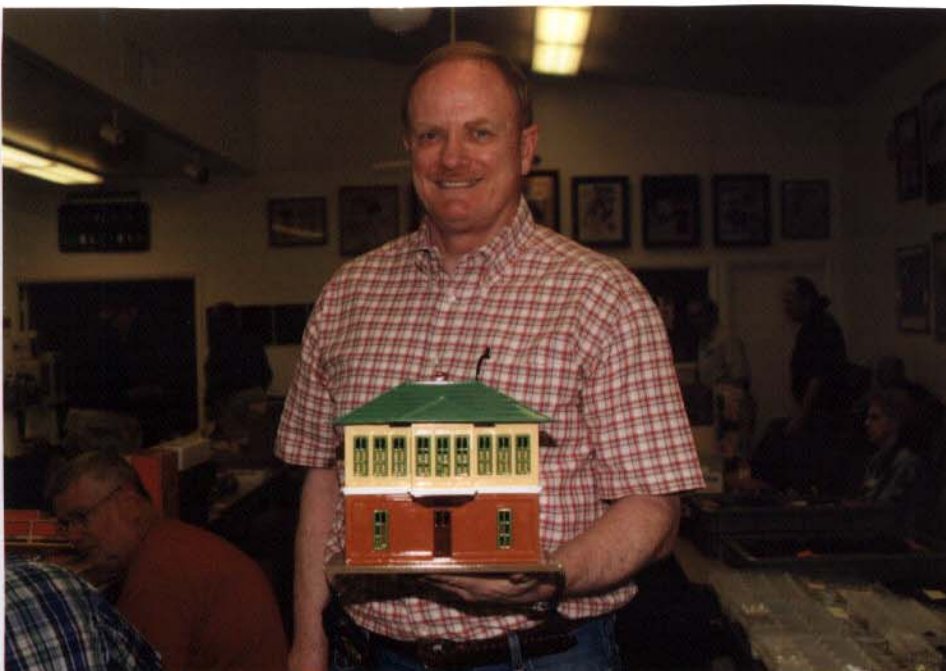




Ivan English was the winner of the monthly Hudson Raffle hundred dollar drawing. It looks as if Treasurer Bob Herman is trying hard to retain custody of April's "C" note!



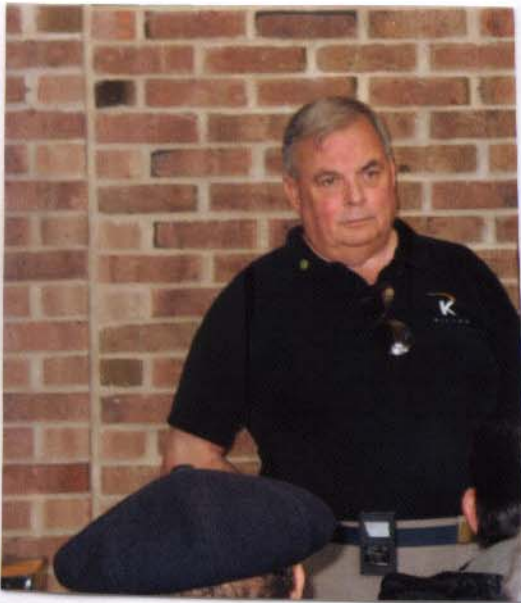
Dave Brown worked long and hard to help bring the March Picnic to fruition. His reward was being named by President Chris Allen as April's Member of the Month.



One of the Division's newest members, Tim Kamper, took time out to tell the assembled masses about his love affair with pre-war Lionel Trains. Welcome aboard Tim - we hope to see you and your wife at all of our meets.

APRIL IS ALSO A YORK MONTH

Seen outside of the new "Orange" Hall at York was a working scale model of a CSX GP-9. Here we have TCA President Wassermann and Past TCA President Wilson checking out this piece of "Art Work." Shortly after this photo was taken, both men ran into former Desert Division resident Dick Goodfellow. Dick sends his and Ellie's warmest regards from Westerly, R. I. He'd love to hear from his Desert Dwelling friends. We miss you, Dick!!



Above: Division Member Nick Ladd is a Past TCA President and current VP of K-Line Electric Trains.

Middle R: The gigantic Orange Hall for Dealers at the York Fairgrounds. It is over 80,000 square feet.

Lower R: The entrance to YOUR TCA National Headquarters and National Toy Train Museum. Located on the "railroad tracks" into the arched entrance are the Commemorative Bricks containing the name of every Desert Division member in the year 2000.

