

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



# Desert Division

## DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



Volume 34, No. 4

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

May 2005

## FEETZA COMPLETEZA PIZZA MEETZA - 2005

A beautiful spring day, trains and a train auction, plus the enticing thought of free Pizza resulted in an overflow audience for the annual Pizza Meetza. Virtually every square inch of the Jaycees Drinkwater Clubhouse was occupied with either a person, table, or train.

Bob Herman reported that there is \$21,013.39 in savings and \$6,939.03 in checking. The Trains for Kids program has \$78.75 to date. We have two ongoing raffles. The Spring Raffle includes a Lionel Corvette Set, a Lionel Berkshire engine, and three Lionelville houses. Tickets will be sold at the next two meets. Kids Club is also having a raffle, with the drawing held in December. Prizes for this are a Polar Express, 4 tickets on the Grand Canyon Railroad, a DVD and Lionel poster of the Polar Express, and Phoenix zoo Safari Train tickets.

Chris Allen outlined, again, the rationale for the changes in the Hudson Raffle prize drawing. The new rules allow a non-attendee to win a fraction (\$25) of the \$100 monthly prize. If this occurs the \$75 not awarded will go into the fund for Convention 2009 seed money. The Division operates on an approximate \$20,000 a year budget. Most of that goes to hall and table rentals for the Turkey Meet and costs associated with the bulletin. Raffles, auctions, apparel sale, and other fund-raisers are the backbone of expanding revenues beyond dues income.

It is not too early to plan for the Turkey Meet auction. The club needs approximately 150 more lots to complete the currently committed lots, so if any of you are considering a downsize of your collection, or know of someone who is, please let Chris Allen know about it.

The Educational Segment began with "Marx under glass"! Jerry Sienkiewicz brought in an amazing "factory error" yellow-brown REA car for a M10005 streamliner. The word United (as in United States) was misspelled. The error was caught at the factory and the car stamped again, on the other side. However a second error was committed when the car was assembled with the correct spelling side inside!

Gordon Wilson shared two plastic Lionel boats on flatcars to demonstrate the use of a Lionel elastic band, made a continuous elastic loop by a small metal clip which he featured separately as a "do you know what this is" contest. Paul Wassermann displayed his one of a kind 1915 611 Lionel O gauge baggage car along with a regular 602 baggage car that uses the same, very rare, Type I Lionel trucks which have a single hole in the truck side bolster. In addition he exhibited a boxed Marx set made unusual by the freight terminal-loading dock graphics of the set box which was in like new condition.

Scott Russell explained the "My First Trip to York" article printed in the April bulletin. Yes, he did go to York, but not York, Pennsylvania. Many clues in the story included the long plane ride – with meals; the size of the trains, which was 12 inches to the foot; the "crowning" achievement, train cars used by royalty; the "pounds" of money he needed to buy trains; and, of course, his namesake, the Flying Scotsman, which is found in the Railroad Museum located in York, England. It's no wonder he didn't see any Desert Division members there. Thank you, Scott. You surely made April Fools of our readers.

### COMING UP....

<b>May 14</b>	<b>Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM</b>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Toy Train Show, Rodeway Event Center, Tucson – 9 AM</b>
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM</b>
<b>June 18-26</b>	<b>TCA National Convention, Seattle, Washington</b>

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



This month's Mystery Greeter was Larry Ward. He selected Jonathan Peiffer, a fellow ex-New Jerseyan who collects Central of New Jersey trains, as the recipient of the 10 extra raffle tickets. Raffle prizes went to the following ticket holders:

Werner Hennig  
Sam McElwee  
Terry Fagan  
Ernestine Bong  
Jerry Sienkiewicz  
Terry Fagan  
Ed Micale  
Gordon Wilson

Lionel unboxed NYCV gondola with canisters  
Lionelville Fieldstone House  
Hudson raffle ticket  
Lionel Southern Boxcar (donated to Kids Club)  
Lionel Station Perpetual Calendar  
Lionel book, calendar, et al.  
T-shirt (donated by Terry Fagan)  
Streamliner, calendar, button, and chocolate train



The \$100 prize went to Bill MacDowell.

At the conclusion of the prize drawings, the hall was prepared for the 40 pizzas delivered under the watchful eye of Beth Stange. Within minutes the clamor of the meet was reduced to the silence of serious eating. Following distribution of Pizza, Peter Atonna assumed his natural position at the podium as auctioneer and the spring auction was underway. It was a fitting end to a wonderfully fun Desert Division day!



### PIZZA MEETZA TREETZA

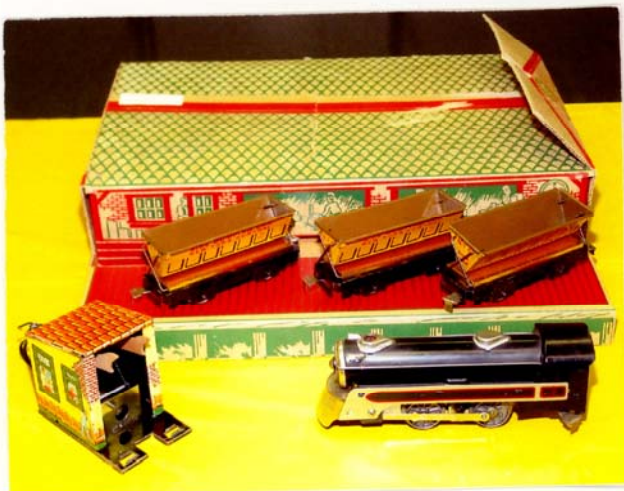
Top Row (L - R): The crowd gathers.  
Jerry Sienkiewicz's "Marx Under Glass" - a double factory error.

Gordon Wilson's flatcar with boat and Paul Wassermann's baggage cars (one from 1915) with very rare Type I Lionel trucks.

Middle Row (L - R): Paul Wassermann's Marx freight loading terminal set box.  
Scott Russell explains his trip to York (England).

Bottom Row (L - R): Pizzas galore.  
Bidding and eating.

Ed Micale and Ed Georgevich serve as runners to Peter Atonna, auctioneer.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Had enough to eat? Boy, did we chow down in April! Between the Pizza and Hot Dogs I've had enough of the "good stuff" for at least a few weeks. I would like to thank all of you who participated or helped out at the Pizza Meetza and the Ray Korte Spring Picnic.

First things first, the Pizza Meetza and Spring Auction went without a hitch and all of our thanks go to Beth Stange for getting another 40 Pizzas (delivered on time this year!) of every variety our budget allowed. While the bidders were lining up for all the hot fresh sliced "Za's" or is it "za" (I can't keep up with all the kids lingo these days), Chet Henry's auction crew set up about 80 lots for the afternoon auction. Desert Division Director Steve Bienstock has asked members to donate items to get the 2009 Convention Committee treasury off to a good start. Again many of you responded and we had about 15 lots donated to the cause. My thanks to all of you who helped make the April Meet a great success.

The following week we held the annual Ray Korte Memorial Spring Picnic. Thanks go out all around for this wonderful day. Late last year Dave Brown and the crew over at the Paradise and Pacific Railroad Club secured the largest Ramada at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. Reservations need to be made six months in advance and Dave picked a day that had beautiful spring weather! Planning by the Grand Canyon TTOS and the Desert Division made sure you had enough hot dogs, chips, and sodas to eat and drink; and of course, you responded in your usual way by bringing in the salads and deserts. Wow, did we have food and a great spring day to enjoy! Beth Stange had enough games to keep kids of all ages occupied. We had ring toss, bubbles, and other games for the small fry and even more games for us older kids. Desert Division member Frank Pizzai, his two sons, nephew, and a friend of one of the boys were visiting Arizona from his home in New York. They all came out and joined us. Soon the older boys made friends with some of the kids in nearby Ramada's and had a baseball game going! The one person who was sorely missed was our friend Bill Schulte, who over the years has made sure we had ice cream sandwiches to enjoy. Bill gave me the scoop as to where to pick them up and how to pack them in dry ice, which I did. Even so, his experience of tending the frozen concoctions was definitely missed. As the afternoon heated up, the sandwiches resembled jelly sandwiches and not ice cream treats. Well, luckily we had lots of bottled water! K-Line was very gracious to donate 12 K-Line Kruisers for a drawing for those that participated in the picnic games and activities. Being the good sports that we are, the old adage of "It's not

whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game" came into account as a ticket was awarded to all who even just tried one of the games. Of course the winners were awarded more but when the drawing was held they were pretty evenly split between the winners and the rest of us who gave it the good old college try. Thank you again, Beth, and a tip of the Desert Division cap to K-Line for supporting us with some nice prizes.

May ought to be a quiet month as the temperature begins to heat up and we all slow down. Keep your eye open for the Spring Raffle tickets that will go on sale at the meet. First Prize is the Lionel Corvette GP-7 set, a real neat set that has broad appeal, along with a Lionel Berkshire and a nice selection of three Lionelville houses that will round out the auction. A portion of the proceeds from this auction will help fund additional train sets for our annual Trains for Kids program this upcoming Holiday season.

Many of you are aware of the planning that goes into the Turkey Meet every year and, believe it or not, this is your LAST CALL! We are wrapping up the Sunday auction and are looking for any last minute items you might want to get in for this year. We try to get the items lotted and the catalog off to the printers during the summer slow down so that they will be ready for you come September. If you have any items that you would like to get into the Sunday auction please contact Chet Henry (480-838-0783) or myself as soon as possible. This is also a great venue for those of you who would like to make a donation to the club of trains, track, magazines, anything train related that you would like to donate to help the Division. You can also specify which program you would prefer your donation to go towards, such as the 2009 Convention or the Trains for Kids program.

This should also be your last call for the National Convention and the great Northwest Experience. If you haven't filled out your application, I can't encourage you enough to do it soon. While I'm a true desert rat and wouldn't live anywhere else, I am a transplant living here since 1982. Laurel on the other hand, a near native living here since the stagecoach days of 1959, is looking forward to revisiting the Emerald City this June.

We hope to see you there!

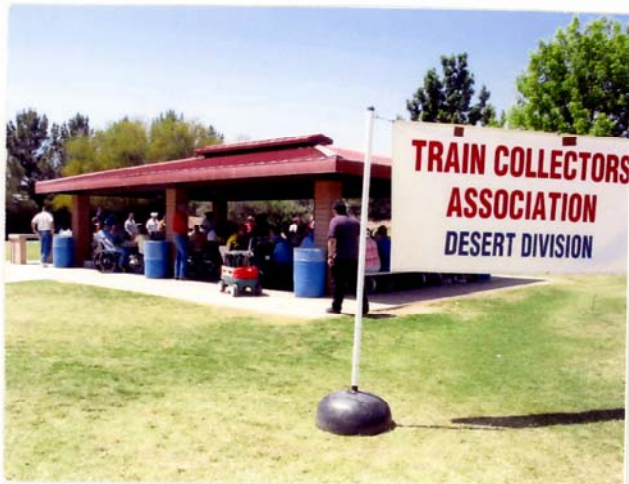


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## EVERYBODY LOVES A PICNIC

Views from the Ray Korte Memorial Spring Picnic at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park



Top Row: The Desert Division at the Railroad Park. Games for everyone.

Second Row: Chefs Brad Martin and Ed Georgevich cook hot dogs under the watchful eye of President Allen. Everyone had plenty to eat.



Third Row: After lunch, the raffles are drawn, mystery boxes bid on, and prizes awarded.

Bottom Row: It was a beautiful day for a ball game or ring toss. Everyone who participated received a ticket for a prize – one of 12 Kruisers donated by K-Line. Thank you Beth Stange for organizing the games.





## 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

Terry Fagan's T-shirt (exchangeable for size) as a raffle prize, Ernestine Bong's raffle prize (a Lionel Southern Boxcar) to the Kids Club, as well as Angelo Lautazi's and Terry Ward's items for the auction. Our video collection has increased, thanks to the generosity of Ernestine Bong. In the kitchen this month was Laurel Allen.

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

## LAST CALL FOR TURKEY MEET AUCTION!!

Yes, while you are getting ready for summer, the Desert Division is busy working on the fall Turkey Meet. Chet and auctioneer Peter Atonna put together the auction catalog during the dog days of summer and get it off to the printers so that when you come back from your summer vacation you can buy one at the September Meet. However that only happens with your help. If you have any items you would like placed in the largest auction in the Desert Southwest, now is the time to contact Turkey Meet Auction chairman Chet Henry (480-838-0783). This also is an excellent time for your donation to the Desert Division to have the biggest impact. Your donation to the Division will have its largest impact when the active bidding begins, and depending upon which program you earmark your funds for, it could brighten up the Holidays for some needy child in our community. So look under that table and in the closet and pull out those boxes. Spring cleaning now will bring you Holiday cash later this year. Remember, we don't need to pick up your items now, but will need your description and commitment so they can be put in the catalog. We will pick them up or you can deliver them to us in September so that we can box them up with all the other auction items.

## ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB

### BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, May 11, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Gordon and Christie Wilson. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-837-5344 to be sure there are enough chairs.

## PADE PROMOTIONS

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

April's Pizza Meetza would not be complete without the help of Beth Stange, who ordered the pizzas and had them delivered on time. She also organized the games and activities for the Spring Picnic at the Stillman-McCormick Railroad Park. Donations to the club included the following:

## MY FIRST TRIP TO YORK

By Scott Russell TCA 96-44125

Yes, I went to York, and I duly reported it to the Dispatch for inclusion in the April newsletter. I guess I neglected to mention that I went to York, England and not York, Pennsylvania. Clues abounded in the April Fool's article. First was the long trip east, with meals, since I was flying to England. Everything was backward to me on the rental car, as they drive on the opposite side of the road. I stayed at a B&B outside the wall, the old city of York being surrounded by its wall. York has the largest train museum in the world, with several exhibit halls filled with trains – it also has a working train yard and repair shop. They were the “crowning achievement in transportation” because all the Royal Coaches are in the museum. The two significant events in railroad history were the first train to run 200 years previously and 100 years ago the first steam engine (which is in the museum) to reach the speed of 100 miles an hour. The trains were a much bigger gauge than mine (12” equal 12”); they were English railroads. My favorite train was my namesake (I got high just seeing it), the Flying Scotsman, which was supposed to make a tour two weeks before I got there but had broken down and was in the repair shop. “It literally took pounds of money” because the English currency is “Pounds” not Euros. Needless to say, those who read between the lines figured out why I saw no Desert Division members there.

### CONDOLENCES

Our Division Secretary recently paid a rush visit to New Jersey as a result of a phone call informing her that her brother had died. She still has two sisters, both of whom live in the East. Our condolences to Christie Wilson on her loss.

# TOY TRAIN SHOW

SPONSORED BY THE GADSDEN-PACIFIC DIVISION  
TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM, LTD.

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MUSEUM'S WEBSITE: <http://hometown.aol.com/ienglish/index.htm>

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TRADE

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DOOR PRIZES

**SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2005 9:00AM TO 3:00PM**

(Seller Table Setup: 7:00 AM – 9:00AM)

**ADMISSION \$3.00**

FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 13 ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT

**RODEWAY INN EVENT CENTER**

**W. GRANT RD. & I-10 (EXIT 256) \* TUCSON, AZ**

*SPECIAL ROOM RATE OF \$38 PER NIGHT IS AVAILABLE-CONTACT THE RODEWAY INN (520) 622-7791*

## **SPECIAL SELLERS ONLY RAFFLE**

SELLERS STILL SETUP AT 3 PM WILL PARTICIPATE IN A FREE DRAWING FOR THE FOLLOWING PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE:** \$30 CASH **2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE:** LIONEL GPD-TTOM ORE CAR **3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE:** COFFEE MUG

## **8 FOOT TABLES**

**PRE-PAID TABLE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

TABLE: \$15.00

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS CALL BOB GRASSI AT (520) 797-1184  
OR E-MAIL BOB AT [trains1937@comcast.net](mailto:trains1937@comcast.net)

SEND TABLE RESERVATIONS CHECKS PAYABLE TO GPD-TTOM TO  
GADSDEN-PACIFIC DIVISION TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM, LTD.

P.O. BOX 85425; TUCSON, AZ 85754-5425  
ATTN: TOY TRAIN SHOW COMMITTEE

## TCA DESERT DIVISION 2005 SPRING RAFFLE

The Train Collectors Association Desert Division is proud to announce this years Spring Raffle. **First Place is the 1999 Lionel Corvette GP-7 Train Set mint in the box!** Second Place is a Lionel B&O Berkshire with Railsounds and smoke. Third place is a nice selection of three different Lionelville houses.



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 11<sup>th</sup>. Ticket price is \$10.00 each or 3/\$25.00





# **Prescott's Beat the Heat Model Trains & Old Boys Toys *SWAP MEET***

**Saturday, August 20th, 2005 9am to 1pm**

**Adults \$3.00, under 12 free with adult**

**At the Prescott Activity Center 800 E. Gurley**

**Presented by:**

## **The Central Az Model RR Club**

For information call: Mike Nelson 928-445-7634

Norm Delucchi 928-445-5379

Info at camrrc6@hotmail.com

**Not responsible for lost or stolen items**

**Table reservations \$15.00 per table in advance**

**Call for table availability after July 10th**

**1 free admission with each table**

**Dealer setup time 7am to 9am-No Early Public Admission**

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tables \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 3.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 3.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests? \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Mike Nelson 1533 Private Rd, Prescott Az. 86301



## **BEAT THE HEAT MEET**

by Peter Atonna TCA #75-7578

Yes, summer is on its way which means that the Beat the Heat Meet will be ready to offer all Division members a wonderful break to enjoy trains in the pine country of Prescott. Not only can you enjoy the meet itself, but the Prescott area makes a great weekend getaway destination. So, mark the weekend of August 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendars.

Highlight of the weekend is the swap meet itself, hosted by the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club and held at the Prescott Activity Center, 800 E. Gurley, in downtown Prescott. If you haven't come before, the Activity Center is right on the main street, a half mile after you enter town on SR 69 or 89. Just follow the signs to Gurley Street. Each year we have been selling out the 100 sales tables, so you will have a great selection of trains. Admission is \$3 for adults, and kids under 12 are free with an adult. The show starts at 9 AM.

Mike Nelson is handling table sales and they remain at only \$15 each including one admission. If you would like to bring some goodies to sell, send him a check, made out to the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club. Table reservations must be paid in advance. Reservations are coming in now, so be sure to reserve your tables early. Dealer setup is 7 – 9 AM. Send your reservation with your check to Mike at 1533 Private Road, Prescott, AZ 86301. If you have questions, call him at 928-445-7634 or e-mail questions to: [camrrc6@hotmail.com](mailto:camrrc6@hotmail.com). By the way, the club now has a website and you can check it out at: <http://www.camrrc.com/>.

Here are the rest of the weekend's activities.

Shopping – Prescott has one of the finest antique and arts districts in the state. Located conveniently downtown less than a mile from the Activity Center, the district lines Cortez and Marina Streets.

Train Rides – Both the Grand Canyon Railroad and the Verde Canyon Railroad are less than two hours from Prescott and would make a great Sunday activity. If you like train watching, there are a couple of superb locations near Williams and Ash Fork. Just check with me for the locations.

Outdoor Activities – The Prescott area is a jumping off point for camping and fishing in the Bradshaws, bike riding on many of the area highways, hiking Thumb Butte, Granite Mountain or the Peavine Rails to Trails.

Open Houses – Again this year we have five fellows who have generously opened their layouts and collections for your enjoyment. The time for visiting starts at 2 PM on Saturday, right after the meet. There will be maps available at the meet registration. We have:

Anthony Piscatelli – HO scale operating layout with beautiful western scenery, including a Tehachapi Loop.

Brent Schnitzius – A new, large HO layout with broad curves and mountain scenery.

Ray Dextraze – Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American and European toys and trains all displayed in a beautiful setting. You are also welcome to stop by Friday evening. Just give Ray a call at 928-777-0804.

Marlin Benson – Two huge train rooms filled with tinplate displays and a delightful operating Christmas themed layout.

Peter Atonna – O gauge high rail and Prewar O and Standard gauge fully sceniced layouts. To beat the crowds, you are also welcome to come by Friday afternoon or evening. Just let me know ahead of time.

We hope you will make this a mini-vacation. If you would like a nearby motel, here are some suggestions (the Prescott area code is 928):

- Heritage House Motel (across the street from the Activity Center), 819 E. Gurley 445-9091
- Apache Lodge (a genuine 30's motel), 1130 E. Gurley 445-1422
- American Motel, 1211 E. Gurley 778-4322
- Super 8 (on the next street to the north), 1105 E. Sheldon 776-1282

If you wish to stay at a beautiful historic downtown hotel, we have:

- Hotel St. Michael, 205 W. Gurley 776-1999
- Hotel Vendome, 230 E. Cortez 776-0900
- Hassayampa Inn, 122 E. Gurley 778-9434

In addition, there is the Marriott Spring Hill Suites in Depot Square, downtown at 776-0998.

Don't forget the downtown hotels are right in the middle of Prescott's arts and antique shopping district.

# Desert



# Division

## NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

### KIDS CLUB NEWS

by John Huber, Jeanine Monahan, and Tom Plies

Kids Club is going to miss a very wonderful, active couple from the front line. Rob Davis has moved to Oregon to take a new position. Our thanks to both Rob and Angie for their help in Kids Club activities. We will miss them!

Chris Allen and Thomas Plies will be working a Kids Club table at the Tucson, Rodeway Inn Train Show on Saturday, June 4. They will start selling the 1000 (yes, one thousand) Polar Express raffle tickets, a program which will run through December 11 of this year. We look forward to the assistance of all members in this endeavor.

Our Kids Club Cab-Boose on the website is now in color. Thanks to Chris Allen, Gordon Wilson, and Angelo Lautazi for making it happen. Kids club also thanks DeLon Freije for selling off several outdated items at the Garden Show at Dan Hoag's home.

Kids Club continues to sponsor varied and interesting pursuits. You can get your "kid" involved, and it's FREE. Just fill in the form below and turn it in to one of the Co-Chairs. We will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.



Cub-Boose  
Kids Club Mascot

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_