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.



Volume 34, No. 8

Desert Division

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



October, 2005

WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOUR TRAINS?

The September version of the TCA Desert Division monthly meet was most unusual. Rather than start with the usual business meeting format, the attendees were privileged to hear a presentation from an estate planning attorney, Candess Hunter. Many of our members are entering a phase in their lives where estate planning is critical, and those with extensive and valuable collections want to be certain they have considered all their options in terms of planning for the disposal or transfer of their collections. It is not enough to have just indicated verbally what you want done; legal documents that specify what is to happen can spare families a tremendous amount of agony, turmoil, and heartache. Ms. Hunter discussed the importance of having a Last Will and Testament, a Family Trust, Durable Limited Power of Attorney and Designation of Guardian and Conservator; Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care; Living Will, Tangible Personal Property List, and instructions for transferring assets to a trust. The presentation stimulated many interesting and provocative questions and much discussion.

At the conclusion of Candess Hunter's presentation, visiting members, guests, and new members were introduced. Len Gordy was here from New Jersey (and speaks the same language as Gordon Wilson); three visiting guests, Rudy Popiela, Michael Rosen, and Ross Roberts were introduced; and Greg Palmer from Albuquerque was here with his sister. Treasurer Herman announced that we have \$21,066.18 in savings; \$5,739.89 in checking; and the Trains for Kids program totals \$167.55.

The Turkey Meet is almost here! The registration flyers have been published and the auction catalogs are available for \$5.00 (which serves as your ticket into the auction). There is still a large amount of uncommitted layout space available, so if you have a portable display you would like to exhibit and run at the meet, or know of a club or group that could possibly set up, please contact Chris Allen; much of the success of the show depends upon how attractive and interesting we can make it to those who attend and want to see trains in action.

One of the club projects that you should support is the purchase of an Entertainment book. The cost of \$25 is almost immediately realized with \$20 worth of Safeway Coupons. The books will be available until the Turkey Meet and \$5.00 of each sale is earmarked for the 2009 Convention Fund. Contact Christie Wilson (480-837-5344) to reserve a book or two for yourself.

Beth Stange is serving as this year's election chairman. All offices, including President, are being contested this year, so if you wish to have your name thrown in the hat, (or wish to press someone else into service) contact Beth. With the next few years requiring extra effort to raise funds for the 2009 Convention, the upcoming elections take on an even greater significance.

Railfair will be held on Saturday (the date of our meeting) and Sunday, October 8 and 9, 2005. We have been offered \$75 for the club to participate, but no Railfair patches. Set-up begins at 6:30 AM on October 8. Bring trains to run and be there to help out. Paradise and Pacific has generously offered us the use of their clubhouse to store expensive/valuable items overnight. Phil Monahan will bring a portable evaporative cooler to help with climactic conditions during the two days.

COMING UP....

October 8 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM
October 8-9 Railfair, Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM
October 14-15 Eastern Division Meet, York, PA
October 29 Desert Division Open, Royal Palms Golf Course, Mesa – Noon

Our Educational Segment began with Paul Wassermann's Standard Gauge MTH Crane Car, an offering by the 2005 TCA Convention in Seattle. The car is a first, offering motorized control of all crane movements. Paul also showed four large Lionel prewar billboards which were offered as an incentive to join the Lionel Engineer's Club. Together Paul and Gordon displayed items relating to smoking locomotives. A Marx set utilized a fine powder propelled by a rubber bulb. In 1946, Lionel introduced smoke. Gordon has assembled a comprehensive collection of Lionel pellet bottles, including the very rare 1946 glass rectangular box with wire bail. An April Fool's "Jumbo" bottle and tablet that would fit a 400E brought a knowing smile to the crowd.

Everyone loves a good raffle, and today was no exception. Rebecca Peiffer pulled the first ticket and her father, Jonathan was the lucky winner!

Prizes are listed below.

Jonathan Peiffer K-Line Magma Arizona Railroad Ore Car

Beth Stange Convention souvenir tote bag

Charles Crehore K-Line Operating Coal Dump Car (Charles then directed the club

to sell his prize with the profits going to the club.)

Gordon Wilson Lionel Clock

Ivan English TTOS O-Gauge Box Car

Chet Henry Lionel Erie Single Door Box Car

Len Gordy Lionel calendar, Trains 99 screen saver, and Turkey Meet button

Melissa Peiffer was called upon to pull the winning ticket in the Hudson Raffle monthly \$100 drawing. The winner was Paul Wassermann.



A Marx "Smoking" Wind-up Set



An example of every known Post-War Lionel Smoke Pellet bottle or container



"Smoke Ammunition" indeed! The creative rhetoric of Louis Marx, the master marketing genius.



Four of the very rare Lionel Standard Gauge Billboards. Eight are known to exist.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Well, right out of the bag I have to apologize. Last month I went on and on about the great folks up at the Prescott Valley Model Railroad Club and how wonderful they were to the Desert Division Kid's Club by allowing us to set up a free table and sell raffle tickets. Poppycock! Imagine my surprise when a friendly gnome notified me that the newly famous Prescott Valley Model Railroad Club did not offer us a free table, the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club did! I don't know how many times during the Beat the Heat Meet I saw CAMRC everywhere I looked, but when it came time to type up my President's column my spell checker let me write all about the Prescott Valley Club instead. Microsoft has some 'splaining to do! Well, as one of my favorite American authors Mark Twain put it, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." Seriously I do apologize to all of the members of the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club for my faux pas and as usual I had a great time! Looking around at the happy faces on Desert Division table sellers and buyers who made the trek up the hill to experience your incredible hospitality, I was not alone. Hurrah!

I hope you were able to attend the September General Meet to hear our guest speaker, Candess Hunter, talk about estate planning. Ms. Hunter, an attorney who specializes in estate planning and friend of Division Director Steve Bienstock, gave a thought-provoking presentation of some easy steps we all can do to plan for the future. I have heard from several of you who learned a few new tricks, discovered something that you did not know about your present estate planning, or just had a good old fashioned wake-up call. Please, if you haven't taken the time to handle even the simplest of your life planning decisions, do so as soon as possible. From my own personal experience with my mother who left my father emotionally strung out trying to remember all "those conversations," get it in WRITING! My mother woke up and over morning coffee told my father that she didn't feel quite up to do the laundry that day and six hours later, while Mom was slipping away in ICU, Dad was trying to remember those talks they had to honor her wishes. You can avoid this. Plan for the future today!

October brings the true start of the fall training season here in the Desert and across the country. (I can smell York from here.) We are putting the final touches on the Turkey Meet for this year and the two-day event is still the longest running and largest Toy Train Swap Meet and Auction in the Desert Southwest. Table registrations are now available for Saturday's huge meet and catalogs are on sale for Sunday's 300 + lot auction. Ask Chet Henry or Bob Herman for your registration form or

catalogs. We are anticipating a change in venue for next year. The contract is not signed yet, but we looking at a location in more central Phoenix. We don't want to move from Mesa; the folks at the Mesa Convention Center have been absolutely fabulous to work with, but their hands are tied and we cannot continue to pass on the yearly price hikes to our table sellers. You do the math, our bill this year is nearly \$6,000 for the hall alone. Security, electrical outlets for the train modules, flame retardant table cloths and other miscellaneous costs add another \$2,000, so when you subtract 180 tables at \$15 each, you soon get the picture of the hole we are in before we even open the doors. The one thing the Board of Directors has never been afraid to show the members is the real numbers, and unfortunately the Mesa Convention Center has just priced itself out of future contracts. It's been fun and we really appreciate all of the friends we've made over the years working with these fine folks, but it appears it's time to move on.

I'm happy to report that by the time this newsletter reaches you our members and friends over in New Mexico will be well on their way to forming their new chapter. The Division has sent out an informational letter to over 35 registered TCA and other toy train hobbyist's that have expressed a desire to form a chapter. It has been a long road and many members in New Mexico have worked hard to put this all together. We hope our first meeting with the train enthusiasts in New Mexico is right around the corner, and we anticipate that the folks in New Mexico will formally request Chapter status before 2006. That would be a great way to start the New Year!

DON'T FORGET RAILFAIR 2006! We will be setting up at the park EARLY - 6:30 AM - before the October Meet. I'll be there but I can't set it up alone. Wake up a little early Saturday October 8th and give me a hand. Scottsdale's McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park at Scottsdale Road and Indian Bend is only 10 minutes away from the Meet. We will need volunteers to staff the module while the Meet is in progress, and if your name is pulled for the Hudson drawing while you're helping at the Park, you will win the \$100. I will also make sure that any "leftover" donuts and sodas from the meet on Saturday get to the Park for our volunteers' nourishment. If you're interested to see what type of ice cream the Division President brings to the volunteers on Sunday, I'll show up around 1:00 PM with my cooler. Be there for a cool treat!

Hope to see you soon (and at the park)!



The OLDEST & LARGEST Toy Train Swap Meet and **Auction Held In The SOUTHWEST**

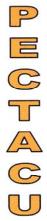












































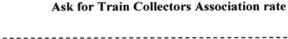


ADDRESS

CITY









SWAP MEET &

OPERATING

TRAIN DISPLAY

Saturday November 26, 2005

9 AM TO 3 PM

200+ Tables of Trains for **Sale and Operating** Layouts

Special Hotel Room Rates

Best Western Mezona Inn

Call 480-834-9233 or 800-730-7234

SPOUSE I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the Turkey Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. I further agree, that in the case of a dispute, the meet chairman, or an impartial

STATE

referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.

Signed X

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Registration to: Robert Herman, 11429 N. 68TH St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5148

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Registration: Bob Herman 480-948-2730



Questions or Directions? Visit our website at:

WWW. TCADD. ORG



November 27, 2005 **8 AM TO 5 PM**

300+ Auction Lots



Sunday









MESA CONVENTION CENTER

Located at the Mesa Community & Conference Center University & Center St. MESA, ARIZONA

FE	ES:
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Registration*	\$5.00
*(Registration fee not in	ncluded in Table Fee)
(Children under 18 F	TREE)
Spouse or Guests _	x \$ 5 ea \$
No. of Tables*	x \$20 ea \$
Auction Catalog	x \$ 5 ea \$
Catalog Mail Fee (50	¢ Postage) \$

TOTAL Enclosed

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
Reg#	Date Revd		
Chlr#	Chl. Amt		

FORE FOR PAR 17th Annual Desert Division "OPEN"

Yes, it's that time of year again. The 17th Annual Desert Division Open will take place at high noon on Saturday, October 29, 2005. You are all cordially invited to join in on the fun. What's more, you don't have to be a serious golfer to do it. We employ a handicapping system which evens the playing field rapidly. As a matter of fact, it actually favors the casual golfer and forces the serious linkster to "shoot the lights out" to be competitive.

Due to construction on the course where we've held this event for the past half dozen years, we will be moving a bit closer to the center of Mesa, although we'll still be on McKellips Road. A member of Paul and Gordon's regular Tuesday golfing foursome owns and operates Royal Palms Golf Course. He has graciously agreed to having the Desert Division move the "Open" to his facility. He is also giving us a discounted rate for our greens fees and carts. We have a noontime reservation, so plan to arrive by 11:30 AM at the Royal Palms Golf Club at 1415 East McKellips Road - south side of the street, just east of Stapley and McKellips Roads.

Now for a pleasant surprise! Royal Palms Golf Course does not have a restaurant BUT a mile and a half west is Cindy's Café. Christie and I have eaten here many times and have found it to be a wonderful "Ma and Pa" place. A portion of the menu is shown below. Notice that the prices are very moderate.

Sandwiches	& Mo	re	
Kyler Club	6.55	<u> </u>	
Patty Melt	6.60	Dinner Sp	pecialties
Reuben Sandwich	6.60	Chicken Picata8.50	
Tuna Melt	5.99	Teriyaki or sweet N' Sou	r Chicken8.50
Lori French Dip	6.79	Vegetarian Dinner8.35	į
Will's Philly	6.79	Fettucini7.99 W chicke	n1.00
Gyro Sandwich	6.45	Spaghetti7.35	
Hamburger	6.59	Lasagna7.35	
Cheeseburger	6.79	Pork Chops8.99	
Ham & Cheeses Sandwich	5.55	Chicken Fried Steak8.9	99
Grilled Cheese	4.79	Baby Beef Liver8.25	
BLT	5.50	Seafood	Steaks
Roast Beef Sandwich	5.65		Rib eye11.75
Turkey	5.99	Seafood Combo 9.35	N.Y12.99
Chicken or Tuna Salad	5.99	Alaskan Cod 8.99	Sirloin9.95
Monte Cristo	6.79	Shrimp8.99	

Daily Specials Lunch /Dinner			
Mon. Beef Stew W/Biscuit	6.75	closed	
L	unch	Dinner	
Tues: Meat Loaf	6.50	7.50	
Italian Sausage/ Spag		6.25	
Wed: Broasted Chicken	\$7.99	7.99	
Thurs: Ham Scallop Potato	oes /B. Be	ans	
	7.50	8.99	
Fri: Fish & Chips	6.55	7.99	
Trout	7.25	8.95	
Seafood Combo	N/A	8.95	
Sat: Broasted Chicken	7.99	7.99	
Italian Sausage/ Spag		6.25	
Sun: Broasted Chicken 7.99		closed	
Soup	s:		
Wisc. Cheese (th) Split pea	ı (T) Cr F	otato W	

Chicken Noodle (TTH SS) Clam Chowder F

We will have our own dinner/food area, depending upon our wants, needs, and weather. The John Wayne Room is large enough for our needs, yet private and cozy. Our other choice is the covered, outside patio. We may order from the WHOLE menu and individual checks will be available for everyone attending. In short, the overall cost for the whole day will approximate those of the past few years at the Painted Mountain course.

For you who are going to play, please fill out the accompanying form and send it to Gordon Wilson. To make things easier for the golf course, we will pay for all of our greens fees, carts, and taxes on one (1) check. With your entry form, please enclose a check for \$21.50 per player. Make it payable to Christie or me. We need to have a firm and final count of players on by October 21, 2005.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Return to: The Wilsons, 16231 E. Ocotillo Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

CONVENTION (2009) STATUS REPORT

by Ed Micale TCA #93-36857

We recently held a friendly contest looking for ideas from club members for a convention logo. Congratulations to Mitch Kuhn for the selection of his winning design. Mitch combined our current Desert Division Santa Fe F3 theme with a patriotic 4th of July theme. For his efforts, Mitch wins a Hudson raffle ticket. Some minor modifications are being considered for the logo, and a prominent location for our convention slogan "Star Spangled Convention" is being worked out. The final details should be completed by the end of this year. Thank you to Angelo Lautazi, Larry Teresi, Paul Wassermann and Gordon Wilson, all of whom submitted logo proposals. I hope to use some of their artwork elsewhere in the convention. We will also post pictures of the artwork on the Desert Division web site at a later date.

Several convention chair positions have now been filled. Congratulations and thank you's go to:

Marty Wik - Convention Car Chair

Cathy Kuhn & Irene Wassermann - Fundraising Co-Chairs

Chet Henry - Convention Treasurer

Christie Wilson - Recording Secretary



These positions were identified first since activities are currently underway in each of these areas. Marty Wik, with help from Ivan English, is actively working on ideas for convention cars and accessories. They have proposed some terrific ideas to the Steering Committee that I'm sure will be very popular. These ideas will be kept under wraps to ensure the uniqueness of our offering to the TCA members. There is also some fundraising activity underway: a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Entertainment books, \$75 of the \$100 Hudson raffle ticket drawing each club meet when the winner is not in attendance, and a UP A-A with seven passenger cars raffle will all provide funds for the Convention. Many other ideas are also being reviewed to raise funds. Please be prepared to support Cathy and Irene in this effort. One of the primary Division expenses during the Convention is the Welcoming Party. These parties are becoming more popular and create the initial excitement that contributes to a successful, "fun" Convention. We would like to once again "raise the bar" against which future welcoming parties are measured. There will also be some monies spent on advertising/publicity. All of this means that we need to have a very successful fundraising effort. The convention guidelines require that our Division budget and bank account remain separate from the Convention to avoid mixing of funds. Now that we are raising money for the Convention and are incurring some minor initial expenses, Chet is establishing the appropriate accounts and developing the bookkeeping protocol. Christie is also helping out as recording secretary. We have had numerous steering committee meetings and Christie is keeping me organized (which is a tough task), documenting all of the meeting minutes and notes.

Many of the other Convention chair positions will be filled in the 2006 to 2007 timeframe. I have elected to not fill these positions at this time since there is no activity required now. This is also consistent with the National Convention Guideline recommendations, as well as those of the prior convention chairs with whom I have spoken. Typically many of these positions are not filled until two years prior to the Convention. Here is an idea of the other chairs/committees that we will need:

- * registration
- * welcome party
- * ladies' activities
- * banquet
- * auctions
- * photographer
- * convention store
- * events/tours

- * trading hall & loading/ unloading
- * kids club activities
- * displays
- * security
- * transportation
- * hospitality
- * publicity

Your help in any of the above areas will contribute to the success of our convention.

Even though many convention chairs have not been selected yet, I would still like to encourage everyone to make any suggestions they feel would help us host a terrific convention. We would like any ideas you have regarding convention cars/accessories, fundraising activity, tours, ...anything. If you think a particular idea from a prior Convention should be considered for 2009, please let us know. You can contact the convention chairs personally if already defined, send a letter/Email or log onto the Desert Division web site where you will find a 2009 Convention link and an Email address directly to me.

A brief list of the key convention activities that need to be completed are as follows:

- * Begin general committee meetings June 1, 2007.
- * Initiate fabrication of prototype convention cars June 15, 2007.
- * Final budgets to be prepared and submitted to the National Treasurer and Convention Guidelines Chair by January 2008.
- * Tours/events defined by March 1, 2008.
- * Final presentation to the TCA National BOD, including prototype convention cars and pricing for BOD approval in June 2008.
- * Launch convention web site January 1, 2009
- * Site inspection with the TCA National President and Convention Guidelines Chair by January 2009.
- * TCA National Convention from June 28 to July 5, 2009.

In June, Chris Allen also presented a Convention Progress Update to the National BOD at the Seattle convention. Each member of the BOD was presented with a jar of 'HOT' Sting-N-Linger salsa with a Desert Division Santa Fe label on the jar cover designed by Mitch Kuhn. I doubt that any of these folks have any concept just how 'HOT' the 'EXTRA HOT' salsa will be for our presentation at the 2006 Convention.

We will be picking up speed in our planning and preparations for the 2009 Convention, so the next 3+ years will be an exciting time to be part of the action in our Division. Each member can play a part and will be welcomed and appreciated for his or her contribution.







ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE BACK!

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA 76-10233

It has been missing for a few years – the Entertainment Book, that is. They sell for \$25.00 and the Desert Division receives \$5.00 of that. And, because we are a 501c3 organization, that amount is tax deductible. So now your purchase price is down to \$20.00. You say, "I rarely go out to eat." Maybe, maybe not? But the chances are pretty good that you buy groceries somewhere, and for many people that "somewhere" is SAFEWAY. Just inside the front cover are four (4) \$5.00 off coupons to reduce the cost of your weekly Safeway grocery bill. When you've used all four of them, the Entertainment Book is free!!

Is that a deal or what? Plus, you have the full year to use the other money saving coupons inside. Passes to Movie Theaters; Cultural Events in Phoenix and Scottsdale; fast food places for lunch or a snack; do you ever have some dry cleaning to do? New tires for your vehicle? I just had to get two new pairs of glasses. That turned into a \$75.00 savings, or three times what I paid for the Entertainment Book. I'm already way ahead, with a year to go!

The list is endless. You can really "kill two birds with one stone," so to speak. A tax deductible donation to the Desert Division and literally hundreds, perhaps thousands, of dollars in savings with the available offers in this book.



Should you live outside of the Phoenix area, no problem! There are Entertainment Books available for virtually every locale throughout the USA AND we can get "it" for you. Simply call President Allen and let him know where you are and we'll procure it for you. Get yours at the next Desert Division Meet on September 10.

AL LEVIN RECOVERING

Former two-time TCA National President Al Levin recently (9/23) underwent some major surgery at a Baltimore, Maryland hospital. The surgery was a success and Al is currently resting comfortably in a rehab hospital. Should anyone care to send an e-mail or a card wishing Al their good wishes, he may be contacted at Alevin3801@aol.com or Alvin Levin, 7121 Park Heights Ave., Apt. 908, Baltimore, MD 21215.

TCA/TTOS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

It's time to make your reservations for the Annual TCA-TTOS Holiday Brunch. This year's Holiday Party will be at a new venue: the Ramada Inn, I-17 & Cactus Road, Phoenix (12027 N 28th Drive). In addition to a brunch, there will be door prizes, a gift for each member, member's guest, and any children in attendance. Raffle tickets will be sold for numerous raffle prizes. There will be mystery boxes auctioned off, as well as table centerpieces. As usual, a visit is expected from St. Nick.

You will again have the opportunity to reserve your table ahead of time, by listing the ten persons who will sit at the table on your reservation form. You and they must name the same ten persons for this to be assured. This does not mean that if you don't have 10 people you can't come to the party! Everyone is welcome!

Also please specify if you require any handicapped accessible seating (ADA).

Send in the form below to make your reservation for the 2005 Annual TCA-TTOS Holiday Brunch. Early replies will be appreciated, but the deadline is November 30, 2005. There will be NO tickets sold at the door. Hope to see you there!!

Ralph Treichel Brad Martin
Holiday Party Chairs

MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO: Ralph Treichel, 16802 N. 1st Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85023

CHECK SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: <u>TCA DESERT DIVISION</u>. Reservation MUST BE PREPAID and RECEIVED BY November 30, 2005. NO tickets will be sold at the door. Festivities start at 11:00 AM. There will be a cash bar. Brunch buffet is served at NOON. St. Nick will be arriving before the brunch.

This Reservation Form is also available on the Desert Division website at: www.tcadd.org