

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. 6

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Summer, 2005

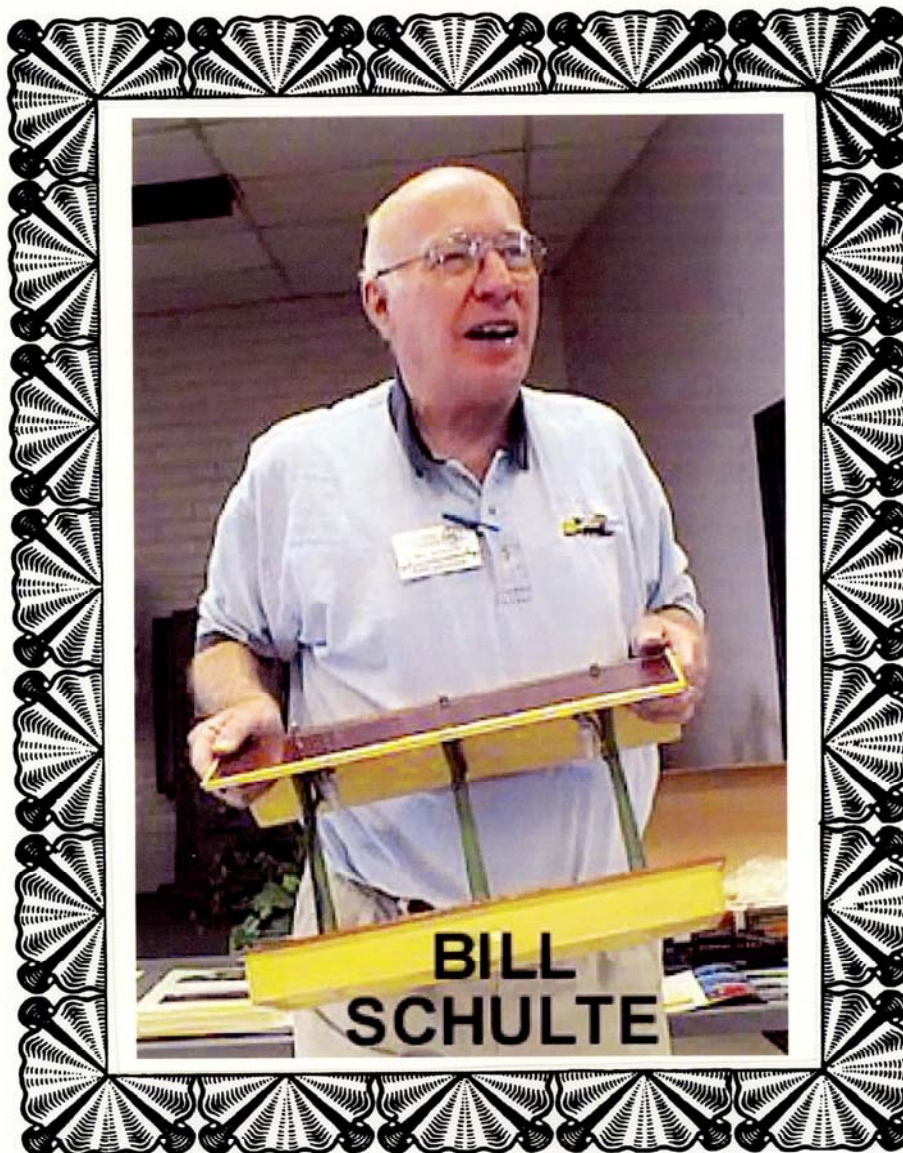


Photo by G. Saber

WILLIAM HOBART SCHULTE, II

August 16, 1930 – June 15, 2005

IN MEMORIAM – Bill Schulte

by Paul Wassermann TCA #73-5169

It is with great sadness that we note the loss of our good friend, Bill Schulte. Bill was an extraordinary member of both TCA and TTOS. He seemed to have boundless enthusiasm and energy for the club projects and devoted much of his time to helping make each of the clubs better and stronger. I never once heard Bill complain; he was a man of resolve and action. If he decided to do something, it was done.

Bill always wanted to help. Whether it was delivering ice cream sandwiches to our picnics or helping a fellow club member find that missing toy tin soldier, Bill always found ways to help. He had a passion for people, scouts, toys, and trains. Perhaps the most telling thing is the fact that I never once heard anyone have a single negative thing to say about him. He was truly loved and admired by our toy train community and will be very much missed.

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

I first met Bill one autumn afternoon at the old Chris Town Mall module display. At that time Desert Division and Grand Canyon Division were the only ones with modules running, so many members walked trains back and forth between the two layouts. I was working alone that quiet Friday afternoon when Bill came by and introduced himself. He noticed that we didn't have any Standard Gauge running, and inquired why. Being the young impertinent youth that I was, I declared that we really didn't need any of that "old stuff" on the table, as the people walking by only wanted to see the fine post-war trains that were running. Bill just sort of grinned at me, walked away, and returned with what could only charitably be called, a "runner." I hooked up the "Z," and Bill gave it some throttle. Then he turned to me and said, "Well now, let's see whose trains gets the most comments." We chatted away the afternoon and I never noticed the humble pie I was served that day as Bill never mentioned that the comments were all coming his way. I was baffled that folks would just stand by and watch my post-war without a peep, but would react with questions and smiles to Bill's contribution. Later as he got ready to leave for dinner, he told me to hold onto the set just in case nobody showed up with some "old stuff" tomorrow. Nothing more was said; nothing had to be. We both won that day, as Bill won the bet and I won a great new friend.

Over the years we talked a lot and joked even more, as we both continued to enjoy being out in the public with our trains. Since Bill and I both had trucks, we were the ones that each Division relied on to pull our respective trailers to the various shows. Occasionally the Desert Division and GCD would get into friendly competition to see who could tear down first after a long weekend. Desert Division normally won these contests, not because we were necessarily faster, but as I pulled away I'd look over only to see Bill busy flap-jawing with a close circle of friends, all of whom had smiles on their faces. I'll miss your smile and laughter, old friend; and your joyful willingness to help others will be hard to replace.

by Katie Elgar TCA 94-39348

Bill Schulte coaxed me into helping with the Holiday Party some years ago. I would be a co-chair, representing the Desert Division. I agreed to help out. Little did I know just what was involved. This committee work cemented a wonderful friendship with a wonderful man. I remember Bill driving "way out" to Glendale to help hot-glue the centerpieces together. We shared many fun days each year, coming up with centerpieces, raffles, and "door" prizes! These wonderful times are only a part of the memories I have of Bill.

He always was anxious to share his love of trains and figures. I watched his train layout grow. He often would joke about his being forced into the expansion into O gauge, though I think he secretly enjoyed expanding his empire! Bill always encouraged sharing his trains, whether it be taking out the modular unit or setting up trains on the top of milk crates and door panels to display toy trains to the public. He always made a game out of his layout runs, placing things in the cars and having others pick them out, or changing them with different ones. He made looking at trains a participatory sport. One can only hope that the people he influenced, myself included, will continue to share our trains with others as he did. His enthusiasm, love of trains and people, and his willingness to share will be sorely missed among toy train hobbyists throughout the Desert Southwest.

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE SUMMER MEETS

Two meetings of the Desert Division have transpired since the last issue, and a TCA National Convention has come and gone! Both the June and July monthly meetings had a larger than expected crowd despite the summer heat. Reflecting the heat, perhaps, there were no out-of-division visitors in attendance at either meeting.

After the issue of continuing the Hudson raffle was extensively discussed, a motion passed to allow the sales of raffle tickets outside of the Division and drop the free Hudson ticket in the monthly raffle. Under Thomas Plies' able leadership, the Kids Club is sponsoring a raffle with the first prize being a Polar Express Train Set!! The proceeds from this project will be used to offset the Kids Club expenses at the 2009 National Convention hosted by the Desert Division, so member support is of great importance.

The June Education Segment included Paul Wassermann's rare red Marx Nickel Plate tender (he needs the equally rare red locomotive). Continuing the rare Marx theme was a boxed Marx Streamline Speedway, an early mechanical road race set. Finally he displayed a boxed American Flyer "Merchandiser" set which highlights a double diesel Missouri Pacific PA locomotive and includes a Bakers Chocolate tank car and a "Pig Palace" stock car.

The highly anticipated Spring Raffle drawing took place and our lucky president and national candidate for Vice President Chris Allen won the 1st place Lionel Corvette Set

2nd Place Berkshire: Brad Martin

3rd Place Lionelville Houses: Chet Henry

The July meet got off to a great start with the birth announcement of Chris and Laurel Allen's first grandchild! At the same time the Division is deeply saddened to note the passing of our good friend, Bill Schulte. He was such a vigorous part of our train world and so generously gave of his time and energy to help others. Whether it was helping with the picnic or getting Margaret Butler to a meet, Bill could be counted on to go out of his way to do something for someone else. We were all made a little bit better by having known him.

Much of the meet focused on reports and review of the Seattle Pacific Northwest National Convention. It was the consensus of all who responded that it was an exceptionally well organized, well run, and fun event. Chris Allen's name was officially placed in nomination for National Vice President; it is extremely important that every Desert Division member vote in the national election. An amendment to raise the national dues will be on the ballot as well. Falling revenues from convention car sales dictate the dues increase and it is important for the membership to support this change as well.

Our own TCA National Convention is now less than four years away, which in reality means we have less than three years of preparation time. Clever, imaginative, and appealing fund raising items are the key to financial success so keep thinking about souvenir cars, accessories, and other commemorative items that will be fun, decorative, functional, and enticing. Designs capitalizing on the Fourth of July, our graphically impressive state flag, fireworks, the old west, mining, etc. are all encouraged. Think outside the box and get your ideas down on paper.

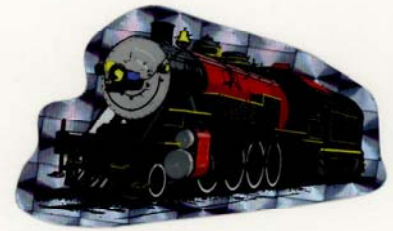
The Educational Segment started with Jerry Sienkiewicz's Sakai train set from the '30's. Often called Japanese Marx, this set featured a tin, rather than die cast, tender. Katie Elgar had a "Bottom of the Drawer" presentation. It belonged to her mother. Ruth's A. C. Gilbert Party Puzzlers, made by Thompson's Double Malted Malted Milk and marketed by A. C. Gilbert, contained most of the puzzles, tricks, and even three sets of directions. Gordon Wilson displayed the Marx 333 Passenger Set with caricatures of '50's movie stars. It is a replacement of one he had many years ago. He also shared pictures of the Virginia and Truckee General and an oil painting called "The Ole Train," both of which were purchased during his recent six-week Convention Marathon. Paul Wassermann brought an American Flyer pre-war HO gauge set and a 1938 fold out pamphlet of A. C. Gilbert "Toys that Buzz and Have Action." Paul also shared his S-Gauge Convention Car from Pittsburgh, with Lou Redman's name on one side and Don Fraley's name on the other. (Don and Lou were both Paul's close friends and residents of Pittsburgh.) Now he is after the S-Gauge steam locomotive that heads the train.

COMING UP...

AUGUST 20	"BEAT THE HEAT" Meet, Prescott – 9 AM
SEPTEMBER 10	Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

Raffle prizes went to the following lucky ticket holders:

Tom Stange	Lionelville Bungalow
John Wiley	Lionel Barrel Ramp Car
Angelo Lautazi	Lionel NYC Double-Door Box Car
Ivan English	Lionel NP Box Car
Bill MacDowell	Weaver Shamrock Farms Car
Steve Bienstock	Calendar, button, et al.
Ivan English	NYC mug w/pencils



SUMMER SHENANIGANS

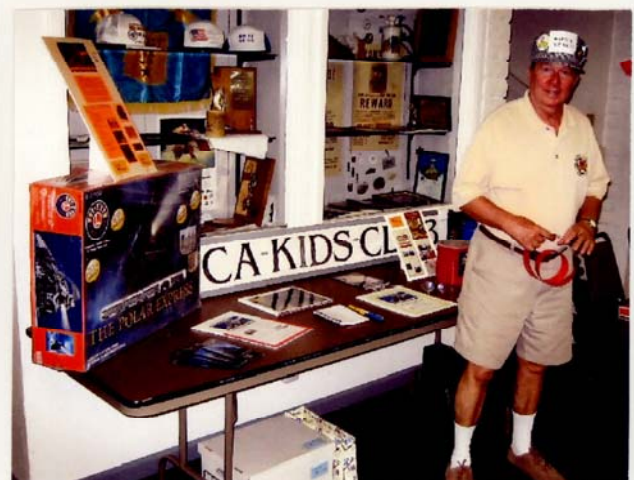


June: Paul Wassermann displayed his rare red Marx Nickel Plate Tender and boxed Marx Streamline Speedway. Angelo Lautazi won the Hudson "C" note.

July: Jerry Sienkiewicz brought his Sakai (Japanese Marx) set and Katie Elgar shared Ruth's "bottom of the drawer" A. C. Gilbert Party Puzzlers.



Tom Plies manned the Kids Club Raffle table during both summer meets. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00. Prizes include a Polar Express set, tickets to ride on the Grand Canyon Railroad, and zoo passes. Proceeds support Kids Club activities at the 2009 Convention.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

After a month off, this summer edition will bring you lots of news, some of it unfortunately sad. It is with great sorrow that I report the passing of our dear friend, Bill Schulte. Bill was one of the true ambassadors of the hobby, and he truly enjoyed being out in the public sharing his joy for trains with everyone. I worked with Bill on many projects over the years but one of my favorites was the Spring Picnic. He always wanted to be sure we had plenty of ice cream sandwiches on hand for everybody; and I guess that best summed up Bill's outlook on life in general, making sure everyone had a great time when we got together. All of us will miss Bill's positive attitude and his ever-present helping hand. I am reminded of the old adage that "True friends are those who really know you but love you anyway." We'll all miss you, Bill.

The news of Bill's passing came to us in Seattle during the 51st National TCA Convention where I feel the Association made significant progress on many fronts. One that I am happy to report about was a budget increase for the Internet Committee to move forward with its plans to have the ads from the National Headquarter News moved onto the web. Now if you're searching for a particular train, you won't have to wait for snail mail and the odds that someone who got their copy first will beat you to the punch. In addition, the seller will be able to post a picture along with an ad; and, if the seller does to web posting himself, he can do 100 free ads. Don't get confused, this isn't an e-Bay type of auction, this is a revved up version of the NHN ads available to TCA members only in color and expeditiously delivered. Look for this to roll out in 2006!

Something that will cause a bit of relearning will be the introduction of a new grading standard for trains and paper. The TCA Standards Committee has worked hard to try to bring our hobby's grading standards into sync with other collecting organizations, and I think they did a fine job, given the tight schedule they were under. Nothing is perfect and a few kinks will need to be worked out while we all learn the new jargon, but I feel this is a step in the right direction. I did vote with the majority that felt that the grading standards for Restorations needed more grading levels and wider acceptance. Restorations are becoming very commonplace and

many of us in our youth may have unwittingly "restored" our toy train with a slight touch up of "Testors," while other members have been making personalized road names or using color schemes that were never produced. Unfortunately these were not taken into consideration or the classifications were so harsh that it made a simple touch-up sound like a hatchet job. We sent the restorations standards back to committee with some ideas for improvements.

The next bit of news is the glass half full/half empty syndrome. While happy to report that our membership has remained strong at about 30,000 worldwide, it is not growing either. We continue to lag behind the toy train industry significantly, so we need better exposure of our hobby to the baby boomers who are now reaching retirement. Many of these people have disposable income and, more importantly, grandchildren whom they will probably spoil. (While not the best segue, Laurel and I became very happy and proud 1st time grandparents ourselves recently, and the spoiling has already begun!) Our challenge will be to rekindle the fire of these boomers who once had a train and perhaps more importantly ignite the flame in those who missed out of the fun. The seeds we are planting today with the Kids Club might take twenty years to harvest, and I truly believe we need to bridge the gap between our present membership and the Kids Club.

What a busy summer it has been. A blink of the eye and the kids will be starting school again and you know what that means. Yup, time for Prescott and the Beat the Heat Meet! This is one of my favorite meets as the Desert Division doesn't have to do a darn thing but have a great time. Our friends up in the Prescott Valley always make us welcome and I sure hope to see you there first thing on Saturday morning, August 20.

Hope to see you soon!



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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER!

The Desert Division will have Entertainment Books for sale at the September and October Meets. Proceeds from the sale of these books will be the seed money for the 2009 National Convention. We will have the Phoenix edition available for you to check out all the great deals, many of which offer two-for-one or 50% off discounts throughout the Valley at restaurants, movies, groceries, dry cleaning, and more.

Live Outside of the Phoenix/Scottsdale area?

You can still help the Division and get great savings for yourself. Through the Desert Division website you will find a link to order your copy for over 150 cities nationwide, including Tucson, Albuquerque, even El Paso! Planning a trip next year? Having an Entertainment book for that city could save you hundreds of dollars and by ordering an Entertainment book through the link on our website your book will be mailed directly to you and the Desert Division will still get the credit for the sale. Help yourself to great savings while helping the Desert Division host the Star Spangled 2009 National Convention!



NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

by John Huber, Jeanine Monahan, and Tom Plies

Attention all TCADD members! It's not too early to plan for the Turkey Meet. Kids Club is again requesting back issues of train magazines like O-Gauge or Classic Toy Trains and various catalogs. Kids Club will again put together our Turkey Meet annual Kids Club Toy Train informational kits. Anything referencing toy trains will help. Bring them to the next couple of meetings, and give them to Kids Club co-chair Thomas Plies.

Kids Club continues to sponsor varied and interesting pursuits. You can get a "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 _____

WASSERMANN SEATTLE CONVENTION VACATION

It was with great anticipation that Irene, Katie, Mikey, and I started out for Seattle via the Amtrak Coast Starlight. This was really the kids' first train ride and I knew they would have a great time. Despite a four-hour initial delay in Los Angeles, the trip got off to a great start with Mikey and Katie nailing down a pair of oversized, overstuffed swivel chairs in the parlor car. From that point on the panorama of the West Coast unveiled before our eyes and the gorgeous scenery was complimented by the excellent fare in the dining car (not to mention two wine and cheese parties in the parlor car). I conned Irene into trying the upper berth (the kids had their own small sleeping compartment) and she has since informed me that if she is to do any additional train travel, she will henceforth be sleeping on the bottom! Despite a 1:30 AM arrival in Seattle, a Pacific Northwest Division member was there waiting for us with a van to get us to the hotel!

The Seattle Convention itself was truly remarkable. I am just going to mention a few highlights from the Wassermann perspective. This essay is by no means a comprehensive review of everything that transpired, far from it. At the outset let me congratulate the entire Pacific Northwest Division Convention squad, led by co-chairs Barilyn Suskin and Tom Steeves. Division President Merle Parise really put his heart and soul into this project and it showed. Registration packets, tour reservations, and warm smiles greeted us at the registration desk.

Mikey and I literally stepped off the train, tumbled into bed for a few hours, and then went off to the links for the golf tournament. A gorgeous day...80 degrees and crystal clear. The only day it didn't at least drizzle. It was clear that a Desert Division member was going to win, since all the contestants were DD members! After the Callaway system adjusted the scores, Mikey was declared the male winner with Lynn Martin capturing the female title. Gordon Wilson hauled a pile of prizes up from Arizona and distributed them to the contestants.

Irene and Katie enjoyed a number of tours, but the outstanding excursion from our perspective was a trip (three hours) to three different collections and layouts, highlighted by a visit to David and Barbara Dansky's home near Portland. Several busloads of visitors enjoyed the fabulous home, art collection, and train room. But most remarkable was the fact that Barb and David hosted a huge, outdoor, under-a-tent luncheon buffet including meat, salads, hot vegetables, and fresh salmon! David told me "The TCA has done so much for me, it is payback time." It was a wonderful afternoon in a beautiful setting.

The Welcoming Party was well attended by lots of friends and featured foods with a Northwest connection. Judging by the ambient noise level, everyone was having a great time. I spent two days in National Board meetings while the rest of the family enjoyed more free time and tours. When the trading pits opened Friday morning, everyone was ready for a little toy train action. Given how hard it is to get your trains to a distant meet (Airplane security and packed trains are not a match made in heaven!) it was surprising to me to see the variety and quantity of trains on display. The public display areas were superb with an operating Carlisle and Finch turn of the century railroad stealing the show. It was fascinating to watch the trains regulated by screwing in or out incandescent light bulbs. Something for everyone was on display including gauges from Z to standard, mechanical to electric.

One of the really nice traditions associated with these conventions is the hosting of a dinner for the National Board, their spouses, companions and friends of TCA. This year's version was amazing. The location was kept secret, even as we rode the buses to the venue. Speculation that we would dine at the Space Needle proved false. Instead we ended up at the Seattle Aquarium!! Tables were scattered throughout the facility, and it is quite an experience to eat with sharks and octopi. Irene was the lucky winner of our table's prize, a specially decorated Lionel Aquarium car, of course! This evening was, without question, a huge success.

The concluding Banquet Saturday night was a fitting climax to the week. Greg Stout was auctioneer and the length of the auction was just right...long enough to generate some needed income, but short enough to hold everyone's interest. The tables were filled with prizes so that no one went home empty handed. When the week came to an end I suspect that virtually every attendee had a great time. The careful planning and effort put forth by the Pacific Northwest Division resulted in a really spectacular time.



Katie especially enjoyed her visit to the Dansky home in Ridgefield, WA.

2005 TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION – SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

“A Taste of the Northwest”



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- A. Mikey Wassermann won the TCA Golf Tourney.
- B. This 2 7/8 display is one of the many operating layouts.
- C. The Welcome Party had seats for everyone.
- D. Bill and Jean Mack enjoy the Banquet.

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- ← E. Dave Dansky takes the controls in his Railroad Empire.
- F. Gordon photographs Bill Brant's layout. →
- G. A boat ride to Tillicum Village for a Salmon Bake.
- H. Even Christie enjoys the appetizer, steamed clams.

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BEAT THE HEAT MEET NEWS

By Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578



Brent Schnitzius is building a delightful HO layout with lots of broad curves to run long trains.

TRAFFIC ALERT

As the date of August 20 approaches, we welcome all Desert Division members to the cool pines of Prescott. However, you might want a road-closure update. If you are planning to come to the meet, be advised that there is construction on Gurley Street, the street you take to the Activity Center. Sellers will have no problem with access to the driveway to unload, but if you are just coming to the meet, to avoid any lane restrictions, you might take Sheldon Street to get to the parking areas. As you come into downtown Prescott, just follow the signs to Sheldon Street rather than Gurley Street. Then take a left onto Washington Avenue and go a block to the area where you normally would park. Washington is the street on the west side of the Activity Center.

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

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. Mel Firestone's donated book, The Steamliners, will become a raffle prize in the near future. Thank you, Peter Atonna, for your help in sending and sizing the photo of Bill Schulte for use in this issue of the Dispatch.

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

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Do you want to save the Division some money and yourself some extra paper? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. As you read in the lead article of this issue, we are currently doing this on a trial basis. You will still receive your newsletter in the mail until we have worked out all of the kinks, bugs, and problems. If at the end of the trial period, you wish to discontinue your hard copy mailed bulletins, receiving only the online copy, please let the secretary know, and your bulletins will no longer be mailed to you. The savings in printing costs and postage will be used to help defray the costs of the TCA National Convention being hosted by the Desert Division in 2009. This program relates to newsletters only; all members will still receive ballots, rosters, and membership cards via the US Post Office.

If you wish to receive the newsletter online, please fill out the bottom section of this page and return it to Christie M. Wilson, Secretary, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

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

Name _____ TCA Number _____

E-Mail Address _____