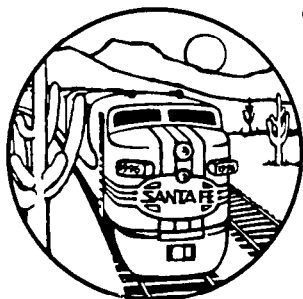


TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

DUES ARE DUE



Volume 34, No. 10

Winter, 2005

TURKEY MEET SERVED AGAIN!!

"No Turkeys allowed"- that's what the sign at the Registration Desk said, and, sure enough, no turkeys showed up. There were, however, thousands of attendees, browsers, children, and interested onlookers. It was probably the largest Turkey Meet ever. All 200 tables were filled with sales and/or display items, and the enthusiastic crowd, like the Energizer Bunny, just kept coming and coming and coming. Children were delighted by the ABTO display, built just the right size for kids. Young and old marveled at Gerry Klei's helicopter and parachute troupe. Kids of all ages were thrilled to see the Kids Club Polar Express exhibit in the lobby. All in all, it was quite a show.

Al Levin, past TCA National President, once said, "It takes 100 workers to put on a Convention." It seems as if that's true of the Turkey Meet as well. Ed Georgevich again chaired the event, but the workers showed up in droves to help out. From Wednesday's set-up to Sunday's Auction, volunteers were on the scene. The set-up crew included Bob Herman, Gordon and Christie Wilson, Ed Micale, Gerry Klei, Bob Keller, Terry and Jan Fagan, John Wiley, Don Locke, Ken Barnes, Art Triant, Phil Monahan, Chet Henry, and Katie Elgar. After the fire-retardant table covers were in place, work began on displays that required more set-up time. Once these were in place, Chet Henry and his son-in-law left to join Fred Hunter in getting the trailer and filling it with auction items for Sunday. As we finished our task, Division volunteers and the Mesa Convention Center workers could begin the Thanksgiving break.

Then came Saturday morning. Phil Monahan had arranged for seven operating layouts to be on hand for the meet, and Don Locke had organized a set-up crew, including Ken Barnes, Bob Johnston, Bob Keller, and Bill Mack, to help sellers and exhibitors move their wares in the main hall and the adjoining Mesa Room. The Arizona Big Trains display, featuring G gauge Aristo Craft Lil Eggliners, was a huge hit with the kids. Chasing the little bug like units around the large layout was just irresistible for most of the kids that saw them. TTOS brought its portable multi-gauge layout and ran trains all day long.

Bev Locke, Brad Martin, and Chet Henry assisted Bob Herman with registering the sellers. Gordon and Christie Wilson put sandwich boards out on the street, placed the Polar Express set onto its layout table, and erected a PVC pipe stand to hold the Desert Division Banner, which stood outside the main entrance door all day, inviting the public in to experience yet another sensational Turkey Meet. The outer lobby hosted the registration table and the Kids Club area. Here volunteers included Tom Plies and Bryan Jewell who worked the Kids Club area, while Denise Micale, Joan Herman, Bev Locke, Barbara Lautazi, Diane Martin, and Ruth Elgar collected registrations, stamped hands for re-entry, and handed out door prize tickets. Meanwhile Brad Martin, ably assisted by grandson Tom Uko, started his job of selling raffle tickets.

Gerry Klei faces a huge challenge each year, trying to make his current fabricated Erector/Meccano displays as innovative and impressive as his past year's efforts. This time he produced an incredible item...a flying airplane/parachute drop that towered above the platform. The design was completely free-lanced by Gerry and stood as a testament to his incredible engineering/constructing skills.

COMING UP

January 14, 2006

January 21

February 11

Regular Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

Toy Train Show, Roadway Inn, Tucson – 9 AM

Regular Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

As the day progressed, Ken Barnes, Ivan English, and Judy Rasmussen took up the raffle ticket signboard and coaxed record sales out of members and other attendees. The vast array of raffle and door prizes, collected from local and national business and hobby stores, allowed winners to choose prizes suited to their ages and tastes. Peter Atonna ably coaxed smiles and bids during the tabletop auction, which preceded the awarding of the prize everyone waits for each year – the Lionel #773 Hudson. This year the winner of the Hudson was Larry Teresi. Teardown was assisted by Phil Monahan, Gordon and Christie Wilson, Katie and Ruth Elgar, and several others, as we approached the deadline of 5:00 PM.

Sunday's Auction went without a hitch, thanks to the auctioneering skills of Peter Atonna; the bookkeeping expertise of Bob Herman, Fred Hunter, and Angelo Lautazi; and the steady flow of sales items brought to the front by Katie Elgar, Chris Allen, Ed Micale, and Chet Henry.

It makes a long weekend for all these volunteers, but it is worth it to see the joy in the eyes of the children, watch the sellers pack up fewer boxes than they had brought, and know that once again toy train enthusiasts from near and far could enjoy a day devoted to their hobby.

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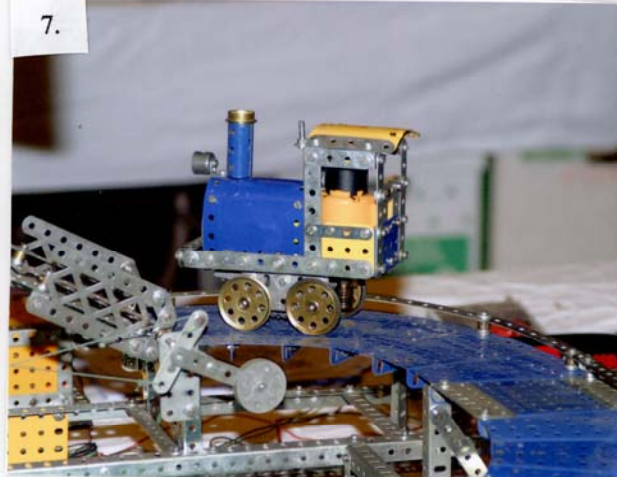
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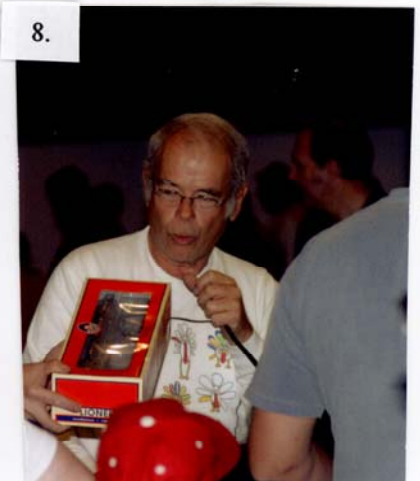
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1. Barbara Lautazi and Ruth Elgar at the Registration table.
2. Tables packed with sales items for everyone in the huge crowd.
3. Children or all ages loved ABTO's "kid-sized" layout.
4. Thomas Plies gave out "Kid Packs" and sold Polar Express raffle tickets.
5. Layouts demonstrated the appeal of toy trains.
6. Kids were wowed by
7. Gerry Klei's display of hand-crafted Erector/Meccano items.
8. Peter Atonna conducted the end-of-meet "Table Top Auction."



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-3-

TURKEY MEET 2005



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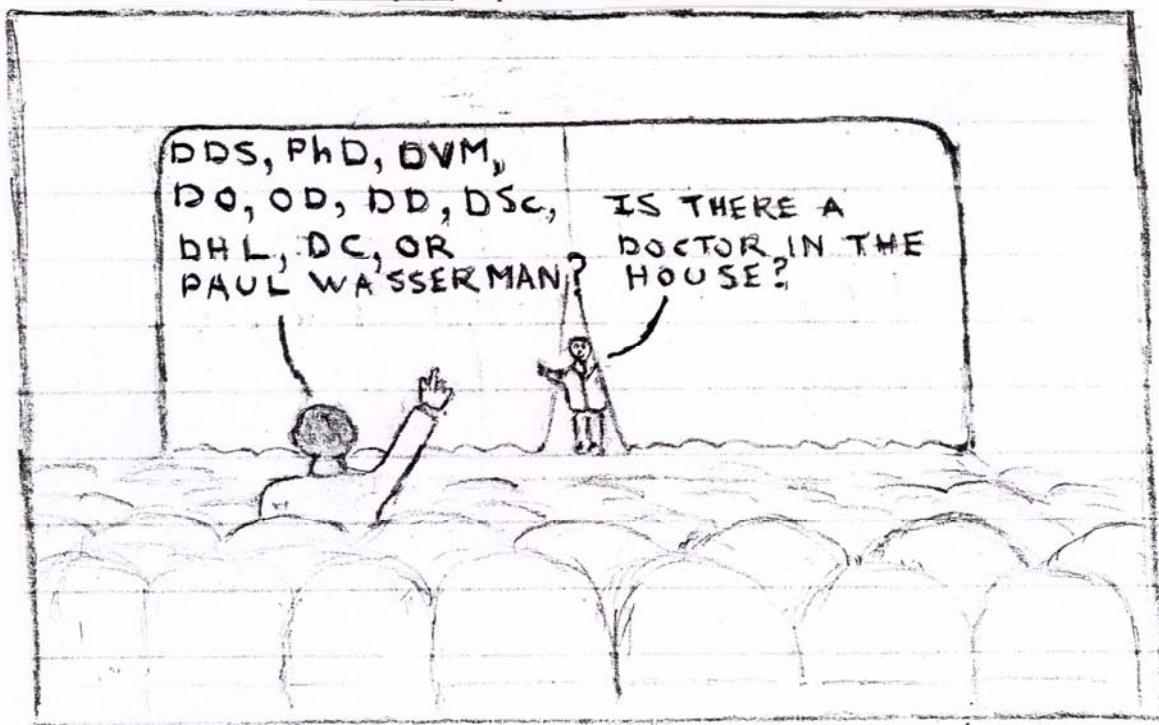


4.

1. Bryan Jewell operates the Polar Express layout at the entrance to the Meet.
2. The Raffle prizes were plentiful and highly desirable.
3. Rebecca Peiffer at the controls of an operating layout, one of the major attractions of the Turkey Meet.
4. The Division Banner outside Mesa's Convention Center.
5. During Sunday's Auction, Peter Atonna garnered maximum prices for the myriad items available for bids.

"REAL" DOCTORS

The article about Paul Wassermann's response to the question, "Are you a real doctor?" ("Humor at 37,000 Feet" on page 9 of the November 2005 issue of *The Dispatch*) inspired Mel Firestone's cartoon below.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I am writing this on Christmas Day, reflecting on a wonderful year that has gone by and the mystery of the future. I am looking forward to serving as the President of the Division and expanding my knowledge of trains as I go. I haven't unpacked any trains yet since I moved, but that just adds to the list of "to-dos" for this year!

The Turkey Meet & Auction is a memory now and a big thanks goes out to all who helped to make it a success! Without each of you helping in your own special ways we were able to pull off another successful train event. The excitement of the children watching the trains run is what it was all about. As well as the excitement of the shoppers eagerly finding just that perfect engine or train item that completes a set. Unfortunately, we did not have a parts dealer this year to fill the wish list of many needing parts. This is something we will need to look into for next year's Turkey Meet, whatever venue we have for the next year.

The Holiday Party is now a memory, always a good job and good time. The individuality of the centerpiece Santas was among the best of past years' selections. A big thanks to Brad and Diane Martin from the Desert Division and Ralph and Sally Treichel from Grand Canyon Chapter for working on the party. It is always wonderful to see everyone in a festive mood and see Santa arrive to greet the children and guests.

We have a great year ahead of us where we will need to focus on a number of items, the least of all is membership. We need to look for opportunities to expand our ranks. Share the excitement of trains and friendship with a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, or a stranger you meet in the hobby shops! We in the Desert Division have a great thing going with the free tables to sell and swap items. As well as the camaraderie before the meeting, and the educational segments in which many people have done a great job of sharing their collections.

I am looking forward to working with each of you during this coming year. Communication is important. So feel free to e-mail any concerns and ideas that you have about the club. E-mail is the best way to reach me and generally this is the quickest as well. Of course phone and snail mail are always available.

Thank you for your support; hope to see you at the meetings!

Katie

TRAINS FOR KIDS - 2005

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

Santa's Desert Division elves were busy again this year, but to be honest we would have liked to have been a little bit busier. This year as in the most recent years we again focused our efforts on matching children who specifically asked for a train with one of our sets. However elf after elf reported back in to Santa that a new phenomenon appeared this year and was multiplying on most of the Christmas "Angel" trees around town at all the malls. Santa and the elves found that instead of asking for a specific toy this year, the most common request was for gift certificates. Bah, Humbug!

Not to be discouraged, the Division elves still made their usual rounds to spread some holiday cheer where we could. Judy Brown found a deserving young railroad fan and a K-Line battery powered Pennsy freight set appeared under his tree. As in years past, that jolly "Old Pueblo" elf, Ivan English, helped out by taking a few sets down Tucson way. Many other sets went out to the various other charities we support around town. A new group was added to the program this year. Against Abuse, Inc. has a facility in Casa Grande, housing 41 families, with children ranging in age from 2 through 17. The Kids Club donated two sets, one a battery operated plastic set for the 2 to 7 age group, and the other a HO electric freight set for the older children.

Last year's raffle allotment allowed us to replenish our dwindling supplies, so we hope that the nasty old "Gift Card Grinch" will go away and the children will again ask for the Jolly old man to bring them something special next year! Santa knows if you've been naughty or nice, but his Division elves do not. If you hear of a needy child who specifically would like a train set for Christmas please let one of us know. Remember your purchase of monthly raffle tickets help fund this worthwhile cause, so even if you don't win, 15% of the proceeds will go to buying sets for needy children next year.



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY PARTY IN A NEW VENUE

There was nothing unlucky about the number 13 this time. The Holiday Party, held at the Ramada Inn at I-17 and Cactus, required only thirteen tables this year. Each table had its own "classic" Santa Claus, available for an auction at day's end. In addition, there were gifts for every attendee and raffle prizes galore. Santa made his annual appearance before the feeding frenzy, so that each child in attendance could give him a "wish list" and receive a gift. The meal, with beef and chicken entrees, was sumptuous and plentiful. Everyone was in a gala mood and the party was a huge success.

Once everyone had been allowed at least one trip to the buffet line, the raffles began. After twenty prizes had been awarded, the business meetings began. TCA started with Beth Stange's announcement of the elected officers for 2006. Winners included Katie Elgar, Bob Herman, and Christie Wilson, all of whom had run uncontested for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. Gordon Wilson is the new Vice-President, and the Directors are Steve Bienstock, Don Locke, and Phil Monahan. Gordon Wilson then took the microphone to announce the 17th Annual Desert Division Open winners. Paul took top honors and received the traveling trophy again this year. Closest to the Temperature honors went to Chris Allen, who was within two degrees of the day's high temperature. Gordon Wilson accepted his runner-up prize, the 15th such prize from the 17 years of this contest. Katie Elgar called Chris and Laurel Allen to the podium to receive Chris's plaque as the outgoing President. Thomas Plies then announced the winners of the various prizes in the Kids Club Polar Express raffle. (Those names are listed in the Kids Club article elsewhere in this bulletin.) The raffle netted approximately \$850 to be used for the Desert Division's "Trains for Kids" program. Chris Allen, newly elected TCA National Vice-President, performed one last Desert Division Presidential function, as he awarded the "Member of the Year" award to Thomas Plies and "Volunteer of the Year" award to Jeanine Monahan.

More raffle prizes were drawn, and the afternoon began to wear down as our final two activities took place. Each year there is a Men's Door Prize and a Lady's Door Prize. This year those prizes went to Larry Teresi and Patricia Plies. Last on the agenda is the always-spirited auction for the table decorations. This year's table centerpiece Santas brought out the bidder in all of us. Each Santa was different, so there were many options for anyone desiring a holiday decoration for his or her home. Red ones, maroon ones, some with sacks of toys, some with stands and others with tree-top capabilities, some with musical instruments and others with ornaments – all were auctioned by Peter Atonna to bring in the most revenue for the clubs. No one left the party disappointed and everyone left with a full stomach

and a feeling of peace and joy to carry through the holidays into the New Year.

The Desert Division wishes to thank all the co-chairs of this year's event: Brad and Diane Martin and Ralph and Sally Treichel. You made 2005's Holiday Party one to remember.



"Member of the Year" Thomas Plies



"Volunteer of the Year" Jeanine Monahan



No Holiday Party would be complete without Santa.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

HOLIDAY PARTY 2005

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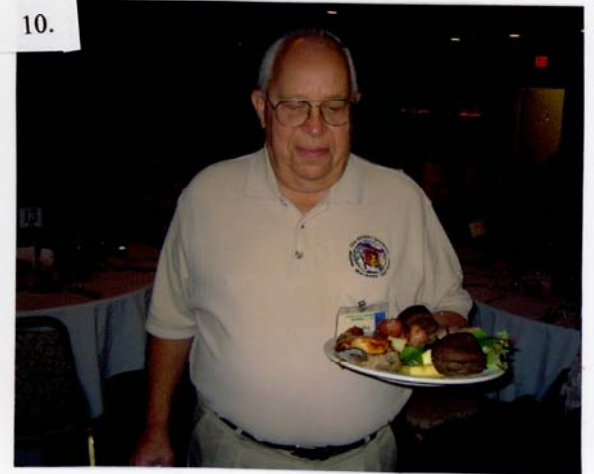
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3.



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4.



1. Phil Monahan outbid all others for the Lionel Eggnog Car.
2. Chris Allen shows off the youngest attendee, his 4 month old grandson.
3. Mary Jane and Peter Atonna are dressed for a Party.
4. Santa asks Ron Kuhn, "Have you been a good boy?"
5. One of the "classic" Santa centerpieces.
6. Al and Selma Levin returned from Baltimore just in time for the Party.
7. Judy Rasmussen enjoys the food.
8. Thomas Plies announces the Polar Express Raffle winners.
9. Irene Wassermann and Jean Mack at Party's end!
10. Ralph Treichel, event Co-Chair, can now smile. The planning is over and the Party is a SUCCESS.

DESERT DIVISION ELECTION PRIMER

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

This year the Desert Division had an unprecedented 15 ballots that had to be disqualified from our annual election, so I hope this little primer might help the Division members understand the voting process that takes place. This year Division Election chair Beth Stange, along with Tom Stange and myself, formed the election committee. The very first thing we did with the sealed envelopes is to check the name and/or TCA number against the most current membership roster that was supplied to the election committee. If there were no identifying markings on the envelope, they were placed in a temporary hold pile separate from the valid ballots. Next we opened the envelopes, placing the still closed ballots in one pile while discarding the envelopes.



In front of Beth are three piles of valid ballots and the disqualified ballots.



The still closed ballots prior to the actual counting. The three piles are a result of Beth, Tom, and myself dividing envelope opening chores.

Finally we began the actual ballot counting process. Beth would open up the ballot, announce the vote, and then hold up the ballot for Tom and me to confirm. After the final tally of valid ballots, we opened the disqualified ballots to see if there were any identifying marks on the ballot themselves.

There has always been a degree of suspicion with any mail-in ballot process, whether ours, local, or even the national election process. Those of you who mail in your vote in your local civic elections know that you must sign the outside of the envelope for your vote to be valid, and so must you either print your name or TCA number on the outside envelope of either your Division or National TCA ballot. That's the only way we can assure those who are running that only current valid members took place in the vote. Hopefully you can have trust in your fellow TCA members who are appointed by the Division President that serve on the Election Committee to have a neutral interest in the outcome of the election and will do their best to have a fair and objective voting process.

This year we on the Election Committee took several calls inquiring if the final vote tally itself would be published. As a member of the Election Committee, I went to the Desert Division Board of Directors at the November BOD meeting to ask guidance regarding this matter. Using the present Division Bylaws as our guide, it was decided to publish the results and not the final vote tally. As a committee we announced the Division BOD's decision at the Holiday Party, and the Board has directed the editor and publisher of The Dispatch to continue our tradition of publishing the results and not the actual vote tally. Our reasons are really quite simple. It is not the place of the Desert Division's Board of Directors or the Election Committee to show that no one thought that "Bozo the Clown" was qualified to be Division's dog catcher next year. Still concerned that there might be some hanky-panky going on for those highly sought after Division jobs? If so the Election Committee turns over the ballots to the Division Secretary to hold for ninety days and you may request to count them yourself.



DUES ARE DUE

Yes, it's that time of year again. The address label on the front of your bulletin includes the date that your dues expire. Please check to see if you need to renew. Dues are \$10 per year for up to five years in advance. This money covers any and all expenses connected with our nine open meets throughout the year, the printing of ten issues of the newsletter, food for the picnics/Pizza Meetza, raffle prizes, awards for the golf tournament, and incidental expenses which occur throughout the year.

A Desert Division Registration Form is included with this bulletin. If your label is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. If it is not highlighted, but you want to make any changes in the Membership Roster which will be published in March, please fill in the form and return it to the Secretary at the address on the bottom of the form. Don't delay. Be sure to keep your membership current by renewing today.

DUES ARE DUE

INTERESTING YORK FACTS

For years we have published articles by our members about the World's Largest Train Meet in York, Pennsylvania. Here are some interesting facts resulting from this past October's meet, as compiled by Eastern Division President Clem Clement.

The attendance figures are in. We registered 14,104 people for the meet. This makes the fall York about the same size as the last spring York. The three-day event appeared to make things less frantic, as people commented that the added time allowed them to relax and enjoy all the happenings and visit with old friends. A new building was added and, where possible, aisles were widened to make movement easier. Table/booth holders tell us that then actually had time to talk with their customers.

Out of the 14,104 people registered 9,380 were TCA members. So we hosted a little less than approximately 1/3 of the entire TCA at the fall meet! 1,425 members were over 65 and 72 members were disabled. 779 folks registered at the door. In attendance were 3,480 spouses and 1,244 children.

We registered 191 RV's (30 more than in the spring). Stunning numbers with the fuel crisis and all.

Table wise we had: 1,841 member tables; 301 dealers (from one table to large booths in size).

95 kids played in Kids Korner @ York with their guardians.

At the Ice Cream Social, 561 dishes of ice cream and sherbet were served. Seventeen (17) bazillion sprinkles were consumed, along with lots of

AUTHORS WANTED

TCA is looking for train authors. The so-called "Modern Era" of toy train manufacturing extends from 1970 to date (1970 to 1985 MPC; 1985 through 1995 Kughn; and 1995 to present). Many TCA members have an interest in this era, particularly in toy trains manufactured over the last five years or so. Technology has grown by leaps and bounds, as have scale-like qualities and appearance.

The TCA Quarterly is looking for an author or authors who have the knowledge and are willing to write articles that cover the aforementioned "Modern Era." Subject areas such as modern operation (TMCC, Protosound), collectibles, product reviews, noteworthy layouts (of any size) covering Lionel, MTH, K-Line, American Models, Weaver, Marx, et al.

Please contact TCA Quarterly editor Mark Boyd (tcqeditor@sbcglobal.net), Mike Spanier (hspanier@aol.com), or Bob Mintz, editor of E-Train, (rimbob@banet.com) if you have an interest in Modern Era toy trains or have questions.

crushed nuts and gallons of chocolate syrup. We all were entertained by Dr. Joe Lechner on piano and Paul Edgar on drums. Skeeter Boswell joined in as well. Whatta night!

At the Saturday morning Coffee Klatch, we consumed 15 urns of coffee and 40 DOZEN Maple donuts (We paid for 20 dozen and 20 dozen were matched by Maple Donuts, free.)

At the Eastern Division BOD Meeting, we gave Maple Donuts, Ind., a plaque announcing that they were the "Official Donut of Eastern Division, TCA." We received recognition in the business sections of York County on the Internet and the Friday York Record newspaper.

105 new members joined TCA at York this fall. For the year 2005, 226 new members joined at our two York meets.

To give you an idea of what kind of resources we use at the Fairgrounds, we rent 3,155 tables, 3,076 chairs, 54 barricades, 116 stanchions, 35 concrete benches, 42.5 hours of First Aid services. We pay for 1238 labor hours of fairgrounds personnel and, of course, the fairgrounds themselves.

We generated 109 cubic yards of trash during the meet! Lost and found included 3 partridges, no pears, and one bikini. (Sadly, a member is missing a Florida Gator jacket, if anyone has found it.)

All-in-all a huge meet with great train excitement everywhere! All this fun and comradeship over a little toy train.

DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ TCA No. _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Spouse's first name _____ e-mail address _____

Enclosed is a check made payable to TCA - Desert Division in the amount of \$ _____ to cover my dues for the next _____ (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) years at \$10.00 per year.

The following is a list of categories from the Registration Form representing your preferences in toy trains and accessories. Circle numbers of all categories that apply.

TRAIN ERA

- 1 PREWAR (1850-1942)
- 2 POSTWAR (1945-1969)
- 3 MODERN (1970-Present)

GAUGE

- 4 SCALE/ NMRA
- 5 STANDARD
- 6 G or #1
- 7 O or O-27 TINPLATE
- 8 S
- 9 HO
- 10 OO/AMERICAN
- 11 N
- 12 Z
- 13 LIVE STEAM

MANUFACTURER

- 14 AMERICAN FLYER/GILBERT
- 15 LIONEL/WINNER
- 16 MARX/MARS/ALLSTATE
- 17 IVES
- 18 DORFAN/FANDOR
- 19 MTH
- 20 WILLIAMS
- 21 K-LINE
- 22 AMT/KUSAN
- 23 OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY
 - 23A BASSETT/LOWKE
 - 23B BING
 - 23C BOUCHER
 - 23D BUB/KARL
 - 23E BUDDY-L
 - 23F CARLISLE & FINCH
 - 23G ELLETREN
 - 23H HAFFNER
 - 23I HOGE
 - 23J HORNBY
 - 23K ISSMAYER
 - 23L LGB
 - 23M MARKLIN
 - 23N METZEL

- 23O MINI-SCALE
- 23P PHOENIX LTD.
- 23Q PLASTICVILLE
- 23R LITTLETOWN/SKYLINE
- 23S PRIDE LINES
- 23T REA/ARISTO-CRAFT
- 23U RIGHT-O-WAY
- 23V ROKAL
- 23W VOLTAMP
- 23X WEAVER
- 23Y McCOY
- 23Z NATIONWIDE
- 23AA USA TRAINS
- 23BB S-HELPER SERVICE
- 23CC ASTOR
- 23DD FLEISCHMANN
- 23EE CARETTE
- 23FF EASTWOOD AUTOMOBILIA
- 23GG AMERICAN MODELS S GAUGE
- 23HH DOWNS S GAUGE
- 23II COLBER
- 23JJ UNIQUE
- 23KK SAKAI
- 23LL BOWSER
- 23MM T-REPRODUCTIONS

DO YOU HAVE A LAYOUT?

- 24 YES
- 25 NO

PERIPHERALS

- 26 FIGURES
- 27 TOYS
- 28 PAPER/BOOKS
- 29 BUILDINGS
- 30 RAILROADIANA

Mail to: **Christie Wilson, Secretary**
 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

DUES ARE DUE

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 _____

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.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make the Turkey Meet such a huge success. Runners, raffle ticket sellers, set-up crew, tear-down crew, auction crew, and all those "behind the scenes" workers deserve an extra "pat on the back" for a job well done.

Steve Bienstock donated several boxes of Plasticville to the Kids Club. Gordon Wilson donated the PVC pipe frame which allowed our Desert Division banner to be so visible at the Turkey Meet. He also donated a sandwich board sign directing traffic to the Train Show. Ken Barnes' Marx Tunnel made its television debut as it graced the Polar Express and Thomas the Tank sets which were featured on Good Morning Arizona on Thanksgiving morning. Thank you one and all.

Additional raffle prizes and Santa gifts for the Holiday Party came from Chris and Laurel Allen, Angelo and Barb Lautazi, Tom and Beth Stange (Trainland Express), Terry and Jan Fagan, Fred and Shirley Hunter, Janet and Terry Mattern, Brad and Diane Martin, Ralph and Sally Treichel, and Kalmbach Publishing. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket and bid on the centerpieces. These help offset the party expenses.

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

IN MEMORIAM

During December we learned that John Hammons, a long-time member of the Desert Division, had passed away. Sincere condolences go to his family. Peter Atonna submitted the following remembrance of John.

John Hammons (TCA #75-7972) – by Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578)

John was one of the earliest members of the Desert Division, TCA and the Grand Canyon Division, TTOS, and was active in both groups. Despite being generally quiet and laid back, poor John had to endure years of jokes about his employment at the Internal Revenue Service. John had a magnificent collection of standard gauge trains and, when he had a new house built, left out one wall between two bedrooms so he could build a fine standard gauge layout. Sadly, he had family problems and was not able to build the layout and ended up selling his collection at an early Turkey Meet Auction. Many of the sets were beyond my means, but I was able to buy one set of passenger cars, which I still have and for which I will remember John. John was not very active in monthly club affairs after that, but several times a year he would attend a meet, and it was a delight to share train stories with him.

IN MEMORIAM

On Christmas Day, the father of Irene Wassermann, wife of Past-TCA President Paul Wassermann, passed away in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Brian Botowski had been ill for a lengthy period of time. Our best wishes and condolences are extended to the Wassermann family.

Desert



Division

NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

by Chris Allen, Jeanine Monahan, and Thomas Plies

At the Turkey Meet, the Division's Kids Club issued 67 toy train information kits to patrons who purchased something from the vendors on the floor. Announcements were made periodically from the podium. Other announcements sent patrons to the Kids Club table in the lobby. There they could purchase raffle tickets for the Kids Club prizes that were awarded at the Holiday Party on December 11. The Polar Express set went to Mike Spitalul, Grand Canyon Railroad tickets (4 tickets) were won by Ray Shelton, entry to the Phoenix Zoo and Safari Train Ride (6 tickets) was won by Roy Miller, the Polar Express DVD movie and Poster will reside at the Ruminer household, Ed Georgevich won the hard cover Polar Express picture story, Jim Bratcher now owns the Polar Express Night Light, Ruth Elgar has the Polar Express story picture booklet, while Pat Howard won the Polar Express Santa & Sleigh tree ornament.



Kids Club
Club-boose

The Kids Club thanks Gordon Wilson for procuring Amtrak Railroad Hats for this year's Turkey Meet. Many a youth proudly wore that hat all day long, and there are more for upcoming events throughout the year.

The Kids Club co-chairs for 2006 are as follows: Chris Allen, Jeanine Monahan, and Thomas Plies. Jeanine will continue to send birthday cards and everyone will help out with Kids Club events and special activities throughout the year. A hearty Thank You to all the volunteers. The Zoo Module maintenance crew for 2006 include Jonathan Peiffer, Chris Allen, and Thomas Plies.

Do you know what Kids Club Membership includes? There is an automatic National TCA Kids Club membership card and letter dispatches; local activity calendar of special events, such as Holiday Party, Train-O-Rama, Pizza Meetza, G-Scale Gardens, Beat the Heat Meet, and others; birthday card; grab bag item at each meeting; opportunity to draw the first adult's raffle ticket at each monthly meeting; and tips on how to access games and information for kids interested in trains – www.tcamembers.org; www.traincollectors.org; www.tcadd.org; www.Lionel.com, www.MTH.com, and others.

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 _____

