

TCA Mission: To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains –through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



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Volume 45, No. 1

Winter, 2015-16

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wow! What a finish to a year that had so many surprises and unplanned events. With a blink of the eye the old year is behind us and here we are looking forward to a bright and brand new train season. With no meets in November and December we still managed to get together for our annual November “Turkey” auction held on Thanksgiving weekend and our annual Holiday Christmas Party. In between those two events we held an election for new officers and Board members and in fact had to hold a runoff as two members tied for the third Director at Large office.

As of this printing we still do not know who has won that office as the ballots will be counted prior to our next Board of Directors meeting and announced at the January Meet which also doubles as our annual business meeting. Don’t let the fancy name fool you, the annual business meeting will only add a few extra minutes to our regular January meeting and is required by both National and Division bylaws. It is basically a “State of the Union” message that informs the membership of our financial and membership status. In fact, along with that, you will again begin seeing the annual “Dues are Due” message that will appear with this newsletter. Unless you have prepaid your dues for

multiple years, you have until the end of February to pay for this year’s dues. More information is available elsewhere in this issue.

Let’s look back at the past few months and see what was accomplished and what you might have missed. Following the Rio Grande Pumpkin Meet, which we talked about in the last issue, many of us continue the fall train season by visiting our friends down in Tucson for the GPD Toy Train Operating Museum November Toy Train Meet. This year was no exception and I counted more than a dozen table sellers who call the Valley of the Sun home. This is always a fun meet for both the buyers and the sellers and you can never tell what you will sell or even bring back home. This year was no exception and I found myself drawn like a moth to a flame at John Craft’s table. After showing John a recent Standard Gauge train I had picked up a few weeks earlier in Albuquerque, John introduced me to one on his table and as we chatted it became very apparent to both of us that it was going to change hands and end up going home with me by the end of the meet. (It did) The next show in Tucson conflicts with our January meet but if you would like to see what all the excitement is about travel down on Friday, spend

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 8 & 9 - **Gadsden-Pacific TTOM Toy Train Show** – Show flyer inside
- January 9 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Annual Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- January 16 - **Rio Grande Chapter Annual Business Meeting** – Albuquerque, NM
- January 30 – Desert Division presents - **“Souper Bowl II” Auction** – Phoenix, AZ
- February 13 – **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- February 20 - **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – Albuquerque, NM
- March 5 – GCMR Cactus Winter Meet – 9 AM – 1 PM North Phoenix Baptist Church – Phoenix, AZ

the day visiting the show and friends and then come to the January Meet the next day and tell us about your new prized find.

We also had a great turnout for the November auction held Thanksgiving Saturday. This auction featured hundreds of lots of contemporary trains and numerous items we had never seen before including an MTH Coors Silver Bullet set with add-on car, mint in the box. Bidding remained lively from start to finish and we only heard Peter Atonna's "speech" a half dozen times or so as several bidders tried to low ball the starting bid, only to have it end exactly where we began minutes earlier. I think many of the bidders just like to see Peter's reaction and as always it was done with great fun and humor. Keeping the bidders close at hand during our breaks, Barbara Lautazi and Janet Mattern helped out in the kitchen making sure the coffee and donuts were available all day and to help serve up our free lunch treat of Costco hot dogs, beans and chips.

Wrapping up the year was the annual multi-club

Holiday Christmas Party. The food was plentiful and delicious and it is no secret why we return each year to the Marriott Phoenix Mesa hotel. Not only does the staff at the hotel provide excellent service but the Holiday Committee worked throughout the year to insure member and spouses gifts for those in attendance along with a wide variety of raffle prizes to include a little bit of something for every age and interest. President Allen announced that the Member of the Year was Christie Wilson, who worked throughout the year selling Hudson tickets and in fact sold the last Hudson ticket at the Christmas Party. Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Barbara Lautazi who launched our Souper Bowl auction last year. Of course the end of the party was the annual centerpiece auction and this year several unique items caught everyone's eye and auctioneer Peter Atonna made sure the bidding was fun and lively.

The next Division meeting is set for January 9th and I hope you plan to attend to kick off the New Year.



Very good turnout for the November auction



Yes Peter, we know the speech, but we want you to tell us again anyway...



Member of the Year for (among other things) her tireless efforts to sell raffle tickets – Christie Wilson



Barbara Lautazi was Volunteer of the year for her planning and implementing of the first "Souper Bowl" Auction



The food line moved fast and the food was great



After passing through the buffet line the next stop was the carving station



Marty Wik with just some of his winnings. Marty bought several dozen tickets and it paid off for him.



President Chris reaching deep in the bag for a winning ticket while Barb Lautazi and Shirley Hunter assist



Brody was also a multiple winner thanks in large part to Grandpa Bill Lazenby's generosity



Here is the Hudson winner for 2015, Wayne Ross, who decided to keep the Hudson

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting

There was no Division BOD meeting held in November or December. The next scheduled meeting is January 6th 7:00 PM at the home of Chris and Laurel Allen. Members are welcome to attend but please call in advance so we can insure enough seating for everyone. Instead of the regularly published minutes we will share additional photos from the Christmas Holiday Party. We are sorry that we just didn't have the space to list everyone's name, but by all the smiling faces you can tell we were all having a good time, and these photographs were taken before the dinner was served.



President's Message

What a fun time of the year to be enjoying trains with friends and family. My youngest brother and newly minted grandpa, decided to bring out an old postwar Lionel he has had for a few years. He had been running it on some old Lionel track but the track had seen better days. His concern was if his old train would run on the "new" Lionel FasTrack. After being assured that his postwar train would run just fine, he invested in enough track to circle their family Christmas tree. At last report Grandpa and Grand-daughter were having their best Christmas together yet.

This follows on the heels of one of my nephews calling me up in a panic. He has been working on his HO pike in his small Dallas apartment. (Thankfully they survived the recent tornado outbreak) After a recent expansion he noticed a few dead spots where the locomotives were slow to respond to commands. He purchased a DCC "booster" and problems escalated. Now I am no expert on HO or DCC, but after a few questions I soon discovered that where the dead spots were at my nephew had recently ballasted his layout. A few tips on how to clean track and what to do in the future when he lays ballast and later that day I received a text thanking me that everything was working fine once more.

Yes, there are new train hobbyists out there and for as many different reasons as there are people. The hobby continues to evolve and as the new electronics migrates to the various scales it will introduce another generation into this hobby. My brother commented that he liked the way the new track went together and stayed together under the Christmas tree.

In yet another case I received a phone call "from a friend of a friend" who told him I sold train "stuff". He was looking for a Lionel transformer, and after a few questions I discovered he had a small postwar train set and the cord on his transformer was frayed. I offered to replace the cord, but he wanted one of those "big transformers with two handles". Do you have one for sale? I told him I did but it was more transformer than he would need and the second handle was for powering a second train. It didn't matter, he wanted one since he was a boy when it seemed all his

friends had one and he had this small one. Thankfully I have one less ZW in my storage, regrettably for a lot less than what I paid for it and hopefully a person that will call again to buy a second (and maybe more) trains in the future, so he can start to use that second handle.

But it doesn't even stop there. Last June our niece stopped by the TCA National Convention in New York. She had moved to the area several years ago and we hadn't seen her for several years. We had a wonderful breakfast and lunch with her and her boyfriend and upon returning to the hotel I invited them into the trading pits to see what Uncle Chris does for fun. This young man is in his late 20's and the pits were his first exposure to the hobby. They both were impressed with both the complexity and simplicity of the layouts and I explained that the hobby has no right or wrong. You can be an operator or collector, have the most detailed scale layout or be whimsical or time specific. It's a blank canvas for you to fill and enjoy. Just before Christmas we received a text message from her, they had a day off from their busy schedules and decided to visit the New York Botanical Garden Holiday Train Display and sent us several pictures. Another seed planted. I hope this year you will join me in inviting family and friends to join us and encourage those who have an interest in our hobby.

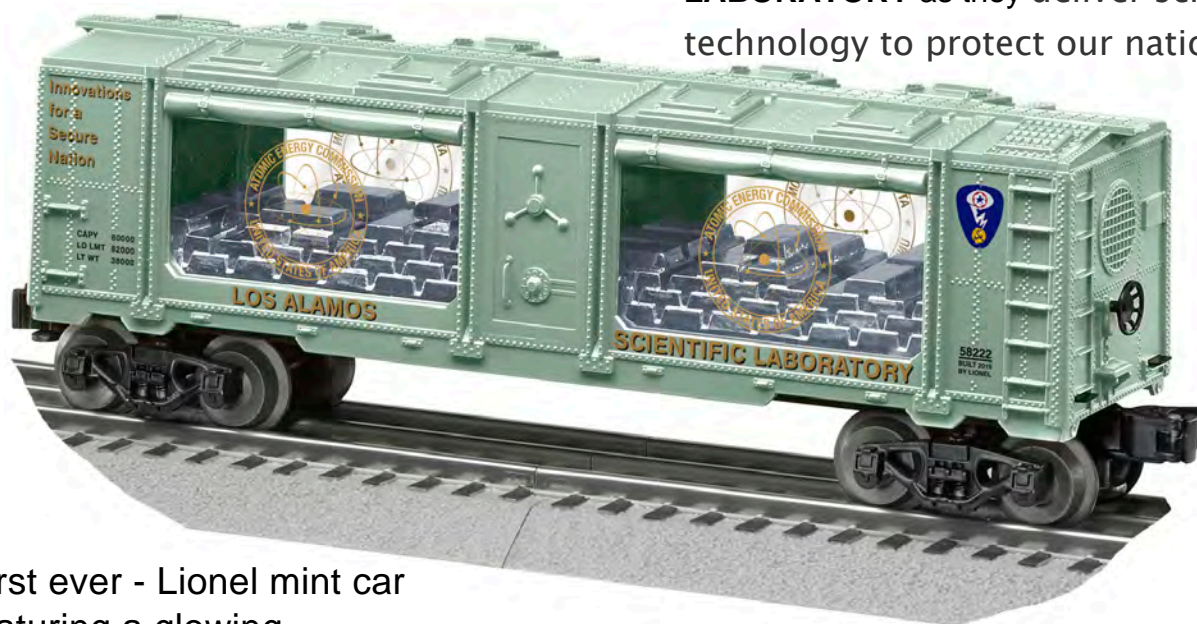
January marks the return of our "Souper Bowl Auction" on Saturday January 31st. While it is not on Super Bowl weekend this year, it was such a big hit last year we decided to bring it back. Many members or their wives brought in their own favorite homemade soup to share and it turned into a friendly kitchen competition to see whose the crowd's favorite was. With El Niño in full swing this winter we will most likely have a cold and wet day, so the soup will be a perfect lunch. I plan to bring two soups myself that day. Many of you know that I am always on the lookout for your favorite family recipe and crowd pleaser. This time I will bring a family favorite of mine and one from our Rio Grande Chapter that I just acquired a few months ago. It was a real hit this past Christmas with my family. I hope you will enjoy it also.





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TCA Rio Grande Chapter News



Holiday greetings from Albuquerque! I hope everyone has recovered from the crazy blizzard that closed out the year and nearly closed down the town.

We have had a very busy winter with trips and shows promoting the C&TS fund raiser boxcar. As you can see we now have a new car to promote and begin selling as well. To say that it is remarkable, beautiful and unique is an understatement. As a mint car itself, the color scheme and recognition of the Los Alamos Laboratory will have significant meaning in drawing member's attention to our state as a convention destination in 2019. However, the fact that this is the first time that any Lionel mint car load will glow and even "pulsate" will make it an instant hit. We truly

expect demand to go beyond our limited 500 car production run. Delivery is expected later this year. This is the second car of our planned fundraising offering. The convention committee will begin working with National TCA on our convention car suite for the 2019 convention. We have about two short years to get any licensing approval in place and have those cars ready to be approved by the National Board of Directors.

The next Rio Grande Chapter meeting is January 16, 2016 @ 10:00am at Los Altos Christian Church. We will need to start promptly on time due to time constraints. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. See you at the January meeting.

CHRISTMAS LAYOUTS



Terry Haas' backyard G gauge layout during his open house



The garage holds Terry's O gauge layout which they see first



Peter Atinna's layout featured vintage Marx, postwar Lionel and his newly acquired UP passenger car set



Here is a nice view of Peter's Marx

PICTURES FROM THE GPD TTOM NOVEMBER MEET



Loren Hess and wife Ilene had a table full of goodies waiting for the show to open



Dannie Martin had just sold "everything on my table" and was packing up to go home when I stopped by



Fred Hunter was all smiles just before the door opened as well



We caught up with John and Eva Upshur Friday afternoon during a quiet spell



Ivan English, who normally travels north to visit us had the luxury to stay local as we visited him



Ray Pomper, who recently moved his repair shop, was all set for a big show with some mint in the box items

DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again. Desert Division dues are due. How do you know whether you owe dues? Look at your address label. If it is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. Please remit \$10 per year for up to five years in advance in a check made payable to Desert Division – TCA and include it in an envelope with the Registration Form which appears elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatch. If you don't want to pull apart your newsletter you may also print out the form from the Desert Division website. Visit TCADD.ORG and click on the "How to Join" button on the left, at the bottom of that page is the link for the current Registration Form. Mail forms and checks to Angelo Lautazi, Division Secretary, at 6109 E. Sonoran Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266 on or before February 29, 2016. You may also save yourself postage if you wish to bring it to the January Meet or auction. Please insure that all your personal information including phone numbers and email address are correct as that will help us create the Desert Division roster and membership cards which will be distributed in March.

IN MEMORIAM – Nick Ladd

Past TCA National President and long time Desert Division member Nick Ladd passed away on December 18th, 2015. Although Nick resided in North Carolina, he maintained his membership in the Desert Division since the first TCA National Convention was held here in 1997. It was during that time that he developed a close working relationship with many local members of the convention committee that continued until his passing. Nick was known throughout TCA and the community at large for his integrity and fair mindedness. Nick was TCA's National President in 1990 and his leadership qualities helped to guide TCA back on the right track during some tough inner conflicts that were plaguing the organization during the late 80's. Recognized by many of us for his role while working for K Line trains, Nick's friendship will be missed by all.

IN MEMORIAM – Fred Goulden

Past Division President and long time Desert Division member, Fred Goulden passed away on November 3, 2015. Fred was the Desert Division President in 1977 at a time when terms were only one year long. He remained active in Division activities throughout the 1980's and 1990's until he moved from Paradise Valley to Miami Arizona in the early 2000's. Fred was not only a toy and train collector but had a passion for classic cars as well and was a member of numerous cars clubs in Arizona. Fred had many collecting hobbies including antique toys and cars, besides toy trains. Together with his wife Elaine, who collected antique dolls, they opened The Golden Era Museum in Coolidge, where Fred could share his joy of collecting with the public.

EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT FOR JANUARY

With the holidays over many of you may have picked up or better yet were given a new train, locomotive or accessory to run on your layout or to add to your collection. As is always the case with our January Meet, why don't you bring it along to share the story with our other members? We have had some great stories over the years in the ways our families have added to our enjoyment of our hobby and I am sure we will have many more such stories again this year. Of course it doesn't have to be a gift or even have a story. Maybe you found something out of the ordinary and you had to have it yourself. Whatever the reason be sure to bring it and your story along. The theme will be, "there is no theme" educational segment. That is a pretty blank canvas for you to fill with the best gift received, the newest addition to your collection, something you saw and just had to have, or something you just found along the way that you wanted to share it with the rest of us.

“ONE OF ARIZONA’S LARGEST MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS” THE CACTUS WINTER MEET

SATURDAY, MARCH 5th, 2016

9 AM - 1 PM \$6/PERSON \$11/FAMILY

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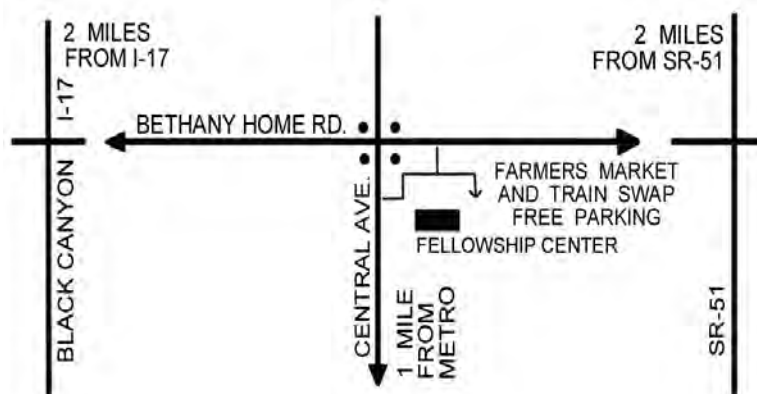
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To reserve your space and required admission name
badges, submit this form by February 26, 2016

No refunds after February 26, 2016.

Set-up opens at 6:00 AM Please print form legibly.



Name		\$25 per 8' banquet table (Bring a table cover, if desired) How many tables? _____ Amount enclosed? \$ _____ Request? _____ Will you participate in the auction? Seller? _____ Buyer? _____
Address		
City	State Zip	
Phone	Email	
Buying, selling, ethics and behavior: In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. I will not pack until 1:00 PM. Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.		
Signature		Admission Name Badges 1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max. Badge Name _____ Badge Name _____ 3 or more tables = 4 badges max. Badge Name _____ Badge Name _____
Date		More badges available at \$5.00 each
Make check payable to: “Grand Canyon Model Railroaders” Mail to: John Draftz, 1507 W Willow Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029 or Credit cards accepted via PayPal - Visit www.gcmrr.org Email: info@gcmrr.org Info: John Draftz 602-942-3457; Glenn Saber 602-956-6695		



Desert Division Membership Form



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____ TCA No. _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per year. (Members may pay up to 5 years in advance). No of Years: X \$10.00 =

A Desert Division Badge is \$10.00 (optional):

Make your check payable to: **TCA - Desert Division** Enclosed Total =

How would you prefer to receive your Newsletter? ☐ By E-Mail (Color Pages)
☐ By Reg. Mail (Black&White)

Please Indicate Your Hobby Preferences from the Categories Below. Check All that Apply.

TRAIN ERA

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Prewar (1850=1942) | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Ives | <input type="checkbox"/> 23L. LGB | <input type="checkbox"/> 23DD. Fleischmann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Postwar (1945-1969) | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Dorfan / Fandor | <input type="checkbox"/> 23M. Marklin | <input type="checkbox"/> 23EE. Carette |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Modern (1970-present) | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. MTH | <input type="checkbox"/> 23N. Metzel | <input type="checkbox"/> 23FF. Eastwood Auto |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Scale / NMRA | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Williams | <input type="checkbox"/> 23O. Mini-Scale | <input type="checkbox"/> 23GG. Amer. Model S Ga. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. K-Line | <input type="checkbox"/> 23P. Phoenix Ltd. | <input type="checkbox"/> 23HH. Downs S Gauge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. G or #1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. AMT / Kusan | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Q. Plasticville | <input type="checkbox"/> 23II. Colber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. O or O-27 Tinplate | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Other - Please Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> 23R. Littleton/Skyline | <input type="checkbox"/> 23JJ. Unique |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. S | <input type="checkbox"/> 23A. Basset / Lowke | <input type="checkbox"/> 23S. Pride Lines | <input type="checkbox"/> 23KK. Sakai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. HO | <input type="checkbox"/> 23B. Bing | <input type="checkbox"/> 23T. REA / Aristo-Craft | <input type="checkbox"/> 23LL. Bowser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. OO / American | <input type="checkbox"/> 23C. Boucher | <input type="checkbox"/> 23U. Right-O-Way | <input type="checkbox"/> 23MM. T-Reproductions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. N | <input type="checkbox"/> 23D. Bub / Karl | <input type="checkbox"/> 23V. Rokal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Z | <input type="checkbox"/> 23E. Buddy-L | <input type="checkbox"/> 23W. Voltamp | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Live Steam | <input type="checkbox"/> 23F. Carlisle / Finch | <input type="checkbox"/> 23X. Weaver | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23G. Elletren | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Y. McCoy | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23H. Hafner | <input type="checkbox"/> 23Z. Nationwide | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23I. Hoge | <input type="checkbox"/> 23AA. USA Trains | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23J. Hornby | <input type="checkbox"/> 23BB. S-Helper Service | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 23K. Issmayer | <input type="checkbox"/> 23CC. Astor | |

MANUFACTURER

- ☐ 14. American Flyer / Gilbert
☐ 15. Lionel / Winner
☐ 16. Marx / Mars / Allstate

PERIPHERALS

- ☐ 26. Figures
☐ 27. Toys
☐ 28. Paper / Books
☐ 29. Buildings
☐ 30. Railroadiana

Do You Have a Layout?

- ☐ 24. YES ☐ 25. NO

Member or Applicant's Signature

Date

Mail to: **Angelo Lautazi**, Div. Secretary
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3rd RAIL & GOLDEN GATE DEPOT DISCOUNTED TRAINS: Now accepting pre-orders for the 10 car Sunset Limited for the first time in true scale O! Introducing the first 17" true scale Harriman cars in many roads. Also new, SD7s & SD9s in too many roads to list. Budd Slumbercoaches for the first time in O with only 50 reservations remaining. Call Jonathan Peiffer at 602.561.4131. Your Arizona authorized 3rd Rail and GGD Dealer. Now accepting credit cards.

Lionel and American Flyer Parts - Expanded selection now includes numerous parts for postwar locomotives including pilot wheels, trucks, and side rods - Call or stop by my table, I will be at the Pumpkin & Cal-Stewart Meet - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

FOR SALE: OB's. My basement cleanout yielded a few boxes that no longer have their accessories: #334 Dispatch Board \$5, #182 Magnetic Crane \$5, #64 Street Light \$1, #97 Coal Elevator \$8, #342 Culvert Loader. Peter Atonna email: mjatonna@gmail.com.

FOR SALE Weaver GACX 42692 Speckles Sugar Hopper Nor-Cal Banquet Car Sold @ Banquet for \$225. Now \$49 Please call/email for additional info and bargains. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges, 1901-1940. \$100 plus \$7.00 shipping. Please call Bruce Greenberg, 703-461-6991, 9-9 Eastern to order or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-24177 Balloon Ride \$200/obo - K Line UP MP-15 Switcher w/lighted caboose \$80 - Lionel 6-52078 TTOS 30th Anniversary SD9 w/matching SP Division caboose \$175 - Scale O 6-52500 Desert Division ATSF Grand Canyon Reefer \$50, Lionel 6-18562 SP GP9 w/TMCC \$150 - 356 Freight Station w/carts no box \$50- Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: Neon Lionel sign used in hobby stores - I have the bell now I am looking for a cradle and yoke for a 12" locomotive bell - semaphore working or pieces - Call me Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members. ****DEADLINE FOR AD's - THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

THE BACK PAGE

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE or BREAKING NEWS



For the first time in Division History we had a runoff election. Gordon Wilson flipping the coin for ballot position between Terry Haas and Scott Russell



We found Johnny Ourso at the November GPD TTOM show behind a sea of purple MTH trains for sale



Thank you to Barbara Lautazi and Janet Mattern for working in the kitchen during the November Auction. Make sure you sign up to bring in your favorite soup for Souper Bowl II



Late in the show I caught up with Dallas and Dave at a table with no trains, a computer, a lot of notes and two big smiles. Something is in the works for sure.

The 62nd [TCA National Convention](#)

Houston, Texas



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015



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