

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



Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

Volume 45, No. 8

September, 2016

SUMMER VACATION IS OVER!

As a kid I always looked at the end of summer vacation with mixed feelings. Since I was very active in 4-H for over ten years of my youth, I had many projects that kept me busy during the summer to get ready for the county fair each fall. There was no real “vacation” although there was no school. This past summer reminded me of just that as volunteers and officers of the Division and Chapter have been all very busy. For the next seven months, yes all the way until the end of March 2017, we have enough train events, shows, auctions and parties to keep everyone busy. And I do mean everyone, since we will not be able to do it without some help from you.

From cooking a pot of soup for the “Souper” Bowl auction, working the front desk at the December Train Swap Meet, being a runner at one of the three auctions, or even running trains at World’s Greatest Hobby or Rail Fair, there is something for everybody to pitch in and help out for just a few hours.

September starts out with our welcome back from summer September Meeting. If you missed the July mini-meet, we will get an update from the TCA

National Convention from President Allen. Auction Chairman Chet Henry, will have Auction Catalogs for both the September G gauge Only Auction and the November O gauge “Turkey” Auction that will be held the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. Of course there will be free coffee, soda, and donuts along with a passel full of table sellers anxious for you to stop by and check out their latest offerings.

The weekend following the September General Meeting will be a Saturday full of G gauge excitement. Following last year’s successful auction we accepted a few more G gauge consignments for this year. This auction has a little bit of everything from Christmas sets, great locomotives, rolling stock of every description including a ginormous selection of billboard refers. There is track, transformers, buildings, you name it, we have it in this auction for the G gauge fan. If you know someone who operates big trains make sure they know about our G gauge only auction on Saturday September 17th.

But things only begin to wind up more from there. October brings the last general meeting of the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

- September 10 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- September 17 - **Desert Division G GAUGE ONLY AUCTION** – Preview 9 AM Auction starts 10 AM – Phoenix, AZ
- September 17 – **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** - 10 AM Los Altos Church, Albuquerque, NM
- September 24 – **GCMR Mini-Swap** - 9:00 Am – 11:00 AM – 1212 E Glendale Ave, Phoenix AZ
- October 8 - **Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- October 8 - 9 – **RAIL FAIR 2016** – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – Scottsdale, AZ
- October 15 - **WVRHS Train Swap Meet** – Glendale Christian Church 9 AM - 1 PM – Glendale, AZ
- October 20-22 - Eastern Division **Fall York Meet** – York, PA
- October 29 - **Adobe Mountain Swap Meet** - 9 AM – 2 PM – Adobe Mountain Railroad Park, Phoenix, AZ
- October 30 - **2016 Pumpkin Meet** – Sheraton Uptown Hotel - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Albuquerque, NM

year which happens to fall on Rail Fair 2016 weekend at the Scottsdale Railroad Park. The Division is scheduled to have the trailer out on display both Saturday and Sunday and will be running trains for the public all weekend long. Haven't had time to play with trains over the summer? Well, you can make up some of that by running with us that weekend. The layout features Standard, G, O, and S loops so there is a little bit of track for everyone. You say you downsized and don't have trains to run anymore but would like to help out? The Division, through many generous donations have trains in Standard, O and S scale to run on the layout so all you need to do is come by the park and throttle up one of our trains. Mike Dietrich will have the signup sheet at the September meeting, but the fun for the weekend is being at the park with all your friends seeing the other exhibits and running trains for the public.

Of course October wouldn't be October if it wasn't for the fall York Meet. For many of us the bi-annual pilgrimage to see friends and trains is the beginning of the winter train season. I am especially looking forward to this year. There are rumors that some big changes are in store for this meet and I am looking forward to being part of this historic event.

October ends with one of my personal favorite events of the Division and that is the Pumpkin Meet over in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sunday October 30th is the date for this year's event and the drive over to Albuquerque is quick, being only six short hours away for me. If you never have had tables at this event consider going this year. Tables sell out quickly and I look forward to meeting old friends on their own turf for this event. Remember the convention is less than three years away and New Mexico is a completely different experience from the Valley.

October also hosts two other train meets in the Valley. The West Valley Railroad Historical Society is a favorite of many west side folks. This show at the Glendale Christian Church on 59th Ave. is popular with many members. Nice small show with great people all around. Suhauro Central's Adobe Mountain Meet has moved to Saturday October 29th this year. We haven't received any information on this meet I just saw a flyer up at the Beat the Heat Meet so contact them for more information if you are interested.

Things don't slow down in November. Because of a scheduling conflict we are unable to secure a room for the November mini-meet which means you have no excuse not to travel down south to the GPD Toy Train Operating Museum November Train Show in Tucson. Held on Friday and Saturday November 11 & 12, this show is the biggest show in southern Arizona, and another personal favorite. Okay, I know I say that a lot,

but with good friends and toy trains what's not to love about spending some time with both for a weekend?

Cal-Stewart Meet has moved this year to the Pomona Fairplex off Interstate 10 just a few miles down the freeway from where it has been held the last few years. Cal-Stewart 2016 is set to run on Saturday and Sunday November 19 and 20.

Of course November wouldn't be November without Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving in the Valley wouldn't be complete without some Turkey Meet. The November Turkey Auction will be held Saturday following Thanksgiving on November 26th. We will have the catalog up on the website once the September Auction is over. This auction will feature a large selection of postwar and modern era O gauge items with something for everyone

December brings us the Christmas Holiday Party. This year the Holiday Party Committee has been working hard coming up with several great ideas. An upscale member gift will be given out this year along with our annual Lenox ornament for the ladies. Make sure you save the date, Sunday December 3rd. The event will be held at the Mesa Marriott where we have had excellent service for more than a decade.

Of course the big news is the return of the annual Desert Division Train Meet on Saturday December 10th. After much work we have signed a contract with the Shriner's Auditorium in Phoenix. The Shriner's Auditorium is home to numerous events throughout the year, has ample free parking and is centrally located off the Loop 202 freeway just north of Sky Harbor Airport. This will be a smaller train meet than what we have done in the past, but as you can see by the numerous events in town, the train meet marketplace in the Phoenix metropolitan area is become saturated with events and we feel it is better to restart with a smaller train meet and build our way up to a larger event if we see the need.

Of course a small meet still needs help. Luckily the food service will be handled by the Shriner's themselves, but the bulk of the work will be up to us from getting our vendors in, set up and getting the public into the hall in a timely and orderly manner. Ray Pomper has agreed to be the meet chairman and while he has been a seller for years, this will be his first rodeo and a meet chairman. Past chairmen and the Board of Directors will work with Ray to make this a smooth event, but we all will need volunteers who can give us a few hours that Saturday to make this a successful train meet. So it's up to you, summer vacation is over, do you have a few hours you can help us with this fall and winter to work one of the many events we have on our calendar?



This lineup of characters were among the first to greet me at the Beat the Heat Meet



John and Darlene Wiley were all smiles while Dave Brown is about ready to photo prank them



"You need to buy this train" Although I declined the offer, it was nice to see Peter and Mary Jane Atonna



Mike, Michelle and Parker were all smiles when we caught up with them after a new purchase



A very busy crowd early in the show, but there were still a few bargains if you looked hard enough



Terry Haas was working the crowd hard and handing out flyers at the same time

PICTURES FROM THE TCA 63rd NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HOUSTON



The Dinner Cruise was a wonderful evening of good friends, great food, and a quiet putt around Galveston Bay



The Wednesday night Welcome Party featured a variety of live musical entertainment including this classical High School quintet



The National TCA Board of Directors listening to Bob Keller incoming Convention Guidelines Chairman



I loved all the operating layouts; I lost count of them all. This one is from the Gulf Coast Chapter



The large static display was a wonderful mixture of toy trains not only locally, but rare and unique items as well



The Kids Club area was very busy on Friday. The Division contacted several Day Care centers in the area for a field trip. What a great idea!

Presidents Message

Seems like I just sat down and wrote a President's message a few weeks ago. Actually, I did. The Summer issue was one of the few times when everything I touched turned to ..., well you know. We've all had those periods in our life when everything seems to go wrong and the Summer DISPATCH issue was one of those fighting me all the way to the Post Office, where, you guessed it, we were \$1.58 short in our postage account. Boy was I glad to see that one issue gone!

Funny thing was while I was fighting all the gremlins Division members, volunteers and Board members were stepping up. To me that is one of the greatest things about this hobby, it seems that when I hit one of those cloudy periods in my life when I really wonder why I still "play" with trains, the friendships, smiles, helping hands, and "how can I help you Chris?" folks turn the hobby around and I realize there is a lot more to this than just toy trains.

As I mentioned last month, Fred Hunter and I spent quite some time looking at facilities all over the central Phoenix and East Valley area. Fred did a great job in working out a contract at the Shrine Auditorium. The Shrine is located near the 202 freeway and 40th Street and is also easily accessible from the 143 Hohokam Expressway, just past the Sky Harbor off ramp.

As you can imagine we are pretty excited about getting this large of a facility on such short notice. We will be going back to our roots of hosting a regular train meet rather than the train show that we hosted over in Glendale.

The Train Show concept worked fine, in fact we were really surprised at how the public responded to just such an event, but to have the space required for all those types of activities required a venue that had floor space in excess of 20,000 square feet. That much floor space does not come cheap and our show occurs when the winter visitors are in town so we were in a very poor position to bargain for facility space.

Quite frankly there are only six venues in the entire Valley of the Sun that have exhibit space large enough for the Train Show, the State Fairgrounds, the Phoenix Convention Center, Mesa Convention Center, WestWorld of Scottsdale along with the Marriott's Renaissance and Desert Ridge.

With so little bargaining power and initial expenses quite high just to secure those event spaces the decision was made to host a traditional train meet as our winter event. While it would be more desirable to have something just a bit larger, the folks at the Shrine Auditorium worked out a very attractive contract with Fred and so the show is set for December 10th. The next question then became who would organize the event and keep everyone on track to serve as the Meet Chairman?

While I was up at the Beat the Heat Meet last month, Ray Pomper and I were talking about just this same thing when he stepped up and volunteered to be the Meet Chairman this year. You all know Ray since he and Linda have been selling at shows in town for years. Although an experienced table holder, this will be Ray's first time sitting tall in the saddle as a Meet Chairman and he will need some help from all of us to make this a successful train meet. We will begin circulating a volunteer list at the September Meeting so if you have a few hours you can help us out please let Ray or any Division Officer or Board member know.

There is ample free parking on site, since the Shriner's hold events almost weekly at the auditorium. They will be responsible for setting up and tearing down the hall at the end of the event as well. In addition they will have the kitchen open from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM with a small selection of items that are modestly event priced. We have no control over their pricing, but they have also agreed to allow us to bring in coffee and donuts for our volunteers and table holders on Saturday morning. Yes, Saturday morning. Like most shows these days to keep our expenses to a minimum setup will begin on Saturday morning, two hours before the show opens to the public. That will be our crush time as we get table holders to their tables with their items as quickly as possible. With a new location and a new date we plan to do an aggressive advertising campaign of newspaper and Public Service Announcements. Of course we will also use our website, facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the event as well. The event is already posted on RailServe and the OGR forum calendar.

Summer is over, are you ready for a very busy fall train season? I sure am!





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Send a check payable to: TCA-Rio Grande Chapter

Mail to: Bill Spofford, 9609 San Rafael N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109

Please return form with payment by October 21, 2016

Visit our web site at: www.tcadd.org

I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of Train Collectors Association (TCA) committees and any actions and rulings of TCA committees. I also agree that all items sold by me to any TA member at any TCA-sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufacturers' original condition unless I have caused and such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction.



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News



Welcome back from all your summer travels. The next scheduled meeting will be Saturday September 17th at Los Altos Christian Church. It will begin with our educational segment and members are encouraged to bring something new or newly acquired to share with the group. During the business meeting there will be a nomination and vote to fill the remaining term of the Chapter Treasurers position with the recent passing of Don Kuster. In addition, we will discuss last minute preparations for the upcoming Pumpkin Meet. TCA members and guests who do not belong to the Chapter are encouraged to attend, check us out and join in the fun.

Remaining 2016 TCA Chapter Meeting Dates:

- September 17, 2016 – 10 AM at Los Altos Church
- October 30, 2016 Pumpkin Meet – 10 AM to 4 PM at Sheraton Uptown Hotel

Up Coming Activities:

- Sept. 24th TTOS Meet & 2926 Open House
- Nov. Santa Fe MRR Club Open Houses
- Nov. 19th & 20th - Rails Along the Rio Grande Balloon Fiesta Park - Albuquerque
- December Holiday Trains at the First National Bank of Santa Fe Main Office on the Plaza

RAIL FAIR 2016 NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The trailer has been in storage since the May meeting and wants to stretch its legs, well maybe see some daylight. RAIL FAIR 2016 is the annual event held up at the Scottsdale Railroad Park. It runs Saturday and Sunday October 8th & 9th from 10 AM until 5 PM each day. The trailer setup and initial running will occur prior to and during the October General Meet. That is our most crucial time to get the event staffed. Remember, if you are at Rail Fair helping the Division and your name is called for the Hudson Hundred, you will be considered at the meet and be awarded the \$100. We have plenty of trains for you to run if you do not have trains of your own, but we need your help to keep them running! If you can help for even a few hours contact Mike Dietrich at 623-572-3538 to volunteer

SEPTEMBER EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT

Well, it has been a few months and many, many train meets since we last got together. What did you get or work on over the summer? Did you go on a Rail Fan trip during the summer months? Peter Atonna has an interesting story in this issue about a train that just walked up to him during a show in Prescott Valley. Now we all can't be that fortunate but there are many other stories out there that we would love to hear about at the September meeting. Whether a new train, adventure or just a great project you were working on, plan on giving us an update. We'd love to hear from you. Best story as voted on by those in attendance will get ten free raffle tickets.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

President:	Chris Allen	480-820-9559	Directors:	David Nycz	505-296-8905
Vice-President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538		Terry Haas	480-827-8604
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-575-7006		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
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Helping out Friends

Flood insurance, in Phoenix? On August 2nd Central Phoenix was deluged under a slow moving monsoon storm and received 2 ½ inches of rain in one hour. Those of us who live here in the desert know the infrastructure just isn't in place for that type of "100 year" event. Maybe you remember the news with the freeways all closed because the pumps could not handle all the rain volume? Most often when the pumps can't handle the excess rain runoff the water finds it own way to lower ground through our desert streets and neighborhoods. Unfortunately past Desert Division President Jonathan Peiffer's neighborhood and home was at the center of all that as his normally quiet street become a secondary flood channel from the overtaxed storm drainage system. More importantly to our story was Jonathan's train room, although on the ground floor, also took a direct hit. "Luckily" Jonathan had flood insurance and things got moving fairly quickly. He needed his train room emptied of all the trains that were above the flood waters so the workers could remove the bad drywall and begin getting his life back on track. Jonathan put out a short notice call for help and Division members and friends came out to get the trains off the layout, into boxes and off site so the repairs in the train room could be completed. Helping that hot & humid afternoon was Dwane Turner, Angelo Lautazi, Bill Lazenby, Bruce Keech, Katie Elgar, Dallas Dixon and Chris Allen.



There was between 6 to 8 inches of rain runoff in the train room before the rain receded



L to R, Dallas, Bill, Angelo and Katie form a packing line to get the trains off the layout and outside where Dwane was organizing them

Photo's from Peter Atonna's article on the next page.



This is the transformer from the Ives set. Notice the original lamp socket on the power cord. Above right is the box end flap and right is the unusual track that came with the set



CONFESSIONS OF A (NON) COLLECTOR

By Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578

To those of you who know me, I probably do not come off as a “collector”. A high railer, yes, a layout nut, definitely, an operator, perhaps. But, like most of us, I have gone through the “collector” phase in this hobby. In my early years I could not get enough postwar Lionel. Then I discovered prewar trains and some may remember the prewar O and Standard gauge layout here at home.

But, I do still like to buy old trains. I enjoy servicing and repairing them and then selling them at meets (although Mary Jane questions the success of the “selling” part!) And if I am lucky, a buy will yield a postwar car or loco that I do not have.

So, herein lies this story. At the Beat the Heat meet, a couple came up to me and said, “I understand you are interested in old trains.” Turns out the wife had an “old” Ives train from her father. “It must be 100 years old” she said. Well, you take a lot of this with a grain of salt until you have seen the trains themselves. A lot of 100 years olds have turned out to be Lionel Scout type sets.

But she had a box with some photos and the end of a set box. And yes, it did say “Ives”. We made a date for them to come here for a visit with the trains and they showed up a couple of days ago. Here is her story. She grew up in Alaska and her father loved his trains and kept them in pristine condition. She inherited them when he passed away. They are my age, so that was probably some time ago. She more recently made a second marriage to her husband and they decided a few years ago that an Alaska winter with 36 FEET of snow was enough and moved to the Prescott area. Here husband then confessed, sadly, that he had stored the trains one winter where they got wet and then icy, so they were not in the condition that her wife’s father gave to her.

At this point, they started unwrapping the trains.

The first item I spied was the transformer. My eyes popped out. On the end of the power cord was not a plug, but a socket! Wow, I had never actually seen one, but quickly knew that her estimate of a 100 year old train was probably close! These were used in the earliest transformers when homes were not yet fully wired for electricity and you screwed your transformer into a light fixture to get power.

Then the trains came out, two early Ives steamers with cast iron bodies, an assortment of lithographed cars, freight and passenger, track and a small pile of paper, including one of the original instruction manuals. Most of the equipment was pristine, but as the husband noted, on several cars the litho and paint was damaged. Fortunately it was not so bad as to make them unusable, but not in the condition of the remaining items. But the two locos were almost like new.

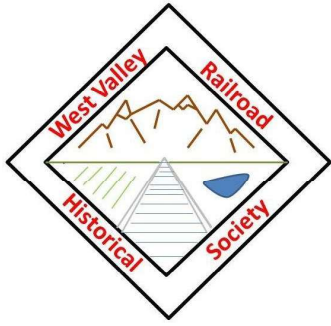
We did the transaction (I love it when the wife says, “that is more than I had expected!”) and I started looking more closely at the items. And I kept finding some things I had never noted before:

- the locomotives had only one pickup roller
- the less expensive one was geared on only one of the driving wheels
- there were two types of track, one with a third rail attachment I have never seen
- and of course the really early transformer.

And here is the rest of the story. As I noted, I had the end of one of the set boxes and it had the set number on it. As it turns out, I have only one original Ives catalog, for 1916. So, I got it out and after leafing through the early pages of Ives wind up sets, I got to the electric O gauge trains. And there it was, the first set #1102! She was absolutely correct, the set was 100 years old.

I love being a collector! Here are some shots of the trains.





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**TCA DESERT DIVISION ANNUAL
TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET
SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2016
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Formerly known as the Turkey Meet**



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TRAIN MEET HOURS

SAT, DECEMBER 10, 2016

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Admission \$5

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Table Top Auction

SETUP 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

TABLE REGISTRATION – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME _____

TCA# _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA & the Desert Division Train 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 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. Vendors not participating in the Table Top auction may, at their own decision, close at 1 PM

Signed X _____ **Date** _____

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Table Registration to: Ray Pomper, 1825 E. Laurel St., Mesa AZ 85203-2132
More info: Ray Pomper 480-837-0154 or Chris Allen 480-820-9559

NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 26, 2016

\$25 per 8' table

(Bring table cover if desired)

Tables @ \$25 each _____

Special Requests? _____

REGISTRATION NAME BADGES

1 or 2 Tables = 2 Free Badges

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

3 or more tables = 4 Free Badges

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Name 4 _____

Table Holder Badges above the Complimentary free registration are \$5 each

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Entrance on South side of Building (Banquet Hall)



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Open to the Public 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

Open to the Public 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

ADMISSION \$6.00 PER PERSON (daily)

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FOR SALE – BRIDGES! Lionel Bascule 6-12948 - MTH Steel Arch-silver RK40-1013 – MTH Rust RK40-103 - MTH Girder Bridge Silver RK 40-1014 (3 ea) MTH Girder Bridge Rust RK 40-4032 All NIB Call for info - Phil Todd 480-288-0094

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

WANTED: for my collection. Lionel prewar and postwar engines in master cartons, scarce separate sale items such as Lionel bulldozers, scrapers, boxed autos, Lionel 6464-700 Santa Fe, -900 New York Central, -250 Western Pacific, -450 Great Northern boxcars in Type III body molds, mint freight cars in high grade original boxes, 6414 Autoloaders with autos in yellow, brown, or kelly green with grey bumpers, following cars in separate sale boxes: 6352 Culvert car, 6352-1 PFE icing car, 3460-25 Piggyback car, any rare Lionel items. Bill Sivley 281-804-3629 or mrwls911@yahoo.com

WANTED: I have the bell, now I am looking for a cradle and yoke for a 12" locomotive bell – semaphore working or pieces – Eye catching railroadania items for donation to club trailer module - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: PASSENGER SET: I'm working with a friend who is putting some train sets for a youth group and he is hoping to find an inexpensive passenger set, such as one of the MPC Amtrak sets. Track and boxes not important. If you can help, would you let me know and I could pick it up at the Pizza meet. Peter Atonna mjatonna@gmail.com 928-636-4228

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



Loren Hess scored this large trestle bridge at the Beat the Heat Meet, good thing he drove up in his truck to take it home!



At the TCA National Convention, The North Texas Chapter had two beautiful Kids Club layouts. This one was modeled after the movie "Planes"



We spotted Dwane and Barbara Turner helping out at the front table during the recent GCMR Summer Cactus Meet



ONLY TWO MORE MEETS TO SCORE THE HUDSON HUNDRED, BUY YOUR TICKETS AT THE MEET. HUDSON DRAWING WILL BE AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Get Your Caboose to
The 63rd TCA National Convention
Pittsburgh, PA**



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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