

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 46, No. 2



February, 2017

HERE WE GO!

Here we go is right. 2017 started off where 2016 ended, busy, busy, busy!

The January Annual Business Meeting started off right on time at 10:00 AM with Secretary Angelo Lautazi reporting Division membership at 244 members. Treasurer Bob Herman reported the Savings Account at \$27,802.25 and the Checking Account at \$11,531.02. President Allen stated that all the final financial numbers from the Auction, Christmas Party and December Train Show were on the front table for the members to review. Chris stated that the Los Alamos Mint fundraising car for the 2009 convention had turned a profit during the winter break and now both cars were in the black.

Regarding national news, TCA members approved two new classes of membership in the November elections. Trial Membership is just what it sounds like a one time, six month membership in TCA that has restrictions

prohibiting those members from selling trains at TCA meets or in TCA publications. Heritage membership is available to TCA members who have belonged to TCA for over 20 years and are over the age of 60. Heritage Membership is \$1,000 of which \$500 is tax deductible and will be placed in the TCA Endowment Fund. Heritage members will be exempt from paying any TCA annual dues. Chris explained that if members wanted to donate to the TCA Endowment fund in ANY amount to contact Bob Herman and their donation would be combined with the Division. Endowment funds never touch the principle only the interest, and the TCA Endowment Fund is planned to help offset future dues increases.

That closed the Annual Business Meeting and President Allen then began the January General Meeting with a list of announcements. The "Souper Bowl III" auction was set for the following week and there was a signup list on the front table for all able bodied cooks to bring

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4-5 – **Worlds Greatest Hobby** – Phoenix Convention Center South Bldg. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

February 11 – **February Desert Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting Phoenix, AZ

February 18 – **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – 9:00 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Albuquerque, NM

February 18 – **GCMR Cactus Winter Meet** – 9 AM – 1 PM North Phoenix Baptist Church – Phoenix, AZ

March 11 – **March Desert Division Meet** – 8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting Phoenix, AZ

March 18 – **Rio Grande Chapter Meet** – 9:00 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – Albuquerque, NM

MARCH 18 – SPRING AUCTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

March 18 – **Adobe Mountain Swap Meet** – 9 AM – 2 PM Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park – Phoenix, AZ

April 1 – **Multi-club Spring Picnic** McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park – Scottsdale AZ

a Crockpot of chili or soup to the auction. The club will supply the utensils, crackers and rolls along with free coffee, water, sodas (for that spicy chili) and donuts.

April 1st is the date set for the Multi-club spring picnic, May 13th will be the return of the Pizza Meetza member auction, November 18th will be the Division Train Show at the Shrine Auditorium and the Christmas Holiday Party is set for December 3rd.

The next item on the agenda was an earnest discussion about the 2017 budget and the projected shortfall based on last year's income. President Allen reminded everyone that approximately \$5,000 of the treasury money is designated as profit from the sale of the first two fundraising cars and will be withdrawn from our account and placed in the 2019 Convention account shortly.

Paul Wassermann spoke about an idea he presented to the Board of Directors that if members had an item of modest value they could donate the item to the club to sell on eBay or at auction to help generate funds to offset the budget shortfall. He suggested that this could be a regular part of the meeting such as the educational segment.

Next was a serious discussion about the newsletter. Using very general figures for postage and printing, it costs about \$250 per edition of the newsletter to print and mail. Chris explained the need to maintain the 200 minimum mailing to get the non-profit rate. Steve Bienstock moved that; "The newsletter will

be delivered electronically and those members wishing a hard copy mailed should pay an additional \$5 a year." After the motion was seconded there was much discussion including John Upshur stating the demographics of our membership do not lend themselves well for electronic distribution or information like newsletters. The editor spoke on behalf of the majority of the members who reside outside of the Phoenix metropolitan area and who's only benefit of being a Division member is the newsletter. Vice President Mike Dietrich moved that the motion on the floor be tabled until the February meeting. That motion was passed.

Next Steve Bienstock moved that; "The club raise yearly dues to \$15.00 per year." After a second and discussion the motion passed by a vote of 18 to 13. The President noted that our Bylaws require this action to go before the entire membership for a vote and since we were already in our current dues cycle would not take effect until January 2018 if passed.

There was no other new or old business. The Educational segment began with Jonathan Peiffer talk about his Third Rail EMD Demonstrator. This SD or "special duty" unit was sold to various railroads including the Southern Pacific. Roland LaHaie had some Bachmann "Chuggington" trains he had purchased for his grandkids. He commented that he was surprised by the quality and how well the trains ran being a child's "toy". Chris Allen brought in the MTH convention cars from the Houston convention and had Jonathan tell the story behind the cars. They were originally to be made by Weaver, unfortunately days before he was scheduled to make the presentation to the National Board of Directors, Weaver closed and Jonathan reported on his scramble to find an alternate manufacturer.

Raffle Prize winners in no particular order; Ralph Treichel Lionel Club Boxcar, John Hinderer Lionel searchlight car, Sam McElwee Lionel red Wing Flatcar w/trailer, Phil Todd Weaver Boxcar, Terry Bunish Menards Flatcar w/ATSF trucks, Janet Mattern, American Flyer caboose, and Dave Brown train calendar and catalogs. The Hudson drawing begins in February.



Phil Todd has Dave Brown and Jack Eaton's full attention about something interesting...



Bonnie and Steve Rudy came down from Prescott Valley and seem to find Terry Haas' table very interesting



Supporting the club, Bill Richardson and Janet Mattern dropping raffle tickets into the jar



John Wiley and son John Jr., in town for a visit, had a wide assortment of trains for sale



Roland LaHaie talking about the Bachmann Chuggington trains he purchased for his grandkids



Jonathan Peiffer and the Third Rail EMD Demonstartor



Yes, Mr. President it's budget time...

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – January 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM at the home of Chris and Laurel Allen

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Mike Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Paul Wassermann, Terry Haas. On teleconference Greg Palmer and David Nycz

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting and the emergency meeting on November 26 were approved.

Secretary's Report - Angelo reported that membership stands at 243 members. A dues reminder has been sent by email. All dues should be sent to the Division Secretary.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account is \$27,802.75 and Checking is \$11,531.02. The budget for 2017 will be discussed later under New Business.

The yearend financials were reviewed. The Turkey Meet auction, the December Train Show and the Christmas Party were discussed and proposals to improve their performance for 2017 were noted.

Old Business:

BOD Annual Dinner – Paul is working with The Side Door restaurant for the annual no-host BOD dinner again this year. Everyone who attended last year had a great time and we believe that this will be our new location going forward. Sunday evening Feb 12 will be the date and Chris will handle the invitations.

Souper Bowl Auction – All set for Jan 21 at the PVUMC – Lincoln & Tatum. Set up will be on Friday. Food format will be the same as before, Chris will bring signup sheet to January Meet. March Auction is looking doubtful and decision will be made after we talk to consignor to postpone until November.

New Business:

National Office Nomination - Mike nominated Peter Atonna as a candidate for National Vice President. Bob seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to confirm the nomination.

2017 Budget - Bob submitted a proposed operating budget for 2017. preliminary figures show a potential for a large deficit this year. Last year's main division events incurred losses or minimal gains and the Board wants to make improvements to the processes to try and increase revenue for this year's events. The Hudson Raffle may be getting old and we need to explore an alternative for this year. We would also like to offer a Spring Raffle this year. The November auction had a disappointing profit and we will ask the auction committee to review their procedures. The cost of the Newsletter was discussed and the option of going all electronic will be suggested to the membership. Selling a fund raising car for the division would be an option for increasing our income this year.

Christmas Party 2017 – The contract for the Christmas Holiday Party is set for Sunday Dec 4th 2016 at the Mesa Marriott. The contract includes a cost increase and the committee will discuss options when they meet.

Desert Division Train Show 2017 – the Board would like to have the show on Sat Nov 25 the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Chris will contact Fred to see if the date is available. If not, the Sat. Nov 18th has been reserved.

Committee Chairs 2017 - Editor of the Newsletter – Chris Allen, Webmaster – Angelo Lautazi , Auction Chairman – Chet Henry , Christmas Party – Barbara and Angelo Lautazi (who will ask Fred & Shirley Hunter to assist). The position of Sgt at Arms is not filled yet.

Rio Grande Fundraising Cars - the Desert Division will underwrite the funding for the third fund raising car for the convention. Peter is working with Lionel and once a design is completed the Board get the details.

TCA National Endowment Fund - Chris explained that METCA Division is offering to match funds that other divisions donate to the TCA Endowment Fund. He will make an appeal to the membership and pool any money donated with the donation from our division and send the total donation to the TCA National Endowment Fund.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on February 8, 2017 at the home of Angelo and Barbara Lautazi.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

President's Message

Wow, what a busy month January turned out to be. I'm writing this looking ahead to the real Super Bowl weekend which plans to have many of us busy at World's Greatest Hobby at the Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix.

The January meeting had many surprises and perhaps needs a little more explaining. During the discussion about the 2017 budget it was revealed that we are projecting a shortfall of about \$10,000 for the New Year. Yes, you heard right and that's quite a sizeable shortfall. But the key word is "projected". If income follows along like it has been, then we expect to have some problems along the way.

Nothing has changed much from the expense side. For the past three years our expenses have been quite stable and even going down a little. Our membership has stabilized a bit, and while I would like it to reach higher the percentage of local membership has actually increased slightly over the past few years. This increase is primarily through the cooperation we have with the other O gauge clubs in town. What used to be a TCA and TTOS city is now supplemented with both the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders and the Paradise and Pacific operating clubs since the TTOS Division dissolved. Dave Brown, President of GCMR and Bill Lazenby, President of the P&P and their predecessors have actively promoted membership in TCA and the Division to their membership. Without their help in dispelling the misconceptions that TCA is a stodgy bunch of rivet counters and the simple fact that we have a wide open door to a fun hobby, just like they do, we would seriously be in need of membership help.

Maybe I should stop running for Division President. When I first took office in 2002 our dues were \$4 a year and our annual budget that year was \$23,000. True, over the years our budget has remained roughly where it is today, roughly \$25,000 a year. The membership voted for a dues increase for 2003 to \$10 a year and that is where it has remained ever since.

Why is this important? At the January meeting there was a motion to increase the annual dues to \$15 a year. The motion passed and I needed to do some quick checking of the Division Bylaws to check on proper protocol. The dues for the Division are voted on by the entire membership and set for a calendar year. As I explained to those present any dues increase would need to be put in front of the entire membership for a vote and become effective January 1st, 2018 if passed. This is an active motion and to save costs will be on the fall ballot when we elect a new slate of officers. There is no reason to incur this cost at this time. There was an additional motion that wanted to access a surcharge to receive the printed copy of this newsletter. That motion was sent back to the Division Board of Directors for review. Since that item is **NOT** covered by our Bylaws, it can be implemented immediately, **IF** the board of Directors decides on such action. It does not require a membership vote.

I wear several hats for Desert Division, being your editor is one of them so let me speak as the editor of the newsletter.

In the last four years, as the editor, I have kept costs the same as they have been for over a decade. In fact I worked with Gordon and Christie back in 2003 when I was President, to reduce postage costs by changing the newsletter from First Class to Non-Profit Standard Mail. Your savings? Presently it would cost .68¢ to mail a newsletter first class vs. the estimated .34¢ it currently costs. Why is this important? If the Board of Directors decides to add a surcharge I believe that enough members would opt out of the printed delivery that I would no longer be able to meet the 200 copy minimum run needed by the Postal Service to make the discounted Standard Rate. In fact I believe that instead of saving money the printing costs would also not drop by the same percentage so the overall affect would be an increase on the budget and not a decrease.

(continued on Page 9)

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL PICTURES



Everett Hagan displaying his Retirement Plaque that was made by fellow Rio Grande member, John Trevor



Greg Palmer brought several items including these Atlas O gauge cars and Gilbert HO boxcar



Art Lites with his Lionel Western Pacific A-B-A's.
Interested in them? Call Art, they are for sale



Bill Lubert displayed and talked about his collection of vintage toy train catalogs

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

President:	David Nycz	505-296-8905	Directors:	Art Lites	505-463-1951
Vice-President:	George Domeny	505-282-1934		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Secretary:	Scott Eckstein	505-332-0947		Jon Spargo	575-835-1606
Treasurer:	Everett Hagan	505-892-1080			



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By David Nycz – TCA 94-38787



The January Rio Grande Chapter meeting was held on January 21, 2017 at Los Altos Christian Church with 19 TCA members attending.

The Chapter's activities began the New Year initiating a member's only swap meet, which will now be a part of our monthly meetings. Among the offerings were two tables filled with trains, track, and accessories which had been donated to the Chapter. The Chapter raised \$261 from the items that were sold.

Show and Tell: Everett Hagan showed his Retirement Plaque from fellow club member John Trever. Art Lites showed his Modern Era Lionel Western Pacific ABA Units which are for sale. He also showed a Menards Military Flatcar/load commenting on the quality and price. Boyd Reasor told about his new rolling stock shelves, and the joy of his trains no longer being boxed. Bill Lubert showed his collection of Various Train Catalogs from his 1950's childhood. Jim Trever showed a rare Plasticville Barn, red with a green roof. Jim had brought a large assortment of Plasticville to sale. Greg Palmer showed a Strombecker 1/8th scale Wooden Passenger car and car kit, from the 1930's – the 1960's. He also told about and provided an article on Walt Disney using Strombecker Co. to make planes and rockets designed by Werner von Braun. He showed AC Gilbert HO cars and Kusan, KMT 2 rail DC cars, and Atlas O gauge cars built 1962 – 1970. He shared Baseball Card boxes that can be used for storage of trains and train parts, the boxes are available at Charlies Sporting Goods.

President's Report: David Nycz reported that the Desert Division did not make money with their November Swap Meet or Christmas Party. The Division's projected budget does not look good. The Division is considering going electronic with the newsletter to save almost \$3,000 per year. The Chapter has 39 members while there are 62 members in New Mexico.

Secretary Report: Scott Eckstein read a letter from the Ft. Pitt Division Convention Committee asking for donations for Door Prize and Raffle Prizes.

Convention Chair: Scott Eckstein asked for volunteers to fill committee positions. John Trever

and Jim Trever showed the latest revision of the print version of the Convention Logo, which was accepted by the membership.

Board Member at large: Greg Palmer reported that he is working with Jim Walther for the Club members to have a tour of the Nuclear Museum after our Feb. 18th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Everett Hagan reported on the current bank balance of \$3683, which was a gain of \$643 for the year. Unfortunately the Pumpkin Meet lost \$26. The loss was due to 32 fewer paid guest and \$168 lower raffle ticket sales. In previous years Don Kuster really pushed raffle tickets at the front door. The donated train set raffle raised \$649 after expenses.

New Business: Scott Eckstein will form a committee of candidates for next year's Chapter election. Everett Hagan presented the 2017 budget which was accepted by the membership. Jim Trever will again donate a new train set for our 2017 raffle. The Chapter will have tables at the Rail Fair, 2926 open house, and RARG meet, the Socorro meet is optional. The membership agreed to hold the 2017 Pumpkin Meet at the Sheraton on October 29th. The Pumpkin Meet business cards were passed out to the membership. The January meeting was a very good meeting due to the show and tell, good financial news, and lively discussion about Pumpkin Meet locations. I would encourage Chapter members who don't normally attend to join us for an inexpensive good time and fellowship. Non Chapter TCA members and potential new TCA members are welcome to attend a meeting.

Meeting dates for 2017: Feb 18, March 18, April 22, Sept 16, - 9:00 AM members only swap meet 10:00 AM meeting.

The after meet activity for February will be a guided tour of the Nuclear Museum.

Other Train Club Activities: Feb 4 TTOS Swap Meet (Netherwood Park Church), Mar 4 & 5 Rocky Mountain Train Show Denver Mart, Apr 29 & 30 SW Model Railroad Club Los Lunas Airpark, May 20 NM Railroad Fair at State Fairgrounds.

Any Chapter members' not receiving emails from Jim Trever please send your email information to Jim at Prairie_dog5@yahoo.com

A Tale of Two Towers

By Chris Allen - Division Historian

Hard to believe that it has been twenty years since Desert Division hosted our first TCA National Convention. At that time we were among the smallest Divisions in TCA, in fact we still are, yet we went ahead hosted a wonderful convention and for many TCA members it was their first taste of Arizona summer fun. Ivan English recently told the story about the Marx BL&MP hopper that was part of the convention suite and we've all heard Peter Atonna's tale about the Lost Dutchman chasing the mule on the fundraising car. I'd like to relate a story about the Standard Gauge offering that year and my quest to own a variation of it and just how rare it was.

Rather than offer a Standard Gauge car, the 1997 convention car committee decided to feature a water tower manufactured by The Rich-Art Company that bore a striking resemblance to the Red Rock tower we see off of I-10 on our travels back and forth between Phoenix and Tucson. The Rich-Art tower itself has become available again on the secondary market as many of our members have begun to downsize their collections and a quick search on eBay can normally get you one. In fact, I recently saw one for sale on eBay and it was located in Alaska!

But you see, mine has a different story behind it. My first tower came from Peter Atonna, who I consider a very close friend and confidant, often filling in many of my gaps in Division history with countless hours of conversation and precious photographs from many of those early days. I purchased mine from Peter a few years ago at a Beat the Heat Meet in Prescott.

I had known of the "Red Roof" version many years ago but never knew exactly how many were made and who might have gotten one. I had expressed my desires to own a Red Roof version of one to many people but was told they were just too rare and that I should just purchase a black roof tower and paint it red. I mean who would know, right? Well, I would, and so for me the chase was on.

One York I was chatting with former TCA National President Al Levin and the conversation

somehow worked its way over to the Red Rock Tower when he mentioned he had a red roof version. Lucky for me Selma was not far away and Al mentioned that he would sell me that Red Roof version one day.



Over the years after Al passed I kept in contact with Selma but I never mentioned the red roof Red Rock tower thinking it had been sold or maybe kept as a family keepsake. Right before one of our trips to York a few years ago Selma gave me a call and mentioned she had the red roof tower that Al had promised me years ago. Was I still interested in it? You bet I was!

As life takes its twists and turns it took two York's and a winter visit to her daughter home here in town before we were able to meet. This past January during a delightful visit with Selma, Laurel and myself I was able to finally get the red roofed tower. Upon opening the box, much to my surprise was the home-made Certificate of Authenticity that I never knew came with the red roof towers. Signed by none other than Ivan English and Peter Atonna a quick email to both confirmed what I had thought. Since the roofs were so easy to repaint, only the fourteen certificates are the real deal and passed out to the head table at the 1997 convention.

Al and Selma were sitting at the head table that year as past TCA National President, which is how they received theirs. More importantly to me is that both of my Red Rock towers came from two close personal friends that have special ties to me and this wonderful hobby we share together.



PRESIDENT MESSAGE FROM Page 5 cont.

Is this cost unfair to those who opt to receive the newsletter electronically and not by mail? I don't believe so, and here's why.

The Division funds several things throughout the year not just the newsletter. The newsletter is just 10% of the overall budget, coming in at about \$2,200 annually. Do you enjoy the Pizza Meetza? It costs about \$300 a year. Bad comparison? The newsletter reaches over 70% of the membership who wish to receive it. How many of the 244 members actually eat a slice of pie or stay for the auction? Maybe 15%?

Or maybe we should look at the module trailer. It's a \$20,000+ investment that costs us \$1,200 a year to protect in covered storage. At last count, less than 4% of the membership actively supports running trains on the module trailer.

The budget is not about expenses, it's also about revenue shortfall. Raffle ticket sales used to cover our hall rental. Now we need to sell thirty sets of tickets to do that, and we are not. Auction commissions used to make up a lot of our budget shortfalls, now they barely cover auction expenses. Hudson ticket sales are also down. A dozen tickets went unsold last year for a \$300 income shortfall. Doom and gloom? No, just the current state the Division finds itself in.

Let's see what benefits Division membership gets you. Eight meets a year with free tables if you wish to bring items to sell. Newsletter printed or electronic ten times a year that allows you to place a free ad to sell any train related item. The annual Spring Picnic, Pizza Meet and member auction, and Christmas Party with both member and spouse gift, all underwritten by the Division. Printed roster and membership card each

year. The trailer module with Standard, G, O, and S scale loops, hundreds of the friendliest members with such a wide variety of knowledge to help both the beginner and seasoned collector or operator learn new tricks or to make a wise buying decisions.

Maybe I'm a hopeless romantic wanting to keep things they way they were, when realistically things do need to change. Membership dues account for roughly 10% of the Division annual budget. Of the roughly 244 members we have, the \$10 annual dues only accounts for \$2,000 of the \$22,500 budget proposed for 2017. In case you might think my math is a little off, dues for our members who reside in the Rio Grande Chapter area are returned to the Chapter to fund their budget.

Perhaps a dues increase is needed again after 15 years, but a surcharge for receiving the newsletter certainly is not. The dues increase will not fix the budget, but it will help.

As I mentioned earlier, the item of the dues increase will be on the ballot this fall. The membership will decide if the dues increase should become effective for 2018. Those of you who prepaid your dues at the old \$10 rate are safe. Your dues increase will come when your prepaid dues cycle expires. But you can help us this year as well.

Consider buying some raffle tickets, maybe buy a Hudson ticket (or two) this year. Last month Paul Wassermann had an idea that maybe you might have a donation the club could use. It doesn't have to be large, maybe it's an out of area roadname that you have been carrying around for too long and it's just not selling. The Division does have an eBay account. We could take your donation and sell it on eBay to help the shortfall.

Most importantly bring your ideas to the meeting and become active in your club. Bring an item for the Educational segment and share your joy about the hobby. We all have stories to tell.

Pictures from Dave Brown's January Open House



Every layout needs a Used Car Lot and Dave's has some nice muscle car action going on



The engine house and maintenance yard highlights Dave's utilization of L.E.D. Lighting



The industrial area has a lot of operating accessories some of them modified with LED lighting as well



Downtown is nice, clean and a very compact area that has some great interior detail in many buildings

FEBRUARY EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT

No, we are not asking you to bring pink trains, I mean how many of you really own a girls set? But you can get creative. February has President's Day, Ground Hog Day, Spring Training beginning besides the day that we honor our sweethearts. If you don't have anything make sure you attend to attend to see what was in the mystery box that President Allen bought at the auction for \$75. Did he get a bargain or did he get... ???

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Gordon Wilson, TCA #76-10233

Former Desert Division and TCA National President

For roughly 25 years I was the Editor of the Desert Division Dispatch. The late Frank Koenig gave us the name Dispatch in a 1989 contest. Every so often an "issue" would surface within TCA National or locally within our Division and I would sit down and pen an Editorial. During the January meeting some rhetoric and items surfaced which lit a fire in my Division sensitivities. So now, here's one member's "Editorial."

There is a projected budget for the coming fiscal year which indicates a potential deficit in excess of \$10,000. Adding insult to injury, so to speak, was the jar on the front table which held the Raffle ticket stubs. We had roughly half of our local Maricopa County Desert Division membership on January 14, yet the jar's ticket amount was only about 10% full. Why so few?

Granted that jar's receipts aren't going to give the Division a Black Bottom Line, but does our membership know where the raffle ticket money goes? We haven't been meeting in the Scottsdale Jaycees Hall for many years. At that facility, our monthly cost was a once-a-year Donation of some item to the Jaycees. Those days are long gone. Basically the monies collected from the sale of Raffle Tickets goes to pay for the RENT we now must pay to the Church for the hall. No, unlike the Jaycees Hall, this hall is NOT free! Members of the Desert Division DO NOT pay admission fees to attend our meets; our table holders DO NOT pay for a sales table. Furthermore, the Division provides FREE Donuts, Coffee, Water, and Soda Pop. Yes, there is a hope that members will donate a few dollars to defray the cost, but very few do! Is a pattern developing here?

Toy Trains, as a hobby, are NOT a poor

man's hobby. I could be mistaken, but I doubt any of us are living on Public Assistance. The Raffle Tickets cost \$5.00 for 10 tickets. Other groups offer 6 tickets for \$5.00. I've asked people why they don't buy them and I'm told, "There's nothing offered (prizes) I want or collect." So I take it then, that everyone is afraid of winning? You all know I collect POST-WAR Lionel, PERIOD! Why then do I always buy at least \$5.00 worth of raffle tickets? Simple! Win or not, that \$5.00 goes into the Division Treasury.

Again, why would I essentially Donate \$5.00 for Raffle Tickets at each meet? Perhaps it's because of knowing that the Desert Division is one of only 3 (out of a total of 20) TCA Divisions that doesn't charge an admission fee for attending a meet. The Desert Division also doesn't charge a monthly meet sales table fee. We provide FREE refreshments at each event and ask for a volunteer "donation." At our auctions, where admission is free, during the lunch break, the food and drink is FREE. Even though this is not a "poor man's hobby," this Division seems to go above and beyond the economic plateau by providing a plethora of amenities to its members totally GRATIS. That is why I buy Raffle Tickets at every meet. I feel my money goes to benefit the Division even though there is rarely a prize that remotely interests me. I can't help but wonder why EVERY member of the Division doesn't feel the same way. After all, how many of us throw away or waste more than that amount of money each week on superfluous items in and around our state or community?

That ends my "Food for Thought." I ask everyone to just think about this when you next attend a monthly meet. The Division will thank you!

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
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Paul Wassermann	480-949-1620

**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**

THE CACTUS WINTER MEET

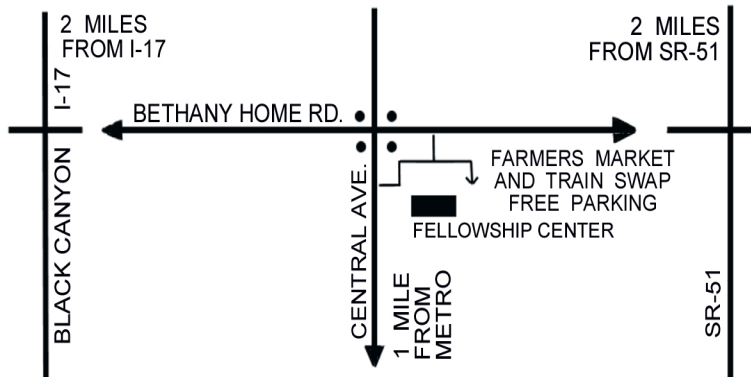
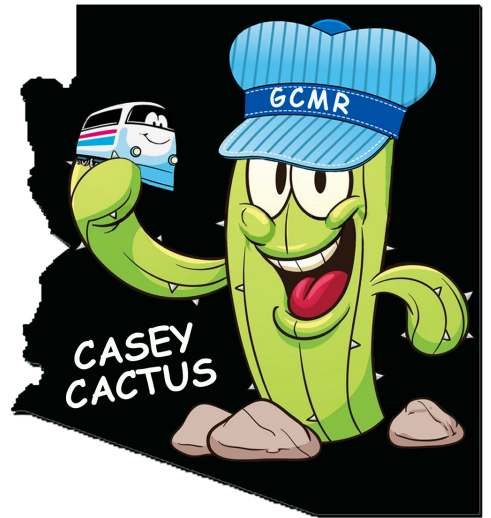
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

\$6.00/PERSON \$11.00/FAMILY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2017

(Large Farmers Market at the same time!)

NORTH PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH



FELLOWSHIP CENTER
5757 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Free Parking * Great Location
A Family Affair * Food Available
Train Layouts * Test Track
Door Prizes * Raffles
"End-O-Swap" Auction

ALL SIZES AND SCALES FOR SALE!

Presented by your pal Casey Cactus and the
GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS
Visit us at www.gcmrr.org email: info@gcmrr.org



CACTUS WINTER MODEL TRAIN SWAP AND SHOW

Saturday, February 18, 2017

\$6.00 Single - \$11.00 Family

This coupon good for \$1.00 off cost of admission

One coupon per party

RAILROAD



- CHANGE



ARENELL SERVICE & REPAIR - FACTORY AUTHORIZED MTH AND LIONEL SERVICE.....WE HAVE MOVED!!!! NEW LOCATION 1825 E. LAUREL ST. MESA AZ 85203. CALL RAY 602-565-6603 FOR SERVICE APPOINTMENT. Repairs on Postwar Lionel, MPC, LTI as well as MTH "O" Gauge and "G" Gauge. Discounts to members of all local clubs. I pay cash for train collections old or new, large or small. Huge inventory of DEPARTMENT 56 pieces on hand starting at \$5.00. VISA & M/C

BUILDING A LAYOUT? - We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100" and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. For a list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@gmail.com.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS - Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different "Set of the Month" each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11 AM to 5 PM, M - F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com **AUTHORIZED LIONEL SERVICE CENTER**

GERRY'S TRAINS - Parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Dr., Scottsdale, AZ Phone 480- 998-5349

THE TRAIN STATION - Mountain Lakes, NJ. Top 10 Authorized Lionel and AF Sales and Service since 1974. New, Used, Bought, Sold, Repaired. 973-263-1979 www.train-station.com.

ARIZONA TOY TRAIN REPAIR - Complete parts and repair service for ONLY Lionel postwar and prewar trains and accessories at reasonable rates by a long-time hobbyist. Rapid turnaround usually within a week, if parts are in stock - two weeks or less if parts need to be ordered. Repairs guaranteed for a year. Occasionally postwar items for sale. Complete access to Lionel postwar and prewar service and operating documents at central Phoenix' only Lionel repair facility. TCA members mention this ad and get the first hour of labor FREE. Tony Ford, 5547 N. 10th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602)369-5938

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 - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

FOR SALE Lionel Standard Gauge - 90° green center \$5, 90° black center \$5, 45° crossing \$10, 45° 12" green base \$25, 200 turntable pea-green \$300, 210 switch \$20-\$40 call for particulars, 10 curve Standard special track call for picture 222, 223 electric green base w/controllers and hoods call \$100 - \$175 Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

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

FOR SALE: Marx 34 Presidents w/OB and book \$35, Various vintage lockons #90 & 5906 whistle \$35, Numerous Holiday Party figures from 90's & 2000's \$10 ea. - please call Selma Levin 480-451-8051

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-11956 UP GP-9 Lash Up TMCC power and dummy \$175 - MTH 20-2309-1, Two WP GP-40 in two different cab #'s \$250 each - Lionel AMTRAK RDC 8868-8871 4 car set w/OB's \$250- Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: for my collection. Lionel prewar and postwar engines in master cartons, scarce separate sale items such as Lionel scrapers, bulldozers, 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: Cradle and yoke for 12" locomotive bell - Eye catching railroadania items - Chris Allen 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. Peter Atonna mjatonna@gmail.com 928-636-4228



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. Littletown/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
6109 E Sonoran Trl
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

THE BACK PAGE

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE or BREAKING NEWS

If you follow the Division on facebook you may have seen some of these pictures. Desert Division at World's Greatest Hobby February 4 & 5 Phoenix Convention Center



The real Super Bowl week-end and Desert Division was busy running trains at World's Greatest Hobby



The module got a real good workout both Saturday and Sunday, the crowds didn't let up for a minute



We had the families and kids right up to the edge of the module with very few mishaps all weekend long



Hard to get all the trains in one frame. The Lionel 8, the Williams EP5 and postwar Lionel and Flyer ran great

[Get Your Caboose to
The 63rd TCA National
Convention](#)



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



Click the
button to
follow us on
Facebook