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.



Volume 48, No. 1

Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS **AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND**

Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org

Winter 2018



EARLY KICKOFF TO 2019

After a busy end of the year we are all set for an early kickoff for 2019. Because of a scheduling conflict the January meet and Annual TCA Business Meeting will be on the first Saturday of the month at our usual meeting location, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix. Remember to join us on Saturday **January 5th** for the first meeting of the year. Our monthly meetings will revert to the second Saturday for the rest of the year.

Desert Division closed out the year with three consecutive weekend of events starting with the November Toy Train Auction. Chet Henry and his crew setup and completed the auction in near record time. Our preeminent auctioneer, Peter Atonna, had a last-minute illness and President Chris Allen stepped into the role and noted that Peter has no competition and will be back up front on January 19th.

The November Toy Train show was held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. This was the date of the old Turkey Meet Train Meet that

Desert Division has run since 1977. Actually, when it was first begun, the train show was called the Tinplate Toy Train Show, it wasn't until several years later that it became the Turkey Meet, a phrase coined by the Cal-Stewart crew.

Attendance was on par with last year and the Division Board of Directors will decide if we will stay with this date for 2019. Look for pictures of the show in this issue.

Rounding out the year was the annual Christmas Holiday Party. This was a return visit to a Sheraton property that we last visited in the early 2000's. It was also a departure from the party using a buffet and the long lines and waiting that when along with it. The plated meal service was quick and efficient. In fact, the evening moved along quickly thanks to the efforts of Peter Atonna to keep the raffle and table top centerpiece auction entertaining and Barbara Lautazi for having it so organized. Everyone who attended had a great time and I'm sure we will revisit the Double Tree Suites again next year so stay tuned.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE CHANGE - January 5 - Desert Division Meet and Annual Business Meeting

8:30 AM member only swap - 10:00 AM Business Meeting - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ January 19 - Rio Grande Chapter Annual Business Meeting

9:00 AM member only swap - 10:00 AM Business Meeting - Albuquerque, NM

January 19 - Desert Division SOUPER BOWL V - Toy Train Auction

Auction Preview 8 AM - 9 AM - Auction starts 9 AM - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ

February 9 – February Division Meet

8:30 AM member only swap - 10:00 AM Business Meeting - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ

PICTURES FROM THE TRAIN SHOW



When the doors opened the Shriners Hall filled up quickly and stayed busy throughout the morning



Looks like Peter Atonna and Steve Bienstock are doing a little horse traiding as well



George Sokol looks happy, maybe the table sale had something to do with it. In fact, looks like smiles all around including the buyers



Quite a lot of Standard Gauge made it to the show, but we don't think that is what caught Marty Wik's attention



Here's something we don't see at many shows out here, an original Lionel Blue Comet



"The Train Doctor", Gerry Klei all setup before the show and waiting for his first "patient"



Christie Wilson snagged some free donuts before the show for her and Gordon



Done from his browsing, Marty Wik pitched in at the Train Doctor table to give Gerry a break



At the end of the day the front-end crew took a break.

Mark Thompson, Katie Elgar, and Angelo Lautazi, chat
with Barbara Lautazi and Bob Herman



Who travelled the farthest to make the show? That was easy once we saw Division member Frank Pizzaia in town from New York to visit family



Meanwhile back at the Christmas Party, Fred Hunter and Janet Mattern share hugs before the party



They say only real men can pull off wearing pink. All we know is that Ken Barnes and Paul Wasserman looked quite fashionable at the Christmas Party

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting

There are no scheduled Division BOD meetings in November or December. The next scheduled meeting is set for 7:00 PM on January 2nd 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. If you wish to make a comment or suggestion about any of the events that closed out the year, we would love to hear your input. Bring them to the Annual Business Meeting on January 5th or contact any Division Officer or Director.

SOME CHRISTMAS PARTY HIGHLIGHTS



The table setting were beautiful and festive and everyone received a crocheted stocking courtesy Dave Brown's sister-in-law Vicki



We would have needed a wide-angle lens and a wide-angle newsletter to fit all the attendees in the frame. Let's just say we all had a good time!



Is that Santa Claus? No, just John Upshur walking in with some last-minute members and spouses gifts that did not get picked up at the front door



Bill Gonyea can hardly contain his excitement helping Peter Atonna with the table top auction. It turns out the building he's holding lights up, a perfect addition to your Christmas Village

Presidents Message

What a year. I find that my state of mind often wanders between optimism and pessimism this time of year. I wander back and think of all the great moments we've shared together and want them to continue, yet all the planning for the upcoming year often leaves me filled with doubt if the work and effort we put into the projects will pay off. At this point the realist in me kicks in and says it's time to stop thinking and planning and roll up your sleeves and get it done.

I've received some very nice comments from many of you over the past months and years regarding the newsletter. I often do not have a clue what I am going to write about when I sit down at the keyboard. Sometimes it's just a rehash of things that happened or news that I want to share. My writing style, if you want to call it that, is less of a reporter and more of somebody telling a story about what you might have missed.

I have lots of help. Angelo Lautazi our secretary provides me with great minutes to revive my dormant brain of what happened, and Paul Wasserman takes wonderful pictures at every event that fills these pages. Of course, you also help. Your friendships and conversations over the past months also help me put this newsletter together. Your stories and just as important to me as those I relate.

One thing that might have gotten lost in all the busy holiday shuffle is something that I've wanted to redo again. I pulled it off somewhat.

Laurel and I love Arizona, especially the Grand Canyon. We had our honeymoon there back in 1984 and we've been there at least once a year since. We've been there in all four seasons, have been snowed in, seen wonderful monsoon storms, and beautiful springtime colors. To celebrate our 30th anniversary we hiked down to the river and went on a four-day rafting trip.

But when your married to a train nut, he can suck the romance out of any adventure. Unknown to Laurel I snuck a Hafner mechanical train into my backpack and carried it down during our hike. Waiting for the right moment when we set up camp for the evening, I set a small circle of track up on the banks of the Colorado River and ran the Hafner. Unfortunately, my cell phone had acted up and all I had were still pictures, and no video showing the

little consist running at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Fast forward a few years later, to this past November and another Grand Canyon trip. Since my pacemaker was implanted, I have wanted to get back on the trail. It's been slow going, mainly to my lack of commitment to get back in shape. Sure, I've hiked down to mile and a half rest stop since the implant, but I'd set my goal on getting back down to Indian Garden. If you've been to the south rim and looked down, Indian Garden is the green oasis you see when you look out over the Canyon's vastness. It's about a five-mile hike down, but the five miles back up is what the challenge can be.

Last May I began working out in a gym to make it to Three Mile Rest Stop. In the process I dropped 25 pounds but was having trouble with my pacemaker constantly resetting my heart rate slower in the middle of a workout. I mentioned this to my cardiologist and he scheduled me to visit the device tech who listened to my issues and reset some timing on the pacemaker. For lack of a better term, he gave it a "tune-up".

It was like ten years were taken off my life. Workouts were doable again and when November rolled around, I was all set.

This time Laurel was clued into my goal. She wasn't happy about the fact that I brought a Marx mechanical train along for our anniversary trip, but after 34 years, wasn't surprised either. I promised I'd go only as far as Three Mile Rest Stop and be back for our 2 PM lunch date.

I made it to three mile and heard Indian Garden calling my name. It seemed so close, only two more miles of hiking and I could fulfill my dream a year early. I felt good, still had barely touched my hiking supplies, so after a brief break, off I went.

If you follow me or the Division on Facebook, you know "the rest of the story". A new cell phone whose battery lasted long enough for my to record the video now has Desert Division officially running a train from inside the Grand Canyon. We also have the first derailment, uncoupling, train wreck, and trains rolling off the picnic table inside the Grand Canyon. It was a fun day, until I got back up on the rim, I was late for our lunch date. But we did have a fabulous dinner at the El Tovar...

PICTURES FROM THE RAILS ALONG THE NMRA RAILS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE SHOW



Taking a break we caught convention co-chair Scott Eckstein doing some early Christmas shopping



Jon Spargo and his travelling layout made a stop at the show to the delight of all



The New Mexico Division TTOS module has lots of detail and plenty of action



Another view of the TTOS layout. This layout will be part of the 2019 TCA Convention public displays



A nice 100% LEGO recreation of the Santa Fe 2926

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018–2019

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	Ross Jordan	505-299-0759
	Jon Spargo	575-835-1606



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

6 Months and the FUN Begins!



Holiday greetings from The Rio Grande Chapter! The next Rio Grande Chapter meeting is January 19, 2018 @ 9:00 AM starting with the swap meet at Los Altos Christian Church located at 11900 Haines N.E., in Albuquerque.

The January Meeting will be the Annual Business Meeting as required by TCA Bylaws for non-profits. There will be reports on the Pumpkin Meet and 2018 Raffle and many other events of the past year so mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Of course, we will also have a report on the continuing work on the 2019 Convention. This begins our final push as the convention registration is already open. Have you registered yet? You can do so by visiting the TCA 2019 website at www.tcaconvention.org If you have any questions bring them to the January meeting.

Many of you know we had a booth at the Eastern Division York meet and we will also be back this spring in April. If you are planning to go

to the York meet this spring, please let us know if you could help us out at the booth.

We've been working hard during the winter break, getting both the website and articles in the National Headquarter News. We have not done this ourselves and have had a lot of help from the TCA National Business Office, Bob Keller the National Convention Chair and Russ Keil who manages the convention website and Show Runner software that the hotel registration uses to keep us keep track of convention and hotel registration.

All the puzzle pieces are starting to fit together, come to the January Meet and hear the up to date report on how the early registration is going, and don't forget to register!

Kick off the New Year and join us for the January Meet. Member only swap meet before the meeting starting at 9:00 AM with the meeting set to begin at 10:00.



The 2019 Convention Committee had a table at the Rio Grande Division NMRA Rails Along the Rio Grande 2018 show in mid-November. Convention co-chair Elaine Eckstein handing out information and answering questions (and selling a few shirts).



Art Lites, Public Layout co-chair, chatting with Tom Lawler. Tom, who is also a Chapter member agrees to help run their module at the convention. The lift bridge they are talking across is a new addition to the module. (We all are getting too old to continue to "duck under" to get inside.)

DUES ARE DUE

Just as many of your other yearly subscriptions are up for renewal so is you Desert Division dues. How do you know whether you owe dues? Look at your address label. If it is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. Please remit \$15 per year, for up to five years in advance in a check made payable to Desert Division and include it in an envelope with the Registration Form which appears elsewhere in this issue of the <u>Dispatch</u>.

Please insure that we have all your personal information including phone numbers and email address correct. Not only will it help us to create the Desert Division roster and membership cards, it helps us keep postage

costs contained. Every returned newsletter costs the Division over a dollar in postage costs to get your correct mailing address.

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 28, 2019. You may also save yourself postage if you wish to bring it to the January Meet or the Souper Bowl Auction.

SOUPER BOWL V

Hard to believe this will be the fifth annual Souper Bowl. What started out as something different for our mid auction lunchbreak has turned into a tasty competition for a few of our member chefs and taste treat for those in attendance.

Who else but the Desert Division would combine a cooking contest and a train auction? Well, it's not a true cooking contest but we have been treated to some wonderful soups and chili's over the past four years.

In honor of the upcoming convention in June, I might bring back my pot of Pozole Rojo, which quite a few of you enjoyed two years ago. I also have a great corn chowder recipe that was passed onto me from a friend after a recent York Train Meet after I tasted her recipe. This one was

the real deal for me, another family "secret" recipe that I was able to get a copy of.

But I need your help. As usual we will have a pot of certified gluten free chili on hand, but I can't cook all the soups myself. Help us plan and call, email or sign-up at the January Meet and bring a small Crockpot to our winter auction.

The Division will provide all the utensils, bowls, crackers and plenty of napkins so plan to cook up a batch of your favorite soup or chili and join us for some auction fun and good eats.

We will have the auction catalogs available at the January Meet. You can preview the catalog on our website http://tcadd.org/auctions.html but don't forget to stop by for the best tasting auction in TCA. No Buyers Premium, Peter Atonna's humor and a great homemade lunch.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

President: Chris Allen 480-820-9559 Directors: **Greg Palmer** 505-898-3840 Vice-President: Mike Dietrich 623-572-3538 **Terry Haas** 480-827-8604 Secretary: Angelo Lautazi 480-575-7006 Jonathan Peiffer 602-561-4131 480-948-2730 480-949-1620 Treasurer: **Bob Herman** Paul Wassermann

HELP SOLVE A MARX MYSTERY

by Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578

Last summer a friend dropped off a load of boxes with all sorts of miscellaneous train stuff. Among them was an interesting Marx bridge, one with an aircraft beacon attached. Not just a light such as Lionel once did, but the top of a Marx aircraft beacon - as usual a takeoff from the Lionel version. I verified that was what the top was by comparing it to photos of the Marx beacon.

But, nowhere in my Greenberg Marx books is there a mention of a Marx bridge with an aircraft beacon, despite the fact that I can see no



Although I'm missing the hood, (isn't every beacon missing a hood these days?) it's all 100% Marx

evidence that this was other than a production item. As you can see, the beacon hood is nowhere to be seen, but it had to be similar to the early Lionel beacon with the air powered hood and a dimple bulb.

So, you Marx experts, can you tell me a bit about this piece and maybe direct me to a photo with the hood on it.

Am I planning to sell this? Probably, but before I do so, I would really like to know more about it, just to satisfy my curiosity.



Here's a closeup of the Beacon top attached to the bridge using tabs not present on the regular bridge

2019 CONVENTION HELP STILL NEEDED

Yes, you've heard this story before and often, but the fact remains we still need your help. As many of you who attended the 2009 convention in Scottsdale remember the Welcome Party still needs about 40 – 50 additional items donated for the silent auction. We also need about 50, new in the box, train cars for the closing banquet. We have cars made by Lionel, American Flyer, (okay Lionel also) but would like a nice mix of new MTH or Menards as well. If you have a new mint in the box MTH car that you would like to donate please let me, or Scott and Elaine know. I will be making a trip over to Albuquerque in

February and can take them along, so we do not have to pay for shipping. We also have a need for someone to cover the small cost of an honorarium speaker.

But, it's not all about money. Tour docents are also needed. You do not need to know anything about the tour you are going on or even New Mexico. The Convention Committee can help fill you in with tour details, the docents main job will to check people on and off the bus at various stops to make sure we don't leave anyone behind. If you interested see me or call Scott or Elaine.



Member or Applicant's Signature

Desert Division Membership Form



Last Name:	First Name:	Spouse's Name:	TCA No
Address:		н	ome Phone:
City:	State:	Zip:	Cell Phone:
E-mail Address:			Date of Birth:
Dues are \$15.00 per year.	(Members may pay up to 5 ye	ears in advance). No of Y	ears: X \$15.00 =
Desert Division Members mus of the TCA National or		A Desert Division Bac	dge is \$14.00 (optional):
	Make your check payable	to: TCA - Desert Divis	ion Enclosed Total =
How would you prefer to	receive your Newsletter?	☐By E-Mail (Color Pag	ges)
		□By Reg. Mail (Black	&White)
Please Indicate	Your Hobby Preferences f	rom the Categories Belo	ow. Check All that Apply.
TRAIN ERA			
☐1. Prewar (1850=1942	☐ 17. lves	□23L. LGB	23DD. Fleischmann
☐2. Postwar (1945-1969)	☐ 18 . Dorfan / Fandor	23M. Marklin	23EE. Carette
☐3. Modern (1970-present)	□19. MTH	23N. Metzel	23FF. Eastwood Auto
<u>GAUGE</u>	20. Williams	☐23O. Mini-Scale	23GG. Amer. Model S Ga.
☐4. Scale / NMRA	□21. K-Line	☐23P. Phoenix Ltd.	☐23HH. Downs S Gauge
☐5. Standard	22. AMT / Kusan	23Q. Plasticville	23II. Colber
☐6 . G or #1	23. Other - Please Specify	☐23R. Littletown/Sky	rline □23JJ. Unique
☐7. O or O-27 Tinplate	23A. Basset / Lowke	23S. Pride Lines	23KK. Sakai
3 8.S	□23B. Bing	23T. REA / Aristo-Cr	raft 23LL. Bowser
□ 9. HO	23C. Boucher	23U. Right-O-Way	23MM. T-Reproductions
10. OO / American	23D. Bub / Karl	23V. Rokal	PERIPHERALS
□11. N	23E. Buddy-L	23W. Voltamp	26. Figures
☐12. Z	23F. Carlisle / Finch	23X. Weaver	□27. Toys
☐13. Live Steam	23G. Elletren	☐23Y. McCoy	28. Paper / Books
MANUFACTURER	23H. Hafner	23Z. Nationwide	29. Buildings
14. American Flyer / Gilbert	□23I Hoge	23AA. USA Trains	☐30. Railroadiana
15. Lionel / Winner	23J. Hornby	23BB. S-Helper Serv	vice Do You Have a Layout
☐16. Marx / Mars / Allstate	23K. Issmayer	23CC. Astor	□24. YES □25. NO

Date

Mail to: **Angelo Lautazi**, Div. Secretary

6109 E Sonoran Trl Scottsdale, AZ 85266

RAILROAD CROSSING - CHANGE

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FOR SALE Lionel Outfit 1520W Set Box MKT 2245A & 2245C with 2423, 2235, 2436 C-7, P-6 \$395 - 47 Double Arm Crossing Gate Green/Aluminum Gate C-6, P-4 \$80. (Has Liner). 2956 Semi-Scale Black Hopper C-7, P-4 \$295. Ives 114 R.R. Station C-5 \$70, 184 Bungalow flower base red roof C-6 \$70, 127 Lionel Town Station C-6 \$70, A/F 96 Town Station C-5 \$50, A/F 26671 Track Trip O/B \$20, A/F 788 Station white, green roof, red chimney C-6 \$45, Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: All 5 sets from Lionel's Famous American Railroad (FARR) series. All sets have the extra car which was purchased separate from the set and all pieces are C-10, Brand New, Mint, Never Run or even Test Run. All have boxes C-7/C-8. Would like to sell as a complete 5-set group, but would consider selling individual sets. If interested contact: Dave Cristofani (520) 825-9653 adcrist@gmail.com

FOR SALE: SANTA FE ON THE CHEAP: Lionel Alco PA and PB 6-18952 and 6-18956, w TMCC, OB's \$150; Lionel F-3 ABA AA 6-14536, B 6-14539 TMCC, Odyssey, OB's \$295 - I Can bring to the September meet if you want them. Peter Atonna miatonna@gmail.com 928-308-3559

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: PW Lionel 2343 Santa Fe w 4 Passenger cars C-7 \$395 - Lionel 2321 Lackawanna Maroon roof set w 5/cars C-7 \$200 - Standard Gauge Lionel #392 w/4 Passenger Cars restored C-4 \$395 - K Line 2499 Virginian FM C-9 \$90 - K Line 6201 Caboose C-9 \$30 - Call for additional items. John Wiley 480-924-7062

<u>WANTED</u>: 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

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.

THE BACK PAGE

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE OR BREAKING NEWS



One of the layouts from the Rails along the Rio Grande Show was this artistic recreation of Disneyland. Here you can see the Matterhorn coaster ride



The module layout done in N Gauge was a very popular attraction and frequently photographed and even made to local newspaper





Have you registered for the TCA Convention?

Registration begins January 2nd 2019

65th TCA National Convention Registration



6 Months and counting

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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