

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

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Volume 48, No. 7

Summer 2019

CONGRATULATIONS RIO GRANDE CHAPTER 65th TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION HUGE SUCCESS!

What a month June was! While the Division members in Phoenix began their summer siesta as they prepared to hunker down through the summer heat, the Rio Grande Chapter ramped up for the TCA National Convention.

We have a lot of space in this issue devoted to the convention in Albuquerque but let's start out back in Phoenix, where the June meet wrapped things up before a two-month vacation.

To start with it was June, in Phoenix, those that haven't left already were making plans to do so or head to the basement for survival.

The president started the meeting right on time at 10:00 AM, with about thirty members in attendance. Although small in numbers the group was quite lively possibly due to a sugar overload from all the extra free donuts that were available.

Secretary Lautazi noted that we had a little jump in our membership which was now at 214 paid members. He introduced John Zaval who was recruited to become a Desert Division member by committee. John was introduced to President Chris by Ralph Treichel at a GCMR Meet. Ralph told Chris; you need to talk to this guy. Turns out after their conversation, John's wife wanted him to get active in a few more Train clubs. Chris was more than happy to oblige.

John has a strong interest in collecting and operating postwar Lionel. He has been back in the hobby for about five years and enjoying every minute of it.

Treasurer Bob Herman gave the updated treasurers report of \$19,807.99 in savings and \$8,245.18 in checking. Bob reported that the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17 – CAMRRC “Beat The Heat Meet”

9:00AM – 1:00 PM Liberty Traditional School, Prescott Valley, AZ

September 14 – September Division Meet

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

September 21 - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

9:00 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting
Los Altos Christian Church - Albuquerque, NM

continued increase in the checking account is a result of sales from an auction consignment. This consignment consisted of several gauges of trains that historically do not do well at auction and are being sold through alternate channels. Our consignment fee is higher than normal for this consignment and the extra effort is financially better for both the club and the consignor.

President Allen announced again for those in attendance that because of a conflict with Rail Fair the **October Meet has been moved up one week to October 5th** to avoid the conflict. The church hall has been secured for that date.

Next was the announcement that the search continues for a new meeting location. This search will begin in earnest during the summer months with a focus first on the central Phoenix area. It was mentioned that the current information we have been told that because of permits and other considerations we will have our current location through spring of 2020, but that the property has been sold and construction is scheduled for next year.

With the convention due to start in a few weeks Chris mentioned that members attending the convention with extra time could swing by the module to give the operators a break or stop in at the registration room and see either Scott & Elaine or Chris & Laurel for relief type opportunities.

The November Train Auction will be on November 23rd at Shepherd of the Valley Church, our usual location. Everyone likes to get a sneak peek into the auction, and we will have **Auction Catalogs available for sale at the Beat the Heat Meet** in Prescott Valley on August 17th. Stop by either Peter Atonna or Chris Allen's sales table to purchase one. Catalog is \$5 and gets you into the auction for free. As always, Desert Division will have free coffee and donuts for the auction preview and lunch will be available onsite for a voluntary donation.

There was an example of the June issue of the newsletter available on the front table. This was the first issue printed on the Division's new laser printer. The Division's Board of Directors also reviewed the copy and feel that the quality is quite good. They decided to begin charging a \$10/year surcharge with the new dues cycle

starting in January 2020 for members who wish to receive a printed copy.

Also on the front table was the Desert Division Annual Report that get filled each fiscal year with TCA National prior to the National Convention. Chris mentioned that the report focuses on the clubs social activities and our cooperation in working with other clubs in the area and the community outreach we do running trains at Rail Fair and Transportation Days.

We recently became aware of a contest that was being run by TCA National through their own Facebook page. The purpose is to generate a list of model train enthusiasts and forward the contact information to local TCA Divisions and Chapters. The lists are sent out from TCA National after they make initial contact with them. Unfortunately the program is starting in the summer as we are winding down. We will use the list and plan to contact them as we begin our fall activities.

Gordon Wilson spoke about the **Bill Mack collection**. He has a completed inventory and interested **members are to contact him and NOT the family** if interested.

The Educational Segment featured **Katie Elgar** who brought along several items she recently purchased at the York Spring Meet. She had a Lionel 681 with the special TCA boiler front, matching Pennsy streamlined tender with the TCA 1968 tender shell, 6464-1970 boxcar and 6517-1966 caboose. She hopes to add onto to the set and make it complete. **Mark Thompson** displayed his new track cleaning car. Mark's nickname is Smurf and he had a few of his namesakes figures mounted on the car. **Phil Todd** had one of the largest model train engines most had ever seen, a MTH Chessie M1 made in 2018. Although only two were built in real life because of a design flaw it is still a beast in any scale. Phil also talked about the recent 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike ceremony he attended in Utah. **Chris Allen** had the prototype of the MTH 212 gondola with LCL containers from the 2009 convention here in Phoenix. Chris had been in contact with the original owner for over a year as he offered the item for sale on eBay. They eventually worked out a mutually agreeable price.



We know it was already 100° outside at 10:00 AM but it was still a smaller crowd than normal even for June



With so few table sellers, folks just got caught up on the latest news or talking about their summer plans



Katie Elgar with one of the TCA branded items she brought back from York.



Smurf, ummm, I mean Mark Thompson, with his track cleaning car minus the little namesake minions



Phil Todd with his Chessie M1. It is hard to see in the photo, but this brute took up a good chunk of the table and is almost 4' long



Déjà vu all over again. Christie Wilson was the winner of the Hudson Hundred for June. She won the first drawing for this year as well

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – June 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Mike Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Jonathan Peiffer, Terry Haas. On teleconference Greg Palmer

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Secretary's Report - Angelo reported that membership stands at 213 members. The new members were signed up through the TCA Win Big Campaign.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account is \$19,807.99 and Checking is \$8,245.18. Bob reported that he received the final payment for the recent On30 ahead of schedule. There were no other questions about the monthly income/expense report.

Old Business:

La Posada Fundraiser – Only 4 cars remain. Peter has the artwork done and submitted for licensing approval. Friendly “update request” have been sent out to the contact to keep the process moving.

October Meet – Rail Fair has moved back to its familiar second weekend in October which conflicts with the October Meet. Because of the conflict with Rail Fair we will **move the October General Meet to the first Saturday on October 5th**. The hall has been reserved, and the Division BOD meeting will also move to October 2nd.

Christmas Party – The Doubletree Hotel wants the contract signed and deposit paid. Paul is currently out of town and Chris contacted the hotel on his behalf. Bob will issue the deposit once the invoice is sent to him and Paul will handle the contract signing when he returns shortly.

Pizza Meet review – A discussion of the Pizza Meet auction determined that by not using PayPal we limited our sales. Buyers have become accustomed to having this option open to them, however most sellers at the Pizza Meet expect to be paid in cash at the close of the auction, which creates a cash imbalance for the club. Options discussed included bringing more cash to the met or that sellers will be paid by check if their sales are over a certain amount. The quality of the auction has improved in recent years and we would like to keep this trend moving in that direction

New Business:

Rio Grande Chapter Convention Update – The convention is ontrack. Mark Thompson has volunteered to take the trailer module over. Chris is working out the details with him. Volunteers are still needed in a few areas and Chris will announce the need during the meeting

November Auction – Because of time constraints and no decision from the Bill Mack estate we've had to move another consignment into the November auction. Peter will have the November Auction catalogs available for sale at the Beat the Heat Meet.

Potential New Members – National TCA had an unannounced contest to gather names of people interested in the model train hobby. They forwarded a list of these new contacts to Chris just as the Division went on its summer hiatus. It was decided to compile this list along with others that National TCA sends us and begin contacting them once we have some activities we can actively promote to them.

Electronic Newsletter – The club purchased a laser printer and the June newsletter was printed on it. Chris brought in a sample for the board to inspect and all agreed that the quality looked good.

Annual Report – Chris had the Annual Division Report on hand for review. It is turned into TCA each year at the annual convention and highlighted the club activities of the past year.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 Am. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM October 2nd at the home of Bob Herman.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

President's Message

Wow! Where do you start a President's message following such a great convention? Most logically it would be with **Congratulations!** I've been to many conventions over the years, they are all a joy to attend. Once you've hosted or worked on one you can appreciate all the hard work that goes into them. In each city I've found unexpected memories that last a lifetime. Albuquerque was no different.

Everyone involved knew going in it was going to be a challenge when one of the smallest Chapters in TCA decided to host the convention. A lot of preplanning went a long way and the most important thing was that when everyone had left, and we were packing things up on Sunday we all had smiles and were all still friends.

Unfortunately, the new Surviving Spouse membership met with quite a bit of resistance. I had hoped for a very small membership fee just to cover processing and mailing costs and the option for those members to have the option to get publications by subscription. As part of the process a few compromises needed to be made just to get the item to pass the Board of Directors.

In my view it will be easier to modify this class of membership once approved. Although not perfect it did pass and will appear on the spring ballot. I believe much of the resistance from my fellow Division Presidents was due to the time and debate constraints and not fully understanding the concept and how it will benefit our surviving spouse volunteers and TCA.

Which brings me to my biggest regret of the convention. I was asked by Scott and Elaine to pull a rabbit out of my hat. Well, not really. They needed help to choose the random table prizes at the closing Banquet. It had been a great week and we never would have been able to pull it off without the help of so many people. Doing the random drawing

is quite easy. We have several plastic jugs in storage filled with numbered ping pong balls, Christmas ornaments, and all kinds of things. I told them I had it covered.

It had been a very full week for many of us. Laurel had been by my side from the start. Scott and Elaine had been teammates from the get-go, Chris and Mary Wieclaw running the tours, Ron and Anne Bahm did a marvelous job on the Welcome Party and closing Banquet, the list goes on and on, and if I start to list them here I will forget one or two for sure. Which is what I did at the Banquet.

I had wanted to give recognition not only to all the members who helped but also the spouses as well. The husband volunteers, but in most cases the spouse gets drafted as well. In addition many of our own Division members and spouses who came over from Phoenix to help as well. Make no mistake this convention was hosted by the Rio Grande Chapter, but all of us are members of TCA first. TCA is immeasurably dependent on all of our volunteers. A volunteer is not someone who has the time, rather it is someone who has the heart to give of themselves to help others and it showed throughout the entire week. One little distraction and I completely forgot to thank all of you who made the entire week possible.

Let me do that now. **Thank you one and all who contributed for a very successful convention.** I never said it was going to be easy, but I did say it was going to be worth it. You did it and should be very proud of what was just accomplished.

I hope you continue to enjoy your summer. I've got a lead on two possible future meeting locations that I will be checking out in August and of course I will see you at the Beat the Heat Meet!



PICTURES FROM THE 65th TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION



Greg Palmer's open house was a big hit with many of the collectors.



Scott Eckstein demonstrated his "magical" hot air balloon during his layout tour



Here's a real collaboration. Tom Lawler's disappearing train layout with Chris Wieclaw's decorating talents



Janet Mattern getting her consist on the Division module while Bonnie Rudy looks on



A small view of the trading pits where there were over 130 tables of treasures looking for a new home



A small portion of the crowd at the closing banquet. Thanks to auctioneer Greg Stout, the live auction went quite well, just ask Peter the next time you see him



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039



The TCA Rio Grande Chapter has had a real busy Summer. The TCA National Convention is now over, and after years and years of planning we are all very tired but pleased and proud of the Convention just concluded. What a fantastic TCA National Convention we had! I am very proud of our Chapter, and what it accomplished.

My thanks go out to Scott and Elaine Eckstein for chairing this terrific Convention. I would also like to thank all the members of the Convention Committee, and the Desert Division Members who came from all over Arizona to help out. Chris & Laurel Allen were here all week handling the Convention Registration. Chris made many trips over the years, encouraging and answering the numerous questions we all had on operating a National Convention. He also arranged for the Desert Division module trailer layout to be on display, which caught the eye of many operators.

Speaking of layouts I also would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the clubs who brought and ran their modules. The convention was a substantial time commitment to have the modules staffed and running for the

public for several days, so a huge thank you goes out to everyone involved.

I had a great time showing off my collection and layouts, visiting with old friends, meeting new friends, and I know the members who showed off their layouts also had a great time showing TCA Members from all over the country the unique layouts and collections we all have in the Albuquerque area. Once again thanks to everyone.

As soon as we recover from the convention, we need to start thinking about the 2019 Pumpkin Meet on October 27th at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel.

The regular Chapter Meet will be September 21, 2019 at 9:00 AM with a members only Swap, and a 10:00 AM Meeting at the Los Altos Christian Church South Education Building, 11900 Haines N.E. in Albuquerque. We will wrap up the Convention details and go over the upcoming Pumpkin Meet. We will need help with advertising ideas and member help at the Show. Please plan on attending the Meet and Meeting on September 21st.



Jon Spargo signing children into the Kids Club area and getting them signed up for the raffle



Yes, we had a restoration contest for the first time in many years at the TCA National Convention

BEAT THE HEAT UPDATE

by Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578

The Central Arizona Model Railroad fellows are getting to the final arrangements for this year's swap meet and are hoping to host a lot of Desert Division members. As noted earlier, tables have been sold out for a couple of months now, so all 96 tables will be full of goodies. By now everyone is aware of the location at the Liberty Traditional School in Prescott Valley.

It is right off SR 69 in the heart of Prescott Valley. The only thing to watch for is that you need to make a circle north and then south to enter the school's parking lot. You will turn right from SR69 onto Windsong Dr (there is a CVS Pharmacy on your right at the corner. We will have a sign there to direct you). Then turn left at Lakeshore Drive and take the

next left at Lake Valley Road. That takes you right to the school. We have additional parking available this year (and it is not all accessible from northbound on Lake Valley, hence the circle to get you going for a right-hand turn into the school).

At the meet, you will be given maps to several club members' open houses. So enjoy HO gauge, O gauge and outdoor G gauge layouts during the afternoon. Finally, if you are making a weekend of it in the Prescott area, you are welcome to come for a layout visit at my house Friday evening. I admit, I love to see the layout in the dark with all its lights on. Having visitors gives me an excuse to do so. Just send me an email and I will email you directions.

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We would like to extend a Special Thank You to the Members of the Rio Grande Chapter and to the Members of the Desert Division for all the time and effort devoted to making the 65th TCA Convention a huge success.

Scott and Elaine Eckstein

(continued from Page 2)

Chris mentioned he really wanted to get the prototype back in the Division. There were quite a few differences between the prototype and the production run which he had on display. He also demonstrated a small LionChief set that is identical to the set in the Annual Raffle. Dallas Dixon had heard a story about LionChief engines being “captured” by the public who can download the Lionel app on their phone. The story told to Dallas was that at a public show where a **LionChief engine** was running it **was “taken over” by a member of the public**. Chris explained he had posted the question on the Yahoo TTML group about the Bluetooth technology to get a better understanding of it and how it applied to the Lionel trains. It turns out that a near “perfect storm” set of circumstances would have to occur for this to happen. **Current technology allows either the handheld remote -OR- the phone app to control the engine and not both**. If the engine is running on the handheld and the handheld remains powered up, the phone app cannot lock into the engine. Several Division members run LionChief sets on

our and other club modules and have never had that situation happen at a public event. New technology in the hobby often brings about new fears or questions. Don’t be afraid to ask. If we don’t know the answer, I bet we know or can find someone who does.

Raffle Prize winners in no particular order.
Mike Dietrich - Hudson Ticket, **Paul Malek** - MTH Santa Fe Boxcar, **Chet Henry** - Lionel Santa Fe Boxcar, **Terry Haas** - Lionel Erie Hopper - **Jonathan Peiffer** - Lionel C&O Hopper, **Mark Thompson** - Lionel Tropicana Boxcar.

With the light crowd, those in attendance figured they had a pretty good shot at winning the Franklin this month. Usually it takes several draws with so few braving the hot day. Not so this time, **Christie Wilson’s** ears peaked up when her name was called (for the second time this year) and she pocketed the Hundo just in time for her and Gordon’s vacation trip.

This is the last meeting of the summer. We will see you all at Shepherd of the Valley Church in Phoenix on September 14th. Enjoy the summer and support the other clubs by visiting their meets this summer.



Brian and Julie Gladish (hopefully future Desert Division members) at the Bradshaw Mountain HighRailer layout



We liked the switching layout we saw last year at the Warwick convention, so Scott Eckstein built one for ours

More Pictures from the Convention (behind the scenes)



Yes, it fits. Division module fresh from Arizona is stored out of sight for a few days. That's National President Rupert Campbell helping us getting it stored



Busy crew Thursday morning Barbara & Angelo Lautazi, Janet Mattern, Katie Elgar, Mark Thompson and Greg Novak all pitched in to get it up and running



Last chance to get your souvenirs from the convention. John Trever, Elaine & Scott Eckstein man the sales table



Getting the registration area setup. Elaine helping TCA Business Manager Tammy Hersh and TCA President Campbell get ready for a busy week ahead



Barbara Lautazi and Beverly Locke setting up the closing Banquet Table. Juanita Nellos is working on another table in the background



The future of the hobby? NMRA Kids Club setting up their modules, adult supervision only, kids did it all

Still More Pictures from the Convention - Layouts



Just a small section of David Nycz' layout that was featured on the Friday night tour



Frank Dean's layout packed a lot of action in a small space



Ken Miles had a little bit of everything for the collectors and the operators



Al Hovey had help from a young assistant keeping the trains running during the open house



Greg Palmer had a real treat during his tour, a Lionel postwar D-291 Dealer display



A view of Scott Eckstein's Standard Gauge layout in another part of his train room



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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 manufacturer's original condition unless I have caused and such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction.

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

FOR SALE Lionel Outfit 1520W Set Box MKT 2245A & 2245C with 2423, 2235, 2436 C-6, P-5 \$495 - #47 Double Arm Crossing Gate Green/Aluminum Gate C-6, P-4 \$50 - 184 Bungalow flower base red roof C-6 \$70 - 127 Lionel Town Station C-6 \$70 - A/F 788 Town Station L/N w/box \$50 - Fleischmann HO 114112 0-6-6-0 w/2 pass car & obs track and switches C-7 no box \$275 - Marx HO Set 1962 Rock Island Switcher, hopper, box car & caboose C-8 P-10 \$75 - 1950 Unique Lines 0-4-0- w/4 wheel tender C-5 no box \$75, Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: LIKE AN ACELA? Need to make room on my shelves for my Convention purchases, so it is time to find a new home for my Lionel Acela. Full set, w 3 car add on and boxes. Runs fine, typical minor Acela glitches. Here is the deal, if you are interested, you TELL ME how much it is worth to you! Peter Atonna mjatonna@gmail.com 928-308-3559

FOR SALE: Greenberg's Lionel Catalogues Vol. IV 1945-1954 \$75, Vol V 1955-1960 \$50 spine separated from book block but solid binding, Vol VI 1960-1969 \$65, Greenberg's Guide to Marx Trains Vol 1 & Vol 2 \$50 ea. The Standard Catalog of American Flyer Trains by David Doyle \$45 - Aristo-Craft ART 33402 & 33302 D&RGW #1 Gauge Smoothside Passenger and Observation Cars \$75 ea./Trade? 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

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



The TTOS New Mexico Division module has some very unique custom plots on their layout



Another view of the NMRA Kids Club module. You can see the name tags of all the young members who built and maintain their own module section



A great LEGO layout with a scratch built replica of the AT&SF 2926



John Trever had a classic Lionel postwar "over-under" layout built from the classic track plans while in the background Bill Lubert has his point to point layout



Make plans for next years TCA convention in Jacksonville, Florida. It is sure to be one of the most unique conventions as we join with Dept 56 for a fun week!

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE FANTASTIC
BEAT THE HEAT

**SWAP MEET BUS
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Number of adult GCMR club members: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____

Number of adult Non-GCMR members: _____ at \$40 each = \$ _____

Number of children under 12: _____ at \$15 each = \$ _____

Number of lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each = \$ _____

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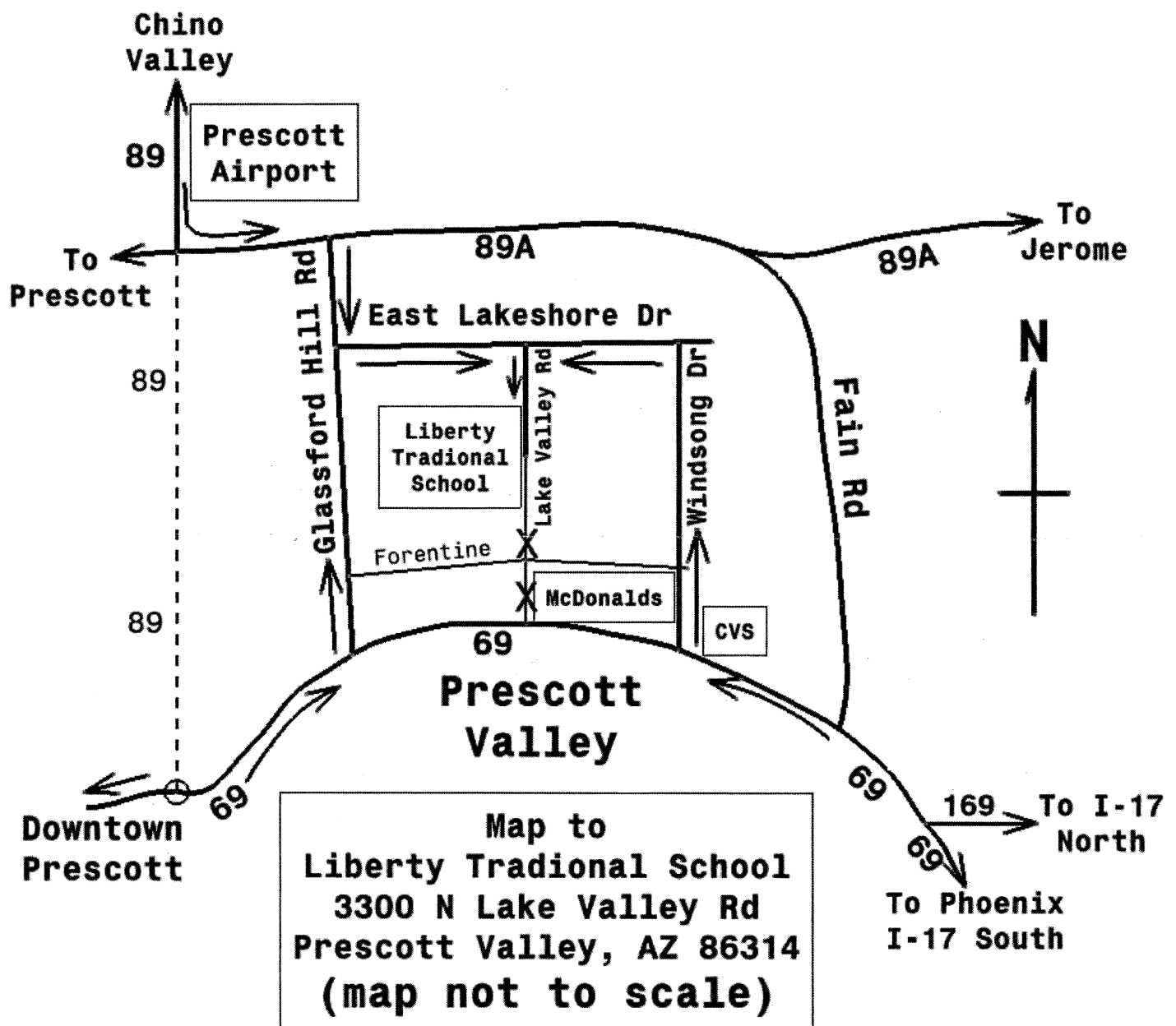
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Turn South on Lake Valley Rd. to school
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