

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

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Volume 49, No. 3

March 2020

SPRING TRAIN(ing) DIVISION STYLE

Doesn't matter what part of the valley you live in, for the next four weeks everywhere you look or try to find a seat at a restaurant, colorful baseball jerseys will be everywhere. While many of us prefer colorful railcars and engine motifs, these springtime guests signal an important cycle in the Valley of fun, summer is almost here!

The February Meet found us on a cooler than expected day and long sleeve shirts were in abundance. The hot coffee and donuts was a welcome treat.

President Allen started the meeting a few minutes late at 10:05 and Secretary Lautazi reported that despite the **large crowd paying their dues**, we still have over 30 members delinquent. If you do not know if you owe dues or not contact Angelo or any member of the BOD and we will get you the information you need. If in doubt, mail your \$15 in and you'll get credited with another year automatically. Our current membership is 214 so that number will drop if we

don't get your dues immediately. The roster printing is being held back because so many still owe this year.

Mark Thompson reported \$19,809.38 in the savings account and \$13068.58 in checking. Mark reported that the El Tovar car is expected to be delivered earlier than expected and with weak presales the club will need to make up the shortfall from the checking account. There are only 126 El Tovar cars produced. This car is 100% Arizona, and features both the unique and only log-built railway station on the Santa Fe and the Mary Coulter masterpiece El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon. Both are on the National Historic Registry and were built before Arizona statehood. Own a great piece of State 48 history for less than \$80, order forms are in this newsletter and the car is here now for immediate shipment.

Chris next reported that we are going forward with the Division 50th Anniversary Car. Peter Atonna is currently working to secure the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14 – March Division Meet

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

March 21 - Rio Grande Chapter Meet & Meeting

10:00 AM Business Meeting & after Meet Educational Segment – Albuquerque, NM

March 21 – Adobe Mountain Everything Railroad Swap Meet

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park, Phoenix, AZ

DATE CHANGE ** April 4 – April Division Meet and 23rd Annual Pizza Meet Auction ** DATE CHANGE

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – 11:00 AM FREE Pizza Lunch

12:00 noon Auction preview – 12:30 PM Auction Starts! (Auction times approximate)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ

licensing rights and it will be a prototypical refer unique to Arizona. The Desert Division info will be discretely displayed on the sides so as not to detract from the unique design. The scheduled release for this car will coincide with our 50th Anniversary next year. Many other events are in the early stages of planning including a 50th Anniversary Banquet. TCA Desert Division is the oldest train club in Phoenix, and as part of our research we will determine if we are the oldest continuously operating club in Arizona. You will want to be a registered dues paying Division member for some of the special events and memento's we have planned for next year.

President Allen announced Transportation Day where the club will run trains for preschoolers. This event has been a long-standing favorite for the kids and all of us who participate. We could use a few volunteers to run trains and for setup and tear down. (pictures of the event are elsewhere in this issue. We had a great time!)

The next announcement was about the Hudson Raffle, which began at the February Meet. The Division Board of Directors decided to include the original 1964 original boxes for the tender and engine with this years Hudson. These boxes separately sell for over \$125 alone, let alone the Hudson that is rated in C-8 condition. This places the Hudson and boxes at well over \$1K in value, but you do have the option of taking the \$750 in cash. What will you decide? Do you have your tickets yet? You must be present to win the Hudson Hundred at the monthly meet, but you have the best chance to win earlier in the drawing when there are fewer members to compete against.

The Annual Raffle will begin with the April Pizza Meet and end at the November Train Show where the winning ticket will be drawn. We will have three, Ready to Run sets the same as last year. **Chris reminded everyone that the Pizza Meet, held one week early on April 4th will be the last meeting at Shepherd of the Valley church.** If you have items you would like to have in the auction or have any questions about the auction itself see Paul Malek at the March meeting. We already have about 40 lots of layout types of items scheduled.

On a similar note Chris reminded everyone that the May General Meet will be at our new location, Aldersgate Methodist Church, 3530 N 32nd St. in Phoenix. The church is located just north of Osborn Rd., south of Indian School Rd. in Phoenix. The May meeting will be Saturday May 9th.

Angelo announced that following next month's March meeting, he and Barbara will host an open house for members to view his layout and Barbara's recent kitchen renovation. Sounds like something for everyone!

Terry Haas will be having an open house as part of the ABTO train clubs spring open house on Saturday and Sunday February 29 and March 1st. Terry runs G Gauge trains on his large backyard garden layout along with O gauge and HO on his garage layouts. See Paul Malek if you have any questions.

The Educational Segment featured **John Zaval** who had all four known variations of the Lionel 6473 Horse Transport Car. Last month Chris brought in different colored shells and versions of the original 6473, John wanted to show that the 6473 itself had variations including a bright and dull yellow along with red or maroon colored lettering. Going along with the something sweet for Valentine's day, Chris brought in the TCA NETCA Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Boxcar in both O and the recently issued S gauge. As a Valentine nod to Janet Mattern for her dedication to bringing donuts for the members every meet he also had a Lionel Dunkin Donut tractor and trailer.

Raffle Prize winners in no particular order Terry Haas - Lionel Ore Car, Ralph Treichel - K-Line "The Chief" Boxcar, Dave Brown - Lionel Burlington Boxcar, Christie Wilson - Lionel Tropicana Boxcar, John Upshur - K-Line Hopper, Dave Brown - Albuquerque Convention Clock, Shirley Hunter - Copper Locomotive Music Box, Bill Richardson walked away with the first freebie Hudson ticket of the year.

As we mention, the February Meet was the first monthly drawing for the Hudson Hundred for the year. It just seemed apropos that the person selling the Hudson tickets, Christie Wilson was the first winner for 2020.



Quite a lineup of steam locomotives for sale



Early arrivals grabbed a donut some coffee and caught up on the latest news from friends



John Zaval had all four variations of the Lionel postwar 6473 Horse Transport



Chris Allen had something sweet for Valentines Day, the NETCA Ben & Jerry's Car in S Gauge



Shirley Hunter is all smiles after getting the raffle prize she wanted, the copper engine music box



Christie Wilson scored the first Hudson Hundred of the year after selling tickets to the rest of us

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – February 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM at the home of Paul and Irene Wassermann

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Mike Dietrich, Mark Thompson, Angelo Lautazi, Paul Wassermann, Bob Herman and Steve Bienstock. 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 214 members of which 52 owe dues for the upcoming year. We will send Greg a list of Chapter members who still owe dues. All dues should be sent to the Division Secretary for the fastest processing.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Mark Thompson reported that the Savings Account is \$19,809.15 and Checking is \$18,197.38. There was discussion on how to capture the data on the fund-raising sales. Chris supplied Mark with the spreadsheets from the Banquet Car and El Tovar car data that he had from PayPal. Mark asked if the storage unit should be prepaid for the year which would save the club \$400. After a brief discussion the board agreed to pay for the year in advance.

BOD Annual Dinner – Paul is still working the details with the DoubleTree and has another meeting scheduled for Uncle Sal's but nothing is finalized.

Old Business:

El Tovar Fundraising Car – Peter received word from Lionel is shipping the car out early. Because the car is arriving sooner than anticipated, we will not have enough presales to cover the invoice. Chris will make an appeal to the membership at the meet on Saturday. Sales within the Division remain weak.

New Business:

Transportation Day at SOV – The school is moving to a new location with the planned construction so this will be our last event at this location. Katie and Chris will setup and run trains but could use a few extra volunteers. The event will be on February 22 from 9:00 until 11:00, setup begins at 7:30.

Hudson Tickets – The tickets are printed for the return of the 31st Annual Hudson Raffle. They will go on sale exclusively to Division members until October starting at the February meet. This year the Board has decided to sweeten the pot by offering the original engine and tender box along with the 1964 Hudson.

Rio Grande Chapter Dues – The Chapter voted not to have their Division dues returned to the Chapter this year. The recent convention was very successful and benefited their treasury. Thank you, Rio Grande Chapter.

Desert Division Train Show 2020 – Fred Hunter is currently working with the Shrine Auditorium and we should have an update for our next meeting.

Christmas Party 2020 – Paul is working on the food and beverage contract with the DoubleTree. The member and spouse gifts need to be determined by the committee with the Board providing their approval and cost.

50th Anniversary Car – After reviewing the comments from the Board, Peter is revamping the 50th Anniversary Car. Currently he is working on licensing approval and with Lionel on the project.

Member and Volunteer of the Year – Chris will visit the Chapter later this month and present the two member of the year awards to Scott and Elaine Eckstein for their work as co-chairs of the 2019 TCA Convention

Other Division Events – The Pizza Meet will be held on April 4th at Shepherd of the Valley Church with the earlier April meeting due to Easter weekend being the second weekend in April. The April meeting will be the club's LAST MEETING at the church. The Spring Picnic is set for May 2nd at the Aste Ramada in the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be on March 11, 2020 at the home of Angelo and Barbara Lautazi.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. We had a personal family situation arise just as this newsletter was being put together. As with most of you TCA and trains are a hobby, but our families always come first. My time was filled dealing with these matters, and I will send out a very small newsletter this month and get back up to speed for next month.

Rest assured both Laurel and myself are fine and I look forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting.

Currently the news is full of reports about the COVID-19 virus. It's hard to predict how this will develop over the next few weeks since there is so much about this situation that we do not understand. We will continue to hold Division monthly meetings including the Pizza Meet and Auction next month. However, if the situation changes, we will follow official guidelines for large gatherings of people. Printed newsletters like this, are not the most effective way to pass this type of information around. Hopefully we have your email address and will be sending the timeliest information about meetings and events through those electronic methods.

I'm in communication with other Division President's on how they are also dealing with the situation. A few have cancelled shows based on local guidelines because they are in geographic areas where there appears to be current hot spots. Others are doing exactly as we have done and continue to stay informed and monitor the events as they unfold.


I'm hopeful we can hold the Pizza Meet on April 4th. This year will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Pizza Meet. As the Division Historian these "special numbered" events always hold a unique place in our records. I would like to mark the event with something memorable, like maybe a pizza cake. Yes, there is such a thing, it's a special made deep dish pizza. Sounds tasty!

Speaking of Division anniversaries, we kicked off our annual Hudson drawing last month. The Hudson has been part of Division history since 1989. Over that time we've added a

little extra green to many members pockets as the Hudson Hundred has become the closing raffle drawing at our monthly meets. Although the mystique of owning a postwar Hudson is not like it used to be, the fact that you could take home the optional \$750 cash is keeping this drawing a club favorite.

I have two Hudson's in my collection. One I actually won in the Hudson drawing back in 2002. The second was part of a collection of trains I purchased a few years ago. That one is a little worse for wear and has a repro boiler front but it's a nice engine none the less. A few years ago Greg Novak ran his Hudson at Rail Fair on the club module. Greg was the Division Hudson winner in 2006. Watching Greg run his Hudson changed my mind a bit so I'm looking forward to getting the 773 on the rails in the near future. I came into TCA as an operator and for many years became a collector. Running my second Hudson will get me back to the joy I had of running the trains again. Of course that means I'll have to collect either a set of Madison cars or a proper set of freight cars to get pulled by this special engine. I mean I am still a collector.

As I begin downsizing my collection, I think I will probably keep my runners as I thin the herd of the trains. Downsizing is not something I look forward to and I know many of you have already made that decision and have done the same thing. That does not mean I think the future of our hobby is bleak, quite the contrary I think we are in a little of a holding pattern at the moment. Many of the new members I see are at about the same age I was when I re-entered the hobby. This does not mean we are out of the woods, both the Division and National TCA membership continues to decline, but a percentage of it is a consolidation of the hobby. TCA is no longer about rivet counting, it's about the joy of the hobby. Last June the TCA Board of Directors approved new grading standards for the operation of trains. I'll talk about those standards at the meeting on Saturday. I hope to see you there.



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER FEBRUARY EDUCATIONAL PICTURES



Jim forgot to tell us, "Say Cheese". Scott & Elaine Eckstein receiving the Division Member of the Year award



John Trever described some variations of Lionel postwar operating boxcars



Ross Jordan had two restored Marker Light lanterns. He uses battery powered LED lamps to light them



Boyd Reasor talked about his issue with securing AMT S gauge track and his homemade track gauge



Greg Palmer had this Ives 186 Observation transition car sold by Lionel in 1929



David Nycz and his Northern Pacific 2626 Steam engine that had a whistle issue until the proper activation button was used



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039



We had great weather for a February in Albuquerque at the February 15th Meet. While we did have more members than January we would like you to come out and support the Chapter at our Meetings, the convention and elections are over, you can come out of hiding and enjoy the day with your friends. The Show and Tell Segment had a lot of items.

Show and Tell: **Greg Palmer** displayed a KTM Brass Santa Fe Caboose by Max Grey. A Fast Clock which lets you have a day of scale operation in just a few hours. Operating Manuals from Westinghouse Brake Division and a operations Manual from the D&RGW RR. He also had a 736W Tender which went on the 1964 773 Hudson lettered for the PRR, and a Ives 186 Observation Car built by Lionel sold by Lionel after they bought IVES. **Scott Eckstein** had an early RMT Beep Locomotive, **David Nycz** showed his Lionel 2626 NP Steam Locomotive with the Sound of Steam. They whistle was nothing but a static sound until he used the Lionel LTI Sound Activation Device, problem solved! **Ross Jordan** brought in a real Caboose Marker Light and an original Train Order Signal lamp. All original. He uses a battery powered LED lamp to light them. **Art Lites** showed the Lionel Lionchief Switch engine, which he will use next month to show how to use smart phones to run trains. **Chris Allen** displayed a collection of 6473 Lionel Horse Cars. Plus the Modern Era outlaws cars. **Frank Dean** exhibited a 1912 Railroad Watch that was recently restored. **Chris Wieclaw** explained how to build an Engine House using foam poster board. **Boyd Reasor** was having issues with his AMT track causing couplers to open. He fabricated a wood block to check the clearance of all his track screws.

The Business Meeting was called to order.

The meeting started by having Greg introduce Division President Chris Allen. Chris told the members that many Division members who came over to assist with the convention commented to him about how organized everything was and how friendly everyone was. He mentioned that for the first time ever, Desert Division awarded two "Member of the Year" awards to convention co-chairs Scott and Elaine

Eckstein and wished he had one for all the chairs and their wives that worked so hard for the successful convention. Palmer thanked Scott and Elaine Eckstein for their work on last year's TCA Convention and presented them with a gift on behalf of the Chapter.

Secretary's Report: There are 44 members in the Rio Grande Chapter. Dues are due to the Division by February 29th.

Treasurer's Report: Everett Hagan reported that we have \$6705.75 in Checking and \$15,001.62 in the Money Market Savings Account.

Old Business:

2020 Annual Budget - The revised Budget was shown to the Members present. It was approved by the BOD earlier in the Month.

New Business:

Pumpkin Meet Search Committee - Scott Eckstein, chair of the Pumpkin Meet Future Site Committee reviewed the sites visited so far. We are shooting to have a couple of backup locations by September 2020 in case the Sheraton Uptown raises our rates again. We have a signed contract and will be at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel this year.

Rental Space Increase - Scott next reported that the Church was raising its rent again. This time to \$25.00 an hour which means we will have to pay \$75.00 a Meeting. It was decided to drop the 9:00AM to 10:00PM Members only Swap Meet, due to lack of interest. You can still bring things to sell, during the Meeting, since we will be there until 1:00PM with after Meet activities, after every Meeting.

Meeting dates for 2020: March 16, April 27, and September 21.

Other Events:

March 7-8 - Rocky Mountain Train Show Denver Mart - Denver, CO

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Make sure you check their website for special events planned all year.

Our next meet and meeting will be March 16, 2019. Remember the Meeting will start at 10:00AM. It will be at the Los Altos Christian Church, South Education Building, 11900 Haines N.E. in Albuquerque, NM.

TRANSPORTATION DAY

Last month we participated at "Transportation Day", held by the Casa Academy at our host church Shepherd of the Valley Preschool. We had unusually beautiful weather for February and set up one of our largest ever scratch built layouts. Katie Elgar, Bill Richardson, Janet Mattern and Chris Allen constructed three loops of Lionel Fastrack on three tables and populated the table with houses, farms, schools and of course plenty of diecast vehicles to catch the attention of all the little ones. We wanted to mirror the wide variety of other volunteers that also showed up and had Fire Trucks, Police Cars, Buses, Dump Trucks. If we could find it in our box of vehicles, we had it on the layout. We had all two loops running Lion Chief and let the young ones control the trains and sounds with no major derailments. The school will be relocating with the planned construction, but we hope to participate again next year. Too much fun for all involved!



The layout was almost 9' x 6' and had three loops of track and plenty of action



Hard to resist reaching for all those trucks and cars we had on "display"

MARY COULTER'S GEM: EL TOVAR

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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 - We will remain open reducing Ken's inventory. We have the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to stop by and browse. 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

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

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Need Parts? I'm back in town for the winter Looking for parts or missing pieces to keep your trains or accessories running? Expanded American Flyer & Lionel parts on hand so be sure to stop by my table or call - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

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 184 Bungalow flower base red roof C-6 \$70 - 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 - Lionel 157 red Hand Truck C-7 \$30 - Lionel Baggage Truck olive green C-7 \$75 - The General Marker from 1982 Atlanta Convention C-10 \$10 - Lionel Smoke Pellets (40) \$15. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: 2 each Lionel 6-16360 N&W Maxi Stack \$50/ea. or \$90/pr. - Lionel 6-16912 CN Maxi Stack rough box but complete \$50 - Lionel 6-16322 Sea Land TTUX \$45 - Lionel 6-26908 Apple Computer TTUX \$45 - Lionel 9578 & 9580 Burlington Zephyr Passenger & Observation \$70/pr. - The Standard Catalog of American Flyer Trains by David Doyle \$45 - Plasticville Sets & Price Guide 1989 edition \$20, 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: Bright Yellow maroon lettered 6473 Horse transport car. Lionel 6-16682 Lionel Stable of Champions Orange Horse Transport car - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members.

****DEADLINE FOR AD's - THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

THE BACK PAGE

More Pictures from Transportation Day



Registration is now open at <http://tcaconvention.org/> Make plans to attend the TCA convention in Jacksonville, Florida. It is sure to be one of the most unique conventions ever as we join with Department 56 collectors for a fun week!

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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



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Swap Meet Table Reservation Sheet

- 8' Banquet Tables; **\$20 per table paid in advance and \$25 per table at the door the day of the meet** for selling railroad-associated products.
- Vendors must check-in before setup. Check-in/table setup opens at 7:00 AM. Unloading is done in the drive lane to the east of the AMRS building, unless exception is made, and assistance will be available.
- One complimentary assistant admission per table reservation is included; additional helpers must pay \$5.00 entrance fee.
- Table reservations will **ONLY** be accepted with a completed table reservation sheet. Please do not send payment without this reservation form.
- If confirmation is required, include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- If a table preference is desired, mark 1st and 2nd choices and assignments will be made on a first-come/first served basis. Info must be returned one month prior to the meet or table assignments will be made by whatever tables are left open at that time.
- No refunds will be given, including for inclement weather.
- Unclaimed tables will be released at 8:30 AM the day of the swap meet.
- Vendors are responsible for their own merchandise. AMRS and Sahuaro Central are not responsible for damaged or stolen articles.
- Returned checks are subject to a \$20 charge.
- There are electrical outlets available at \$2.00 extra per plug-in throughout the canopy area.

Print Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Legible E-mail Address: _____

Number of Tables: _____ @ \$ _____ ea. Electrical Outlets _____ @ \$2.00 ea.

Row Preference (if available) _____ Table Choice (if available) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Return Reservation Sheet w/payment to:

Michelle Bastian

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Phoenix, AZ 85083

Home: 623-512-3305

General Info:

Steven David

PO Box 11444

Glendale, AZ 85318

Cell: 623-889-4613

Make checks payable to:

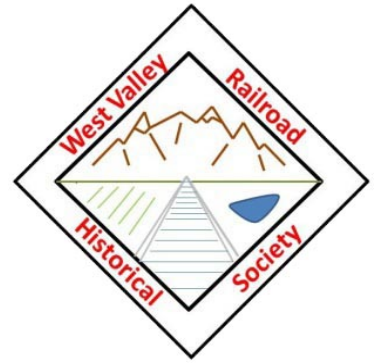
Sahuaro Central

Model Train Swap Meet

Save this Date

Saturday May 12th.

All Gauges



9:00am - 1:00pm

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For More Info, Call:

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OR

**DeWayne Koltin
623-308-1574**