

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
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

Visit our Website: www.tcadd.org



Volume 55, No. 7

October 2026

TECHNICALLY FALL

As those of us who live here know, October in the desert southwest starts to bring some minor relief from the blazing heat during the month of October. At the same time, the Desert Division and the Rio Grande Chapter just start to heat up again with lots of activities to finish out the year.

The September meet at Paradise United Methodist Church was well attended with approximately 25 members in attendance. Likely the biggest news of the meeting was that the City of Scottsdale has issued a check to Eaglewings to start construction on the frame for the new Standard Gauge layout at the railroad park. Chris believes work can start on the layout at the end of October and that it may be ready for operation around Christmas.

For the educational segment, "it's a dry heat", members brought "cool" items to discuss. Kevin Brey is from New England and brought a Rutland

snowplow, a B&M snowplow, and a GN snow blower. Terry Haas brought a gift from a neighbor, a Nantucket RR Hat which is a tourist operation in Connecticut. Finally, Paul Wasserman brought Lionel prewar reefers including a peacock and ivory 814R that was his first train purchase. He also brought a 2814 white and Tuscan reefer that is exceptionally rare.

The upcoming meeting on October 10th will be the last formal meeting of 2026, but we have the auction on November 7th, the annual train show on November 21st, and the holiday party on December 13th. Rio Grande Chapter's annual train show will be this Saturday on October 10th also.

Remember also that nominations for Desert Division Board of Directors are due on the 10th. The nominations chair is Steve Bienstock.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10th – Desert Division Meet

9:00 AM – Paradise Valley United Methodist Church – 4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ
Meeting in Room H-1

October 9th & 10th – TCA Rio Grande Swap Meet

October 9th 1:00 PM - Setup train modules, tables, and chairs
October 10th 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Run Trains, enjoy a Food Truck, Buy & Sell Trains, and Hand Out with KDSK Radio
Netherwood Church of Christ - 5101 Indian School Road – Albuquerque 87110

November 7th – Desert Division Auction

8:00 AM – Paradise Valley United Methodist Church – 4455 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ
Fellowship Hall

SEPTEMBER 2026 DESERT DIVISION MEET PHOTOS



Members chatting before the meeting.



Terry Haas discussing a railroad themed hat he received as a gift.



Janet Mattern prepared with lots of donuts as always!



Paul Wasserman's prewar reefers.



Kevin Brey discussing his "cool" snow clearing equipment.



Scott Russel was the winner of the \$100 Hudson Raffle again. He also donated back to the club again

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026 TCADD BOARD MEETING AT ANGELO & BARBARA'S HOME

In attendance: Mike Dietrich, Mark Thompson, Terry Hass, Chris Allen, Steve Bienstock and Angelo Lautazi.
On the phone: Tim O'Donald.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Membership: The Desert Division has 99 members, and the Rio Grande Chapter has 57. Division total is 156.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$3,853.01, Savings \$549.59, eBay \$11,364.98, PayPal \$1,091.90, and Wells Fargo \$28,344.75.

New / Ongoing Business

- **Rio Grande Chapter – update:** Sept. 26-27 are Rail Days. The State Fair is coming, and they will try to have the club attending.
- **Standard Gauge Project:** the City has issued a check to Eaglewings to construct the layout frame. The Mechanical Society has paid for the glass enclosure. Chris thinks the end of October until we can start the layout. He thinks a Christmas theme would be the best display theme to start.
- **Trailer Sale:** Mark has the Trailer listed on Facebook Marketplace. He has been in contact with an interested party in Denver.
- **November Auction:** will be at the church (PVUMC) on Sat. Nov 7th. There will be 320 lots. The catalogs are on hand. The Board decided on having Pizza for lunch.
- **Train Show:** will be at Living Streams Church, the same location as last year. Sat. Nov 21 is confirmed.
- **Xmas Party:** Dec 13 at the Elks Lodge. The Party will gather at 4:30 pm and the meal will be served at 5:30 pm. The dinners will cost \$35 per person.
- **Storage Units:** Chris and Mark have been making progress cleaning the sheds. Mark has been selling the display shelving on marketplace.
- **Elections:** There will be elections this Fall. At Saturday's meet Mike will announce the call for Nominations. At the October meet the candidates will be announced.
- **2027 Club Dates:** Mike has submitted all our club dates to the church to confirm them.

Board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next Board Meeting on Wed. October 7, 2026, will be at the home of Steve Bienstock

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Fall is officially here and it's been a wet start, let's hope the 100+ degree days are behind us. Despite the reminders of the long summer, we are heading into train season with many outstanding events.

We had a fantastic turnout for our September meeting and hope to see you all at the October meeting. Last year at this time I was touring colleges in the Chicago area with our son and now he is a freshman at Loyola Chicago. I'd like to focus our education segment on the season as we do not have a regular meeting until January. Now that it's Fall, tell us tales or show us the train you fell for to start your collecting journey.

With no meeting in November, I wanted to spread a bit of pre-Thanksgiving cheer and express why I'm thankful and it's all of you in our great Division and hobby. It's the people and friendships, so please come out and celebrate the Christmas season and the lifelong friendships built by this awesome hobby. We invite you to join us on December 13th at the Elk's Lodge for our annual Holiday party. We will have a fun menu, door prizes, the Hudson drawing, and table item auctions! The cost is \$35 per person, and we encourage you to register early so we can plan for the food and festivities.

On the train front:

1. It's election time, so please consider running for a position. We close nominations at the October meeting.
2. Fall Desert Division Auction, November 7th, Fellowship Hall (larger meeting room) at PVUMC. The catalog is now available and on-line and at the meeting. You will need to purchase a catalog to get a bidder's card so bring your \$5 to the October meeting or the day of the event!
3. Turkey Meet, Saturday, November 21st, Living Streams Church, 7000 N Central Ave (Glendale Ave), Phoenix. Table sales are open, and we anticipate a big crowd once again.
4. Christmas Party, Sunday, December 13th, please see above.

We do not have regular meetings in November or December, but with our auction, Turkey Meet, and Holiday Party I know I will see you real soon!

October meeting theme:

"Tell us tales or show us the train you *fell* for at the start of your collecting journey."



DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2026

President:	Mike Dietrich	623-572-3538	Directors:	Art Lites	505-463-1951
Vice-President:	John Craft	480-206-0366		Terry Haas	602-319-0499
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-580-5950		Steve Bienstock	480-326-1177
Treasurer:	Mark Thompson	307-631-4474		Paul Wassermann	480-949-1620

BULLFROG SNOT

By Bruce J Brown TCA #95-41451

Bullfrog Snot is an acquired taste. Many O-Gaugers who have tried it absolutely hate it. Searching through Train Collectors Quarterly there never has been a mention of it. Some people may seem embarrassed or shameful ever admitting they've used it. It is expensive, about \$22 for 1 ounce!

the through of a traction wheel. It first exhibits a bluish color but eventually turns green after curing.



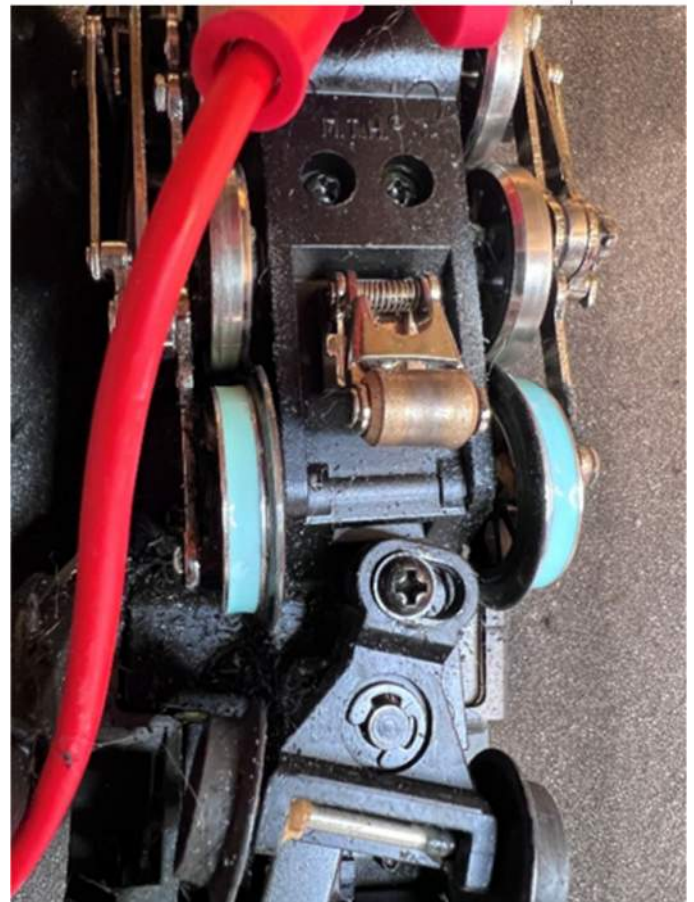
The company advertisement claims it's "extracted from the suffering sinuses of mature Mojave Macho male frogs in mating mode as fast as our rugged wranglers can round 'em up off their free range and herd 'em in...."

What is it for?

It's to make your own traction tires. It is especially useful when it's too difficult to put normal traction tires back on wheels. It's especially useful when it becomes necessary to remove many wheel linkages and drivers or even disassemble engine trucks. Or it can be useful if you simply don't have the correct traction tire replacement at hand.

It is basically a one-part liquid plastic that cures at room temperature to provide a grippy plastic traction tire.

To install, the engine should be placed upside-down in a cradle with power connections to the pickup roller and frame. Power should be applied to set the wheels in motion. Using a toothpick, a few drops of Bullfrog Snot is applied to the rotating driver to form a uniformly smooth surface in





Let the wheel fully cure overnight. I usually wait 24 hours and then I put a second coat on and let that wait another 24 hours. So, it's a 48-hour process! The manufacturer claims you can speed this all up using a hair dryer, but I've had success just waiting it out.

Hazarding a guess, I believe that most O-Gaugers trying Bullfrog Snot have not done the two coatings nor have let it sufficiently cure.

I ran a heavy MTH 2-8-8-2 USRA Mallet steamer with Bull-Frogged driving wheels for 2 continuous hours at the Railroad Park without exhibiting any visible frog-tire decomposition.

Of course, if you have the right traction tire, then use it. It is the preferred solution. But in cases where the potential pain and damage of taking apart a locomotive to put on a new tire becomes a significant risk, Bullfrog Snot may be a reasonable option.



Desert Division Saddle Mountain Brewing Company Hopper Still Available!

BUY YOURS NOW: ONLY \$79.95!
ships to you now!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Quantity @79.95, _____ Shipping @\$15 for one _____ or \$20 for two _____

Pick up at a meeting _____, no shipping cost: Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks to: Desert Division and mail to:

Desert Division

25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.

Paulden, AZ 86334

You can order online: go to TCADD.org



Desert Division Membership Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____ TCA No. _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Dues are \$15.00 per year. (Members may pay up to 5 years in advance). No. of Yrs. X\$15.00=

A Desert Division Badge is \$18.00 (optional):

The Desert Division Newsletter, "The Dispatch", will be sent to your email address.

Make your check payable to: **TCA - Desert Division**

Total \$=

Mail your check to the Division Secretary:

Angelo Lautazi, Div. Secretary 6109 E Sonoran Trl Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Member or Applicant's Signature

Date

Please Indicate Your Hobby Preferences from the Categories Below. Check All that Apply

TRAIN ERA	GAUGE	MANUFACTURER
☐ 1. Pre-war (1850-1942)	☐ 4. O -O27 Gauge	☐ 11. Lionel
☐ 2. Post-war (1945-1969)	☐ 5. S Gauge	☐ 12. MTH
☐ 3. Modern (1970-present)	☐ 6. HO	☐ 13. American Flyer
	☐ 7. G	☐ 14. Williams
	☐ 8. Standard	☐ 15. Plasticville
	☐ 9. N	☐ 16. Other-
	☐ 10. Other-	

TCA Desert Division Web Site: www.tcadd.org

Our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/TCA Desert Division

Email Contacts: President@tcadd.org

Secretary@tcadd.org



**TCA DESERT DIVISION ANNUAL
MODEL and TOY TRAIN
SWAP MEET
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**



SAME LOCATION IN CENTRAL PHOENIX

**Living Streams Church
7000 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85020
Northwest Corner Central and Glendale Ave.**

Featuring

- **YES - We still have 8' tables**
- **FREE** Parking and easy access from I-17 or the 51 Piestewa Freeway @ Glendale Ave
- Multi gauge Test Track will be available on site
- **Vendor drawing for \$100 at 12 noon** - If you are setup when your ticket is called, you win \$100 on the spot! One ticket for each table purchased

TRAIN MEET HOURS

Saturday, November 21, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Admission \$5

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Table Top Auction

VENDOR SETUP:

Saturday 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

TABLE REGISTRTION – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME _____

TCA# _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Email for table confirmation _____

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA & the Desert Division Train Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics, and behavior. I further agree that in the case of a dispute, the meet chairman, or an impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.

Signed X _____ Date _____

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Table Registration to: TCA Desert Division, 1119 W. Plata Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210

More info: Chris Allen 480-820-9559 or email tcadesertdivision@gmail.com

\$30 per 8' table

(Bring your own table cover if desired)

Tables @ \$30 each _____

Requests? _____

**YOUR TABLE REGISTRATION
INCLUDES ONE FREE HELPER
NAME BADGE IF NEEDED**

Helper Name _____

Extra Table Helper Badges are \$5 each

Special Requests? - Contact Meet Chairman

NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 14, 2026



TCA TRAIN

★ DISPLAY ON TRAILER ★

FOR SALE

TRAILER – CLOSED FOR TRANSPORT



\$9,000

– NEGOTIABLE –

— FEATURES: —

- ★ Complete train display on enclosed trailer
- ★ Professionally built layout with multiple tracks
- ★ Fully operational with controls and lighting
- ★ Ready for transport and display at shows and events
- ★ Great centerpiece for exhibitions!
- ★ Has AZ Title & Plate

TRAILER – DISPLAY LAYOUT



CONTACT:

MARK THOMPSON



smurfect2@gmail.com





TCA Rio Grande Chapter

Invites you to a

MODEL TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET

BUY * SELL * SWAP

Trains, scenery, track, collector's items from Lionel, American Flyer, K-Line, MTH, Marx, Hallmark, HO, O, and S Gauge & other scales too.

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Netherwood Park Church of Christ

5101 Indian School Road NE, Albuquerque, NM

See our Modular "O" Gauge Train Layout

SCHEDULE: Setup : Building opens at 7 am (Member Swap 8am to 9am) Meet Opens to Public@ 9am
Meet closes 2pm

RESERVATIONS: Size 6' long tables, chairs provided. **Tables reserved by submitting the form below with a check made out to TCA Rio Grande Chapter and mailed to the swap meet coordinator by October 3, 2026. Reservation forms submitted after the deadline are subject to an additional \$5 late fee per table.**

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Tables assigned by the Meet Coordinator and special requests treated on a first come first served basis; Electrical setup provided as requested. Vendors will please set up for the entire Swap Meet. We will do everything possible to make the event a pleasant experience for vendors as well as the general public.

Swap Meet Coordinator : Scott Eckstein 505-270-0516
10805 Snowheights Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

NAME.....TCA##.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....EMAIL.....

TCA MEMBER #TABLES.....@\$15.00EA.....

Non MEMBER #TABLES.....@\$20.00EA.....

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA Train Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. In case of dispute the Meet Coordinator shall arbitrate the dispute.

Signed.....

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 3, 2026

RAILROAD



- CHANGE



The HOBBYISTS Park & Swap Meet: Free for buyers and sellers. First Saturday of every month, 7 to 9:45 AM. Sellers start setting up about 6 AM and start packing up about 9 AM. A simple outdoor meet in the parking lot of a west Mesa business for a few hours. No charge for buyers or sellers. More information: www.arizonamodeltrains.com/boystoys.shtml

ARENELL SERVICE & REPAIR - FACTORY AUTHORIZED MTH AND LIONEL SERVICE: 1825 E. LAUREL ST. MESA AZ 85203. CALL RAY 602-565-6603 FOR SERVICE APPOINTMENT. ARENELL@AOL.COM TCA#97-45797 Repairs on Postwar Lionel, MPC, LTI as well as MTH "O" Gauge and "G" Gauge. Certified MTH upgrade center Discounts to members of all local clubs. I pay cash for train collections, old or new, large or small. 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

WANTED: New or used Hallmark ornaments, vintage toys, & collectibles. I buy collections large or small. Give me a call and let's chat. Renee Schornack (TCA Rio Grande Chapter) 505-720-5923.

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

FOR SALE: Lionel 38071 SP Cab Forward 4-8-8-4 Brand new, never run \$750. Lionel 51008 Burlington Pioneer Zephyr brand new, never run \$900. Lionel 38014 D&RG Challenger 4-6-6-4 OB \$750. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #10 set, Peacock, 332, 339, 341 cars. Individual boxes and set box \$325. Lionel Prewar STD Gauge #8 set, Red, 337, 338 cars plus transformer. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Lionel Santa Fe 2333-20 P X AB Diesel, battery compartment clean. Individual boxes and set box \$250. Chet Henry 480-532-3065 or bchenry@cox.net

FOR SALE: TRACK SALE – New: Case of GarGraves phantom rail track, 50 sections OB, \$350 (retail \$6454); case of Midwest cork roadbed, 25 pieces OB, \$50 (retail \$75). Can be shipped at actual shipping costs. Peter Atonna mjatonna@gmail.com

FOR SALE: TMK Lionel Prewar 0 & Standard 1900-43, Lionel Postwar 1945-69 TM Lionel 1970-89, 3-Rail price guide, Lionel 1901-95, Lionel 1970-1992, Lionel 1901-1997 each \$20, Greenberg's Repair & Operating Manual 736 pages \$30, Lionel Train Book 131 pages \$20, Hess Toy Truck & Racer 1997 \$15, Southern Cresent Limited 9530-34 new \$75, MDH Track Layout & Accessory Manual 64 pages \$20, MDH Operating 0&027 Trains 237 pages \$20. Dan Martin 520-360-0519. dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: Lionel Model Builder magazine, complete run #1 thru #80 (1937-1949) plus the pre-release Sample Copy of Lionel Model Engineering. All with covers, no cut-outs; \$495 + S/H, or I'll bring to DD meet. Tim Halchuck, Fountain Hills, AZ. Cell 213-700-5455 or email tim@sound-sources.com

FOR SALE: MTH Premier 20-20340-1 DC-3 w/PS3 \$300, MTH MT-6019 UP Four Car aluminum passenger set \$100, MTH 20-6538 Five car ABS passenger set \$150 — PayPal & credit cards - 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: VHS Tapes, Lionel - The Great Years 1955 & 1956 by Joe Algozzini/Don Varda (I have 1954) - Marx 51100 Southern Double Deck Auto Carrier or Flat Cars with trailers/tractors, Marx E-7's - Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

FOR FREE: 22'x30" 8-track rail yard – **FREE!** Includes Gargraves track on Homasote & plywood base, Roos 8-1 switch, 7 Tortoise motors, & electronic switching. Also includes MTH long bridge with flashing light. The two 8' tables can be configured side-by-side to make a 5'x8' table. Legs not included. Bruce Brown 703-850-9890 bruceibrown@gmail.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 ****