

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.



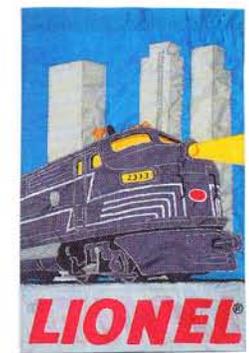
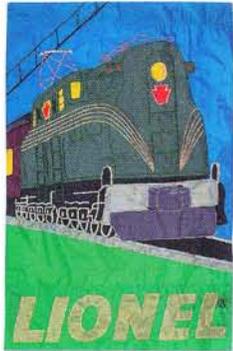
Desert Division *DISPATCH*



ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

Volume 40, No. 4

April, 2010



THOMAS PETER STANGE

In Memoriam
1946-2010

To Tom's Toy Train Friends

Beth Stange - (TCA #93-36984)

He loved sharing his love of trains with you. If you needed help with a train or the wiring on your train layout, he was always more than ready to jump in with advice or assistance if you asked. He knew so much about trains and he loved to share his knowledge with his fellow train collectors. In the 40 plus years that he was a member of the two local clubs, he seldom missed a meeting because he loved toy trains.

He valued every moment that he spent with you. He loved to get together with his friends and talk about things they had done together or would do in the future. I know that we will all miss him and his friendship.

Jonathan Peiffer – (TCA #01-53047)
Desert Division President

Those of you who know me understand that my interests are solidly in scale modeling. Tom was the person who opened my eyes to the interest of Post War Lionel trains. My first layout visitation was to Tom's home. While the normal crowd was there, he was busy entertaining all the guests with his layout and discussing how his 736 Berkshire was one of his best running locomotives.

What made the visit so personally memorable was the conversation we shared after the majority of guests had left. Tom took the time to explain to me all the variations in his collection, show me how to identify certain cars based on the box they shipped with and discussed the differences in the windings of early Lionel motors versus the later ones of the 60's.

After sharing all this incredible knowledge we sat at the chairs at the south end of his train room and proceeded to spend another hour discussing the hobby in general. I treasure this time as I was able to simply spend part of an afternoon talking about our favorite hobby with someone who took it seriously without losing sight of the enjoyment of it. The conversation was engaging, introspective, and enlightening. It is the fellowship we share that helps us deal with life's unexpected twists and turns. Rest in peace, Tom. You are sorely missed.

Gregory Palmer – (TCA#94-39039)
President – Rio Grande Chapter

It is with shock and a heavy heart that I write this remembrance of a one-of-a-kind person. Tom Stange was the first Division member to purchase a train item from me. It was the 1994 Turkey Meet, and Tom and I came to an agreement on the purchase of my three Lionel 2412, 2414, and 2416 Passenger cars. Tom's layout was one of the first Layouts I was invited to in the Division. That was Tom, always making a stranger feel at home. I was flattered that Tom called me, this past spring, to help him during his TCA National Convention Open House.

Tom was also a member of the TCA Standards Committee. I, too, serve on the Standards Committee, having been the TCA Standards Committee Membership Secretary for several years. The Committee needed a Data Base form for each of the members to fill out, in order to help the TCA know what type of knowledge each Standards Committee Member had. A form needed to be designed. This job was given to me. I had several long conversations with Tom over how to get this data base started. Tom asked to design the Data Base form. After several months and several drafts, plus many hours of work, Tom came up with the Data Base Form the Standards Committee now uses. Because of Tom, this important form, now on file for every Standards Committee Member, is being used. This would not have been possible if not for the hard work of Tom Stange. Tom also designed a system and check list on how the TCA Standards Committee could have a presence at every TCA National Convention. This system will be used at the 2010 Convention, and each one after that. Once again, Tom spent hours getting this done. Not only was Tom super knowledgeable about Toy Train paper items and Lionel Post war items, but he was a hard worker for the Committee. Bob Robinson, Chair of the Standards Committee, wanted to express the Committee's feeling that Tom will be hard to replace and will be missed.

In closing I want to also express the feelings of the TCA Rio Grande Chapter. Tom and Beth, though non-Chapter members, signed up for tables at our 2009 Pumpkin Meet. Tom stated that he wanted to help the Chapter and show the whole Division that the Pumpkin Meet was an important show to support.

I will miss the long phone talks on Standards issues, as well as his wonderful hospitality at his home layout tours during my many trips to the Valley of the Sun. Tom, I will miss you, my friend. I want to promise you that I will continue to maintain the high TCA Standards which you always upheld.

Peter Atonna - (TCA #75-7578)
Past President – Desert Division

Tom was the consummate collector. Many of us sort of grow with the hobby, learning as we go. But, from the first time I met Tom, back in 1975, he seemed not only to have the ultimate knowledge about postwar Lionel, but from day one was happy to share information with anyone. His early presentations about every Hudson and their variations set a standard for this type of information for many of us. We both enjoy collecting Lionel paper, but he was leagues ahead of all of us, and again delighted in sharing his finds and knowledge. So, in summary to me, Tom was the best you could ask for in our hobby: knowledgeable, outgoing, and eager to share the hobby with all comers.

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Fred Hunter – (TCA #91-33521)
Past-President – Desert Division

My first remembrance of Tom goes back to Chicago and the beginning of his career with Motorola in 1966. Shortly after his employment, there was a large move to relocate a small group of engineering personnel to Scottsdale in 1968---Tom and I were both in that move. Tom was a dedicated employee who took his job seriously. After many years of working with Tom, we never talked about trains until my first grandson was born and I needed a transformer to run my childhood train under the Christmas tree. Well, that opened Tom's flood gates and I came to realize *his passion, dedication, and reach out for toy trains*. We became "best buds." On the advice of another fellow Motorolan, Chuck Bitter, I joined the Desert Division TCA. Throughout the years I learned to appreciate the depth of his knowledge, passion, *continuous focused efforts of discovery, and quest for authenticity*. Tom published numerous articles about his hobby---most noteworthy, his treatise on the variations of Lionel's 773 Hudson steam engine and tender. His knowledge of toy trains gained him a position on the TCA National *Standards Committee* which he held with pride. Also, as one of the *founding fathers* of the Desert Division he proudly maintained the position of Desert Division *Historian*.

During my 4-year tenure as president of the Desert Division, Tom was a *loyal supporter* and I could always count on him to join me in helping with planning events or just getting things done. Turnabout became fair play when Tom was selected to be the Chairman for the TTOS convention in 1999---he called on me to help him. His *methodical approach* to running a meeting and his *strict adherence to detail* paid off with the most successful convention the TTOS ever experienced. I can still hear him saying---We did it!!!

Rest in Peace my friend---your smile, your calm demeanor and your resolute passion for toy trains will never be forgotten.

Bill Mack - (TCA #77-11581)
Past President – Desert Division

This is a loving tribute to a gentle, wonderful man. There was no project that Tom undertook that he didn't put his heart and soul into it. Tom was devoted and dedicated to model trains and anxious to help fellow club members in any way that he could.

Tom traded his original train set that he received as a boy for a pair of roller skates. Years later when he built his new layout in the garage, Tom was able to recreate his childhood train set on his new layout. How proud he was of this newly built train room. He so enjoyed hosting various events and showing others his magnificent collection.

Our two children, David and Carol, had a happier Christmas each year because of Tom's efforts in playing Santa. He always did so with joy and enthusiasm.

Tom eagerly supported Beth in her Girl Scout involvement and adored being with his family. There will always be emptiness at our train meets without Tom. I enjoyed all our special times together, knowing that I could always depend on Tom's help whenever I asked for it. Tom was a special friend. The Mack family will truly miss him.

Roger Carp – (TCA #92-34854)
Senior Editor - Classic Toy Trains Magazine

My memories of Tom Stange revolve around the wonderful day that I spent with him and his wife when Classic Toy Trains featured their collection. Tom and Beth were perfect hosts, making my photographer and me feel right at home with their warmth, love of trains, hospitality, and laughter. Tom's dedication to collecting the finest Lionel trains and accessories was plain, yet he was never overbearing or competitive. Instead, he delighted in sharing his trains and many wonderful stories of the pieces he had picked up. Tom also enjoyed sharing the hobby with Beth, as they did everything. We talked about music, especially their appreciation of classic country songs, and their travels to TCA conventions. Above all, Tom understood that, as important as our trains can be, they never replace the wonderful people that come our way the longer we participate in this great hobby. That's why I'll long remember Tom as an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and friendly member of the toy train community.

Bob Caplan – (TCA #82-18679)
Past President - TCA National

I am greatly saddened of the passing of a great friend to me that will be ever so much part of my heart, Tom Stange. My warmest condolences to his wife, Beth. May the Lord be with her and their family during this time. Tom and I go back quite a few years. We worked hand in hand on the creation of the TCA Paper and Box Grading Standards. I remember the great smile and laugh he shared to all that knew him, whether new or old. He always lent a hand with his wide knowledge of paper and odd train variations. Tom was always there to assist setting up the Standards Table and Standard Displays at the Desert Division and at TCA Nor-Cal Train Meets. The many times I visited both Tom and Beth at their home, they always had a very warm welcome, and Tom and I got into great detailed conversations as he shared with pride items from his collection from A to Z. I just had a long conversation with him regarding the New Paper and Box CD for Grading Standards and we looked forward to seeing each other at TCA Nor-Cal. He will be missed greatly, but won the hearts of many. May God Bless.

Gordon Wilson – (TCA #76-10233)
Past- President – Desert Division
Past-President – National TCA

I first met Tom Stange in January of 1979. I was here in the Valley on a Sabbatical Leave of Absence doing Doctorate Level work at Arizona State University's School of Music. From then until this past February, there were many memorable moments that come to mind between Tom and myself. As Post-War Lionel collectors, we sought and chased after many of the same Lionel items. It was Tom's "sharing" for about a week of his 6464 Solid Green Shield Rutland Box Car that ultimately led to my determining the 5 major factors between a "Real" and "Memorex" Solid Shield Rutland Box Car. For the uninitiated, the 6464-300 Solid Shield Rutland Box Car is, at once, one of the rarest AND one of the most "faked" Lionel 6464 box cars on the market. It commands a premium price, so if you're going to spend THAT amount of money, you had better be 100% certain of what you are viewing. Tom had a real one; I didn't, but I had a lead on one. Tom allowed me to peruse his for over a week, studying every nuance so I would not make a BIG financial mistake. I was able to determine there are 5 major areas which must "BE" in order for it to be considered as completely original.

However, the one remembrance which stands out most to me happened way back in March of 1979. Prior to coming to study at ASU, in the spring of 1978 in New Jersey, I'd had a "Breaking and Entering" take place at my home and some toy trains were stolen. Among them was a Tuscan, Solid Stripe #2340 GG-1. In February of 1979, I located, in Tucson, a replacement for the GG-1 that had been stolen. The semester/Easter break was soon coming up and I was preparing to return to New Jersey during that break. A week before, at the Desert Division Meet, then held at the Town and Country Shopping Mall on Camelback Road and about 28th Street, someone blew up a locker at the Philadelphia, PA airport, the one I'd be flying into. I figured that I'd never be allowed to carry a Lionel train onto an airplane because of all the wires, metal, and simply because most of the security people were too young to know what a Lionel train even WAS. My idea was then to pack it in my checked luggage. What happened next was an incident that would have a far-reaching effect on me and my future with Toy Trains, the Desert Division, and Tom Stange. I needed something into which my newly purchased 2340 GG-1 could be placed, so it could and would survive the rough handling that airline luggage is subjected to.

I arose at the March Desert Division Meeting and asked those in attendance if anyone had a Lionel train box that a GG-1 would fit into, which I could borrow/use to get my train safely back to New Jersey. Only one person responded and that was Tom. He told me to follow him to his home after the meet and he was sure he'd have something that would work. That "something" turned out to be a LN box for a 773 Hudson, into which the 2340 GG-1 fit perfectly. It was amazing! Tom barely knew me as I was basically a stranger from New Jersey, but that's how sharing Tom was to everyone. I've never forgotten that bit of kindness he showed and it went a long way to helping me to decide that this was the area of the USA in which I'd like to relocate someday. As it turned out, Tom was one portion of a group of truly "giving" train people known as The Desert Division – TCA. I feel blessed to be a part of this group and Tom was the catalyst who started it all for me. Thank you and bless you, Tom Stange. You were and are very special to me, Christie, and the Desert Division.

Nick Ladd – (TCA #63-913)
Past President – TCA National

I can only remember one time when I ever saw Tom without his yachting cap...at a TCA banquet. He did have hair...nice and curly and brown. Very handsome. Beth, his beautiful bride, told me in confidence that he wore it all the time...at meals...in the shower... at meets and even in bed. I accepted this bit of information as gospel as that cap was as much a part of Tom as was his sparkling laugh, his down-to-earth enthusiasm for collecting trains, and his good-hearted nature which led him to do so much for others without a minute's thought. He was, in every sense of the word, a truly unique individual whose like will not pass our way again.

Tom and I first met at a train meet (I cannot remember which) and we three - Tom, Beth and I - had dinner. I kept wondering throughout the dinner, how did a little troll like Tom attract such a wonderful life partner like Beth? It didn't take long to realize that his personality, persistence, and pluck won her hand.

Later, Tom and I did business together, while K-Line Trains existed. We set him up as a dealer and we participated in making many souvenir cars for the train collecting organizations in the Southwest. It was a very rewarding experience, even though Tom and Beth picked my pockets on many occasions during this period. It was my pleasure to help the Division in any way I could, especially as Tom was the inspiration for so many projects.

In later years, we visited each other at TCA National Conventions. Our last convention was in San Antonio, Texas. We went everywhere together, did everything together, drank everything together, and lo and behold, Tom and I were seen in identical yachting caps together. People were amazed. Could there be two such "nuts" in the world? Yes, it was true. I wore a cap just like his, not only as a joke, but as a tribute to an individual unlike any other I had ever known...Tom Stange...a true character.

Rest in peace old friend...your old friend misses you.

Paul Wassermann – (TCA #73-5169)
Past President – Desert Division
Past President – TCA National

The Desert Division and TCA lost one of its most ardent members with the passing of our friend, Tom Stange. Tom was the first TCA member I met when I became active in the Desert Division in 1974. Over the years Tom devoted his considerable wisdom and energy to the club he helped found. I will especially fondly remember the monthly evenings Tom, Vern Snyder, Chuck Bitter, and I would assemble at one of our homes, bringing a favorite train to run on the host layout. As a result of these evenings we would expand our train knowledge and friendship, enjoying the great company of friends, trains, and snacks!

Tom was one of the first TCA collectors to recognize the power of the computer in train collecting. He systematically identified, researched, and recorded his train collection; and in the pre- laptop days carried all of this information around in loose leaf binders. He was an absolute authority on the Lionel Hudsons, right down to noting the color of the insulation on the armature windings.

However, the most lasting contribution of Tom (and of course, Beth) was the Stange open door policy; the home was always available as an after Turkey Meet party venue, convention layout tour site, board meeting location, and, most importantly, “Why don’t you just come over and play trains?” place.

Whether serving as Santa Claus, board member, K-Line distributor, division president, Lionel authority, Standards Committee guru, or just Tom Stange, train collector, Tom’s enthusiasm and enjoyment of trains and train collectors left his imprint upon all of us and we were all made better by his association with us. Thank you, Tom. Your legacy lives on.

Mark C. Boyd – (TCA #77-10940)
Editor, Train Collectors Quarterly

Tom Stange was a friend of mine. His passing on Saturday February 27th was a shock and I will miss him. Tom and I talked last March about him and Beth visiting my home and train collection on his next trip to northern California for the Spring Cal Stewart Meet in Santa Clara. Now, that adventure will never happen and I am both saddened and reminded not to put off what you can do today. Friendships are for a time and when that time has passed, those moments can only live in our memory.

Tom always had a way of finding that rare variation of a postwar car or accessory that I missed on my first trip around the trading hall. He was very proud of finding that Tuscan 651751 N5c caboose at the TCA National Convention and I remember the color variations he spotted before I did in several other pieces at the Spring Cal Stewart Meet auction. If Tom was bidding on an item, you had better look twice to make sure he didn't see something you had missed. I always looked forward to "shooting the breeze" with Tom about his latest finds. Sometimes he even spotted variations I swore weren't variations. That generated several minutes of good conversation.

I so enjoyed seeing his collection in 1997 at the first Desert Division TCA National Convention. He had many items I only dreamed of owning like his Sears 2347 Chesapeake and Ohio GP7. I remember him running his 1905 Lionel #6 locomotive on his layout with such pride that it ran as well as it did 100 years earlier when it was new out of the box. So returning again in 2009 for the TCA National Convention was a real treat I looked forward to. This time, I brought my wife to witness that I wasn't the only one to overcome the house with trains.

I shall miss my friend Tom and my prayers go to his wonderful wife Beth. Goodbye good friend.

Jerry Calkins - (TCA #85-22009)
National Secretary – Lionel Collectors Club of America

Connie and I have many fond memories of Tom Stange. We first met Tom in the early '90's at a TTOS meeting. He was wearing his captain's hat and standing next to Beth. We immediately thought of the “Captain and Tennille.” From time to time, we would kid him about it. He always took it in good humor. Working with Tom on the TTOS convention was a real treat. His enthusiasm and confidence that we could pull off one of the greatest TTOS conventions was contagious. As we were cleaning up on the last day, I just commented to him with, “Good job, we did it!” He didn't say anything but just smiled. On another occasion, I went to pick up some trains from Tom, upon arriving at his house, I was invited inside and to my surprise there was Tom sitting on a ceiling joist installing the sprinkler system during the remodeling. His feet were dangling into the room as he attempted to steady himself and use one hand to tighten the various fittings. You could imagine the sight with him wearing shorts and a tee shirt, perspiring profusely and making several interesting comments. Tom was willing to help especially in tempting me to buy K-line. He will be missed by us and many others.

Richard Gayle – (TCA #87-25501)

Dear Tom,

Mary Ann and I were shocked to receive the news of your passing. You were one of the first people to welcome me into TCA in 1987 when I joined the Club. I always thought of you as the Guy to go to for help with Lionel Trains. Sometimes only a phone call was all it took to fix a problem. Other times a trip to your house was required to fix the problem or to purchase a part. No matter what, you took the time to help.

One thing you did that I have remembered over the years was the time you shared a copy of your computerized train inventory program with me. I said at the time I did not have a computer. You said that was OK, that sometime I would, and you gave it to me anyway.

Tom, wherever you are at this time, I am sure you are in the company of some great model railroaders and having fun operating Lionel Trains. You are probably even a member of their Standards Committee, or maybe even Chairman of their Standards Committee.

While you were here, you did so much to further Lionel model railroading, to make it a quality hobby that many people – men, women, and children – could enjoy for a lifetime. Joshua Lionel Cowan would be proud of your efforts.

Well, Tom, you are on board the last train out of town. The conductor has signaled the engineer that it is time to go, and the train is starting to move.

Farewell, Old Friend. You will be missed by all.

Bill Jenkins – (TCA #85-22097)

My first Desert Division Meeting/Home Visit was at Tom's home – so impressive. Tom and Beth couldn't have been more welcoming. They were good hosts and set the tone for this Division's hospitality.

Denise Micale

“The most beautiful things in the world are not seen or touched. They are felt with the heart.” (Helen Keller)

Ed and I are so saddened to hear of Tom Stange's recent passing. He was truly a great ambassador for the Desert Division and for the hobby of model trains. I always enjoyed seeing Tom's layout at Christmas gatherings and open houses. The care and attention he lavished on it was very evident and his enthusiasm was always contagious. But, what was always most inspiring about Tom, to me, was his bright spirit. Whenever I would see him at an event or gathering, there would be a smile, a warm greeting and a hug, an easy conversation, to welcome me, and everyone else in the room! Tom's cheerfulness, sincerity and genuineness touched my heart, and I am sure, touched many others. Ed and I send our heartfelt sympathy to Beth and to their family and friends. Tom will be sorely missed but will also be fondly remembered.

John Wiley – (TCA #92-36406)

Just about 18 years ago, as a new TCA member, I first met Tom at a Desert Division meeting held at Ray Korte's Chevy Dealership. Tom was very friendly to everyone as he walked around the room. If I had a question about Lionel Trains, he would always try to help. Tom and Beth invited club members to their house, even as construction on Tom's new train room and Beth's new kitchen was winding down. We will all miss Tom, as he was the special kind of member that we all would wish to be.

Bob Grassi – (TCA #96-43742)

I knew Tom from the many times he participated in the GPD train meets in Tucson. I was in charge of the meets for 7 years and I don't think he missed one of them. When K-Line was still in existence, Tom was their main supply source in the area. He had the best selection and greatest prices. Most important of all, he was a kind, gentle man who was a pleasure to deal with, either as a table buyer or seller of trains. I always looked forward to seeing him at each meet. Rest well, Tom. You were a good human being. No more can be asked of any man.

Ed Georgevich - (TCA #97-44995)

The sounds of Lionel will never be the same without you. While I have not been around much over the past year, thank you for always taking the time to talk and teach me about this wonderful hobby! His knowledge and friendship will be missed by many, but I will always remember him telling me to bring that 773 Hudson I had won at the meet, explaining the history and how to care for it, followed by taking it for a spin on his layout. That was the last time it has hit the rails, and the next time it's on the rails I will blow the whistle in memory of you! Thanks for the memories and the friendship I will cherish forever. You will be greatly missed!!!

Dan Palaschak – (TCA #89-28891)

When I joined TCA in 1989, one of the first people I met was Cole Gibbs, who took me around and introduced me to the members, including Tom Stange.

Tom was a burly guy but as gentle as they come. Ever patient, he took a train novice like me and took the time to explain all the variations of an engine like the 1950's 773 Hudson versus the 1967 variety. Tom was a walking encyclopedia of post war Lionel and his extensive collection of variations was truly amazing. Once he called me because he knew I was looking for a Seaboard switcher. He had a beauty and we made the deal over the phone. Ever the gentleman, Tom delivered it to me at the Holiday Inn in Scottsdale.

Not only will the division miss Tom, but all of TCA shares the loss of one guy who stood out of the crowd when it came to toy trains. Tom, rest in peace and have fun playing trains with Cole, Bill, Al and Frank.

Scott C. Russell - (TCA #96-44125)

My Children's Santa

When I joined the Desert Division in 1996 one of the first events we attended as a family was the annual Christmas Party. At this time my children (Kevin and Sarah) were small. Needless, their party highlight each year for many years to come, was Santa (AKA Tom). He sat them on his lap each year, gave them gifts, and laughed a deep 'Santa' laugh. Only very rarely did my wife and I take Kevin and Sarah to see Santa at the mall. Therefore, Tom, in their young minds, was "their" Santa. He was a perfect Santa, round, bearded, and jovial. When I recently told Kevin and Sarah about Tom's death, both immediately got a sad expression on their faces. He was, after all, "their" Santa. My daughter got a little teary as memories of Tom came to her mind. After a few minutes, Sarah asked about the woman with the long blond hair that Tom used to flirt with at the meetings. I told her that was Tom's wife Beth. "Oh" she said, as a new understanding entered her head. For my children, Tom will always hold a place in their hearts and minds as "their" one and only Santa.

LIFE'S TRAIN RIDE

Anonymous

LIFE is like a train ride. We get on. We ride. We get off. We get back on and ride some more. There are accidents and there are delays. At certain stops there are surprises. Some of these will translate into great moments of joy; some will result in profound sorrow.

When we are born and we first board the train, we meet people whom we think will be with us for the entire journey. These people are our parents. Sadly, this is far from the truth. They too have journeys they must complete. We live on with the memories of their love, affection, friendship, guidance, and their ever presence.

There are others who board the train and who eventually become very important to us as well. These people are our brothers, sisters, friends, and dear acquaintances, whom we will learn to love, trust, and cherish.

Some people go merrily along on their journey. Others will encounter many upsets, tears, and losses on their journey. Yet, others still will linger on to offer a helping hand to anyone in need.

Some people on the train will leave an everlasting impression when they get off... some will get on and get off the train so quickly, they will scarcely leave a sign that they ever traveled along with you or even crossed your path.

We will sometimes be upset that some passengers whom we love will choose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own. Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out, anyway! Nevertheless, once sought out and found, we may not even be able to sit next to them because that seat will already be taken.

Everyone's journey will be filled with hopes, dreams, challenges, setbacks, and goodbyes. We must strive to make the best of it ... no matter what. We must constantly strive to understand our travel companions and look for the best in everyone. Remember that at any moment during our journey, any one of our travel companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help.

We, too, may vacillate or hesitate, even trip ... hopefully we can count on someone being there to be supportive and understanding. The bigger mystery of our journey is that we don't know when our last stop will come. Neither do we know when our travel companions will make their last stop, not even those sitting in the seat right next to us.

Personally I know I'll be sad to make my final stop ... I'm sure of it. I'm also certain that one day I'll get to the main station only to meet all my dear family, friends and acquaintances. They'll all be carrying their baggage most of which they didn't have when they first stepped on this train. I'll be glad to see them again. I'll be glad to have contributed to their baggage and to have enriched their lives, just as much as they will have contributed to my baggage and enriched my life.

We're all on this train ride together. Above all, we should try to strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until we each make the final stop and leave this train for the last time.

ALL ABOARD

SAFE JOURNEY

BON VOYAGE

THE MANY FACES OF TOM STANGE



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Volume 40, No. 4

April, 2010

MARCH MARCHES IN

President Jonathan Peiffer welcomed members and guests to the Division meeting at 10:03AM. Jonathan spoke about Tom Stange and remembering him. A table was reserved in Tom’s honor. Guests were: Andy Lacy of Glendale, AZ, and Ed Melone and Ed Georgevich of Phoenix, AZ.

Bob Herman reported the treasury totals: Checking \$18,340.29, Savings: \$23,289.30.

An Auction of high-end items will be held on April 10, 2010. There will be food for all members in attendance. The auction will be open to the public at Noon. Each lot will have a \$5.00 fee. The minimum bid will be \$5.00 per lot. There may be reserves. Anyone interested in submitting lots should contact Chet Henry, Auction Chair. There are flyers available for handing out regarding the auction.

The Holiday Party, December 5, 2010, will be held at the Marriott in Mesa in the afternoon instead of in the morning. A publicity company “Mind the Gap” may help to market the Turkey Meet. Jonathan is looking into working with them. The Desert Division will be participating in the 3-R’s at Falcon Field on April 17, 2010. Please notify Katie Elgar, Jonathan Peiffer, or Dallas Dixon if you are able to help set up or run trains. If you are interested in having your train layout open after a meeting, please contact Katie Elgar who is coordinating these events.

Education Segment: Jonathan brought 2- nicely detailed 2-rail O scale cars to show. The manufacturer is unknown. Len Gordy collects American Flyer and Lionel non-toy items. He brought in a Lionel telephone that he found at the convention.

Raffles prizes were awarded as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jonathan Peiffer | Hudson Ticket |
| Jack Eaton | Lionel Trains Book, 1900-1942 |
| Ken Barnes | Lionel NYC Derrick Car |
| Terry Fagan | K-Line Virginian Caboose |
| Jack Eaton | TCA Calendar, Fork Lift & Candy |
| Terry Bunish | Lionel Action 5 DVD set |
| Tom Plies | TCA Bear |

The \$100.00 Hudson Raffle drawing was won by Wayne Ross.



COMING UP

APRIL 10 –Division “Pizza Meetza” and Auction – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

APRIL 17 – Runways, Roads and Rails – Falcon Field – 8 AM

APRIL 22-24 – Eastern Division Meet – York, PA

MAY 8 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MAY 22 – Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico – 10 AM

JUNE 5 – Summer Show & Meet – Tucson – 9 AM

JUNE 12 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

JUNE 20-27 – 56th Annual TCA Convention – Baltimore, MD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How many times have you heard the phrase, "I think we have a failure to communicate?" Whether it is at work, in the family, or within our Division, communication is a skill that is the most important aspect of how we interact and often the source of the most frustration when it doesn't happen.

Last month, our Division suffered a great loss and the pages of this Dispatch are filled with memories of one our most active members over the entire history of the club. With a tight deadline last month to get the Dispatch delivered to the printer, the editing team was forced with a dilemma: print the issue as is, or rewrite a portion to get the news out knowing full well that it might arrive a day late. Sadly the issue arrived the day of Tom's funeral and many members were shocked and saddened that they could not attend the memorial.

Considering the circumstances we did the best we could, but it still tells us we have some work to do on member communications. As a direct result, I am in the process of putting all of your contact information into an e-mail distribution list for immediate updates when they need to occur. TCA Desert Division has a Facebook page that is updated frequently with the latest events and information. If you have not stepped into the social networking revolution, I would encourage you to do so.

Communication needs to be two-way. Thank you to everyone who took the time to pull me aside at the last meeting to express your concerns. Without feedback, we will never move forward with new ideas. If you have a suggestion on ways we can as a Division stay more connected, please feel free to suggest it.

Speaking of communication, we have an auction coming up. To my knowledge, very few members have indicated that they plan on entering items in the auction. Without your items, this auction will not be nearly as successful. Please contact Chet Henry (480-838-0783) and let him know how many lots you plan on entering.

Finally, we are running modules at Falcon Field on the 17th of April and need people to set up on the 16th as well as run and tear down on the 17th. Please check with Katie Elgar (623-580-6957) to let her know if you can help out. Mesa is expecting 10,000 people to arrive. What an opportunity to promote TCA, trains, and this great hobby.

As always, I look forward to a brisk meeting on the 10th, so we can move onto the fun task of eating, socializing and enjoying a great auction. See you there!



BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 7, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Bob and Sue Johnston. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 623-582-2110 to be sure there are enough chairs.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131
Vice-President:	Bob Johnston	623-582-2110
Secretary:	Fred Hunter	480-947-3639
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730
Directors:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957
	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
	Ralph Treichel	602-863-6985
	Marty Wik	480-488-8625

CAMARADERIE IS THE NAME OF THE GAME IN THE DESERT DIVISION

A view of the Rotary Pavilion at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park during the Spring Picnic – 3/20/10



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive your newsletter in living color, and a day or two before the rest of the members see theirs in black and white? Just fill out the form below and return it to Christie Wilson, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. You may also forward the information via e-mail at christie1wilson@aol.com.

Name _____

TCA Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

PIZZA-MEETZA AUCTION

Come One – Come All

Our next monthly meet is a Desert Division “ORIGINAL,” the famous PIZZA-MEETZA. However, this year it will also honor those who helped make the 55th TCA Convention Celebration a success. So everyone, “COME ONE, COME ALL,” bring the whole family for a super CELEBRATION at the PIZZA-MEETZA on April 10. After we have filled our stomachs, we will begin the April Auction.

What about the Auction? Much of the contents, about 150 lots of it, are what remains from the Sun City Collection that was a part of our last Turkey Meet Auction. In other words (and pictures), it is many cuts above the quality of merchandise you’ve seen at the Pizza Meetza in the past 2-3 years. Do you have items you’d like to have auctioned off that are quality pieces? For \$5.00 a lot, you may have Peter Atonna skillfully do “his thing” after our sumptuous luncheon feast. You may also enter a reasonable Reserve Bid on your lot. We will not accept as lots any “junk lots” – no rusty track, beat up junk cars, or things good for parts only. To aid you, we are attaching a few photos of items that you will be bidding on this April 10. Contact Chet Henry (480-838-0783 or e-mail bchenry@cox.net) at once to reserve your spot in the Auction Line. At \$5 per lot, how can you lose, especially when there is a regular meet at 9:00 AM and a FREE MEAL at lunchtime? The Division wishes to say Thank You to EVERYONE for their contributions in presenting to all of TCA another EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Come join us at our PIZZA MEETZA AUCTION.

Family, Food, and Toy Trains –
AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION –
DON’T MISS IT.

April 10 – 9:00 AM to ??? PM

SNEAK PREVIEW OF SOME OF THE LOTS

The following photos are from the Sun City Collection, including super Standard Gauge items.



2026 Loco and 2466WX Tender



385E Std. Gauge Loco and Tender



Left: 2440,
2440, 2441
Passenger
Cars, 0 Gauge



Right:
Passenger Car
Set 1766,
1767, 1768,
Std. Gauge



512 Std. Gauge Gondola



514 Std. Gauge Box Car



515 Shell Std. Gauge Tank Car

The photos below are from a member who has committed **QUALITY** items to the Pizza Meetza Auction. Add your items to the mix and come prepared to bid real money after **EATING** your fill!



Left: 1965 Set #11540

Above: Enesco Hudson Cookie Jar



6468-25 NH Automobile Car



6026W and 2224W Whistle Tenders



6-18501 Western Maryland NW-2 Switcher w/bell and Magne Traction
6-19704 Extended Vision Smoking Caboose



610 Erie NW-2 Switcher



16 Cast Figures



Boxed set of Britains USMC Soldiers

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

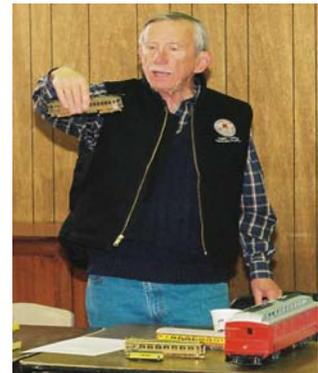
by Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039

An unusual snow storm came through Albuquerque in the early morning hours before our March Meet. However by 9:00 AM, the sun came out and the three inches of snow melted enough for the Chapter members to come to the Meet. We also had a guest, James Vigil, who came with member Dale Schafer. He obtained a TCA membership packet and had two members sign his application on the spot. The Chapter Meet had no items for sale so we moved to the Education Segment for a little Show and Tell action. First was Warren Smalley with his collection of Trolleys in both HO and G Gauge. He gave a very interesting talk about the Toonerville Trolley and the Trolley system in Louisville, KY. Next was Paul Hurford who brought a Lionel 6657 Rio Grande Caboose. He showed the group the added ladders on the Caboose, and warned everyone of how easy it is to fake scarce items such as this car. Don Kuster showed off his Lionel Trains Inc. American Flyer S Gauge Disney Boxcar, one of many American Flyer Disney items from the 1990's. George Domeny brought a Pre-War American Flyer O Gauge Boxcar. This car has stamped markings that say SHOP WORN. Thus this item was sold from factory reject stock, a very scarce item. Davis Nycz brought in a Book Review from the Wall Street Journal. It is the new book on the Fred Harvey Hotel and Restaurants, entitled Appetite For America. This book is a "must have" for anybody who has eaten at a Fred Harvey Restaurant such as the Alvarado in Albuquerque, the La Fonda in Santa Fe, or the La Posada in Winslow, AZ. Our guest James Vigil brought in a magazine from Pre War times on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Dale Schafer showed some Lionel Post War Truck variations. It was a good learning experience for all who collect Lionel Post war equipment. I brought two Toonerville Trolley windup floor toys. I told the group I would bring them because of last month's book that John Trever brought on the Toonerville Trolley. I also brought a Lionel Speartone Record Player from the early 1960's plus two records one a Spear Record, the other a scarce Lionel Record that I had purchased from John Trever. As you can see the TCA Rio Grande Chapter has members with knowledge in all types of trains from the real thing, to G Gauge, O Gauge, S Gauge, HO, and toys. It is always great to see everybody's interests.

The regular portion of the Meet started with the Treasurer's Reported that we have \$826.03 in the Checking Account. This did not reflect the deposit we paid the Hotel last week. The Pumpkin Meet Contract is signed for October 31, 2010. The times will be 8:30-9:00 AM for TCA Members and 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, for the public. The Auction will run from 2:30-4:30 PM, with a preview starting at 1:30 PM. We also voted to have our Pumpkin Meet Dinner at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel on Saturday, October 30th at 6:00 PM. A complete list of food and times will be in the next issue of the Dispatch. A sign up sheet will also be in future newsletters, along with our Turkey Meet Flyer for table sign up. We now have room for 75 tables and more room for more module groups. I am hoping that Desert Division members will spend Halloween weekend with us. The Dinner will cost \$34.00 for the entree, salad and dessert. The choice of Prime Rib, Stuffed Chicken, and a Vegetarian offering will be the fare. We will also give out the first TCA Rio Grande Chapter Member of the Year Award. Please plan on coming, a raffle, or silent Auction will also take place, for Train related prizes. The Chapter will also have a special Raffle for a Lionel LLC GP-9 in Southern Pacific colors with TMCC and Railsounds. Tickets will be \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. We will draw at the Pumpkin Meet. If you want tickets you can now send the cash to me and I will mail you a ticket. In addition, they will be available at the September Meet and the Pumpkin Meet as well. Carl Cataline has given the Chapter a contact number to call to get the Boy Scouts involved in the Pumpkin Meet for Merit Badges. We are also planning an August Activity on the Santa Fe Southern Railroad, and a possible trip in the fall with the TTOSNMD on the Rail Runner Express to Santa Fe. Details to follow.

The After Meet Activity had to be cancelled due to the weather. Jon Spargo told me that the 2926 Restoration Project had to close because of the snow. He gave us a rain check, so I hope to do it after the September Meet. As you can see, if you do not come to our Regular Meets you are missing a lot of fun activities.

Our next meet will be at the New Mexico Railroad Fair, May 22nd at Expo New Mexico School Arts Building at 9:00 AM. The Chapter Meet will be at 10:00 AM. If you want tables please contact the Golden Spike International Company-Bryan Moseley at 505-345-0657. The Rio Grande Chapter members last year made up 25% of the tables at the Rail Fair. It is a show that has a lot of advertising and a good crowd. Hope to see all of you on May 22 at the NM Rail Fair at Expo New Mexico School Arts Building, and at 10:00AM for our Meet.



Warren Smalley shows off his trolley collection.

SPRING PICNIC

As usual, the Spring Picnic represented the best of everything. The weather was superb; the chefs were fantastic; the camaraderie was evident; the children had a grand time; and the food was “over the top.” Hot dogs and brats were embellished with baked beans, sauerkraut, plus all manner of salads, sides, and desserts. The Rotary Ramada, in the far corner, gave us privacy and plenty of room. Raffle prizes appealed to all buyers, and the Mystery Box brought in an amazing set of bids. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success.



Chefs Martin and Lautazi feed the crowd.

LIONEL, TV, and a GEIGER COUNTER - REVISITED

by Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039

I read Gordon Wilson’s article on the Lionel Geiger Counter and the Television program NCIS. Gordon wondered about the possibility that the Lionel Geiger Counter he viewed on the NCIS program might still be in use at a 21st Century government facility. I can tell all of you that I am positive that a Lionel Geiger Counter, built in 1963, was used at a government facility up to the turn of the 21st Century. I have in my collection of things Lionel, a Civil Defense Radiation Monitoring set #CD V-777A, which was marked and used at a government facility. This set has three Geiger Counters in it: a Lionel CDV-700, a Victoreen CDV-715 and a Victoreen CDV-720 Geiger Counter. Plus it has Dosimeters and a Dosimeter Charger. It also has several manuals about management of shelters, plus the operation of the Geiger Counters.



Set #CDV-777A, including three Geiger Counters.

The way I know this set was used in a shelter, up to just recently, is the fact that the Geiger Counters in this set were re-calibrated in May of 1992. Geiger Counters stay calibrated for several years, thus this Civil Defense Set was used into the first part of the 21st Century. So I think the Geiger Counter Gordon saw, which was a Lionel Electronic Labs CDV-700 Geiger Counter, which was in use on a Hollywood produced show about the NCIS, could still be in use at a real NCIS lab today. Go figure. I guess Lionel made a Geiger Counter that stood the test of time many times over.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

By Peter Atonna, TCA #75-7578

Amtrak's National Train Day will be celebrated in Williams. You may have seen articles about Amtrak raising the awareness of our passenger train and railroad heritage through an annual National Train Day in early May. This year, our Grand Canyon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Grand Canyon Railway are joining to host a National Train Day event on May 8 and 9 in Williams at the GCR's depot. Highlight of the weekend will be the first runs of steamer #4960 this year, pulling hourly 45 minute round trips from the depot. In addition there will be displays of railroad equipment from the GCR, our NRHS chapter and the BNSF. A half dozen model railroads will be operating including rides on a live steam train. Other exhibits will include the Arizona State Railroad Museum, Operation Lifesaver, a railroad simulator, and live entertainment. Train rides are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, all other activities are free. The show is open from 10am to 6:30pm each day.

You can get more information on National Train Day on the Amtrak website at: www.nationaltrainday.com or the Grand Canyon Railway at: www.thetrain.com/national-train-day-8037.html.

SUPPORT THE DIVISION RAFFLES

Again this year, we have multiple raffles to appeal to every preference in toy trains. The Hudson Raffle is off to a good start with ticket sales running ahead of last year. So far, we have had two \$100 winners. You could be next, but only if you purchase a ticket. The price for this \$1500 engine is a mere \$25 for a raffle ticket.

In June we will be pulling the lucky Spring Raffle winning tickets. You could win a MTH Railing Southern Pacific Scale SW9 Switcher, a Lionel Operating Draw Bridge, or an American Flyer 769A Aircraft Beacon. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Get yours at the Meet on April 10.

2010 Desert Division Spring Raffle

2010 Desert Division Spring Raffle



First Prize:

MTH Railking Scale SW9 Switcher with PS2.0

Southern Pacific



Second Prize:

Lionel Operating Draw Bridge

6-14173



Third Prize:

American Flyer

769A Aircraft Beacon 3/16" scale



Tickets:

1 for \$10

3 for \$25

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RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - CONSIGNMENTS - MTH 19th Century AT&SF 4-6-0 loco w/PS2, tender, gondola, cattle car, bobber caboose \$229.95- MTH Overton coaches Rudolf and Blitzen \$59.95/pair – MTH Premier Santa Fe SD40-2 working blue paint scheme w/PS2 \$279.95- MTH Premier freight cars SF gondola w/junk load \$29.95, SF flat w/trailer \$34.95, UP flat w/48’ trailer – 60’ Budweiser refer \$39.95, DM&IR center flow hopper \$29.95 – Lionel Scale O NYC boxcar \$29.95 - Always ask for your TCA club member discount - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6, open late Wed. until 9 PM.

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 complete list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

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FOR SALE – Prewar accessories and figures. Lionel and American Flyer O and standard gauge. Everything from an 840 power house to street lights. Also Leland Detroit monorail set. Buddy L Industrial train and roundhouse/turntable. Send an e-mail for a complete list. Most have photos available. Peter Atonna e-mail: mjatonna@commspeed.net.

WANTED – Plasticville O gauge trestle bridge. New or used (complete if used, please). Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or mjatonna@commspeed.net.

AVAILABLE – **QSI 3-rail Products** information, including QS3000’s, QS2+, QSI Reverse Units, Hooters, Tooters, and other QSI accessories, please go to: www.The-Scaled-Tin-Rail.com. Art Boynton, The Scaled Tin Rail, Inc. 928-525-0755.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

WANTED – 1700 engines, cars, and parts. Condition unimportant. Contact Bob Herman 480-948-2730.

FOR SALE – 2343 Santa Fe Louvered AA \$300, 205 AA Missouri Pacific \$150, 229 AB M&StL \$95, 628 NP GE 44-ton Switcher \$125, 681 6-8-6 WX 2046 \$150, 736 2-8-4 736W \$275, 2025 2-6-4 6466 WX \$125, 2026X 2-6-4 6464 \$80, 2036 6466 W \$85, 2037 2-6-4 6026W \$50, 2245 F-3 Texas Special A unit only \$125, 2321 Lackawanna w/gray roof/ Box \$465, 2328 Burlington GP-7 \$175, 8551 Penn EP-5 \$100, 8600 NYC 4-6-4 \$175, 224E Set \$675, 225E Set \$675, Santa Fe ABA+2530-2533 \$1300, 2613 Pullman restored professionally \$295, 6445 Ft. Knox \$100, 6464-25 GN Box \$70, 6464-350 MKT Katy \$195, 6464-475 B&M \$95. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

WANTED – Used Armature for 621 JC NW2 and very “good” cover – any road name. Need OGR magazines 209 through 215, 217 - 224, 231, 233, 235. Please quote \$. Want Mike’s UFO Café 32961, Flex track 36” .125, .148, :172, nickel silver or steel O and S. Contact Bud L. O’Toole at 520-886-2234, or mail at 5602 E. Edison Apr. 11, Tucson, AZ 85712

FOR SALE – 133 pieces of Lionel O Gauge Track - .25 each or the lot for \$30. Contact Gordon Wilson – 480-837-5344 or e-mail christielwilson@aol.com.

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

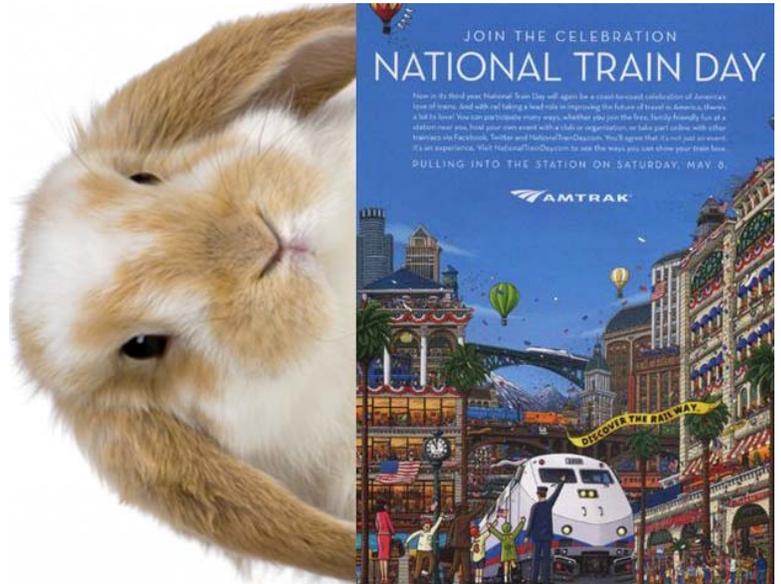
**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

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COMING EVENTS

- April 10 Regular Division Meet and "Pizza Meetza" Auction– Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
- April 17 "Runways, Roads, and Rails" – Falcon Field – 8 AM
Contact Dallas Dixon - 602-826-2996
- April 22-24 Eastern Division Meet – York, PA
- May 8 Regular Division Meet – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
- May 22 New Mexico Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico, the School Arts Building – 9 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840
- June 5 Gadsden-Pacific Summer Show & Meet – Grant Inn Events Center, Tucson, AZ – 9 AM
Contact: Bud Stewart 520-749-0228
- June 12 Regular Division Meet – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
- June 20-27 56th TCA National Convention – Baltimore, MD

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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