



# Desert Division *DISPATCH*

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## FEBRUARY “SWEETHEART” MEET

The Desert Division had a “sweetheart” of a Meet, with visitors, newcomers, and first-timers from all over the country. Clark McClure (arriving early to do Hall Set-up) brought his brother Mark. TCA members Anthony Scannapieco of Peoria and Wally Schmunk of Ohio attended the Meet as visitors, while Roger Meekhof and Lew Warren, members we do not see regularly, were also warmly welcomed. George Smith looked the picture of health, after a lengthy illness. Greg Palmer, the President of the Rio Grande Chapter, and his sister Mechele came down from Albuquerque. Jim Vokac, a new member at the 2006 Turkey Meet, made his first appearance, as did Bill Lindsay, who has been a member for a couple of years. Joining TCA and the Division was Chuck Eral of Fountain Hills, while Jon Hinderer, a part-time Valley resident from Michigan joined the Division. What an enthusiastic group!

The Treasurer reported that we have \$11,298.13 in Savings and \$13,087.04 in Checking, with \$217.35 in the Trains for Kids account. This year we donated four sets to the Ronald McDonald House and one to a young lad from Surprise. Chris Allen talked to the membership about the current plans to use some of the Trains for Kids money. As very few children specifically asked for trains this year, we are looking into getting Brio type Activity Tables for Ronald McDonald House, or the Crisis Center, etc. This is part of our Community Outreach program, which will get trains into the hands of youngsters. Suggestions from the attendees included Fischer-Price’s Geo-trax, Kohl’s discounted sets, and a Thomas the Tank TV Video game (where the trains cannot get broken). All members are asked to give information about these types of items to Chris Allen (e-mail [sparkyshome@cox.net](mailto:sparkyshome@cox.net) or call 480-820-9559).

Members are urged to continue to bring in cell phones. We have another batch ready to ship off to the company for redemption.

Members who have years of service divisible by 5 received certificates, available from the TCA National Business Office. Certificates for 5 years went to Bill East, Jonathan Peiffer, Thomas Plies, Stuart Seis, Philip Smith, Don Stephanisn, and Phil Volk; 10 years to Chuck Archbold, Ken Barrett, Dave Dawkins, Bob Grassi, Ralph Kestler, Pete Lira, Larry Melvin, Frank Nickerson, Scott Russell, James Ryan, Robert Wendel, and David Williams; 15 years to Larry Cunningham, Scott Eckstein, Fred Hunter, Ray Ronstadt, Robert Schwab, and Christie Wilson; 20 years to Anthony Griskowitz, Bill MacDowell, and Ed Stencler; 25 years to Charles Crehore, Dave Cristofani, and Don Emch; 30 years to Verne Snyder and Gordon Wilson; 35 years to Joe Boch, Don Brace, Don Danielson, Bob Johnston, Frank Koenig, Johnny Ourso, and Christopher Watt; and 40 years to Rich Bimmer.

Brad Martin presented some items he procured from a Wholesale Show. One is a wooden train puzzle (35 pieces that snap together, though they could be glued and/or painted, if the owner wished); another is a 4-part consist including engine and tender plus two cars; a third is a cast-iron hand painted wall-mount train and bell. Costs are very low. Brad suggests that the club purchase them as sales items either at the Convention Store or as a fund-raiser prior to the Convention in 2009. Minimum order of \$100, but items can be mixed and matched.

President Elgar announced her Committee Chairs as follows: Sergeant-at-Arms, Art Triant; Newsletter, Gordon and Christie Wilson, assisted by Jonathan Peiffer and Chris Allen; Webmaster, Angelo Lautazi; Bylaws Committee, Earl Rasmussen and Ralph Treichel; Turkey Meet, Ed Georgevich; After-Meet Visitations, Don Locke.

## COMING UP . . .

**MARCH 10      REGULAR MEET – JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM**  
**EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT THEME – GREEN TRAINS**

**AFTER MEET VISITATION AT A SCOTTSDALE MEMBER’S HOME**

**MARCH 17      RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET – ALBUQUERQUE, NM – 9 AM**

**MARCH 17      PICNIC - McCORMICK RAILROAD PARK – NOON**

**APRIL 14      PIZZA MEETZA – JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM**

The 2006 Holiday Party was a huge success, so we have negotiated for the same venue for next year with the same menu. The only condition is that we must guarantee 100 persons. Plan now – the date is Sunday, December 9, 2007.

Chet Henry reminded members that the Pizza Meetza is April 14. In March members can purchase lots (at \$5 each) or make donations to the club or Convention (at no charge). One of the benefits of Desert Division membership is that the meal this day is free pizza, though sodas may be purchased or won as raffle prizes at that Meet. Members are reminded to look under the table, pull out those items that are never used, and put them in the Auction. Christie Wilson has promised to provide two rhubarb pies for the Pizza Meetza Auction.

President Katie Elgar discussed the legal issues which have arisen with repro boxes and parts. Repro Lionel boxes must not be sold, and other parts must be “authorized.” Certificates of Compliance, available from the National Business Office and TCA Standards Committee members must be displayed by persons who sell reproduction parts – NO EXCEPTIONS. The date set for these new rules is October 1, 2007. Currently this matter is in litigation with Lionel’s lawyers, TCA’s lawyers, and Eastern Division’s lawyers trying to work it out.

Saturday, March 17 is the TCA-TTOS Ray Korte Memorial Picnic, held at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Anyone who wishes to be the Games Chair should see Katie Elgar ASAP.

Paul Wassermann announced that the Convention Committee is setting up a Desert Division E-Bay Auction account to sell items which belong to the Division, contributions by members, or (for a 20% fee) as a service to members. Chet Henry, 2009 Convention Treasurer, has procured an account and a debit card. The first item for this Auction is a UP Streamliner set with Alco AA and 7 cars, donated by Ed Micale, Convention Chair. As soon as this is up and running, the members will be informed via the newsletter.

The Educational Segment began with Gordon Wilson. At the age of 3, he accompanied his grandfather to the Morristown Railroad Station. The book Famous Railroad Stations of New Jersey has a picture of that station on the cover. At the October 2006 York Meet, Gordon bought a pack of Christmas cards from Angela Trotta-Thomas. Lo and behold, one of them was a picture of the Morristown Station. After ordering 15 of these for New Jersey friends, he asked if there was a print. Sure enough, Angela had the print, one of which Gordon now owns. Clark McClure brought in his Lionel-made K-Line Santa Fe loco which was offered two years ago. The “cheap” version has two motors, electric reverse, horn; an upgraded version has TMCC and rail sounds as well. Part of the K-Line settlement with Lionel was that Lionel would produce and deliver any items already paid for. Clark calls this a “war baby” as it was the product of the war between K-Line and Lionel. Another item designed by one company and produced by another was the Industrial Rail Gondola with pipes, which is a nice companion piece for the Santa Fe engine. Greg Palmer brought pre-war transformers, commonly called “boat anchors.” He said he carries them in the back of his car so they will give him extra traction in case of snow. He had an American Flyer; one by Jefferson, used by Ives and others; two by General Electric, with terminals on the front and the power switch on the back; one by Donnegan Manufacturing Company; one made by Lionel for Sears; and one marked American Flyer but manufactured by Becker Electric Works out of Philadelphia. He also displayed an American Flyer block signal with the control for the lights on the back. This is designed for 3-rail American Flyer track. Bob Mancus brought in a Dorfman wind-up, the smallest one ever made. Its motor is the same as that used by Hafner. He also brought in Ives tenders to show the different lengths that company used with the same engines. Last was an Ives from the ’10’s or early ’20’s. It has a driver on only one set of wheels. Later models used 2-wheel drive and had reverse units. Paul Wassermann brought in what he called the rarest box in his collection, one for a lighted Lionel Station #123. Once he had the box, he wanted the station. On the TTML (an internet chat line) he mentioned that he was looking for this station, and someone told him to check out Ed Prenderville’s website. There it was. Was it the right one? Paul compared the lamp inside the station with the picture that came with the set, and he is convinced it is the correct station for his box. He also brought a Marx green Commodore Vanderbilt, with the words Commodore Vanderbilt stamped on the side. Last was a 1937 Blue Streak Engine, hooked up with Blue Comet cars. The observation car has nickel journals, steps, and a white vestibule; however each of the passenger cars has a long base, no steps, and no vestibule. This, except for color, is the same as the 1941-42 passenger cars made by Lionel in green. The blue passenger cars may have been a paint sample, later changed to green for production by Lionel; or a restoration (as the tender is rewired); or an original part of the Blue Streak set. At any rate, they are extremely rare.

The theme of next month’s Educational Segment is “Green Trains” in honor of St. Patrick’s Day.

Ivan English reminded members that the TTOM in Tucson is having a raffle for a Polar Express Set, with the drawing in March. Tickets are \$5 each.

Melissa Peiffer drew the first raffle ticket. The winner was Mikey Wassermann. Prizes were as follows:

Mikey Wassermann	Hudson Raffle Ticket
Marty Wik	Railking Diner (donated by Arizona Train Depot)
Chris Allen	Lionelville truck with orange/blue automobiles
Jim Vokac	Book - <u>The Art of Lionel Trains</u>
Jonathan Peiffer	Lionel L&N Woodside Reefer
Ken Burling	Holiday Party Figures
George Smith	K-Line Helicopter and Automobile
Ivan English	N-Scale Building Kit, Lionel pull toy, and lock on
Diane Martin	Gift Subscription to CTT (donated by Kalmbach Publishing Co.)

Rebecca Peiffer drew the winning Hudson Raffle ticket for the \$100 prize. That ticket belonged to Gordon Wilson.

After the Jaycees Hall was returned to normalcy, members left for lunch and the After-Meet Visitation at the home of Paul Wassermann.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

The February Desert Division Meet was well attended by members and guests! Before the meeting was a brisk buy and sell portion, which is always a good time to share and pick up that special item or two. It was great to have Greg Palmer, Rio Grande Chapter president, in attendance with us at the Division Meet.

The Hudson tickets went on sale at this meet and our first \$100 winner was drawn! You may want to get in early on this raffle. Purchase of a raffle ticket not only is a chance to win a Hudson, but there are 6 more chances to be drawn for \$100.00 cash! Cash is the same no matter what you collect!

Certificates of membership were handed out to those Desert Division members who have achieved 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of membership in the T.C.A.! Way to go! Out of town members have been mailed their certificates.

In case you weren't able to make the meeting, there was some discussion on an important legal issue coming down from Lionel. Effective October 1, 2007 you must have a Certificate of Compliance that you may receive from the TCA Standards Committee to sell or display reproduced items at TCA functions and also to advertise in TCA media. This certificate will indicate to TCA that your parts are marked in accordance with TCA parts marking rules. It will further indicate that your parts carrying corporate trade names, logos, or other original manufacturing identification are properly licensed for the use of corporate "intellectual property". I imagine that further clarifying information will be coming soon on this issue.

March 17 is our Annual Ray Korte Memorial Picnic at the Scottsdale Railroad Park. The chefs will once again be showing off their cooking skills at the grill! Don't forget to bring your favorite dish to pass! As usual hot dogs and beverages will be provided at this family event.

Take a look over your collection to see what you may want to auction off. Chet is selling lot tickets for the Pizza Meetza Auction in April. Give him a call or see him at the March meeting to get a chance to put items in the auction. This is a good alternative to e-Bay. Only \$5.00 per lot charge. If you are interested in donating an item to the club for auction, there is no lot fee for that, and you will get a letter of donation. Such a deal!

The date for the Holiday Party has been set at December 9, 2007. It will again be in Mesa at the Marriott. The food and service were wonderful and we have secured that date for this year's party. Mark your calendars now.

The theme for the education section of the meeting will be in keeping with St. Patrick's Day...Something green! Hope to see you at the next meet!

Happy Trains!



## DUELING DIESELS IN THE DESERT!

This year's Desert Division Spring Raffle has a little bit of everything for the modern era Diesel lovers. Thanks to a wonderful donation from the Arizona Train Depot and Steven Palmer, we have an MTH Alaska Railroad ready-to-run set for our First Prize. Powered by a sharp looking SW-1500 loco in bright Alaska blue and yellow livery and equipped with Proto Sounds 2.0, this set is complete with track and transformer and will put a smile on the face of an engineer of any age! But we're not done with diesel power yet. If you win Second Prize this year you'll be the proud owner of a Lionel Reading Alco FA-2 A-A pair. This great looking pair is new in their original boxes and they will be happy to take over the short haul freight service on your layout, or maybe you have some light passenger service lined up for them. Either way, this A-A pair will make a nice addition to your layout and will be yours if your ticket is pulled. What freight yard or industrial area would be complete without a coal loader? Third Prize will fill that missing gap for you. The Lionel Coal Loader has been a standard on layouts for decades and the latest reissue of this Lionel classic will provide you with many hours of action. Tickets go on sale at the March meet for \$10 each or three for \$25, with the drawing just three months later at the June Meet. Remember you do not need to be present to win and if you live outside of the Division "commute area" we will be happy to mail or deliver your prize at no cost to you.

### PIZZA MEETZA AUCTION

The Pizza Meetza auction is coming April 14!! Look under your tables. Look in those boxes. You will find lots of treasures you haven't needed in quite a while. Bring them to the Pizza Meetza Auction and unclutter your room. Lots are \$5 each and you may include as many items as you want in each lot. For more valuable lots, you may place a reserve on the lot. If you choose to donate items to Desert Division, those lots will be "no charge." The auction is limited to the first 100 lots and Peter Atonna will again be our auctioneer. The "lot" sign-up sheet will be available at the March meet – see Chet Henry.

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter online, please fill out the bottom section of this page and return it to Christie M. Wilson, Secretary, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TCA Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## FUN IN FEBRUARY



February's Meet was packed with toy train enthusiasts.



Paul Wassermann's "rarest box" – for the lighted Lionel Station #123.



Greg Palmer brought "boat anchors" for traction, he says.



This year's Lionel Hudson – only 60 tickets left – get yours on March 10.



Gordon Wilson knew immediately he wanted this Angela Trotta-Thomas print of the Morrystown Railroad Station.



Brad Martin tells about the wooden train kit he purchased at the Wholesale Show – only 35 pieces.



Raffle prizes abound at Desert Division Meets.



Paul Wassermann's Blue Streak Set



Bill MacDowell is a 20-year member.

## VISITATION TO THE WASSERMANN LAYOUT



A trip to the Wassermann Layout is always an adventure. Shown here are his Christmas layout, his multi-consist trackage, and his framed Pennsylvania Railroad Calendars. The shelving houses his fabulous collection of rare and unusual pieces. The third photo was taken from an upper deck, looking down on his "Empire."



## THE GREENING OF THE DESERT

by Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

"It's not easy being GREEN!" At least that is what KERMIT has been saying for lo, these many years. In the world of NASCAR that is very, very true. Green is a color that for some reason, the origins of which now seem to be lost, means BAD LUCK. In the field today there are but two cars in the NEXTEL series that sport the color Green anywhere. One is the INTERSTATE BATTERY car, owned by Washington Redskins coach, Joe Gibbs; and the other is a "splotch" of green on the # 38, M & M's (Candy) Car.

However, we are not in the NASCAR hobby, we are in the Toy Train hobby and wow, is GREEN a MEGA color amongst Toy Trains. This is not a new trend, but actually goes to the beginnings of electric toy trains in America. At the turn of the Twentieth Century, the Early Lionel 2 7/8" trains had green motive power, green trolley cars, and some pieces of green rolling stock. When Standard Gauge was introduced a few years later, GREEN locomotives and rolling stock seemed to dominate the color schemes. Later, when Lionel graduated to the smaller O gauge trains in 1915, the first series of Locomotives (# 700) and their passenger and freight cars, came out in what color? Why Green, of course. It was almost as if someone at Lionel, probably JLC himself, had taken Henry Ford's tongue in cheek promotion of his automobile colors, "you can have any color, so long as it is black," and substituted the word GREEN for Black. All shades of Green seemed to dominate. The gigantic #381 was GREEN.

The color Green reminds me of a story (true) about the one that GOT AWAY. Close to where I lived in NJ was an Antique Store that always had many used toy trains. One day what walked in the door but a two-tone Green #636 Union Pacific Passenger set. Well, I'm into Post War Lionel, not Pre-War. I knew about the exact same set that came in Yellow and Brown and made an assumption. You all know what that word means when broken into three parts, right? I assumed that someone had repainted it GREEN. Needless to say, it wasn't too long before it had disappeared from the shelves of the store for a whopping \$200. OUCH !! I didn't know about it and I was there when it walked in the door. Oh well, sometimes you win and sometimes the Bear wins. (Notice, I didn't say BEARS, as in Chicago?)

Postwar Lionel and American Flyer were chock full of trains made in Green. Passenger cars for both companies ruled the roost in the years immediately after World War II. Lionel with its New Jersey towns emblazoned on the sides and the American Flyer with the Heavyweights and New Haven Passenger Cars. Soon were to come the Coal and Log Dump Cars, followed by the Box Cars, Tank Cars, and Searchlight Cars. Lionel even started to make the Heavyweight Passenger Cars in Green, but at the last minute thought better of it and put them out in Brown. Who could ignore the greatest advance in Lionel Locomotives when the 2332 GG-1 hit the market in Pennsy's Brunswick Green? Flyer, not to be outdone, released in my opinion the prettiest passenger set of toy trains ever made when the Northern Pacific's Empire Builder appeared in the 50's. Marx trains sort of got lost in the GREENING of Toy Trains, as there weren't very many issues in Green. However, among those that were, namely a Commodore Vanderbilt loco, M10,000 UP set, military sets, and a couple of Western Pacific diesels, they have certainly become very collectible and hard to find. In addition, Marx very judiciously produced a few pieces of Green colored freight and passenger rolling stock in both tin and plastic.

What is all of this GREEN stuff leading to? Our next meet is in MARCH - only a week from the "wearing of the green," St. Patrick's Day. It was felt by President Elgar (a sort of Irish name) that our Educational Segment should have a GREEN THEME this month. Surely, everyone reading this owns a train with some Green to it or in it. Here is an opportunity for you to help and really expand that segment of our meet.

Why not have everyone bring at least one train item to the meet that is green? Place it on the tables in the front of the hall and when the time comes, rise up and tell all of us about this piece. So long as it can be used on a Toy Train table, it is FAIR GAME. Notice, not a word has been said about buildings or accessories. Surely some of those items were also colored GREEN! Plan to participate on March 10. We'll take lots of photos and perhaps even arrange an article to accompany this extravaganza to be sent on to Classic Toy Trains or the TCA Quarterly. Let's make this March meet's *Educational Segment* extra special and color it GREEN!!!

One last GREEN thing. A GREEN, one hundred dollar bill will be given away to a lucky person who has purchased a Hudson Raffle Ticket. Now, that is really some heavy duty GREEN! Have you purchased your 773 Hudson Raffle Ticket yet?



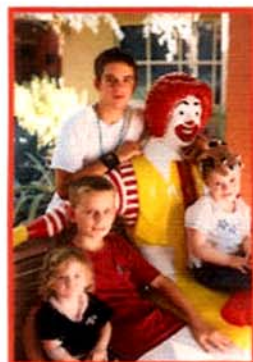
December 29, 2006

Kathie Elgar  
TCA - Desert Division  
2519 West Night Owl Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85085

Dear Kathie,

Please know how much we sincerely appreciate your generous in-kind gift to help us care for the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Phoenix. Your donation helps us provide temporary housing for up to 45 families at one time throughout the year. We could not provide these services without your help and that of others who recognize the importance of providing care and support for families as they face the challenge of caring for a seriously ill or injured child.

The stress of dealing with an ill or injured child, of any age, can exhaust even the strongest family mentally, physically, emotionally and financially. Since 1985, Ronald McDonald House of Phoenix has provided temporary housing for over 24,000 of these families. They are only minutes from the hospital, have a comfortable bed, hot showers and the support of other families trying to cope with similar experiences.



Again, thank you for your generous contribution of four trains. They definitely made four children very happy. Through your gift, you have truly touched the lives of the families and children who find a home-away-from-home here at "The House That Love Built." We are grateful for your support.

With sincere appreciation,

*Nancy L. Roach*

Nancy Roach  
Executive Director



## A CHRISTMAS IN REVIEW

by Bob Gacey

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the school--Oh! Wait a minute! That's not the traditional poem that we all grew up with! Well, in reality, you may say that I am setting the stage for a memorable event.

It was actually very early on a school morning, December 22, to be exact. There was a knock at a classroom door at Surprise School (Dysart Unified). The door slowly opened and a Santa's Helper entered, holding a very large box. Upon his entrance, it was quite visible that there were other arrivals, as observed by glancing at the teacher's desk, an occurrence (as learned) because of the economics of that neighborhood environment. Many children do not experience the thrills of the holiday season because of limited opportunities for their parents. Of course, this changes each time that there is a generous Santa's Helper who recognizes the need to share tidings of goodwill to those who are in need.

On this December 22 morning, an additional opportunity passed into the classroom of Jorge. That is, long before the school day was to begin, a very special gift was delivered to a very needy young lad who would not have ever received a present of this stature. Jorge is a 10-year-old special needs child who functions at a moderate level. He has some communication skills, but limited speech. He is very social, and always eager to be at school. Living near Grand Avenue, Jorge has often seen the large diesels, pulling their freight through the town of El Mirage, but had never seen model railroads. A new experience has been bestowed upon this young boy who has recently been "bitten" by the toy train "bug"! Now, instead of watching the engineers pass by, Jorge is the engineer – anyone have a spare conductor's hat?



If Jorge could write, I know that he would have sent you TCA members a very meaningful thank you card; I am sure that you have made his Christmas 2006 the grandest of all!

## HEALTH UPDATES

Denise Micale is recovering at home after her recent surgery. Members may send get-well greetings to her at 7498 E. Mary Sharon Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85262. We all wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her at the April Pizza Meetza.

Bill Freeman is undergoing a series of surgeries – two down and two to go. Warm cheery greetings may be sent to him at 6610 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Chuck Archbold and Cole Gibbs would also appreciate hearing from the members. Get well cards may be sent to Chuck at 17650 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032 and to Cole at 6740 E. Lonesome Trail, Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

## DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2006

President:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957	Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9227
Vice President:	Gordon Wilson	480-837-5344		Don Locke	480-854-2546
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Phil Monahan	480-607-3956
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840

## BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, March 7, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Gordon and Christie Wilson. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-837-5344 to be sure there are enough chairs.

## GEORGE STOCK HO GG-1's

by Jonathan Peiffer TCA# 01-53047

There are few, if any HO model railroad pioneers more elusive than George Stock. In approximately 1930 he started a company known as George Stock Models. He is listed in the NMRA Pioneers of Model Railroading under the following heading:

**4. *George Stock, PA. George Stock Models. Model Retailer; Custom Loco Builder. Pioneer HO scale 1930's.***

Considering the amount of information for many of the better-known pioneers of model railroading, this is the sole printed reference to this individual and his company. Being an avid collector of model GG-1's, I chanced upon George's work after a \$10.00 purchase at a Phoenix train meet in 1995. This GG-1 lacked several parts including one of the two pantographs, the motors, mounts to the frame, and one of the pony trucks. The shell was sand cast brass and weighed nearly a pound itself. Never having seen such a piece before, I immediately began research on what has turned into a lifetime journey to learn more about this gentleman and the work he produced.

I had noted after purchase that hand stamped on the top side of the cast frame was a name, "Stock". While putting this first find back together, I called the only resource I could think of, Lewis English of Bowser Manufacturing. Mr. English was very kind to take the time to talk to me at length about George Stock and the custom steam locomotives he built in HO, but he had never heard of him making a GG-1. It seemed the mystery would remain unsolved. Since the locomotive had little left in terms of paint, I stripped the body, repainted it and added some detail parts. It went on my shelf with its other GG-1 cousins of different manufacture.

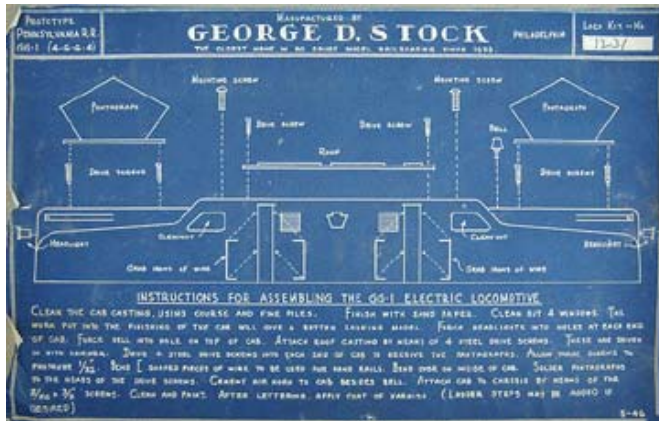


Much later in 2001 I ran across another such locomotive on Ebay. I was ultimately outbid and this one got away. However, I knew now of at least two such pieces in existence. Luck would have that another one appeared in early 2003 and I was able to win this auction. This one was nearly intact. One of the pony trucks was half missing and the pantographs were of Penn Line design, but otherwise the locomotive was complete. It took its place proudly next to the original. To this day it remains painted in the Brunswick Green it had when I purchased it.





Finally, nearly 10 years to the day after I purchased my first Stock GG-1, I found an un-built kit with the original box and instructions on Ebay. The price was what I considered exorbitant for an HO kit, but alas the mystery required some solving. The instructions, though minimal filled in the GG-1 story. This kit was manufactured in 1946 in Philadelphia by George Stock as kit number 1231, which was written in pencil on the blue print instructions. The locomotive was complete.



When dealing with the seller I asked several questions, the most important to me being, “How many of these have you seen?” He replied that he had another he had sold a few years back and knew of one other in existence. That would make a total of six I have run across over the last 10 years and three are currently in my collection.



To this day, these locomotives are by far the rarest models I own. I have since continued to look for anything manufactured by George Stock and have yet to find a single piece, GG-1 or other. These locomotives are very well crafted pieces of early HO. It will be interesting to continue searching out these elusive trains and help finish the history of someone who surely deserves more recognition in the model railroading world.



## RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039

The Rio Grande Chapter had a its first Meet of 2007. Due to the snow out of our January Meet, we had to double the agenda for the February Meet. We had a great turnout. The Meet began with the educational segment. New member Ross Jordan showed some e-Bay finds. He brought a Lionel 2226W tender, a 2817 caboose, and a 2955 semi-scale tank car. He hoped the membership would help him understand the variations in Lionel Pre-War Box Couplers. The members present were a great help to Ross. It was a great example of why we are all members of the TCA. Everett Hagan gave a talk and demonstration of variations in the Post War 027 Baby Ruth Boxcars. He also showed the membership the variations in Post War 027 Hopper cars. He decided to give the talk once he found out that he too collected variations of Lionel Post War cars. I brought 3 items. A Pre-War Lionel Factory Service Center Box that a Loco or Car was shipped to an address in Upper Darby, PA. I also brought an American Flyer Pre-War Block Signal, and a Kusan factory error Boxcar. It is only lettered on one side.

The business meeting was brought to order with approval of the minutes and the 2007 Budget. The March Las Cruces Meet has been cancelled due to the lack of facilities. We will try to have one next March. Ted Hamler and Jon Spargo will head the Meet Committee. Standards Committee issues were discussed as were the new parts dealer requirements. A committee was formed to start a group of Rio Grande Chapter volunteers for the 2009 TCA Convention. Once we receive names we will forward then to the Desert Division TCA National 2009 Convention Committee. We also had the raffle drawing for the Lionel 2006 Toy Fair Car. The winner was George Swajian. After winning the car George donated it back to the Chapter for another raffle in the future. Thanks George, and thanks to all Division members who participated in the Raffle. The monies will be added up and 10% will be sent to the 2009 Convention Committee.

We have two great meets coming up. On March 17th our Meet will start at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah, N.E. in Albuquerque. Art Lites will show his collection of Lionel Missile Firing Cars. After the Meet we will go over to Scott Eckstein's house to view his collection and layouts. On May 12th we have scheduled an after-meet program every one will enjoy. It will be a tour of the Santa Fe 2926 steam locomotive restoration project. This is a must see and thanks to member Jon Spargo. I want to encourage all Chapter members to try to attend at least one Division meet. They are great fun and very educational.

I also need to announce that our Secretary Brenna-Leigh Bosch is moving to New Jersey. The March Meet will be her last in Albuquerque. I want to take this time to say thank you Brenna for helping to get the Rio Grande Chapter going. We will miss you. If any member wants to step in to fill in the term of Secretary please call me ASAP. Hope to see all of you at the March 17th Meet.



1. Ross Jordan's 2226W Tender, 2817 Caboose, 2955 Tank Car



2. Everett Hagan Showing Variations of Baby Ruth 027 Box Cars



3. Greg Palmer's Educational Items L to R: Kusan Car, Pre-War Box from Lionel Factory Service Center



4. L to R: Don Mantay, Ross Jordan, and Paul Hurford all discuss and help Ross Jordan understand Pre-War Box Coupler Variations



5. L to R: Everett Hagan, George Swajian, and new member George Domeny



6. Our Secretary Brenna-Leigh Bosch checks Art Lites into the Meet



# **\* Desert Division's \*\* Spring Raffle 2007 \***



## **1<sup>st</sup> Prize**

**MTH RAILKING  
Alaska SW-1500  
Ready-To-Run set  
w/Proto Sounds 2!**

Offered in 2006 this  
N/OB set features 31" x 51"  
RealTrax Oval, Z-1000  
100 watt transformer and  
three car freight consist  
list \$330

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

**Lionel 6-18934  
Alco FA-2 A-A's**

Offered in 1995, this N/OB pair  
of Diesels A-A's is dressed out in  
Reading Railroad livery



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**

**Lionel 6-2315  
Operating Coaling Station**

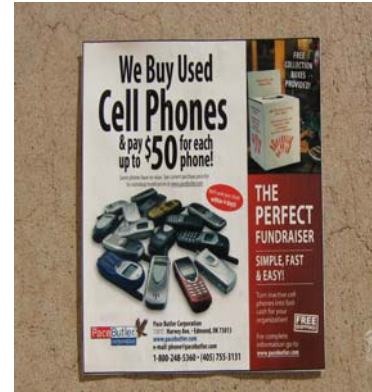
**Tickets on sale starting March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Drawing date June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
\$10.00 each - 3/\$25.00  
Need not be present to win!**

## DON'T THROW AWAY OLD CELL PHONES

With all of the new technology available almost daily, many cell phones become obsolete and useless nearly overnight. Don't toss your old, deactivated cell phone away.

The Desert Division is collecting them in conjunction with a recycling program and can turn your old, unwanted cell phone into money for the upcoming 2009 Convention. Help the Desert Division and clean out your unwanted clutter, all at the same time.

Bring all your unwanted and useless cell phones to our next meeting on March 10 – no chargers or peripheral equipment, just plain ol' unused and unneeded cell phones.



## WIN A LIONEL #773 THE RACE IS ON

The first 40 tickets have been sold; the first \$100 bill has been won; the program is well under way. The program is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year and going strong. You can be the next winner, but only if you buy a ticket. What ticket, you say? Read on.

Joshua Lionel Cowen had a favorite steam locomotive and in 1937 he made it a part of the Lionel Lines stable of engines. Since then it has reappeared countless times to the point where it has attained the status of "ICON." Since 1989 the Desert Division has made it possible for members to win/own one of these "icons" through a very unique raffle, the brainstorm of member Cole Gibbs.

Your odds of winning? Only 100 tickets are offered for sale and all of them MUST go to TCA members or TCA immediate family members. Tickets are \$25 each, and because we are a Federal 501c3 non-profit organization, if you do not win a monthly prize or the Hudson, then your receipt becomes a legal tax deduction. The monthly meet prize? Why, a \$100 bill AND the ticket is returned to the entire group. Therefore, it is theoretically possible to win \$100 seven times and also win the #773 Hudson. Naturally, the earlier in the year you purchase your tickets, the better are your chances of winning the "C" notes. The first drawing was on February 10, and the next one will occur on March 10. There is ONE catch, however. You must be at the meet in order to win the \$100.

The monthly drawings occur in February, March, April, May, June, September, and October. Should any raffle tickets still be available following the October monthly meet, they will be offered for sale to the whole membership of TCA. The winning ticket for the #773 Hudson (a 1964-66 model issue) will be drawn at the November Turkey Meet. The winner need not be present.

So, start now to both win a great prize – the Lionel #773 Hudson in C-8 or better condition – and contribute to the running of the Desert Division while getting a tax deduction at the same time.

## MORE FEBRUARY FUN



Laurel and Denise pose for the camera.  
Note the setting.



The American Flyer collectors sit together.



Bob Johnston, a 35-year member,  
poses with his certificate.





**ANTIQUE TRAINS** - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

**ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT!** – MTH Scale Erie Lackawanna FM Trainmaster w/full PS/2 with features not listed in catalog, lighted marker lights and number boards, MARS lights in both directions – you won't believe your eyes! List \$300, club priced \$269.96. Incredible Pennsy P-5A modified w/PS/2, operating pantographs, and dual color marker light, 4 Pennsy R50B reefers, and N6B caboose, reg. \$1160, club price \$759.95. Lionel CN rainbow cycl. hopper w/rolling bearing caps, reg. \$65, club \$58.49! - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 open late Wed.

**BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS** – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We welcome Pat Eiff to our staff to better serve our customers in sales and service of both new and pre-owned trains. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different "Set of the Month" each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

**GERRY'S TRAINS** – Complete 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 Drive, Scottsdale, AZ Phone (480) 991-2536.

**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. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at [mjatonna@commspeed.net](mailto:mjatonna@commspeed.net).

**REPAIRS** - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthruetime.com>.

**FOR SALE** – Replacement bulbs for your trains – over 80 different ones in stock. Also carry common Lionel parts: e-units, drums, brushes, coupler knuckles, etc. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

**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 my web site, [sykesvillehistory.us](http://sykesvillehistory.us), for a current list.

**FOR SALE** – Train table 4' x 8', with grid box frame and saw horses - \$100. Also track and switches. Bryan Jewell - 602-234-6970.

**WANTED** – Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist – can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

**EXCITING TRAIN TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD** – Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; Washington Wineries; California Railroad Museum; and many more. For further information, contact Travel Consultant Linda Kopff, representing Bon Voyage Travel, at 623-556-1391.

**FOR SALE** - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

**FOR SALE** - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 "O" Gauge Tinplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: [dzedo2@earthlink.net](mailto:dzedo2@earthlink.net).

**FOR SALE** – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail [4aztrains@earthlink.net](mailto:4aztrains@earthlink.net).

**WANTED** – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

**FOR SALE** – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
DESERT DIVISION**

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

**POSTMASTER:** This Federal 501c3 Newsletter  
contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action  
by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before  
**MARCH 3, 2007**

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**27 MONTHS and COUNTING!**

**Every Childhood Should Have A Train**  
**Enroll your children in Kid's Club Today!**

**COMING EVENTS**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 10    | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM<br>8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between Chaparral and McDonald<br>Educational Theme: Green Trains |
| March 17    | Ray Korte Memorial Picnic, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale - Noon   |
| March 17    | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM<br>Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM<br>Contact: Greg Palmer – 505-898-3840        |
| April 14    | Pizza Meetza, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM  |
| April 19-21 | Eastern Division Meet, York, PA  |
| May 12      | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM   |
| May 12      | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM   |

Have You **PADE** Your Way?

**P**urchase raffle tickets

**A**uthor an article for the Dispatch

**D**onate something to the club

**E**nlist to help

**PADE PROMOTIONS**

Thanks to everyone who ordered the Celebrate Arizona cars. Also thank you to everyone who donated an item to the 2009 Convention to be auctioned in the Pizza Meetza Auction in April. Cell Phone donors are also appreciated. Steve Palmer of Arizona Train Depot donated a wonderful raffle prize for the February Meet.

Thank-you's go to Laurel Allen and Denise Micale, who ably handled the kitchen in February and to Jonathan Peiffer who has an article in this edition of the newsletter. We also thank everyone who brought trains for the February Educational Segment. Remember that March's theme is "Green Trains."

Your name could appear in this space. You need only do something to benefit the Division.