

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



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May, 2011

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, EVEN IN THE DESERT

Half an inch of rain didn't dampen spirits at the Desert Division's April Meet, which was well attended by regulars and new members. Mike Dietrich joined both TCA and the Desert Division; Doc Seagraves visited with us as a guest; Bill Freeman returned after many years of absence; and Jim Caras (a half-year resident from Montana) attended his first Desert Division meet. Treasurer Bob Herman announced that we have \$47,147.55 in savings and \$23,287.27 in checking. President Peiffer announced that the 2011 Turkey Meet will be held at Chaparral Suites, as soon as we have a contract in place. Registration Chair is Beth Stange. Set-up will be on Friday, with the meet on Saturday and an Auction on Sunday. There will be a separate area for the various layouts, and plenty of room for sales tables.

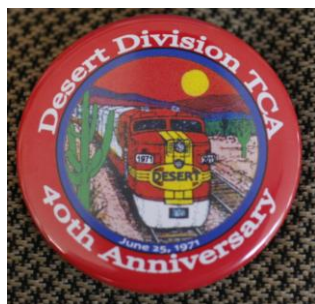
Christie Wilson reported on the Globe trip, a huge success, with special thanks to Phil and Dottie Todd for their part in making it happen. At final count 56 avid toy train enthusiasts enjoyed a day of sunshine, trains, food, antiques, and collections starting at 7 AM and ending at 6 PM. Can we organize another such day sometime in the future? Suggestions are welcome.

Peter Atonna reported on the National Train Day activities, May 7 and 8, in Williams, AZ. From 10 AM to 4 PM on both Saturday and Sunday, the Williams (Grand Canyon) Station will be open; Dallas Dixon will have the Division's O-gauge module set up; Peter Atonna will have his Polar Express layout; various other layouts, antique cars, a locomotive simulator and an airplane simulator will all be available for free. The Grand Canyon train is the only fee item during those two days. For a donation of \$5.00, one can take a tour of the locomotive train shops in Williams.

June brings us to the TCA National Convention. This year it will be in Sacramento. Some tours, like the dinner cruise and the trip to Grass Valley to see three premier layouts, are already nearly sold out. Anyone planning to go should send in a reservation ASAP. The Welcome Party will be at the Railroad Museum in Sacramento, after it closes to the public for the day.

Greg Palmer shared pictures of his recently procured Lionel D 291 Dealer layout, as shown in the 1960 Advance Catalog. He has a copy of the Catalog, the Instruction Sheet, a "chain of custody" letter from the person who sold it to him. These displays were made at the factory and then shipped in a crate, not boxed. Dealers then placed their own stock items onto it. The one Greg purchased had been stored for 50 years in the garage of the man who owned the American Furniture Company in Albuquerque. Now Albuquerque can claim two of these Dealer layouts, as Dale Schafer also owns one, his having come several years ago from the same American Furniture Company.

COMING UP....



MAY 7-8 – National Train Day – Williams, AZ

MAY 14 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

Educational Segment – Trains My Mother Bought Me

MAY 21 – New Mexico Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico – 9 AM

JUNE 4 – Gadsden-Pacific Show and Meet, Tucson, AZ – 9 AM

JUNE 11 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

JUNE 26-JULY 3 – TCA National Convention, Sacramento, CA

JULY 9 – Division Mini-Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

AUGUST 20 – Beat the Heat Meet – Prescott, AZ – 9 AM

OCTOBER 22 – 40th Anniversary Party – Chaparral Suites, Scottsdale, AZ – 6 PM

Our Educational Segment featured “Faux Treines,” French for fake trains. Gordon Wilson brought in a ’50’s dome car, obviously fake, because there was no dome car with the U. P. 50th Anniversary Set in 1950. He informed those in attendance that the April Fool’s article in the Dispatch was the one about his Canadian Pacific Vista Dome Observation Car. It is 100% Lionel, but not made by Lionel. At a Greenberg show, a vendor was selling passenger car bodies with the roof reamed out in just the right size for the vista dome to be placed into it. Gordon bought one for \$5.00, procured a vista dome from the late Rich Bimmer, and created this “fake.” After retelling the story of the “white barrel car” fraud, he told of his own “white” car episode. He bought a cattle car in Phoenix and had it shipped via UPS to New Jersey. It arrived with a big hole in the side of the box and the car. Next he went to the local high school where we had taught for years, and asked the chemistry teacher to lend him some nitric oxide (and protective gear to cover his clothes and exposed skin). The result was a “white” cattle car, a “fake.” Next was a red Lionel 6807 flat car with a khaki green DKW made by Pyro. The problem? This Pyro piece was purchased from Kresge’s store in the 1940’s for a quarter. The Pyro items used by Lionel were gray, not khaki green. Last was a 6015 tank car. Gordon retold the story of Tom Stange and him bidding on a box of “junk.” Only the two of them knew that the 6015 yellow tank car was the rare painted version. The one on display today has a post-war body, but has trucks which were not used until the 1970’s and later.

Next came the raffles. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Katie Elgar	American Flyer S-gauge New England Electric System Hopper
Bill Richardson	Lionel 1997 Toy Fair Car
Brad Martin	Hudson Ticket
Jim Vokac	Bachmann Union Station
Bob Kamenca	Lionel Soo Line Box Car
Ralph Treichel	Lionel Northern Burlington Box Car
Angelo Lautazi	Mug, Lift Truck, and Weaver hopper car load
Brad Martin	Framed C&O picture
Greg Palmer	Figures and 40 th Anniversary Candy
Peter Atonna	Book – <u>The Love of Trains</u>

The Hudson Raffle \$100 prize was won by Chris Allen.

Next on the agenda was the pizza lunch, with cake decorated to say “Happy 40th Anniversary” for dessert.

Once everyone had been fed, the Auction began. Folks were given time to peruse the items, ably set out by our Auction Committee: Chet Henry, Chris Allen, Katie Elgar, Bob Herman, and auctioneer Peter Atonna. It seems that everyone heeded the request to place only quality items in the auction. There was NO rusty track, no old copies of magazines, no “junk.” Rather there were ready-to-run train sets, boxed items from various manufacturers, a lamp, layout buildings, a Desert Division sign, framed pictures, and a host of other items. Bidding began at \$5 per item and almost everything was sold, even those items with minimums attached. Way to go, Desert Division!



Fake trains on display at the April Meet. Chris Allen wins April’s Hudson Raffle \$100 bill.



Everyone enjoys Pizza.

RUBY HOPPER RAFFLE

In addition to the custom designed Ruby Hopper Cars, there is one special car, the prototype, number 001. With the car comes a ruby jewelry set, including earrings, ring, and necklace. The ring will be sized to fit the winner, after that winner is announced. The entire collection, jewelry and hopper car, will be raffled off by the Committee from now until the Anniversary Party on October 22, when the lucky winner will be announced. Tickets, which cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5, will be available for sale from now through the gala Banquet on October 22, 2011.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is not much that needs to be said about April that will be in addition to the articles in this Dispatch; however, suffice it to say that it was one to be remembered in the history of our Division. Our trip to Globe was a great success on a perfect day for riding a train. Thanks to the diligent efforts of the 40th Anniversary Committee and especially for the efforts of Phil Todd to arrange this trip even while he was overseas and unable to attend. I believe that our "Pizza Meetza" was the first one in many years that no rusty track was sold. As always, Peter Atonna did his auction magic and the pizza was delicious.

More important than the actual events, April once again proved that the success of the Desert Division owes itself completely to the people of the Division. During our train trip, I had the opportunity to sit with Frank and Nancy Nickerson in the former Illinois Central observation / lounge, "Mardi Gras." For a couple I had never really personally met, this was an opportunity to get to know a long time Division member. As the train lazily bounced across the dry desert landscape associated with central Arizona west of Globe, our conversation was the highlight of my trip.

Think back to your memorable events in the time you have been part of the Desert Division. We often talk about the trains, be it the meet finds or our interests in collecting and operating. However, really it is the people we shared these interests with. Our meets and events are times to enjoy old friendships and make new ones.

The warmth and friendliness of our Division has shown this year in the increased attendance at meets, the new members coming every month and while we are looking back at 40 years of wonderful history, we are looking ahead to many more. If you have not attended a Division meet, come by to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on May 14th. You will be welcomed!

To round out some business coming up, please contact Dallas Dixon if you want to help run trains over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of May to participate in National Train day in Williams to operate the modules. Peter Atonna is the organizer of the annual event and the also weekend includes some operation of live steam and lots of train related activities! Finally, you can still sign up for the 2011 TCA National Convention in Sacramento. Tours are selling out, so be sure to sign up soon!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the May meet.



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

Since we do not have a regular Meet in April, we will regroup at our New Mexico Railroad Fair Meet, on Saturday, May 21st. The Meet starts at 9:00AM, and we will have our Meeting at 10:00AM. The New Mexico Railroad Fair takes place at the School Arts Building at Expo New Mexico. Dollar off cards are available at Trains West. If anyone wants table information, give me a call at 505-898-3840, and I will put you in touch with the Railroad Fair Manager.

Items of discussion at the Meeting will include the upcoming Pumpkin Meet on Sunday, October 30th, at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. We will also discuss the election of our 2012-2013 Board of Directors in January. For the Pumpkin Meet, we need Raffle prizes, as well as volunteers to help. The Chapter needs your help and your input on everything from minor details to advertising ideas. So plan on coming to the New Mexico Railroad Fair Meet on May 21st.

The Railroad Fair has tables full of Toy Trains, Model Railroading supplies, Dining Car China, Railroad Lanterns, Locks, Keys, Photos and Art Work, all related to Trains. You never know what you may find. I have found Lionel WWII Telegraph Keys, a Lionel 50th Anniversary Plate, and even the rare Lionel Advertising Cards from cereal boxes. Other Chapter members have found such items as a Lionel 763E and a scarce wind-up American Flyer Pre-War Boxed Set. I hope to see all of you at the New Mexico Railroad Fair Meet, May 21st at 9:00AM at the School Arts Building at Expo New Mexico.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2011

President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131
Vice-President:	Bob Johnston	623-582-2110
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Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730
Directors:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
	Tony Saulina	480-756-1563
	Ralph Treichel	602-863-6985
	Marty Wik	480-488-8625

BOD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, beginning at 7:30 AM. Members are welcome to attend.

DESERT DIVISION EXCURSION – COPPER SPIKE - April 2, 2011

There were 56 of us, all intent on one thing, enjoying a day with other Desert Division members as we traveled to Globe, Arizona to ride a train. It started when Phil Todd learned that the Arizona Eastern Railroad was offering excursion rides from December through early May. He made all the arrangements, and then had to go out of town on business. Christie Wilson picked up the slack. Her Horoscope for that day read as follows: “You will embark upon an adventure about which you know nothing, but there will be others who will help you to be successful.” How true that turned out to be.

First was the fact that we had hired a 55-passenger bus. We asked the driver if we could use his “jump-seat.” He replied, “No need. Your 55-passenger bus went in for service this morning. This is a 58-passenger bus.” Whew! That was a close call. From then on, everything went smoothly, as if the gods were smiling on us that day. Even the weather cooperated. April 1 had been our first 100 degree day in Phoenix, so we were pleased that the temperature was cooler and the elevation higher, making it a typical spring day in the Valley of the Sun.

The first stop was the Ray Copper Mine in Superior, AZ. There we looked down on N-scale (or was it Z-scale) trucks moving copper up the winding paths to the railroad cars above. Only they're not that small. Because the mine is 2½ miles across, they just look small. The tire at the top of the lookout let us know just how large these leviathans truly were. After everyone had a chance to stretch their legs and use the port-a-potties, we resumed our journey to Globe.

Next stop was the Southern Pacific Engine #1774 in a park in Globe, just one block from our destination, the Copper Spike. Again the gods were smiling on us. Though we had been told that there were only 49 seats available for dining in the dome car, the lady at the desk gave us extra tickets, so almost all of us wound up there. The food was tasty, service was good, and the camaraderie was everything the Desert Division is known for.

Also in Globe is an antique mall with items for every taste and hobby. It's amazing how well a small establishment can handle a bus-load of toy train hobbyists when they have advance notice. Needless to say, we left some of our fortunes here before proceeding to our last stop, Phil and Dottie Todd's home.

Dottie and several of her friends and neighbors treated us to a tour of her home and varied collections from Saudi Arabia, England, and the United States. Pictured below are a Desert Sand Rose from Saudi Arabia, weighing 500 pounds, dug up by Phil and sent home from one of his business trips; ceramic foot warmers, which for a time were included in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest collection of such items; some of Dottie's vast array of Toby Mugs; and Phil's trains running around an elevated track in the train room.



How small the trucks look; how big the tractor wheel is!



Dining in the Dome Car



Clockwise from upper left: Desert Sand Rose, a crystallized rock formation caused by the receding of ocean waters in the Middle East; just a few of Dottie's English ceramic foot warmers; one of three cabinets of Toby Mugs; and Phil's operating layout, a ceiling display on one of many curves in the Todd Mahal.

ANNIVERSARY GALA – OCTOBER 22, 2011

For months you've been told to save the date of Saturday evening, October 22, 2011, for the very special celebration of this Division's acceptance into the Train Collectors Association on June 25, 1971. Well, it's about time the Anniversary Committee let you in on what is planned for that memorable night.

First of all is the location. One of Scottsdale's most active resorts, Chaparral Suites and Resort, is the site of this Gala Event. Often the location of many of Scottsdale's premiere business affairs and the Annual host to one of the Fiesta Bowl's participating teams, the Award-winning personnel and culinary staff will host the Desert Division in this once-in-a-lifetime event. In its 40 years of existence, the Desert Division has provided to the TCA a cadre of National Presidents, the current National Secretary, a plethora of National Committee Chairs and Board Members, and two memorable National Conventions. The Desert Division will again host a TCA National Convention in 2019.

Your Banquet dinner will consist of a salad with a selection of dressings; you may choose from one of these 4 entrees: Cashew Crusted Chicken Breast in a Tarragon Cream Sauce, Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus, Pacific Rim Salmon, or Vegetarian Lasagna; for dessert there will be a very special 40th Anniversary Treat, made especially for the Desert Division. When you sit at your place in the Ballroom for this catered dinner, each member will receive a specially made die-cast figure holding a simulated ruby, commemorating our 40 years as a Division of TCA. Somewhere in the Ballroom will be three (3) specially prepared versions of this "figure," but that will be a surprise – we can't tell you everything!

Scattered throughout the Ballroom will be some limited items which have been donated to the Desert Division. We hope our members will be generous when these 5 items are made available for open auction. The Lionel Corporation, LLD, has provided us with a nice donation, as has T W TrainWorx, with two of their premiere display Arch-Over Bridges. Diane Rodriguez, a Desert Division member and award-winning California water-color Artist, has painted a special "Warbonnet" painting for this occasion. Angela-Trotta Thomas is donating a painting with a special *remarque* for our 40th Anniversary. AND, don't forget that during the evening, some lucky Division member will win the Prototype #1 40th Anniversary Hopper Car and accompanying Ruby Jewelry Set. (See Page 2 for details.)

The highlight of the evening will be the entertainment we have planned. Arizona's Official State Historian and Hall of Fame Musician and Storyteller, Marshall Trimble, will enliven the affair for as long as we wish. For a complete resume of his credentials, go onto www.google.com as we could use an entire Dispatch to provide a complete dossier of his vast accomplishments.

Finally, you may ask, "What is all of this going to cost me and my guest(s)?" As was said earlier, Chaparral Suites has graciously agreed to limit their cost to \$65 per plate, including tax and gratuity. Your cost, as a member of the Desert Division will be \$25 per person. Should you wish to reserve a two-room suite (this was previously an Embassy Suites property), the cost is \$109 per night plus tax. This is the same location we will be returning to in November for our 38th Turkey Meet.

We do hope to see a huge turn-out of our membership on October 22, 2011. After all, a 40th Anniversary only happens once in a lifetime. Help your Division Celebrate in Style! Reserve the date on your calendar now!

DESERT DIVISION EXCURSION – COPPER SPIKE - April 2, 2011 GROUP PHOTO



MY FIRST VISIT TO YORK

by Jim Bruner, TCA #97-45210

I have heard about York and its mystique for years but really didn't know many specific details. In fact I wasn't sure if York was in Pennsylvania or New York. Actually there is a York in both states, but the Pennsylvania York is the one.

Perhaps a little background on my interest in trains is in order. I received my first Lionel train at Christmas in 1946 and in subsequent years I added other engines, rolling stock, accessories, etc. During my college and Air Force years my train layout remained at home and fortunately, my parents did not dispose of anything.

Since moving to Arizona over 40 years ago I have built several layouts, with my current one occupying what would be the third stall in our garage. It is now a separate room with its own A/C, lights, etc.

I probably am not a "true" collector. My interest is more as an operator with 4 different gauges, O, HO, N, and G, and lots of scenery on my layout. I love scenery and all the details that go with it, having created vignettes of different phases of my life from my boyhood cottage on the lake in Iowa to Arizona. I should point out that TCA member Dave Brown has done all my electrical work for my layouts and is my trouble shooter when needed. Another friend, Rene Wendell of Wendell Florists, supplied the creative talent for the scenery.

Having said all this, I really was not very interested in adding additional engines, rolling stock, or accessories because I am out of space. So while I didn't go to York looking for a particular item, and with my wife, I did want to see "what is out there." And there is a lot. The buildings at the York Fairgrounds (lost track of how many) are packed full of items of all types that are a joy for a true model railroader. And as it turned out I did buy some additional scenery lights and items that I think will add to the realism on my layout.

The best part of the trip was visiting the National Toy Train Museum in nearby Strasburg. The extent of the collections and how they are displayed has to be seen to be believed. Added to this was the variety of operating layouts of all sizes and shapes. We had another couple from Scottsdale with us and while they have not been involved with model railroading, they too were mesmerized by the scope of the museum. We met Christie and Gordon Wilson who added to our enjoyment by giving us a tour of the "back of the scenes" operation of the museum. During Gordon's year as National President of the TCA he was instrumental in making this such a special place.

We also rode and ate in the dining car on the Strasburg Railroad. All of this made for a very special visit to York and surrounding areas.

If you are a model railroader and haven't been there you should put it on your "bucket" list.

I should give a special thanks to Gordon and Christie who helped with our pre-registration and suggestions which made our visit so pleasant.

RUBY HOPPERS - THEY'RE FINALLY HERE – GET THEM NOW!

After months of delay resulting from a lack of Decal Production, the Desert Division's beautiful 40th Anniversary Copper Hopper is at long last here and ready for YOU! Specially produced for just the Desert Division by the company known as K-Line by Lionel, Division member and former TCA President Nick Ladd used his ingenuity to have this car produced from Copper for this *avant-garde* Division.

On one end of this magnificent piece are the graphics which discreetly tell the world that this car was produced for the 40th Anniversary of the Desert Division and contains the date of the Division's admission into the TCA, June 25, 1971. On the underside of the hopper, between the operating hatches, each car is affixed with its own precise number, from 002-104. That same number also appears on the box to confirm its authenticity.

On each side of this two-pound copper behemoth is a water based decal featuring the Desert Division's 40th Anniversary Logo, the same one you find on our shirts and on this Dispatch. Topping off the hopper is a load appropriate to this occasion. The 40th Anniversary gem is a RUBY, and our loads are a glistening, Ruby Red.

You would expect to pay well over \$150 for such a piece. Not so! We are able to sell these heavy duty pieces for \$65.00 (plus \$10 postage if you can't pick it up locally). It will look great with the hopper you purchased at the 2009 TCA Desert Division TCA Convention. Order one or more today. We have only 104, and we'll be taking them to the Convention in Sacramento this June for sale. Don't miss your chance to get this piece of Desert Division history. There will never be another 40th Anniversary. The proceeds of this car will help defray the costs of our 40th Anniversary Banquet Celebration on October 22, 2011. Buy yours now! Checks should be made payable to Desert Division – TCA.

* * * * *

Please reserve _____ Ruby Hoppers for meet delivery at \$65 each.

Postage - \$10 each for non-meet delivery. No postage charge for cars picked up at monthly Desert Division meets.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____ TCA Number _____

Address _____

BUILDING THE ASH FORK EXTENSION

by Peter Atonna, TCA 75-7578

As some Division members know, following the 2009 TCA National Convention and the tour here to the Prescott area, I decided to take down my prewar layout and in its place extend the high rail layout onto that table. Why? Well, I recognized that my main hobby enjoyment comes most from building and operating my high rail layout. With new projects running low for it, I asked myself, why not take down the prewar layout and expand the high rail layout onto it? As Mary Jane pointed out, “That should keep you busy for a few more years!”

The first step was to remove and box all the track and accessories, most of which are still waiting in my dining room for buyers. Then the risers were taken down to the basic 36” high table. Next it was time to come up with a plan. Even though the L-shaped table was generous in size, eight feet wide and 16 and 20 feet long, creating a plan for 36” minimum radius O gauge curves was a challenge.

When I do a layout plan, I have a mental vision of what I want the scene to represent, then fit trackwork to that. In this case, I had two themes. On one side I wanted a town at the base of a mountain while on the other would be devoted to a major mountain scene. That second came from an inspiration I got a couple of years ago when riding on the Cumbres and Toltec through beautiful fall colors. Frankly, I caught the narrow gauge bug! So the mountain scene had to feature an “On30” train and “big” mountains.

What I ended up with was a new track, crossing the aisle, looping up and over itself, then slowly descending through a mountain pass back to the original main line. Since the loop was at the foot of a grade, I decided to call the town Ash Fork, which lies at the foot of the old Santa Fe grade to Williams. In addition, Ash Fork lies on the side of a hill and I would try my hand at a hillside town. Hence, the name of the project, The Ash Fork Extension. Those of you who have been to my place know that I use names of real Arizona towns, but do not try to literally copy them. They are the basis for the town’s theme and for Ash Fork, I wanted a small Arizona town located on Route 66.

Before starting scenery, I operate the trains for several months to correct glitches that may occur - and they do. In a few places track or roadbed needed adjusting. For scenery my standard practice of a pink foam base topped by texture paint and then scenic materials works for me, so it was followed. But Ash Fork proved one challenge. Being on a slope, every road is on a grade and every building has to have angled foundations added to keep them horizontal.

Another innovation on this town is the use of Plasticville buildings for the non-kit or scratch built structures. The design of Plasticville buildings really does a good job of representing the 1950’s and being, of course, plastic, they are a natural for modifying. When one thinks Plasticville, one thinks of Shirley Hunter. So, it was off to a visit to the Hunter’s for Mary Jane and me. Fortunately in Shirley’s junk box there were enough parts and pieces to assemble into three stores, four houses and a factory. Another beauty of Plasticville buildings is they can be so easily kitbashed. So, the factory includes two airport hangers, glued together. Stores had their depth doubled to be a bit more scale sized, while both got new roofs. The bank simply needed a rear and the two sides reversed. Houses were used as is, except for the ranch house which had a foundation added as it is a bit too low, as well as a rear porch and a roof soffit.

When done, all got new paint jobs, the stores got signs and in honor of the “Queen of Plasticville”, the residential street was named “Shirley’s Way.” Ash Fork is now pretty much done except for the station, so it is time to begin to get more serious about mentally designing a really big mountain.

A video of the new town is at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yD8yAwl3h1A&feature=channel_video_title. And of course, you can see it live when you join us at the “Beat the Heat” meet come August 20, 2011.



Benchwork extending onto the old layout



Scenery under way, with pink foam



Plasticville stores extended and repainted.



Hangers for industrial-looking structures



Main Street, Ash Fork



Good times on the back porch watching trains go by.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY IN WILLIAMS

by Peter Atonna, TCA 75-7578



Come to Williams, AZ on the weekend of May 7-8th to help Amtrak celebrate National Train Day 2011. Hosted by the Grand Canyon Railway, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, and the Williams - Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce, there will be a full weekend of train related activities. All events will take place at the Grand Canyon Railway's depot in the heart of Williams. The event will run from 10AM to 5PM on both Saturday and Sunday.

The highlight of the weekend will be the ability to take a trip aboard the Cataract Creek Rambler on a historic Harriman coach car behind the GCR's largest steam engine, #4960. The 45 minute trip will run hourly during the weekend from 10AM until 4PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and may be purchased at the depot either day. Also, for a \$5 donation to the NRHS, folks will be able to have a conducted tour of the Grand Canyon Railway's locomotive and car shop facilities. (Please note: shop visitors must be wearing sturdy footwear and no open toed shoes.) Other than the train rides, all events are free.



On the depot platform, awaiting departure of the Cataract Creek Express

Activities at the depot include a host of operating model railroads, from the tiniest N gauge to the largest G gauge size. There will be a display of real railroad locomotives and cars including a Santa Fe caboose and a BNSF diesel locomotive. A Grand Canyon Railway steam locomotive, diesel locomotive, and observation car will be open to view. In addition there will be exhibits by Operation Lifesaver with a locomotive simulator, historic railroad artifacts from the Arizona State Railroad Museum, a display of the Arizona Department of Transportation's new state rail plan, and a railroad photo exhibit. The Harvey Girls association will be on hand, giving presentations on their history and the Santa Fe Railroad. For this year's event, a classic car and antique tractor show will also be on the grounds.

Other events that weekend include a Saturday "Fly-In" at the Williams Airport. At the "Fly-In," people can view home-built and War-bird displays. There will be free Young Eagle flights for kids and a computerized flight simulator. A free shuttle is being offered all day from the Airport to the National Train Day event site in town at the Grand Canyon Railway depot.

To get to the event, take I-40 west from Flagstaff to Williams exit #163 and go to the center of town. The Depot is at the railroad tracks and Grand Canyon Blvd. There will be ample free parking. If you are interested in overnighting in Williams, contact me (928-636-4228) or e-mail mjatonna@gmail.com for a list of motels, including a couple within walking distance of the depot.

THE HUDSON RAFFLE GETS EVEN BETTER

Last month we advised everyone that there would be a bonus prize added to the 40th Anniversary 773 Hudson Raffle. That would be a 1948 set of #6440, 6440, and 6441 Green and Yellow Tinsplate Passenger Cars. These cars were pulled by a 2026 Locomotive with smoke and a 6466WX Tender, equipped with a whistle. Those three cars in C-7 condition were to have been the "Bonus" 40th Anniversary Prize.

Now, thanks to Greg Palmer, President of the Desert Division's Rio Grande Chapter, the stakes have been raised. Greg has donated to the Division a fine example of the 2-6-2 #2026 Loco and 6466WX Tender to complete this 1948 #1426WS Lionel catalogued set.

The Bonus Set that will now go to the second ticket drawn in the 773 Hudson Raffle will be for the 1948 #1426WS Set. Could that be reason enough for you to NOW invest or take a chance at buying some 773 Hudson Raffle Tickets? And now, the set is REALLY complete. It now has added to it the track, lock-on, and transformer. Gordon Wilson has provided the requisite amount of catalogued track and lock-on, while Ken Burling, owner of Burling's Ton of Trains, has donated to us the very hard to locate #1032 Lionel Transformer. Truly, Set #1426WS is now complete. Quite a **BONUS** prize for our 40th Anniversary Year drawing of the Original Hudson Raffle, don't you think?

The more raffle tickets you purchase, the more you increase your chances of winning the monthly \$100 prize. If you're from out of town, your winning ticket can net you back the cost of your raffle ticket and, remember, ALL winning tickets are reentered after each drawing, so they have an equal chance to win again and again. Just remember this: Your "donation" helps the Division and you can't win if you don't play!

**All Gauges
Railroad Related Items**



**Buy - Sell - Trade
View Operating Layouts**

SUMMER SHOW & MEET

Presented by

**Gadsden Pacific Division
Toy Train Operating Museum**

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Open to the Public 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

ADMISSION \$5.00

FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 13 ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Event Center at the GRANT INN
(Grant & I-10)

Events Center is located on Grant immediately West of I-10 & behind the Grant Inn

Snack Bar Operated by Las Cazuelitas Restaurant



MUSEUM'S PHONE: 520-888-2222

MUSEUM'S WEBSITE: <http://www.gpdToyTrainMuseum.com>

**FOR TABLES OR INFORMATION CONTACT
MEET CHAIRMAN BUD STEWART
(520) 749-0228**

OR E-MAIL bud@at.tuccoxmail.com



Prescott's **Beat the Heat**

Model Trains & Old Boys Toys

SWAP MEET

Saturday, August 20th, 2011 9am to 1pm

Adults \$4.00, under 12 free with adult

At the Prescott Activity Center 800 E. Gurley

Presented by:

The Central Az Model RR Club

For information call: Norm Delucchi 928-445-5379

Brent Schnitzius 928-445-6560

Not responsible for lost or stolen items

Table reservations \$25.00 per table in advance

Table sales subject to availability

1 free admission with each table

Dealer setup time 7am to 9am-No Early Public Admission

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Number of Tables ____ (Limit 4 tables per seller) @\$25.00 each ____
Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 each ____
Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 each ____
Lunch Reservations (sandwich, chips, soda) _____ @ 7.00 each ____
Special requests _____ Total _____

Please make checks payable to "CAMRRC"

Please mail payment to:

Norm Delucchi, 242 Thoroughbred Dr, Prescott Az. 86301-6688

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - Only 1 left Lionel SF extended vision caboose in war bonnet paint scheme Reg. \$85 Club Price \$79.49 – MTH SF 70' Madison RPO highly detailed, Club price \$79.95 – Beer reefers, beer reefers, beer reefers! Over 10 different billboard sided reefers to choose from Club price \$49.95 – MTH AF A-B-A F3, 4 motor 2 smoke units \$664.95 additional B unit is also available – MTH SP Black Widow A-B-A F3 Club price \$449.95- 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 – **Lionel & MTH Authorized Service Dept.**

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@gmail.com.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. Pat is on 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: 11 AM to 5 PM, M – F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com
AUTHORIZED LIONEL SERVICE CENTER

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 480-998-5349.

THE TRAIN STATION – Mountain Lakes, NJ. Top 10 Authorized Lionel and AF Sales and Service since 1974. New, Used, Bought, Sold, Repaired. 973-263-1979 www.train-station.com.

COMING IN JULY 2011! – The new QSI Titan AC Operated After Market Sound System. Three modes of operation: AC Conventional, AC-TMCC, & DCC. Automatic selection occurs at Power Up. Go to: www.The-Scaled-Tin-Rail.com for lots more features and details. Orders now being taken for July delivery. Price to be announced shortly. Keep checking the STR website. Art Boynton, 928-525-0755.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. 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 – Ives 3255 0-4-0 black cab, red frame w/ 135,135 & 136 black body, red roof & trucks, Restored in reverse colors, Excellent Condition, Set \$400. 92 Floodlight Tower o/b \$220, 2321 Lackawanna Gray Roof o/b \$425, 6445 Ft. Knox Gold Reefer o/b \$90. Dorfan: 610 Derrick Car 8 wheel, Brass Journals \$225, 605 PRR Coal Hopper & 604 Tank Indian refining Co. each \$60. 1679 Baby Ruth Box Orange Door (tattered box) \$30, 1680 Shell Tank 3 dome (tattered box) \$30, 736 2-8-4 w/736W tender \$275, 3461x-25 Log Car Green o/b \$75, 1684 2-4-2 black w/1689WT (missing front truck) \$50, 2660 Crane(post war trucks) repo boom \$75, Santa Fe Set, 2343AA,2343C "B" 2530,2531,2532,2533 all boxes, Set \$1,100. Set 224E Black 2224W, 2620,3659,2654,2652, & 2657 \$675. 225E Black 2235W Set 853W 2755,X2758,2812X & 2757 \$675. 2343 ABA no box for the "B" \$400, Lionel Rocky Mountain 5th Anniversary Reefer, \$50 - no box. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

WANTED – CTT – October 2009, Lion Roars – August 2001 and October 2002. Keith Swett, please call 480-332-0255 or e-mail k-swett@cox.net.

<p>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.</p>

UNDER THE WEATHER/UNDER THE KNIFE

Art Triant is recuperating from a gall bladder operation. Cards would be most welcome at this time. Send them to his new address: 2870 S. Chaparral Blvd., Gilbert, AZ 85295. You may also update your roster. His new phone number is 480-284-4665.

**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
May 4, 2011

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Enroll your children in Kid's Club Today!**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.tcadd.org
Click on the link to our e-Bay offerings.**

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| May 7-8 | National Train Day – Williams, AZ
Contact Jonathan Peiffer: 602-561-4131 |
| May 14 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
Educational Segment: Trains My Mother Bought Me |
| May 21 | New Mexico Rail Fair and Rio Grande Chapter Meet – School Arts Building Expo New Mexico
Contact Greg Palmer: 505-898-3840 |
| June 4 | Gadsden-Pacific Toy Train Show and Meet – Las Cazuelitas Events Center, Tucson, AZ – 9 AM
Contact Bud Stewart: 520-749-0238 |
| June 11 | Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| June 26-July 3 | TCA National Convention – Sacramento, California |
| August 20 | “Beat the Heat” Meet – Prescott, AZ 0 9 AM
Contact Norm Delucchi: 928-445-5379 |
| October 22 | 40 th Anniversary Party – Chaparral Suites – 6 PM – SAVE THIS DATE NOW! |

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

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