

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. 10

Visit our Website: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

November, 2010

## OCTOBERFEST IN THE DESERT

President Jonathan Peiffer called the meeting to order at 10 AM on a day when many of our members were at Railfair at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Our module, 12' x 24', is east of the Carousel. Those in attendance at Railfair were treated to tables filled with trains for sale, manned by folks with stories to swap, and the usual Desert camaraderie. Railfair held a special treat, as the brand new layouts building, expected to be completed in about four weeks, was opened for this one weekend for pre-completion tours.

Treasurer Bob Herman announced that we have \$28,290.59 in savings and \$13,174.08 in checking. Katie Elgar reported that the Great Southwest Train Expo, otherwise known as the Turkey Meet, is fast approaching. Sign-up with Katie (623-580-6957) if you are available to work on Wednesday, November 24 to set up the hall, Saturday, November 27 to assist with vendors' loading and unloading, as well as Sunday, November 28 for tear down. All are encouraged to buy tables, sell trains, and bring friends and families to see trains run! There will be two entrances, one for the free layouts only and another for the \$6.00 entrance fee to the Swap Meet. Right now we are blitzing the media for coverage. Local hobby shops have fliers to advertise the event.

The Holiday Party is December 5 at the Mesa Marriott, with the same price structure as last year. However, this year the party will begin at 4 PM. Registration fliers can be found in this issue of the Dispatch.

Anyone with ideas to pass on to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee should contact Jonathan Peiffer or Gordon Wilson prior to the next meeting of that group on November 7.

For the Education Segment, Glenn Hill presented several items relating to the McKeen Car, which ran on the Virginia and Truckee line one time. Too large for the curves on the line, it collided with the Gold Hill Station on its maiden run. Now it is housed at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, NV. To honor the opening of the car, coins were minted at the Carson City mint. A total of 200 were made. Glenn displayed one of these. He then shared the most valuable items in his collection: a 1943 tunnel, bridge, and station, all hand made by his father. Having no money to spend on train accessories, Mr. Hill made and hand painted all of these items. Angelo Lautazi brought the most recent issue of Raising Arizona Kids magazine, often found in doctors' offices. In it is an article about toy trains, with a few pictures of Angelo's layout and some remarks by him about the joys of toy train collecting, layout construction, and the Desert Division.

### COMING UP . . . .

**NOVEMBER 6 – Toy Train Meet – Tucson, AZ – 9 AM**

**NOVEMBER 6 – “In the Heat” Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM**

**NOVEMBER 27-28 – Great Southwest Toy Train Expo (Turkey Meet) – Mesa, AZ – 9 AM**

**DECEMBER 5 – Holiday Party – Mesa Marriott – 4 PM**

**JANUARY 8, 2011 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM**

**JANUARY 15 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM**

**FEBRUARY 12 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM**

**FEBRUARY 19 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM**

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Raffles went to the following:

Katie Elgar	Hudson Raffle ticket
Jonathan Peiffer	Lionel Penn Central Box Car and book
Paula Wik	Lionel Cracker Jack Reefer and book
Ralph Treichel	Lionel New Hope and Ivyland Box Car and book
Sam McElwee	K-Line 1995 Convention load, figures, Lionel picture frame, truck
Boyd Reasor	TM Lionel Action videos and book
Steve Rudy	Lionel Naperville Junction Railway and book
Jim Vokac	K-Line Ashley Birthday Car and book
Glenn Hill	Coffee Mug

The lucky Hudson ticket drawn belonged to Ivan English. As he was not in attendance, he will receive \$25.

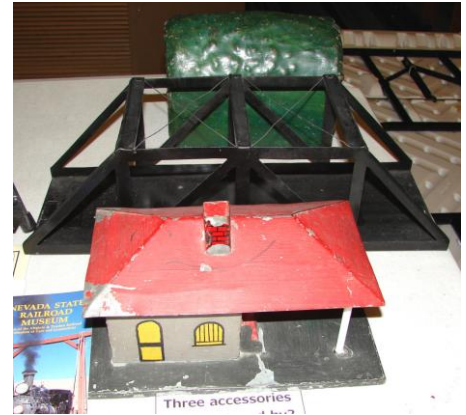
By 11 AM everyone was on his or her way to the Railroad Park to participate in Railfair.



Buyers and sellers abound at the Meet.



Glenn Hill talks about the McKeen car and the most valuable items in his collection.



## MY FIRST DRIVE TO YORK

by Gregory Palmer TCA \$94-39039

Several years ago I wrote the required article about my first trip to the Eastern Division Meet at York, PA. I am writing this as another type of first trip to York. It is the first time I went to York by car. I would recommend you try it. I had a great time. It took my sister Mechele and me three days from Albuquerque, and the sights and the things to do brought back many memories for us. It brought back memories of our vacations as kids. We went on I-40 to Oklahoma City, then I-44 to St Louis, then I-70 to PA, and then I-83 to York. The trees were changing colors, the farmers were getting their land ready for winter, and the weather was just super, except the Thursday during the York Meet, when it rained most of the day. To see this country from a car, instead of 40,000 feet in a plane, was just super. We plan on doing it again. One problem is that, since we had our own car, ours is a SUV by the way, we could pack a lot of trains and antiques inside. Thus excuses of, I can't take it on the plane, did not work.

There are several "must see" stops along the way to York, PA. The first is a restaurant in Amarillo, Texas, called Big Texas, the home of the 72oz steak. If you can eat the steak, in the time allowed, you get it free. While we were eating our small lunch, a man was trying the 72oz steak. It looked as if he was having problems after 10 minutes. We left before the time was over, but my guess is that he failed. The food is great, but one thing not to miss is their home made fudge. It is the best I have ever had. The next restaurant stop is off of I-44 in the small town of St. Clair, MO. It is right off I-44 so it takes only about five minutes to get to it. It is called Lewis's Cafe. It has been in business since 1938. Everything in the restaurant is made at the restaurant. The beef is home grown; they own a farm and they raise cattle. The pies are fresh and home cooked also. The fruit pie fillings come from their farm as well. The restaurant has not changed in 72 years. The reason I know about this wonderful cafe is that my mother worked there when she was in high school in the late 1930's and early 1940's. This is my Mom's home town. It is a must stop for lunch if you can time it right. It is how eating out used to be. The last place to stop is on I-70 in Ohio. It is between Dayton and Columbus, and it is called the Mid Ohio Antique Mall, billed as the largest in the country. I believe it is. We spent three hours there and could have spent three more to see all the buildings and wings of this Mall. It has all types of antiques from trains and toys to other types of collectibles. It is worth stopping by and checking it out.

Next time you go to York, think about driving. You don't have to pass through a TSA scanner, and it's fun.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2010 is coming to a close more quickly than it seems it should. Railfair was a resounding success and also a lot of fun. Please see the article in this issue for more information. Suffice it to say, the larger our group of operators becomes, the more successful our outings will be. Desert Division was extremely well represented this year and our Division should be proud of the efforts to support public events.

With Thanksgiving a mere month away, the holiday season is soon upon us! For Desert Division that means our annual train show, "The Great Southwest Toy Train Expo" on November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. This year's show will be a bit different. The "Expo" version will be free to the public and include all the displays, operating layouts and non-sales related activities. The swap meet will still require an entry fee. It is anticipated that by offering this part of the show for no cost, we can draw a larger portion of the public out and have more people attend the swap meet. Please provide your support to this important tradition by attending, selling, or helping make the Expo a success. We all know that there is another TCA sponsored train show to the north of us the same weekend. While we wish the best of success for that show, wouldn't it be great to see our own Desert Division members support our show?

On page 7 of this issue of the Dispatch you will see a registration page for the annual Holiday party on December 5th. Please note the new start time of 4:00 pm, in response to concerns about the traditional 11:00 am start. New for this year as well, we are welcoming members from the Paradise and Pacific club as well as our friends at GCMR. Be sure to get your reservations in soon!

The last and perhaps most important business that needs to be discussed is the third and final printing of the proposed new Bylaws for Desert Division in this issue of the Dispatch. Every Division member, whether in boundary or not, will receive a ballot via First Class Mail. Please consider the proposed new Bylaws and take the time to vote. Desert Division is one of the few that allows for every member of the Desert to vote regardless of your primary Division affiliation.

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the TCA Executive Committee reviewed the proposed bylaws of two Divisions and found them to be in compliance with the current policies of TCA National. Our Bylaws Committee should be commended for their efforts to assemble bylaws that meet both our Division needs and comply with National TCA. We are only the second Division to have achieved this milestone.

It should be noted that Desert Division successfully submitted a petition to change the National Rules and Regulations regarding the process in which Division bylaws are handled prior to a vote by the Division membership. The end result streamlines the

National review process and will result in less cost to National.

I am not in a position to tell you how to vote on the new Bylaws as I am simply one voting member of the Division who happens to have a monthly column. Simply keep in mind that these Bylaws are amendable at any time by a vote of the membership. If these proposed Bylaws are not at all in alignment with your thinking, than a no vote would be appropriate and we will put our committee back to work again. However, understanding that no Bylaws are perfect, if this is mostly in alignment with your thinking, then a yes vote would be appropriate and we can amend the small issues in the future.

As we close out the year, I want to continue to thank everyone who has emailed me, called me, or talked to me at a meeting to offer your suggestions. Without an active group of members, we would not be the Division we are. The efforts I have seen do not reflect on the work of your president, your board, or your committee chairs as much as it reflects on all of us as members of Desert Division. As we move into our 40<sup>th</sup> year as a Division, we have a lot to proudly reflect upon and even more to anticipate in the future.



### RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

As I am writing this issue of the Chapter News, I have just returned from the October Eastern Division Meet at York, PA. It was another super Meet and once again I had too much to eat, and I am now broke. I guess I purchased too many trains. Oh well, I had fun anyway. The Chapter is ready for our 5th Annual Pumpkin Meet which is October 31st. This show is the largest ever, with over 55 tables sold, and close to 30 coming to the first annual Pumpkin Meet dinner. Now all we have to do is get the News Media to help us get the public to come, which is easier said than done. A full report on the 2010 Pumpkin Meet and dinner will be part of the Rio Grande Chapter News in the Winter issue of the Dispatch.

Our next regular Chapter meet is January 15, 2011 at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah N.E. in Albuquerque, NM. We will start the planning for the 2011 Pumpkin Meet, have a status report on the Trains for Kids Program, and possibly make a big announcement for all Chapter members. This announcement could be the biggest announcement in the Rio Grande Chapter's short history. Please bring items to show and tell at our Education Segment. It is always great to see what all of our Rio Grande Chapter Members collect and operate. Do not miss the January 15th regular Chapter Meet.



## RAIL FAIR A MODEL OF VOLUNTEERISM

By Jonathan Peiffer (TCA 01-53047)



Our activities at Rail Fair continue to show a growing commitment from our membership and from friends from other O gauge clubs in assisting with the display of operating trains on modules. This year saw no less than **twenty-seven**, yes twenty-seven, people who assisted with the successful operation of modules over the course of the weekend! Out of those 27 people, 20 were TCA Desert Division members. This may be a record for number of volunteers at an operating event for Desert Division and also clearly shows that the love of trains shows no boundaries. The most important thing we can do is simply to say "THANK YOU!" to all who helped out. This list includes the following individuals: Herb Andreen and his brother Scottie, John Beily, Terry Bunish, Dallas Dixon, Jack Eaton, Katie Elgar, Bill Hodgson, Dave Jelen, Bob Johnston, David Kuszinski, Janet Mattern, Russ Mosser, Greg Novak, Jonathan Peiffer, Tom Plies, Beth Stange, Gus Recto, Bonnie and Steve Rudy, Tony Saulina, Patricia Stetson, Loren Tomlinson, Art Triant, Barbara and Dwane Turner, and finally Marty Wik.

While the park did not seem to have as many turn out this year as last year, there were still times when it was extremely busy. The crowds were well behaved and it is continually amazing to see how many children simply love the sight of running trains and how many parents ask about where they can find a train set for their child. At times, we get caught up in the idea that this is perhaps a dying hobby, yet the enthusiasm of youth surely stands out when there are toy trains running.

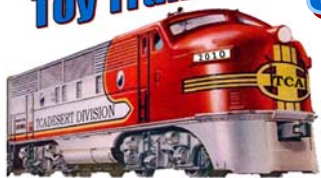
An item of note was a preview of the new Paradise and Pacific layout in the new building at the railroad park. It will be a 10-year project to complete it, at least. Even in its infancy, the layout is nothing short of spectacular. At 30'x42', an O scale train looks small on its broad curves and the many vantage points afforded by the design of the building really help show off the layout.

Some memorable moments from this year's Rail Fair include the popularity of Beth Stange's K-Line girl's train and Lionel Nascar set. Each train ran continuously for about 4 hours without any issues. The Turner's circus train, Area 51 set, and various other fun trains drew some attention as did Tom Plies collection of flatcars with various kids show figures on them. Terry Bunish has made a tradition of bringing his small Tin Plate layout and it continues to be popular with the crowds. Finally, Janet Mattern's Coors Light set is always a delight to watch as Janet vigorously pushes the correct sequences of buttons on the Z4000 transformer to show off all the train's features.

Overall, everyone who helped setup, teardown, hand out flyers, or run a train made this event one for the history books. Thanks to the concerted efforts of those who helped tear down on Sunday, it was organized, quick and without incident. Again, all these individuals deserve a huge "Thank you" for the efforts on behalf of the Division. Remember that the next scheduled event for operation of modules will be the "Great Southwest Toy Train Expo" the weekend after Thanksgiving. If you want to play trains, be sure to contact Katie Elgar at 623-580-6957 or at [KTTrains@aol.com](mailto:KTTrains@aol.com). There is always room for one more person!



**DESERT DIVISION TCA**  
**Great Southwest**  
**Toy Train Expo**



**Mesa, Arizona**  
Celebrating 35 Years in the Desert

**DESERT DIVISION TCA**  
**GREAT SOUTHWEST TOY TRAIN EXPO**  
**MESA CONVENTION CENTER**  
**CELEBRATING 35 YEARS**



November 27-28, 2010 201 North Center Street - Mesa, AZ

**TWO DAY SHOW 9:00am – 3:00pm**  
**RULES**

**TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET** - The Toy Train Swap Meet is our 35th meet. The meet features approximately 200 sales tables of toy trains and related model railroading items for sale by local train enthusiasts. The Swap Meet brings people together with special interests in the model railroading hobby to buy and sell toy trains and train related items of all gauges.

**ADMISSION FEE**

Pre-registration admission fee for the event is \$5 cash donation per person. Children under 14 years of age are admitted FREE when accompanied by an adult. Admission fee at the door is \$6 cash donation per person.

**REGISTRATION**

Everyone must register. Registration fee is not included in table fees. **Pre-Registered members of TCA, GCMR, LOTS, LCCA & TTOS and P&P, in good standing,** will be admitted to the trading hall thirty minutes prior to the general public.

**TABLE SALES**

Tables will be assigned on a first come - first serve basis. The tables are approximately 30" wide x 8' long. Consult posted floor plan for seller assignments. Limited electrical outlets are available for an additional fee and must be requested at registration. Special table requests with friends must be made in writing with pre-registration. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests. **TRADING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING UNLOADING OR SETUP**

- Seller badges must be worn at all times.
- All sale items must meet TCA policies.
- Restoration and reproduction items must be marked per TCA policy.
- Table holders must remain setup until 3:00 PM on both days of the meet.
- Trading will not be permitted during unloading or setup. Persons not involved in setup will be asked to leave the hall.
- NO SMOKING PERMITTED in trading hall.
- Keep your table covered for security when leaving the hall.
- Sellers are responsible for obtaining the sales tax permit from the City of Mesa unless the exemption for Casual Sales applies [Ref: City of Mesa ordinance, Chapter 5-10 Privilege and Excise Tax].
- "I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Train Collectors Association (TCA) and its Divisions and Chapters in effect from time to time, especially including all rules and regulations of all TCA Committees and any actions and rulings of all TCA Committees."
- "I also agree that all items sold by me to any TCA Member or at any TCA sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufacturer's original condition unless I have caused any such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction."

[www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

For Additional Information and Registration  
Contact: Bob Herman 480.948.2730

**REGISTRATION – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

**FEES:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TCA# \_\_\_\_\_ Registration\* \$5.00  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ \*(Registration fee not included in Table Fee)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ (Children under 14 FREE)  
SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse or Guests \_\_\_ x \$ 5 ea \$ \_\_\_\_  
Table Fee \_\_\_ x \$35 ea \$ \_\_\_\_  
I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the Great Southwest Toy Train Expo in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. I further agree, that in the case of a dispute, the meet chairman, or an impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.  
TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_

Signed X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Registration to: Robert Herman, 11429 N. 68<sup>TH</sup> St. , Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5148

NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 20, 2010

Reg# \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_

Chk# \_\_\_\_\_ Chk Amt \_\_\_\_\_



## YORK BY RAIL, 2010

by Peter Atonna, TCA #75-7578

We didn't decide to go on our annual Amtraking trip to York until about six weeks beforehand. Mary Jane has been upset for the last couple of trips as a major Arizona carriage competition was moved to the week following York. That meant we would arrive home late Monday, have Tuesday to unpack and repack so we could leave on Wednesday for Sonoita. But she has a new carriage horse this year and she decided he was not ready for competition yet, so she said, "See if you can make the train reservations." That is all I needed, and with Amtrak tickets in hand, we were set for one more York trip.

You may remember that last year, we happened to be on the train on which the Amtrak President had his car attached for a trip back to Washington. Well, no such excitement this year, but the trip went smoothly, with an on-time arrival at Martinsburg, WV, our spot to pick up a car for our Pennsylvania touring. We hadn't been to Altoona for the Curve and the Railroader's Museum for several years and I was able to convince Mary Jane that another trip was in order. With beautiful weather, we caught a couple of trains at the Curve, but unfortunately, the hoped for fall colors were just beginning. Seems the East had the same really long summer that we had.

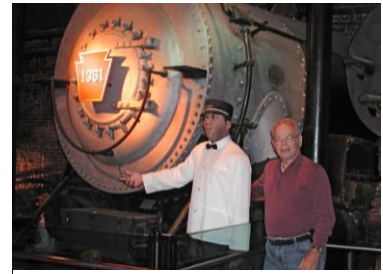
Then it was off to Williamsport for an overnight. Why Williamsport? That is because at the Lycoming County Historical Museum, there is on display the train collection of LeRue Schemp. Mr. Schemp had one of the most significant collections of both pre- and post-war trains in the country, and upon his death a decade ago, he donated it to his hometown museum. In the collection is the Lionel "Brute" standard gauge loco as well as prototypes of many postwar diesels, including items such as the never produced Southern Pacific FM. The collection is beautifully housed in the basement of the museum and consists of items from early prewar to MPC era trains as well as a nice HO and tinplate layout. (I don't think of myself as a nitpicker, but I couldn't help pointing out to Mary Jane several examples of mismatched tenders with locos as well as the wrong cars behind the prewar Red Comet. Shame on me!)

Then it was off to York for the rest of the week. For the first time we stayed at the Holidome, the site of the major bandit meet and just down the road from the Fairgrounds. It was kind of neat to be right there and around the corner from many of the York happenings, although Mary Jane was upset because our room didn't have a microwave or refrigerator, niceties we have gotten used to. We did our traditional lunch in the Strasburg Railroad and visit to the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. The railroad museum remains my favorite of all I have visited and a pleasant surprise this year was the completion of the HO layout in the model train building. It contains one of the most spectacular station scenes I have ever seen with a fully detailed lower concourse and train levels.

For me, two of the highlights of the show are attending the TMCC breakfast where the techies go over the latest innovations from Lionel's control system, and the second year of Lionel's presentation in the Gold Hall. At that, you get to see many of the new items actually demonstrated as well as updates on all the current goodies. As to the show itself, we didn't really buy much other than small items for the layout. No luck again this year in finding my elusive, last postwar item, the Canadian Pacific Craig Manor Pullman. Neither Gordon nor I could find one in the condition I am looking for. None the less, York will prove expensive. One of the benefits of attending is being able to see live almost everything available in the hobby, new and old. I was trying to decide between ordering one of two locos, a 3rd Rail ATSF Mountain and the one of the new Lionel Vision steamers. Looking at both, the Lionel Challenger won, and hopefully it will be under the tree this Christmas.

To balance the trip, we spent Saturday morning wandering around a major carriage auction, which just happens to be an hour north of York. They take over a fairgrounds for it, too!

We ran into perhaps the fewest Desert Division members I can remember. We joined Johnny Ourso and Jerry Calkins at the TMCC breakfast and then had dinner a couple of nights with Gordon and Christie Wilson and Greg and Michele Palmer. But then it was time to return to Martinsburg and wait for Amtrak to see what their dining car had waiting for us.



Peter with a friend at the Altoona Railroad Station



Schemp Museum –  
Lionel Brute



Pennsylvania Railroad Museum  
HO Layout



Dining on the Strasburg  
Railroad



Remy Covenry from Lionel at the Gold Hall presentation. Remy was very helpful in helping to facilitate our convention's Flag Mint car.

## ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE MUSEUM

by Katie Elgar, TCA 94-39348

Perhaps you have noticed a box by the coffee area at our meetings for aluminum cans. This is part of a project that began in January, 2010, when the Desert Division started to save aluminum cans for the TCA National Museum. It only takes a second to set your empties in the box. You may also bring in your recyclable cans from home. Those, as well as the ones gathered during the meet, are all recycled. To date we have raised over \$30.00 (not bad for trash). We will continue to collect the cans and set the money aside for the TCA Museum.

Please continue to save aluminum cans for this collection, and bring them with you to the Desert Division meets. However, we must ask that you please do not put trash, food, cigarette butts etc. in the empty can before you deposit it into the collection box. The Division thanks you for helping with this earth-friendly, charitable, painless method of helping your National organization.

### 2010 HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 5, 2009  
Phoenix Marriott Mesa  
200 N. Centennial Way  
Mesa, AZ 85201

4:00 PM: Meet and Greet (cash bar available)  
Santa will be there to see the children under 12

5:00 PM: Dinner

Fellowship, Food, Favors, Raffles, Auctions and Fun!

Chair: Ralph & Sally Treichel

Reservation deadline: November 30, 2009



-----Cut here and send with check-----

Make check payable to Desert Division TCA and send this form and check to  
Ralph Treichel  
16802 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Adults: \$26.00  
Children 12 and under: \$15.00  
Children 2 and under: Free

Please print names of persons attending, giving ages of children 12 and under.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Adults @ \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_

# children 12 and under: \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you will need handicapped seating.  
Thank you!

## MY YORK EXPERIENCE

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA #76-10233

It has been ages since I've written about one of my trips to York. This fall 2010 event would be my 68<sup>th</sup> York and turns out to be one of my most memorable. I left our Division Meet for Sky Harbor on October 9, arriving in Philadelphia at 9:00 PM EDT. Early the next morning I met a long-time friend, a real Philadelphia Lawyer (and Junior High School classmate) and headed off to the famed Lambertville (NJ) Golden Nugget Flea Market. This is a REAL flea market where "new" merchandise is prohibited. I immediately scored some super buys on several boxed Lionel Post-War Accessories. This flea market is where the late Cole Gibbs and I would often meet and I do believe Peter Atonna has even been there. It is a great place! There is also a magnificent restaurant called The Full Moon which concludes every session at this venue.

The next day a college buddy and I headed for New York City for a performance of Boris Gudonov at the Metropolitan Opera House. Last May I put in an order for tickets for October 11, never dreaming I'd get the seats they sent me: dead center in the Orchestra Section, a mere 4 rows from where Christie and I had a subscription for 20 years before moving to the Phoenix area. Prior to the opera we ate at a fantastic Italian Restaurant, Salumeria Rosi, which I'd found while reading an issue of an Arthur Frommer travel magazine. It was at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and didn't require a mortgage.

On Tuesday night Christie was flying into Philly where I'd pick her up at 11:30 PM. I met my lawyer friend at her home in Center City and went to dinner at "the best new Restaurant in Philadelphia," a place called "Fish." It was superb and only a block and a half from her house. We watched NCIS and NCIS-LA until it was time for me to leave for the airport.

From Wednesday to Saturday the time was spent at either Strasburg (TCA Headquarters) or York. Christie and I both attended a TCA Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday night – she as National Secretary and I as the Membership Committee Chair. At the Museum, earlier that day, we both spoke with MTH and Lionel, mostly about our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration next year. Both responded favorably. Thursday saw us at York, but not buying much. As Chair of the Membership Committee, I try to solve some of the complaints that are ongoing. One of them more or less exploded in my face as I apparently touched a very "hot button" in the case of one member involved in a dispute. Dinner that night at the Roosevelt Tavern was much nicer with Peter and Mary Jane Atonna and Greg and Mechele Palmer. Friday would be my "Bonanza."

For years I've been searching for the Girl's Set Hopper without the center spreader bar – a very hard piece to find in decent shape at a decent price. Suddenly, in the Blue Hall, there sat one, but in a whole set. The set was marked "Restored," but only the loco and tender had been restored and the price was right! Bingo, Bango, Bongo – I had my lilac Girl's Hopper and paid for the whole set what I was prepared to pay JUST for the hopper. Anything else on Friday and Saturday would be gravy! The gravy kept coming! Later on Friday at The Train Station table I spied a strange Lionel Phonograph. I knew nothing about it, but at dinner that night, Greg Palmer was a walking encyclopedia about it. The next day that phonograph was mine and John Upshur was kind enough to transport it back to Arizona for me.

Although there weren't as many Phoenix residents at York as I've previously seen, I did see the following members walking about: Peter and Mary Jane Atonna, Greg and Mechele Palmer, John and Eva Upshur, Selma Levin, Roy and June Aydelotte, Chuck Ganucheau, Jerry Calkins, Johnny Ourso, DeLon Freije, Jim and Kay Vokac, Frank Pizzaia, Bill Sivley, Al Szirony, Ed Heil, Bob Caplan, Mark Boyd, Dannie Martin, Bill Jenkins, Nancy Tentzeras, Art Boynton, Don and Erna Brill, Newt Derby, Bruce Greenberg, Bill Kotek, Denis Oravec, George Sokol, Ed and Dolores Stencler, and Lew and Evelyn Warren.

The day after York I was able to attend a National League Championship Series baseball gem at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. The Phillies defeated the Giants 6-1; however, the Phillies ultimately lost the series 4 games to 2. I then began appraising a large toy train collection for the friend of a former music colleague of mine who is going through a rather nasty divorce. I returned home to Fountain Hills on October 21, secure in the knowledge that this had indeed been a most exciting and memorable trip to the East Coast and the York Meet.



Left: The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City



Right: The sign board at Citizens Bank Park, showing the Phanatic, the famous mascot of the Philadelphia Phillies



# **BYLAWS OF THE TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION DESERT DIVISION**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE**

### **Section 1: Name**

This organization, an affiliate of the Train Collectors Association (hereinafter referred to as “TCA”) shall be known as Desert Division (hereinafter referred to as the “Division”).

### **Section 2: Purpose**

The purpose of the Division shall be to adhere to and support the mission of the TCA

- A. By conducting programs and activities, and to especially serve those TCA members residing within the boundaries of the Division,
- B. To uphold the ethical standards of the Train Collectors Association as expressed in the National Bylaws and policies, and
- C. To conduct activities in compliance with all requirements and standards applicable to a Not-for-Profit organization.

## **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Qualifications**

Membership in the Division is open exclusively to TCA members, as that TCA membership is set forth in the TCA Bylaws.

### **Section 2: Duties and Rights of Members**

- A. Active Division Member
  - a. Members shall be current in fees, dues, and assessments. Members whose dues have not been paid as of March 1 shall not be considered in good standing and will be dropped from the active Division roster. The Board of Directors may take such action as it sees fit in the event of extenuating circumstances.
  - b. Active Division members in good standing are afforded full rights and privileges as outlined within the Bylaws and policies.
- B. Inactive Division Member
  - a. Any TCA member living within the boundaries of the Division as set forth by the TCA National, but not paying yearly dues to the Division.
  - b. Inactive Division Member may attend Division Meets but shall not vote in elections or hold office.
- C. Lifetime Division Members
  - a. The Division Board of Directors may, from time to time, bestow the honor of Lifetime Membership on members of the Division.
  - b. Lifetime members shall be considered Active Division Members as outlined in these bylaws but are exempt from paying Division dues. Each Lifetime Division Member must remain a member in good standing within the TCA.

### **Section 3: Complaints**

- A. The Division’s Board of Directors shall take such action as it deems appropriate to protect the Division and to take action to enforce the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of itself and the TCA.
- B. Complaints pertaining to the Division’s functions or activities must be referred, in writing, to the Division’s Board of Directors for appropriate action.

### **Section 4: Complaints – Disciplinary Action**

- A. The Division reserves the right to restrict members from attending meets or events where the member’s presence and/or actions are judged to be adverse to the goals and purposes of the TCA as determined by the Division’s Board of Directors.
- B. All other matters pertaining to member-to-member conduct and/or sales transactions will be submitted to the TCA Membership Committee for review and action, if necessary.

## **ARTICLE III - OFFICES, DUTIES, TERMS OF OFFICE**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers of the Division shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Directors at Large. They shall be members in good standing of both TCA and the Desert Division and all duly elected.

### **Section 2: Duties of Officers**

- A. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this Division, shall preside at all meetings, and except as otherwise provided herein, shall have the powers, duties, and responsibility usually vested in the office of the President of a not-for-profit organization. The President shall have general supervisory control of all other elected or appointed officials.

- B. The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and perform all the duties of the President during his/her absence or incapacity, or as directed by a simple majority of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Secretary shall act as clerk, shall send out notices of meetings to all members, keep minutes thereof, and send copies to the National Secretary. The Secretary shall receive and record all Desert Division fees, dues and moneys, and after recording, transfer all funds to the Treasurer of the Desert Division.
- D. The Treasurer shall disburse funds on properly presented and approved bills. All funds shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Treasurer and approved by a simple majority of the Board. The President and the Treasurer are authorized signers of a Desert Division check. The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain monthly Treasurer's Reports.
- E. The Directors shall serve on various committees and act in an advisory capacity for the good of the Division.
- F. All offices shall carry full voting privileges.

### **Section 3: Terms of Office and Vacancies**

- A. The term of office for the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors shall be two calendar years and coincide with the Division's fiscal year.
- B. If the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall thereupon fill the position of President for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event the office of President becomes vacant at a time when the office of Vice President is also vacant, the Board of Directors shall fill the office of President for the remainder of the term.
- C. A vacancy of an office other than President by resignation, termination, or death shall be filled by the Board of Directors, who may appoint a member to fill the remaining term of the vacated office until the next regular election.

### **Section 4: Re-Election of Officers**

A member shall serve no more than two (2) terms as President and is no longer eligible to be a candidate for the office of President or Vice President. After serving as President, a member may be a candidate for Secretary, Treasurer, or Director at Large. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors may serve for an indefinite number of elected terms.

## **ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of:**

- A. Each of the officers of the Division, namely President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer during their term in office.
- B. Directors at Large being comprised of
  - a. Elected President of a Chapter.
  - b. Three duly elected members.
- C. All past National Presidents shall be honorary non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2: Duties of the Board of Directors**

- A. The Board of Directors shall have full power to manage the business and affairs of the Division except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.
- B. The Board of Directors shall control and govern the affairs, property, and finances of the Division.
- C. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once each quarter year, and any additional times as called by the President.
- D. A quorum (majority) of officers, including the President and Secretary, is required to transact Division business. The Secretary shall record and maintain the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings. In the absence of the elected Secretary, a Secretary pro-tem may be appointed by the President. Any member may attend a Board of Directors' meeting.

### **Section 3: Compensation**

All Division Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and committees serve "pro bono" without compensation. Compensation for travel to represent the Division at the annual National TCA Directors' meeting by the President or his/her designee is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors and requires a majority vote.

### **Section 4: Removal from Office**

Any Officer or Director may be removed for cause at any meeting of the full Board of Directors by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the participants in said meeting.

### **Section 5: Parliamentary Authority**

Parliamentary rules as set forth in the most current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Division in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order TCA or the Division may adopt.

## **ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

- A. Any candidate eligible to run for an elected office shall be a member in good standing of the Desert Division for at least one year and reside within the geographical boundaries of the Desert Division.

- B. No one who is an officer or is seeking office in another nationally recognized train club may run for office in the Desert Division.

### **Section 2: Election Committee**

- A. The President shall appoint an Election Committee of three, including the Chairperson, to prepare a slate of candidates for elected office.
- B. The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall also accept nominations from the membership at the October Business meeting. The slate of candidates will be announced and nominations will close at that time.
- C. The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall prepare a ballot, with provisions for write-ins, to be mailed on or about November 1 to all members in good standing. The ballot shall contain provisions for the voting member's name and TCA number for ballot authentication. Ballots shall be returned by mail to the Chairperson of the Election Committee, postmarked no later than November 30.
- D. The Election Committee shall count the ballots prior to the December meeting and announce the results at the December meeting. Ballots shall be retained for ninety (90) days and then destroyed.
- E. Candidates with the largest plurality of votes cast shall be elected to the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director(s).
- F. The Secretary shall notify the candidates who do not attend the December meeting of the election results.

## **ARTICLE VI - DIVISION MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: Annual Membership Meeting**

The Annual Membership Meeting shall be the first business meeting of the calendar year. Installation of any new officers and the financial report for the closing of the fiscal year shall be given at that time.

### **Section 2: Business Meetings**

- A. The business meetings shall be for the purpose of conducting such business as is usually brought before a general membership, including elections, and Bylaws changes.
- B. Members may buy and sell trains prior to the start of the business meeting; however, all transactions must end with the commencement of the business meeting.
- C. A minimum of eight official business meetings will be held during a calendar year.

### **Section 3: Visitors at Business Meetings**

- A. Definition: A visitor is anyone who is not a current TCA member or an immediate family member of a TCA member.
- B. A visitor may attend one meeting per year.
- C. Minors attending meetings are the responsibility, moral and financial, of their parents or sponsors.

## **ARTICLE VII - FINANCIAL**

### **Section 1: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year, starting January 1 and ending December 31.

### **Section 2: Dues**

Dues are due January 1st and shall be payable annually in advance. Dues may be paid up to five (5) years in advance. Amount of dues and initiation fees are to be determined by the membership.

### **Section 3: Special Expenditures**

Normal operating expenses will be sanctioned by the Board of Directors. Special expenditures over \$1,000.00 must be approved by a majority of votes cast by the attending members at a regular business meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII - APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

### **Section 1: DISPATCH Editor**

An Editor of the Division Newsletter shall be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall be responsible for the timely publication of the Division newsletter and shall work with the Election Committee for the publication and mailing of Division elections.

### **Section 2: Webmaster**

A webmaster shall be appointed by the President for a two year term. He/She shall maintain the Division's website with information and news that is current and pertinent and promotes the Division while providing favorable exposure to the general public as well as TCA members.

### **Section 3: Sergeant-at-Arms**

A Sergeant-at-Arms shall be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall be charged with the duties of maintaining order and security.



#### **Section 4: Media Relations**

A Media Relations Chairperson shall be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall promote the growth of the Division through exposure of meets, events, and activities.

### **ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1: Special Committees**

The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, such special committees as he/she from time to time deems necessary. Such committees shall be vacated when the President who appointed them goes out of office or when disbanded by the President.

#### **Section 2: Finance Committee**

- A. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Vice President, Treasurer, and a Director at Large. The Committee shall review, supervise, and document the revenues and expenses of the Division.
- B. The Finance Committee shall assure compliance with all financial recording and reporting requirements of the TCA.
- C. The Finance Committee shall insure the timely reporting and filing of all I.R.S. forms consistent with a not-for-profit organization.

### **ARTICLE X – CHAPTERS**

#### **Section 1: Formation, Approval, Finances**

- A. Groups of members may organize as a Chapter of the Division subject to the Bylaws and policies of the TCA and of the Division.
- B. A Chapter may be formed by filing a petition to the Division Board of Directors with the geographic boundary, proposed name, and 25 signatures pledging TCA membership.
- C. Final approval of the petition for Chapter formation resides with the Division Board of Directors.
- D. All fees and dues collected by the Chapter are the financial responsibility of the Chapter. The Chapter President and Chapter Treasurer shall insure the timely filing of all applicable I.R.S. forms consistent with a not-for-profit organization.

### **ARTICLE XI – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

#### **Section 1: Power**

All power, rights, and authority granted to the Division is dependent on the membership of its members in TCA and the continued adherence to TCA policy and standards by the Division.

#### **Section 2: Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution of the Division, the Division's Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, distribute all residual assets in the following manner: first, the Train Collectors Association or its successor; second, the National Toy Train Museum; third, one or more organizations which themselves are recognized as not-for-profit under current or future codes of the federal or state government for exclusively public or charitable purposes.

### **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed at any official business meeting, and upon majority vote, will be referred to the TCA Rules and Regulations Committee for review. Upon favorable review by the TCA Rules and Regulations Committee and notice duly given by publication, the amendment(s) shall be submitted by mail to the entire membership for a vote. If a majority of the ballots returned are affirmative, the amendment(s) shall be approved.

### **ARTICLE XIII – ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws shall become effective January 1, 2011 as prescribed in the regulation governing "Amendments," Article IX, as adopted by the membership of the Desert Division January 1, 1976 and amended under Article IX of these Bylaws in 2004.

### **PROVISO**

- A. These Bylaws shall become effective January 1, 2011, and upon approval of this revision, the terms of all officers in the Division will end December 31, 2011. Newly elected officers will then be seated.
- B. The current President shall serve until December 31, 2011, and as outlined in Article III Section 4 of these Bylaws, be considered to have completed his first term in office.
- C. The office of Past President/Director is eliminated. The current Past President/Director shall serve until December 31, 2010.
- D. The office of Director-at-Large shall be filled January 1, 2011 from the third highest voted candidate of the most recent held election, November 2009. This term shall be for one year and end December 31, 2011.
- E. The President shall form a new Finance Committee January 1, 2011 to insure proper I.R.S. filings for the tax year under Article IX Section 2C of these adopted Bylaws.

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<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>
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**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  
**November 1, 2010**

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**COMING EVENTS**

November 6	Toy Train Meet – Tucson, AZ – 9 AM Contact Bud Stewart – 520-749-0228
November 6	“In the Heat” Meet – North Phoenix Baptist Church – 9 AM – 2 PM
November 27-28	Southwest Toy Train Swap Meet (“Turkey Meet”) – Mesa Convention Center Contact Bob Herman – 480-948-2730
December 5	Holiday Party – Mesa Marriott – 4 PM
January 8, 2011	Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
January 15	Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM Contact Greg Palmer – 505-898-3840
February 12	Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
February 19	Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
March 12	Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM
March 12	Combined Picnic – McCormick – Stillman Railroad Park – Noon
March 19	Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

**DIVISION MEET LOCATION**

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