

TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



Volume 34, No. 7

Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



September, 2005

BEAT THE HEAT 2005

by Paul Wassermann TCA #73-5169

It's August and that means Arizona heat. The Desert Division member's escape? Why, Prescott and the annual "Beat the Heat" Meet, of course. Once again I made the trip to that rapidly growing little city to the north, accompanied by Katie and Irene (Mikey has started the debate season for Brophy Prep and was otherwise engaged). Our little trio made our traditional stop at Young's Farm for breakfast. Unfortunately the farm is closing after next year so the breakfast fare we enjoyed this year may have been our last at that venue. With fresh corn on the cob in the back of the Suburban we continued our journey up to the Prescott Activity Center where we found a packed hall filled with old friends and trains.

This year I found some nice Varney HO kits on George Sokol's table and enjoyed viewing the other offerings. Bob Mancus delivered two repaired train locos to me (He does a great job at very reasonable rates.) and after a brief tour of the tables we left for our annual tour of the antique shops. Irene resisted some glass items that got her attention. My morning was made by a concurrent antique automobile show that filled the streets of Prescott. Amazingly, I observed a 1958 Fiat that was identical to the one owned by my childhood best friend's mom. I spent many a happy hour in such a little car, going fishing and to the archery field target range up Logan Canyon (Utah). In fact my first illegal driving moments were in such a car where Paul Kelker and I would steal a trip around the block at age 15, prior to having a legal license. Without question, the nostalgia juices were flowing; Irene and Katie were much more enthralled with a 1957 pink porthole T Bird.

But for us, the Prescott meet is all about visiting the collections and layouts of our friends Ray and Joan Dextraze and Peter and Mary Jane Atonna. (Mike and Joyce Nelson did not have an open house this year). At the Dextraze's Katie was excited to see that the hummingbirds were in full operation! It seemed like hundreds of the birds were swarming around the half dozen or so feeders. Joan goes through jugs of sugar water EACH DAY! And I have always said I learn something with each visit. This year I was amazed to learn that these little birds winter in South America! You would think they would be content, like other snowbirds I know, to make the 80-mile trip to Scottsdale and stay there for the winter months rather than flapping those tiny wings for a multi thousand mile flight south!

Ray and Joan have a wonderful display of super rare toys, trains, boats, stoves, and sewing machines in superb condition! A turn of the century American Flyer set continues to astound me. It looks truly like new and was obtained years ago from Doug Haertle. Do you ever play the game, when visiting a collection, of mentally saying to yourself, "If I could have one item from this collection, what would it be?" At the Dextraze's the answer would be impossible (for me) to answer, but high on the list of "I want" would be that Flyer set. But then again, maybe an IVES boat? Or a Marklin I gauge train? Or a German 100-year old grocery store play set?

From the Dextraze's we went to the Atonna's where we noted the TTOS/TCA bus was just departing. We started with a tour of the barn and an introduction to Mary Jane's three horses. This was Irene's first visit to the new Atonna homestead and I knew she would not be disappointed after making the 30 minute drive from Prescott. Peter has expanded his layout with a wonderful floor to eye-level trestle scene, and has added a very unique outdoor action accessory that includes an operating out house! Coupling that with his modeled "house of ill repute" and the "mooning Amtrak" scene raises his layout to at least the PG level. Peter's skill as a designer and modeler is evident throughout the 2200 square foot train room. If you haven't yet seen the display, you are missing out on one of the best presentations of toy trains in the country.

Thanks to all who work so hard, in Prescott, to make this event worth a return visit year after year.

COMING UP . . .

SEPTEMBER 10 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

OCTOBER 8 – Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

OCTOBER 8-9 – Railfair –Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Well, what did you do during your summer vacation? Seems many of us took off to the cooler climes. As I reported in the Summer edition of the DISPATCH we saw many desert rats up in Seattle for the National Convention, and the folks up in the Pacific Northwest Division put on a wonderful week of activities. Laurel and I came back with many new friends and fond memories of our time in Seattle. If you attended, I am sure you did also.

Many outsiders wonder how we survive the desert summer and then in the next breath they tell us that we're lucky we live where it's just a "dry heat." Yeah right! Well, my backyard grill uses dry heat and you don't see me doing the Cha-cha-cha on it. Instead, a few weeks back, I decided to escape to the hills for the yearly "Beat the Heat" Meet sponsored by the Prescott Valley Model Railroad Club. Looking around, I was in good company on both sides of the tables as I saw another very good turnout of desert dwellers who joined me for a weekend of cooler temps and warm friendships. The PVMRC is a group of very dedicated folks and they always put on a great show. This year that little mountain gnome "Murphy" was everywhere and between the hassles of Gurley Street being under construction and the Arizona Cardinals deciding to move their training camp into town, things were, shall we say, a bit fluid. Yet the fine folks of the PVMRC extended their fabulous hospitality and everyone had a great time.

I would personally like to thank them for allowing the Desert Division to set up our Kid's Club Raffle table FREE of charge! This is a major sticking point with many other organizations and most do not allow other groups to compete with their own raffles. Personally I have disagreed with this and last year let other clubs conduct raffles during our Turkey Meet, so I was very happy when the PVMRC allowed us the same courtesy. I believe that folks coming into a train show do NOT plan on buying ANY raffle tickets; it's an impulse item. It's what we or another club have as prizes that will attract the buyer. Folks will not just chip in \$5 anymore to "support the club." Up in Prescott, Kid's Club co-chair Thomas Plies raised over \$125 towards their activities during the 2009 Convention. The Kid's Club has been leading the charge from the beginning knowing that we plan to market the 2009 National Convention as a week long family destination. We are looking forward to numerous Kids' Club activities for the entire week. I hope that you have bought your ticket to help support this hard working group which has not

lost focus on the kid's and having fun! Remember the tickets are only \$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00 and they have a long wonderful list of family orientated prizes.

September will begin the Fall train season and it is shaping up to be very busy as usual. Chet Henry and Peter Atonna have worked very hard over the summer to have the Turkey Meet catalog available for you to purchase at the September Meet and you will be able to peruse all the auction items available. Sign up sheets for Rail Fair, held at the Scottsdale McCormick Stillman Railroad Park on Saturday and Sunday October 8th and 9th, will be on the front table, so please sign up for a slot of time and come on out. There have been unsubstantiated rumors that the Division President buys ice cream for those volunteers who brave the October afternoons. Why not show up and find out? We will also begin selling the Entertainment Books for \$25 and if you shop at Safeway Grocery, there are coupons for \$20 off your bill on the first page, so the book almost pays for its self right away.

Foremost on the agenda is the Division election. ALL POSITIONS are open and continuing the tradition of most of my predecessors for the past 20+ years, I am stepping aside after my second two-ter term as President. This means that there is a great opportunity for you to leap forward. Since I am running for National office, and excluded from the election process, I will work along with Election Chair Beth Stange to train the next generation of Division Election Committee members. The Election Committee will be looking for members to run for all the positions available, and I hope you will answer the call and volunteer your time to help guide the Division during the upcoming year. As always, nominations will close with the October General Meeting. However, make our job easier and volunteer to run for office early. The next few years will be very exciting as the Desert Division prepares to host the 2009 National Convention. The Convention Committee has worked very hard over the past three years to secure our bid and begin the groundwork required for having the best convention that the TCA has seen to date. I am very excited about the future of the Desert Division and the TCA. I have always felt that we have one of the best Divisions going and, though we don't have the resources to host a "York-sized" event twice every year, our small size allows for better member involvement and your clever ideas and energy make us stand tall throughout all of TCA!

Hope to see you soon!



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA #76-10233

Very shortly you will receive your September, 2005 issue of the National Headquarters News. Some of you may already have had delivery of this, the most important issue of the year.

Inside you will find two (2) ballots, both of which we urge you to fill out and return immediately. We strongly urge you to vote "yes" on a TCA National Dues increase. As with your household and business expenses, it is becoming more and more expensive to conduct business "as usual" while still maintaining all of your membership "perks." Printing costs skyrocket every time there is a hurricane because of the increased price of wood and wood products (PAPER). Postage rates continue to rise, as do heating, electric, and climate control costs for our headquarters and National Toy Train Museum. There are many additional costs, but we feel that the \$5.00 increase should cover the increased costs we incur. Again, we urge you to vote "yes" on this item.

The second ballot will be an insert and it is of extreme importance to the Desert Division because of the National position of TCA Vice-President. **CHRIS ALLEN**, our Division President, is seeking this office. We feel that Chris is eminently qualified, as do his peers on the National Board of Directors. They elected and then reelected Chris to the prestigious TCA Management Committee. Three Division Presidents are elected to this Committee through the votes of Division Presidents ONLY!! This certainly shows the faith the other Presidents have in Chris's ability to represent them.

During Chris's term locally, our Turkey Meet has grown even larger than it was and has added several amenities for the table holders and visitors alike. Our "Trains for Kids" program has expanded so that it now includes many of the State's (not just Phoenix) Crisis Centers for children. We are now associated with such area events as the "Planes, Trains, and Up On Two Wheels" extravaganza held annually at Falcon Field in Mesa. Our Division is well-known Nationally because of the leadership role Chris took in making our Kids Club's presence known at the Phoenix Zoo. Through his efforts, we can now add a new Chapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The awarding of the TCA's 2009 Convention to the Desert Division by TCA's Board of Directors is another of Chris's accomplishments. In short, Chris has lived, breathed, and promoted this Division and the TCA for the past four years. Make sure that you put a huge check mark next to his name on the 2006 Ballot and then return it as instructed. We have no doubt that Chris will be yet another fine TCA officer to call the Desert Division home.

FORE

Yes, it's that time of year again. The 17th Annual Desert Division Open will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2006. Defending champion Paul Wassermann will return to defend his title from the NEW challenger and winner of the TCA National Tourney this past summer, son Michael. That's correct! Michael edged Dad by a stroke and former Desert Division winner Gordon Wilson by two strokes.

You are all cordially invited to join in on the fun. What's more, you don't have to be a serious golfer to do it. We employ a handicapping system which evens the playing field rapidly. As a matter of fact, it actually favors the casual golfer and forces the serious linkster to "shoot the lights out" in order to be competitive. Due to the construction of condos on the course where we've held this event for the past half dozen years, we will be moving a bit closer to the center of Mesa, although we'll still be on McKellips Drive. A member of Paul and Gordon's regular Tuesday golfing foursome owns and operates Royal Palms Golf Course. He has graciously agreed to having the Desert Division move the "Open" to his facility. In doing so, he will also be giving us a discounted rate for our greens fees and carts. We are planning an after meet 19th hole get together, but as of this issue's deadline have not made a firm commitment to any of the several nearby restaurants. The October Dispatch will have that information.

To better assist us in securing the proper number of tee times and to secure a "dinner/awards" site, please reserve your place in this, our 17th Annual "Open" Golf Tournament.

Please contact Christie or Gordon Wilson on or before our October Meet, which will be October 8. Better still, do it today.

Yes, I want to be in the Golf Tournament.

Your Name _____

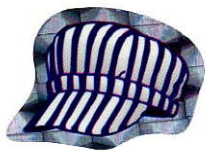
Names of Others in your Group _____



PAUL (and family) POP INTO PRESCOTT



Top L – Paul is nostalgic about a 1958 Fiat.
Middle L – Irene and Katie prefer a 1957 pink porthole T-Bird.
Lower L – Ray Dextrase poses by some of his prize possessions.
Upper R – A scene from the Atonna “strip”
Lower R – Katie finds a REAL train sink in the Atonna restroom.



entertainment®



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE BACK!

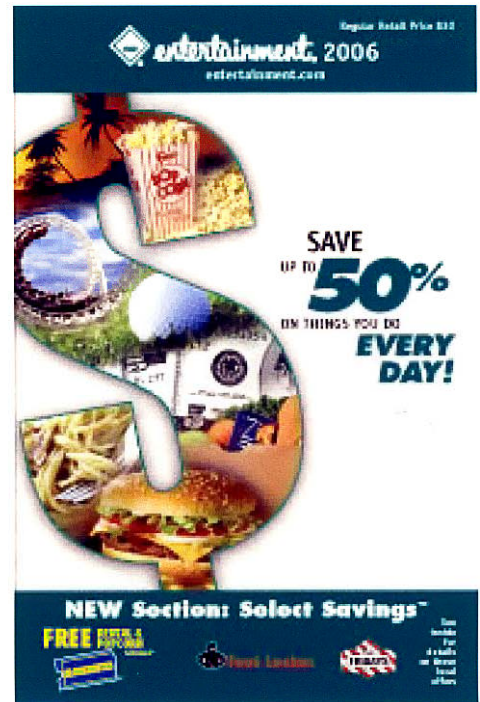
by Gordon L. Wilson TCA 76-10233

It has been missing for a few years – the Entertainment Book, that is. They sell for \$25.00 and the Desert Division receives \$5.00 of that. And, because we are a 501c3 organization, that amount is tax deductible. So now your purchase price is down to \$20.00. You say, “I rarely go out to eat.” Maybe, maybe not? But the chances are pretty good that you buy groceries somewhere, and for many people that “somewhere” is SAFEWAY. Just inside the front cover are four (4) \$5.00 off coupons to reduce the cost of your weekly Safeway grocery bill. When you’ve used all four of them, the Entertainment Book is free!!

Is that a deal or what? Plus, you have the full year to use the other money saving coupons inside. Passes to Movie Theaters; Cultural Events in Phoenix and Scottsdale; fast food places for lunch or a snack; do you ever have some dry cleaning to do? New tires for your vehicle? I just had to get two new pairs of glasses. That turned into a \$75.00 savings, or three times what I paid for the Entertainment Book. I’m already way ahead, with a year to go!

The list is endless. You can really “kill two birds with one stone,” so to speak. A tax deductible donation to the Desert Division and literally hundreds, perhaps thousands, of dollars in savings with the available offers in this book.

Should you live outside of the Phoenix area, no problem! There are Entertainment Books available for virtually every locale throughout the USA AND we can get “it” for you. Simply call President Allen and let him know where you are and we’ll procure it for you. Get yours at the next Desert Division Meet on September 10.



ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Do you want to save the Division some money and yourself some extra paper? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. As you read in the lead article of this issue, we are currently doing this on a trial basis. You will still receive your newsletter in the mail until we have worked out all of the kinks, bugs, and problems. If at the end of the trial period, you wish to discontinue your hard copy mailed bulletins, receiving only the online copy, please let the secretary know, and your bulletins will no longer be mailed to you. The savings in printing costs and postage will be used to help defray the costs of the TCA National Convention being hosted by the Desert Division in 2009. This program relates to newsletters only; all members will still receive ballots, rosters, and membership cards via the US Post Office.

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.

____ Yes, I want to save printing costs and receive my newsletter online only.

Name _____

TCA Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help

GRAND CANYON RAILFAIR DAYS

by Peter Atonna TCA #75-7578

Some of you may have been fortunate enough to have ridden on one of the three railfan days the Grand Canyon Railroad sponsored during the '90's. It has been several years since, but the railroad and the Grand Canyon Chapter of the NRHS have just announced that they will jointly sponsor a special railfan weekend this fall. Due to a fortunate set of circumstances, the railroad's two steam locomotives will be available for one day after the normal steam season ends on Labor Day. Not only that, the locomotives will be running double headed! And pulling a mixed consist of freight and passenger cars! And offering nighttime photo shoots!

Here is the information:

Dates: September 30 and October 1, 2005

Where: Leaving from Williams with a run to the Grand Canyon and back.

Events: Friday Evening: Audio Visual program by Vic Neeves

Nighttime photo shoot at the GCR shops

Saturday: Mixed train round trip to the Grand Canyon

Multiple photo run-bys

Starlight photo run-by

There are three packages available:

#1, Friday evening - \$50

#2, Saturday - \$250 (includes three meals)

#3, Special caboose ride ticket - \$500 (only two are available, first come first served)

Also, special room rates are available at the Grand Canyon Hotel at the depot in Williams. This may be a once ever opportunity and there is limited seating; so, if you are interested, get your reservations made soon. You can make all reservations by calling 1-800-843-8723.



Top: The Grand Canyon Platform Observation Car as it is leaving Grand Canyon National Park

Middle Left: One of the Grand Canyon Railroad's Vista Domes

Middle Right: The last "Log Cabin" Railroad Station still in regular use at Grand Canyon National Park

Lower Left: An ever-changing scenic "view to remember" at Grand Canyon National Park

Desert



Division

NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

by John Huber, Jeanine Monahan, and Thomas Plies

Attention all TCADD members! It's not too early to plan for the Turkey Meet. Kids Club is again requesting back issues of train magazines like O-Gauge or Classic Toy Trains and various catalogs. Kids Club will again put together our Turkey Meet annual Kids Club Toy Train informational kits. Anything referencing toy trains will help. Bring them to the next couple of meetings, and give them to Kids Club co-chair Thomas Plies.

Kids Club continues to sponsor varied and interesting pursuits. You can get a "kid" involved, and it's FREE. Just fill in the form below and turn it in to one of the Co-Chairs. We will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.

Effective August 1, 2005, Kids Club has developed several new progressive programs and discontinued some others. Kids will still receive birthday cards, but the grab bag/birthday gift program has been suspended temporarily, based on a lack of member participation. The BRIO set and electric train set will still be brought to our kids annex meeting room each monthly meeting; however, the parents or guardians will have to supervise the hands-on activities during meetings. Thomas Plies and Chris Allen continue to perform preventive maintenance on the zoo train table, and we need a third person to help one Friday a month for about two hours. Kids Club is also working on an agenda of activities for the 2009 Convention and displays at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

Kids Club is currently selling Polar Express raffle tickets (through December 11). We request that each member invest in at least a minimum single ticket for \$2.00; but 3 for \$5.00 is better. Hope to see each of you at the Meet on September 10, 2005.



Cub-Boose
Kids Club Mascot

Kid's Club Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name _____ TCA No. _____

Phone No. _____ Relationship to Kid's Club Member _____

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AT SEPTEMBER MEET

Ms. Candice Hunter, a local attorney, will be speaking at the beginning of the September General Meet on the subject of gifting your train collection. Ms. Hunter will cover the tax consequences and liabilities that your estate may have to face regarding your train collection if you do not do proper planning ahead of time. Although she will not have time to cover every situation, she will provide a good overview of some steps you can take to be better prepared. The Desert Division Board of Directors hopes you can attend the next General Meet on September 10th to hear Ms. Hunter and begin planning for the future today.



TOY TRAINS TURKEY MEET



The OLDEST & LARGEST Toy Train Swap Meet and
Auction Held In The SOUTHWEST

SWAP MEET & OPERATING TRAIN DISPLAY

Saturday
November 26, 2005
9 AM TO 3 PM

**200+ Tables of Trains for
Sale and Operating
Layouts**



AUCTION

Sunday
November 27, 2005
8 AM TO 5 PM

300+ Auction Lots



Questions or Directions? Visit our website at:
WWW.TCADD.ORG

Special Hotel Room Rates

Best Western Mezona Inn
Call 480-834-9233 or 800-730-7234
Ask for Train Collectors Association rate

MESA CONVENTION CENTER

Located at the
Mesa Community & Conference Center
University & Center St.
MESA, ARIZONA

Where?

REGISTRATION - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME _____ TCA# _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
SPOUSE _____ GUESTS _____

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

Signed X _____ Date _____

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

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

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Registration: Bob Herman 480-948-2730

FEES:

Registration* \$5.00
*(Registration fee not included in Table Fee)
(Children under 18 FREE)
Spouse or Guests _____ x \$5 ea \$ _____
No. of Tables* _____ x \$20 ea \$ _____
Auction Catalog _____ x \$3 ea \$ _____
Catalog Mail Fee (50¢ Postage) \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reg# _____ Date Rcvd _____

Chk# _____ Chk Amt _____

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