

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

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Volume 49, No. 9

October 2020

We Are Back!

We are back, a little different, and unquestionably changed, but we are beginning to take steps and testing the waters to see how we can safely hold meetings in the near term while waiting for the vaccine next year.

As we plan and look at which events we can host while following current health and safety guidelines, we are gaining good experiences on how to conduct ourselves. A thank you to all the members who maintained safe distancing throughout the meeting and the table sales portion of the meet.

Since the Elks Lodge was not open at the start of our meet, we had to have a doorman on duty to let members in the front door. Treasurer Mark Thompson took the initial watch and who I relieved so he could get ready for the meeting. More importantly Mark needed to sell raffle tickets to help offset the rent for the hall. I want to send a huge thank you to Bev Locke, who relieved me at the front door so I could get ready for the next part of Desert Division Revision 2020.

For our members who could not be with us in person we have begun to broadcast our business meetings live on Facebook. Being the first time in the Lodge and trying to broadcast live presented a few problems we needed to work out on the fly. The Wi-Fi was wonky and unreliable and our original plan to go live on YouTube had to be scrapped at the last minute. Quick change over to Facebook where we found we could not orientate the camera the direction we wanted, which was something we could do on YouTube.

Vice President Mike Dietrich stepped up and did a great job as our last minute “volunteer” cameraman. Mike could not get creative or too artistic with the camera since it was a cell phone locked into a tripod, but things worked out. We plan to continue to broadcast our meets and the Educational Segment. If you can’t catch the live broadcast, we will save them on Facebook and YouTube channel for you to view at your leisure.

As I mentioned we plan to be doing these live broadcasts at our general meeting and for the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3-4 Rail Fair 2020 – CANCELLED

October 10 – October Division Meet

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM Business Meeting – **NOTE LOCATION CHANGE**
Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 14424 N 32nd St Phoenix, AZ 85032

November 7 – November Train Auction

8:00 AM Auction Preview – 9:00 AM Auction Starts – **NOTE LOCATION CHANGE**
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

annual Business Meeting in January. We will discuss in the Winter Edition of this newsletter how you can participate at that meeting, which is required by the State of Arizona, the IRS and of course our Bylaws.

But let's look back at September and the General Meet and bring you up to date. We had about seven sales tables full of great train items and another table full of some recently acquired donations. More on that later.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Secretary Lautazi reported our paid membership at 185. We had 27 members in attendance, and no guests.

Treasurer Mark Thompson reported our balances of \$12,784.04 in Checking, \$190.03 in Savings, and \$20,012.01 in our CD.

Chris thanked Mark for securing the Elks Lodge for our meeting since the church still has not opened up their meeting room to the public yet. Mark announced that if we wanted to meet back at the Lodge he needed to know by Monday. Since there was no guarantee that rules at the church could change in the next 30 days a quick nod by the BOD members present secured the Elks Lodge for October.

The October Meeting will be held again at the Phoenix Elks Lodge, 14424 N. 32nd St. Phoenix. Masks will be required while inside the Elks Lodge at all times.

Next Chris noted that Division member Bill Sively had traveled the farthest distance to attend the Meet. Bill mentioned that he took a detour on his way home to Las Vegas to attend the September Meet from a trip back east.

The President next reported on the Desert Division being incorporated as a non-profit. He explained the decision to file for our own 501c3 status with the IRS. The money that the Division spent on both the Incorporation and IRS filing should be recouped with lower fees and taxes paid on the various events we host throughout the year in very short order once we resume normal activities again.

Although for the immediate present, things are improving on the Covid virus front, there still has been no changes to the max gathering person limit for inside meetings. This

has caused the cancellation of the November Toy Train Show at the Shrine Auditorium. We were able to secure our old date of the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 2021, at the Shrine Auditorium for next year.

Catalogs for The Fall Auction on November 7th at the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church went on sale at the meet. Those who purchased the catalog were surprised at the wide variety of trains that are listed. We will have them available again next month. For those that you who cannot attend the October Meet and want a catalog, send \$5 to Mark Thompson and we will mail it to you.

Chris mentioned that Gerry Klei has retired from the train repair business. For many of us Gerry has been an institution in this city and has repaired and been a source of information for decades. His Meccano and Erector inventions have been awe inspiring over the years, and many of us would look forward to his latest creation at each fall Turkey Meet Show. Gerry donated several items as he cleaned up his shop and we had several of them up on the front freebie table. Since we really had no idea how many members would attend this first Meet, a few were held back and will be on the freebie table in October.

The President then turned the microphone over to Peter Atonna. Because of the virus, the TCA National Convention was cancelled. As outgoing TCA National President **Peter presented Christie Wilson**, who retired as TCA National Secretary July 1st, with **a plaque and gift from the National TCA Board of Directors**. Christie received a heartfelt round of applause from all the members present.

The Educational Segment was a bit thin as Chris displayed a 1917 Meccano set that was just donated to the club. Rolled up and used as a spacer was a 1917 Lionel Trains catalog. This donation will be in the November Train Auction.

Raffle Prize winners in no particular order Gordon Wilson - Lionel Flatcar w/trucks, Peter Zwerin - Lionel Boxcar, Terry Haas - K-Line Chessie Boxcar, Angelo Lautazi - Lionel PC Boxcar, Janet Mattern - Industail Rail Flatcar, Bill Richardson - MTH York Boxcar, Mike Dietrich - MTH Pennsy Hopper.



Janet Mattern was setup early in the show and had a table full of trains



Another early table seller was Terry Haas and his table chockfull of those pretty orange boxes



Members maintained proper distancing during the meet



Even with the mask you can see that big smile on Bill Sivley's face.



Peter Atonna in his official role as Past TCA National President giving now retired National Secretary Christie Wilson a memento from the National BOD



A view from the other side of the Elks Lodge Hall where we held the meeting. Very spacious and plenty of room to spread out.

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting

The Desert Division Board of Directors has not had a meeting since August 18, 2020. The minutes from that meeting were published in the September newsletter. There is a teleconference meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 7, 2020 and the minutes from that meeting will be published in the next newsletter.

York Memories

I received an email from Peter Atonna that said that because of various personal reasons he might not attend the Eastern Division York Meet again. "It's not really because of the show, just after all these years the old original Desert Division group has thinned down and many of our traditions have faded as well." Peter included two pictures, which I have published below with his captions. My thoughts will follow with two from our files.



Dinner at the Railroad Inn. A discovery of great food at an inn on the Susquehanna River which became an annual tradition for years. Gordon, Mikey, Paul, Marlin Benson, Bob Herman and me.



A ride on the Stasburg Railroad, same crew, less Bob and Gordon. We took the lunch train of course.



Yes, the years really have gone by. For those of you who might not know, "Mikey" in the top photographs is now Dr. Michael Wassermann, standing between Christie and Gordon Wilson. He is currently in residency at the University of New Mexico Hospital where he is doing specialty training in emergency medicine. We took this photo last October at the Pumpkin Meet



This photo is from the Division history files. The exact year is unknown but believed to be early 1990's. Left to right Fred Hunter, Ron Kuhn, Vi DuBay, Doug DuBay, Gordon Wilson, Peter Atonna, Mary Jane Atonna, and Shirley Hunter. Considering our size, the distance and the cost involved, the Division had a strong turnout for York year after year. Although we enjoyed chasing trains, it was getting together as a group and sharing dinner that has always kept us a tight knit group.

Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

Well this is not how the prelude to our 50th Anniversary year was supposed to be, I'm glad we were able to host our September Meet and the turnout is right about what we expected. We even had a few members join us while we were broadcasting the Meet live on Facebook. Since most of us will not be getting the vaccine until spring we will get better at our live productions and continue to broadcast them and have them available on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

This has been a busy month on many fronts as we continue to look for a place where we can host an open-air Meet. Although Arizona is opening up and continues to be stable (as of this writing) on the virus front, there are still plenty of restrictions still in place for everyone's safety that continue to place obstacles in our path. If we cannot have on in our traditional month of November, we will look to host one in January or February, mindful of course of the other clubs that will be holding meets or at least trying to hold meet in this topsy-turvy world.

As I mentioned in this issue, I have had a busy month. Besides picking up the Meccano donation I also received a call from Gerry Klei. Gerry is officially out of the train repair business. He has been phasing things out and since I did not know his eBay nickname, I actually bought a few items of his online without knowing it. Gerry made several nice donations to the club of which I brought a few to the September Meet.

To be fair and not knowing how many members would attend I did not want to bring them all so there will still be a few more at the October Meet.

Likewise, I received a call from former member Tom Griffin. Tom was a member a few years ago and decided it was time to downsize and get his garage back, which is where he had his layout. Tom did keep his trains and has them displayed in his house, but his track, buildings and literally everything on a layout except the trains was donated to the club. I had a few of

those items on the front table as well. So over the next few months for those who can attend the Meet in person there will be a limited array of goodies from these members available to grace your train room or layout. My thanks to all who desire not to wring every last cent out of the hobby but to share it with others in hope that they get the same enjoyment that they did.

With all the crappy news circulating it was a nice change of pace to be the ambassador of goodwill. I really want to thank Ray Pomper for his donation of an oil derrick and station platform for my new friend JR. JR is not a TCA member, but he is a train lover. He has been to some of the train shows in town in better times, but now with his age and Covid he hasn't ventured out much. I wish I could have taken a picture of his misty eyes as he received his newest rig!

I love the hobby. I came in for the trains and had met so many wonderful people and made so many friends, that at times the trains have become almost a distraction.

I think that is what is making the current virus thing so hard for me is missing all the interaction with so many of you. When we get together it is like a family reunion catching up on all the news.

In my job I as President I get phone calls and emails from seasoned members and beginners or people just looking for advice, I get to interact with the public a little and I stay active on many of TCA's online forums as well. I enjoy the dealing with people and although I am far from an expert in this hobby of ours, I enjoy learning from one person and sharing what I have learned with others.

I still get excited when I get to handle a catalog that's over 100 years old because this hobby never grows old for me. I'm a kid at heart and I have the best job because of all the friends I have met along the way. I hope you remain safe over the upcoming months and I look forward to seeing you soon.



A "JR" Update

Chris Allen HE95-40580

In the summer edition of the newsletter I had a brief article about a new friend I happen to make over the summer. I had put a request for some parts to repair his well loved 455 Oil Derrick. After not getting any initial responses, I went ahead and purchased some parts online and repaired it so it was working again. It has been running fine and no longer used a Tabasco bottle as a counterweight for the walking beam. I had a few issues with getting the proper light bulb and voltage setting on his KW for the bubble tubes to fire up quick enough without burning out. That problem solved my friend was back up to operating his "Texas Oil Field" at full capacity.

That is until I got a phone call from Ray Pomper. Ray asked if I was still looking for a 455 and since my friend JR likes to tinker, I replied yes, I was. Ray had one that was missing just a few items and I could have it if I wanted. We made arrangements and I picked it up the next day. It was in better shape than I expected, and I had all the parts I needed in my parts boxes.

A few days later I received a call from JR saying he had a problem and I couldn't wait to drive over to his house with the new addition. I explained that I had written an article asking for help to find parts for his broken on and a member had donated the new derrick. To say he

was surprised is an understatement. Besides the Oil Derrick Ray also donated a 156 Station Platform. Jr was in my back pocket as I fixed the problem I was called over to repair and then installed the new derrick on the layout. He couldn't wait to see the new addition to his oil



Looks like JR has quite a growing oil patch on his layout! The newest oil derrick has the red top and the red roof of the 156 can be seen behind it, too bad you can't see the big smile behind that mask.

field all lit up and he was like a kid Christmas morning when all three tubes started bubbling and all the oil derricks started clattering and banging away. Did I mention JR is real hard of hearing? Thanks to Ray for bringing some unexpected happiness to this gentleman's life.

EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT FOR OCTOBER MEET

We don't like giving a "theme" for any of our Educational Segments at the Meets. We are happy to see whatever you might want to bring in and share with the other members.

Sometimes it helps to jog your brain a bit if we announce a theme, but generally anything you find interesting the other members at the meet will as well.

This will be the last General Meet of the year. While we will have our Auction and hopefully a swap meet, we will not gather again until the January Annual Nusiness Meeting on January 9th, three months from now.

If you need a theme, one of the colors for Halloween is orange, so anything in a orange box will work just fine.



TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory Palmer TCA 94-39039



There is not much news to report that you have not already heard on all the TV and Radio stations. New Mexico is currently on an uptick at the moment **and I and the Chapter's Board of Directors** will continue to monitor all the health directives published by the state. The Board will meet shortly to formulate some plans for next year.

We are looking for members who might be interested in meeting via a Zoom teleconference meeting as an informal chat or Show and Tell to keep in touch with everyone. You can access Zoom via a smart phone, tablet, or

laptop quite easily and it is a great way to keep in touch with each other. The Show and Tell Meeting would only be able to last 40 minutes on Zoom. If you need info on how Zoom works Google Zoom on the internet, or call Art Lites.

I am sad to report that the wife of former TCA Rio Grande Chapter Don Mantay, Charlene Mantay, has passed away. She hosted our Chapter after Meet Lunches many times. No notice has been given on any arrangements. If you need further info contact Scott Eckstein.

Stay Safe until we can meet in person again.

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BOTTOM OF THE BOX

An interesting find in a club donation

I get an email once, maybe twice a month through our website from the public asking for help identifying a train or maybe just a general question about what to do with Dad's or Grandpa's trains. About two months ago I received an email if we would be interested in a Meccano donation. It had been Grandpa's toy as a child and he later built a few things with it with his kids and grandkids but after he died it has just been sitting.

Over the years many of us had the privilege to see some of Gerry Klei's marvelous Meccano and Erector creations that used to be a centerpiece of the Turkey Meet at Mesa Centennial Hall. Many of us enjoyed Erector sets in our youth and some of us still build or collect them so I was confident that there would be some interest in the donation.

It is hard to tell someone's age in an email let alone what we were about to acquire or even the condition of the item but after we exchanged a few more emails I assured her we would find the donation a new home with someone who would appreciate it.



I swung by a modest home in the Arcadia area to pick it up. I was met at the door by our donor and was not overly surprised to find a jumbled-up box of metal girders, some half built. They were piled up in an open framed unmarked green wooden box. "Are you sure you still want this?" She asked. "I hope it wasn't a wasted trip for you." I assured her the donation was great and that it is exactly the type of items that our members would be very excited to own. I could see some open frame electric motors which piqued my interest and knew of several other members in our area would feel the same way. I

then told her that Angelo would be mailing her a tax donation letter after I sent him a picture and description of what the donation was and how she could set the value of the donation.

When I got home, I was a bit more curious about the motors I saw piled up in a corner of the box. A gold colored transformer that I first thought might have been made by Tyco turned out to be a six-volt battery charger that was most likely used for powering one of the DC motors. This relatively new device was definitely out of place, but also attested to the fact that Grandpa indeed continued to build and use the set for many years.



I love old electric motors and spent quite some time looking at them. One was a bit more worn than the other with frayed cotton wires and soon I was looking in the box for the gears and chains, hoping they would still be there. They were.

After my initial treasure search, I went back to a rolled-up wad of paper that turned out to be a set of building instructions for the Meccano kit. The paper was quite brittle and as I flipped to the front cover, I noticed the date, 1914-15. But what happened next stopped me in my tracks and made me thankful that I had made the commitment to the family that we would accept the donation.

What I thought was another well-worn instruction manual turned out to be something incredibly special indeed. What I thought was the center section of the instructions loose from its staples turned out to be a 1917 Lionel Catalog!



The oldest catalog in my collection of Lionel paper is from 1928, so this was a special treat for me. To be sure this 1917 catalog has seen better days. The back cover is in three pieces and the front cover had been taped on at some point, but it is the real deal. It has been rolled up for untold years, but the colors are still there in the centerfold, nice and bright.



I brought the catalog and the motors to the September Meet and gave basically this same presentation to our members there. Phil Todd brought up an interesting point which I followed through on and will report here.

Phil asked, "... shouldn't we contact the National Toy Train Library and see if they have one in their files?" Phil's point was well taken. Rather than this reside in the hands of a successful bidder it could be in the files available

to all TCA members. The Monday following the September Meet I contacted Lori Nyce the TCA Librarian at the National Toy Train Library. I learned plenty about the 1917 catalog, that only a tried and true TCA member could appreciate.

It turns out there are three variations to this catalog. You just got to love that! I sent her pictures of the torn rear cover along with pictures of certain pages so she could see if our version was better or worse than the other catalogs TCA already has in the archives.



As you can see the back cover is in poor condition. The missing chunk is actually folded under the cover that I did not catch when I took the picture.

It turns out that the copy TCA has is indeed better shape than ours, but she did give us a huge thank you for considering them before we put the item up for auction. It turns out we have the common version of a 103 year old Lionel catalog! Don't you just love this hobby?

So would you also like to see this unique piece of Lionel Toy Train History? Well you can see at the November Auction when it goes under the hammer. We will have it in a sealed bag and ask that only serious bidders examine the catalog to prevent any further damage to it.

We will also have the Meccano donation itself with all the older motors in a separate lot. You didn't think we would combine the two, did you? Come out to the auction on November 7th.

OCTOBER MEET DETAILS

B.P.O.E. Phoenix Elks Lodge, 14424 N 32nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85032



We will again be meeting at the Phoenix Elks Lodge for October. The Lodge is located on 32nd St between Thunderbird and Greenway and opens to its members at 10AM on Saturday morning.

We are asking that those members who plan to sell at the meet again park in the rear of the facility. Look for the signs and the entrance into the meeting room.

Do not arrive earlier than 8 AM, we cannot get into the facility any earlier than that and it only takes about 10 minutes for

us to rearrange the sales tables for the meeting.

We will have someone by the front door by 8:30 AM to let regular members into the hall. Please remember our agreement with the Elks Lodge is that we will wear masks at all times inside their facility.

We will again broadcast our meeting on Facebook Live starting about 15 minutes prior to the regular meeting for those of you who cannot attend the meet in person.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2022

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FOR SALE: Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges, 1901-1940. \$100 plus \$7.00 shipping. Please call Bruce Greenberg, 703-461-6991, 9-9 Eastern to order or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us

FOR SALE Lionel 184 Bungalow flower base red roof C-6 \$70 - Fleischmann HO 114112 0-6-6-0 w/2 pass car & obs track and switches C-7 no box \$275 - Marx HO Set 1962 Rock Island Switcher, hopper, box car & caboose C-8 P-10 \$75 – Lionel 157 red Hand Truck C-7 \$30 – Lionel Baggage Truck olive green C-7 \$75 – The General Marker from 1982 Atlanta Convention C-10 \$10 – Lionel Smoke Pellets (40) \$15. Dannie Martin 520-360-0519 dannieaz@cox.net

FOR SALE: 2 each Lionel 6-16360 N&W Maxi Stack \$50/ea. or \$90/pr. - Lionel 6-16912 CN Maxi Stack rough box but complete \$50 - Lionel 6-16322 Sea Land TTUX \$45 - Lionel 6-26908 Apple Computer TTUX \$45 – Lionel 9578 & 9580 Burlington Zephyr Passenger & Observation \$70/pr. - The Standard Catalog of American Flyer Trains by David Doyle \$45 – Plasticville Sets & Price Guide 1989 edition \$20, Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: for my collection. Lionel prewar and postwar engines in master cartons, scarce separate sale items such as Lionel scrapers, bulldozers, boxed autos, Lionel 6464-700 Santa Fe, -900 New York Central, -250 Western Pacific, -450 Great Northern boxcars in Type III body molds, mint freight cars in high grade original boxes, 6414 Autoloaders with autos in yellow, brown, or kelly green with grey bumpers, following cars in separate sale boxes: 6352 Culvert car, 6352-1 PFE icing car, 3460-25 Piggyback car, any rare Lionel items. Bill Sivley 281-804-3629 or mrwls911@yahoo.com

WANTED: Do you have a postwar Lionel steam engine laying around that you are stripping for parts, or worse? Contact me I want to bring those old steam engines back to life. I'll be back in town in early November with spare parts for all your needs. Give me a call for your parts or if you have a steam engine that needs a new home. - DeLon Freije 701-331-2837

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members.

****DEADLINE FOR AD's – THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

The Back Page – Late news or items that did not fit elsewhere

This should have been Rail Fair 2020 – I instead enjoy these pictures from years past



Rail Fair 1979



Rail Fair 1989



Rail Fair 1999



Rail Fair 2009



Irvine, CA June 19 – 28, 2021

DIVISION MEET DATE & LOCATION

B.P.O.E. Phoenix Elks Lodge #355
14424 N 32nd St
Phoenix, AZ 85032

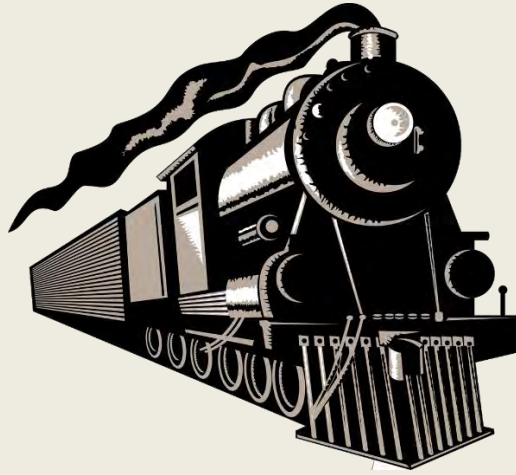


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TOY TRAIN AUCTION

TCA Desert Division Fall Train Auction

SATURDAY November 7th, 2020



OVER 300 Lots - 98% No Reserve

* * NO BUYERS PREMIUM! * *

Lionel — American Flyer — Marx
K Line — MTH — Atlas

Operating accessories, Paper, Railroadiana
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Preview 8:00 AM - Auction Starts promptly at 9:00 AM

NOTE: Face Masks REQUIRED to be worn inside auction room

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\$5 suggested donation