

# **TCA TREASURE VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

---

Volume III

NOVEMBER 2005

---

-

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### Hobby Clubs

My son, Will, would be a senior in high school this year, were it not for the fact that he is on a foreign exchange to Halberstadt, Germany. Will has always been my train buddy, and he and I have been to many train meets together. Perhaps Will was looking forward to a respite in Germany.

If he was, then he is sadly disappointed. Will is living with Holger and Steffi Skamel. Holger is a model railroader, who models O Gauge trains. Will and Holger have been attending train meets and visiting public displays of model railroads in Germany. Will has even sent back some photographs of the train meets and noted that the train collectors and hobbyists in Germany look a lot like the train collectors and hobbyists here in the United States.

Will doesn't sound disappointed, and I'm sure that the fact that he has a common interest with Holger provided some common ground between Will and his host father.

Holger and I have corresponded, and he has sent me photographs of his train layout, and I have reciprocated. While his English is better than my German, neither of us is particularly fluent in the other's language. Yet, we have found common ground on which to build a friendship. That common ground consists of not only our enjoyment of the same hobby, but also stems from the fact that Holger's daughter is an exchange student to Maryland, while my son is living with Holger and Steffi in Germany.

Toy trains are my hobby which occupy my free time in the fall and winter. During the spring and summer, my interest shifts to old cars. Here again, a common interest in classic Mustangs or in old Rancheros has formed the basis of nearly instant friendships. Two years ago, I attended a car show in Wenatchee, Washington. The clutch equalizer bar on my Rancho failed. It was fatigued after 40 years and 285,000 miles. A gentleman I'd never met from Wenatchee suggested that I should go to his shop, and he would help me repair the equalizer bar. The two of us worked until nearly 2:00 in the morning. I was extremely grateful, as I had no idea, until I met him, how I would get the car back home to Boise. I offered to pay him for his time and expertise, but he would have

none of it. I traveled to Wenatchee again this September and saw my friend. Again, our common interest has been the basis of friendship.

We will be meeting on November 19, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. at Louie's in Meridian. We have a lot of great things planned for this fall and winter. Even if you haven't been to a Treasure Valley TCA meeting for some time, or if you've never been to one, please take this opportunity to become reacquainted with some old friends.

### **CHAPTER MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2005**

The Treasure Valley Chapter of TCA will meet at Louie's in Meridian on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Plan on arriving at 10:30. There will be some items for sale and we'll get a chance to visit over a cup of coffee until the meeting starts at 11:00. The meeting should be relatively short as there is not a lot to cover. Following the meeting; plan to stay for lunch, an event that always seems to turn into a very social affair.

### **ELECTION RESULTS**

The election results for chapter officers to serve during 2006 and 2007 are final. Eight ballots were received out of 28 eligible voters That is a 29% participation rate, pretty comparable to local elections where there are no hot issues. Bill vonTagen was reelected president, Terry Smith will continue on as treasurer and Phil Myers will perform as secretary. Ballots cast were unanimous in favor of the existing officers. If anyone would like more detail with regards to the election, contact Phil Myers.

### **PNWD AND CHAPTER DUES REQUIRED BY 12/31/05**

This is a reminder that your Division and Chapter dues are payable by the end of the year. PNWD dues are \$10 (\$15 for new members) and chapter dues are \$10.

### **INCOME TAX FORMS AVAILABLE**

TCA is a 501 (c) (3) organization in the eyes of the IRS and this means any cash or goods donated to the chapter can have a beneficial income tax implication. There are several chapter members who donated items to the children's hands on layout. Tax forms will be available for you at the November meeting.

## **FESTIVAL OF TREES**

Terry Smith made contact with the manager of the Festival of Trees and received an enthusiastic welcome to our offer to make available the children's hands on layout as part of the festival. The festival is a professional event and they have some requirements that we would have to comply with. After considering all factors, Terry Smith conferred with Bill vonTagen and Phil Myers and it was decided that the logistical and personnel requirements were too great to overcome in time for this year's Festival. We'll discuss this further at the November 19 meeting. Bottom line is we will need to do some long term planning for this event and get a firm commitment for volunteers to help set up and operate the layout. We also need to get on board early enough to get one of the auxiliary rooms in the convention center where setup and tear down can be accomplished in private. Being in a room separate from the trees will also provide security for the chapter owned items and those on loan for the event.

## **TCA NIGHT 2005**

Phil and Marcia Myers have selected December 17<sup>th</sup> as the night for their annual "TCA night" train show and social. Christmas is on a Sunday this year and the 17<sup>th</sup> is the Saturday prior to Christmas Eve. Mark your calendar for this event. The layout is already complete and ready to go in anticipation of a large family gathering over Thanksgiving.. Problem is, this years track pattern and circuitry have proven to be extremely complex to operate. Good news is by December 17<sup>th</sup> Phil will have had plenty of practice and the show should go on without a hitch. So far, train wrecks have been frequent.

## **TRAINS AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE BY TERRY SMITH**

#97	Lionel Coal Elevator Postwar restored (1946-50) (Like New-Restored)	\$225.00
#2353	Lionel Postwar Santa Fe ABA (1953-55) (Excellent)	\$625.00
#6-14113	Lionel #350 Engine Transfer Table W/Two #6-14114 Ext.Tables (New)	\$258.00
#6-19248	Lionel 6464 Boxcars-All Ten Editions (30 Boxcars) (New)	\$995.00
#30-9120	MTH Gabe the Lamplighter (New)	\$109.00
#30-9119	MTH No. 787 Log Loader (New)	\$159.00

Note: Chapter members are entitled to advertise trains for sale in the newsletter. This gives you exposure to 40+ local collectors, one of whom might be your buyer.