



THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED

VOL. 37 NO. 1 JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

T.T.O.S. SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

WWW.TTOS-SW.ORG

Logo Courtesy of Ginny Cotton

With all the changes in the world right now, tune in for the status of our next meet. Feel free to email or call any board member for more info. See page 3 for their information. As of now the April meet has been cancelled.

In the meantime check our website and enjoy the work done by Harold Shapiro. He is keeping the site up to date.

We try hard to have as few “rules” as possible but we do ask that all members follow the few that we do have.

An important one for all of us is the wearing of your current name badge issued upon receipt of your renewal dues or a sticker with your first and last name printed clearly which can be found at the front desk. Those stickers are for members who have forgotten their badge and given to you after your paid membership is verified at the front desk. The Guest stickers are issued to guests for the fee of \$5.00. Thank You for helping with this as that way we know who belongs at our meets.

Some sellers have requested that we mention they would like to share the available carts to load up when they leave. They ask that once you have packed up then obtain a cart and go directly to your car and unload so another sell can use it. Take care of the auction or other business before loading a cart. This way more sellers will have a chance to use the carts in a timely manner.

Meets held at Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia 91007
Sellers Setup & Members 10:00 AM
Tables still \$5.00 Call Hollis Cotton to reserve
818-590-0553

Auction Sellers: Call George Blanch
818-590-8238

Public 10 AM– Admission \$5.00 Children under 21 free
with paid adult

TABLE SALES • DRAWING AUCTION • LAYOUTS •
FOOD Family Fun • Repair Clinic • Test Track 50/50
Drawing 11:45 a.m. Auction 12:00 Noon • Snack Bar
Operating Layouts to run your trains

2020 Southwestern Division Meets & Event Dates

January 5

February 9

March 1 **

April 5

May 3

June 7 **

July 12

August Saturday Annual Picnic at LA Live Steamers

September 13 **

October 4

November 1

December 6 **

** Open House Meets

Mark your calendars and
plan to join us! Looking
forward to seeing you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LARRY PEARSON, President T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division 2017-2018
1108 West Palm Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 818-848-2653 (mornings after 8:00 AM)

*Please be advised that the following article is comprised solely of my own thoughts, opinions, and experiences and does not necessarily convey the beliefs and thoughts of the TTOS Southwestern Division (SWD) and its Members and Officers or the editor and publisher of The Southwestern Limited. Call me at the above number. I love to talk.
Larry*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY– MARCH, 2020

MARCH 1ST MEET, BIGGEST EVER

I am happy to report that our March 1, 2020 Monthly Meet was the largest ever with 112 8' seller's tables! Mike Marple was very pleased with the parts business he experienced. He commented that there were lots of new buyers for his parts. We had three sellers from Arizona. The word is getting out that SWD has the biggest and best toy train Meets to buy and sell at. We had a lively auction and the three of us at the repair tables were constantly busy with train repairs. We repaired Standard, "O" and "HO" gauge trains at this Meet.

As I announced during the Meet, it is important to keep the isles free from merchandise for sale and loading carts and racks. Sellers should unload their merchandise onto their tables as fast as possible to free up the aisles and return the loading carts and racks to the lobby so other sellers can use them. The isles are five feet wide for all Meets, both large and small. This isle width complies with the Arcadia fire code. Some of our disabled Members need the isles to be as clear as possible so they can access them. We no longer have any "rules" regarding access to the Hall for sellers, buyers, and guests. Everyone can enter the hall and buy and sell as soon as they get there. Some sellers begin arriving before 8am. The Meet technically opens at 10am. Buyers should be considerate of sellers trying to set up their tables. Some sellers don't want to sell until they are completely set up, and buyers must be respectful of this. We want everybody to enjoy our Monthly Meets, so we need the cooperation from everyone.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR SWD MEMBERSHIP BADGE

As I reported in the last issue of The Southwest Limited, it is essential that everyone in the Hall be wearing their SWD Membership badge, or their "I Forgot My Badge" sticker in plain sight at all times. Guests must pay a \$5.00 Guest fee and be wearing a "Guest" sticker. Some Members are giving us a "hard time" about wearing their badge. I and others have trouble remembering names and wearing a badge in plain sight helps us with this. Sellers and buyers want to know who they are dealing with. The auction staff have to know the name of each buyer to complete their paperwork. Non-member buyers wearing a guest badge at the auction must pay for their purchases before they can take delivery of the items. All of the officers and workers are volunteers without compensation of any kind, and we need your cooperation with this. If you lost your badge or never received it after joining or renewing, report this to the front desk and a replacement will be mailed to you. Badge holders are available at the front desk at no charge.

The subject of Meet attendees refusing to wear their badges or an ID sticker came up for discussion at the March 4th Board Meeting. The Board feels that attendees refusing to wear their badge or a sticker with their complete name on it will be asked to leave the Meet.

SATURDAY BOARD MEETINGS

The SWD Board of Directors normally meets at Hollis Cotton's Train House in Granada Hills at 7:00pm on the Wednesday immediately following the SWD Monthly Meet. Several Board members cannot drive at night or have a conflict with this arrangement and have requested that we have some Board Meetings on Saturday during the day. The Board discussed this at the February Board Meeting and proposed Saturday, June 13th and Saturday, August 8th. The Saturday Board Meetings will start at 10:00am. The Board Meetings

Larry's message continued:

normally last about two hours and are open to all SWD members and interested guests. Hollis Cotton has had the good fortune to afford to purchase a house for his train collection and has a large Standard Gauge layout in one large room and an "O" and "S" gauge layout in the master bedroom. Bring trains to run after the Board Meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mike Morgan heads up the deployment of SWD's large portable layout. Our layout was at the recent Costa Mesa train meet and is scheduled to be at the annual Fullerton Railroad Days on May 2-3. This layout promotes our Club and literature promoting our Monthly Meets is handed out. The workforce setting up, operating and taking down this layout has declined in recent years and Mike is asking for more volunteers. If you can spare the time, you will find the experience to be a lot of fun. Mike can be reached at 805.368.6649.

While I am on the subject of volunteers, SWD's workforce is getting thin and we need more Members helping. You don't have to be a Board Member to volunteer. George Blanch, Auction Manager, needs volunteers to help with clerking the monthly Auction. See George at the monthly Meets and he will get you involved. It's fun – try it.

Please support Southwestern by continuing your Membership, recruiting new Members, making donations to SWD, and attending our Monthly Meets. As always, hugs to all, and run your trains often.

Welcome to Our New Members

We hope you will be able to attend our monthly meets and annual August Picnic
Gary Dwor-Frecaut, Robert Ferber, Ken Gerhardt, Noel E. Hall, Jr., Michael J. Izzo,
Darin D. Mraz Jr. Bob Shaw, Chingchia Tseng, Ben Torres Michael Wax

OFFICERS

President: Larry Pearson Presides over the monthly Board Meetings; conducts the Monthly Meet Repair seminar; serves as the Arcadia Hall liaison; monthly Meet Chairman; Chairman of the annual August Picnic at the Live Steamers; liaison with TCA Western, Toy Train Operating Society Southern Pacific Division, Model Train Association, and the All Gauge Toy Train Association in San Diego.

Vice President: Hollis Cotton Assists the SWD President; in charge of table assignments and Hall layout at the Monthly Meets; advertising artwork design; Pre-War American Flier Historian; provides the meeting place for our Monthly **Board Meetings**.

Recording Secretary: Jerry Moser Takes minutes at the monthly Board Meetings and helps at the front desk and the Table Sales desk at the Monthly Meets.

Membership Secretary: Nancy Giammatteo Is in charge of the annual Membership renewals and new Member applications; is in charge of the front desk at the Monthly Meets; helps with table sales at the Monthly Meets.

Treasurer: Manny Gonzales Is in charge of the SWD financials.

SWD BOARD MEMBERS

Danny Blanch: Monthly Auction clerk

George Blanch: Monthly Meet Auction Manager and Auctioneer; helps at the Monthly meets

Fred Kramer: Chairman of the Monthly Meet 50-50 Drawing; in charge of SWD polo shirt sales

Jon Pincus: Handles all social correspondence; helps at the Monthly Meets.

Mike Roman: Meet Photographer, helps at the Monthly Meets

Sheila Roman: Editor of The Southwest Limited; designs fliers and brochures; maintains SWD email file.

Hal Rothenborg: sets up and operates the operating layout at the Monthly Meets; liaison with and helps set up and operate the SWD large layout at various venues.

Calvin Smith: publisher of The Southwest Limited; designs & prints fliers and brochures; prints & mails notices and the Monthly Meet post-cards.

The SWD Officers and Board Members work very hard without compensation of any kind to make our club the success it has become. Please show your respect for them whenever you encounter them and assist them whenever you can. The current Officers and Board Members are all senior citizens and we need younger people to step up and begin to take over the operation of our Club.

This time our President, Larry Pearson, will give us ways to clean track and wheels. He will also explain why some well—used items really aren't the best to use on our trains.

KEEP THOSE RAILS SHINING

In addition to the free train repair service SWD offers at our Monthly meets, I teach classes on train repairs at the Model Train Association (MTA)(Meets the last Friday of the month in Lakewood), and the All Gauge Toy Train Association (AGTTA) in San Diego (Meets generally 3rd Saturday of the Month). The January, 2020 issue of Classic Toy Trains had an article introducing an on-line video on the tips and techniques to clean your track and wheels at MRVideoPlus.com/TTB3. I viewed this video and was very disappointed on how they suggested to clean track and wheels.

First, the video recommends using 70% Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol – a bottle is shown) as a solvent to clean track and wheels. The video correctly states that the track and wheel contamination comes from the oils and greases used to lubricate our toy trains. Alcohol is not a petroleum based solvent and will not dissolve petroleum-based lubricants. It dissolves one thing – water. In fact rubbing alcohol is 30% water! After the Alcohol evaporates, the water is left to rust your track. I recommend using Mineral Spirits to clean track, wheels and motor parts. It is a petroleum based solvent and costs less than \$20 for a gallon and will not (in my experience) damage paint and plastics used on toy trains. If you cut your finger, it does not hurt to touch it. Do not use Lacquer thinner or Automotive paint solvents and cleaners on toy trains. These can severely damage plastics and painted surfaces used with our toy trains.

When I teach classes on train repairs, I do a simple demonstration to prove what I just said about alcohol. I take two glass Jello bowls and add about ½ inch of motor oil to each one. Then I add Alcohol to one of them and Mineral Spirits to the other. The Mineral Spirits immediately dissolves into the engine oil. The Alcohol sits on top of the oil and will not dissolve into it, even if stirred and shaken. Therefore, Alcohol is of no use in our hobby to clean track, wheels, or locomotive motor components. There also is a possibility that it can damage some plastics and painted surfaces.

The video goes on to show using Lionel Track Cleaning fluid, Goo Gone, and a track cleaning block to clean track. The Lionel Track Cleaning fluid is only available as a small plastic bottle as a part of their Lubrication/Maintenance Set and costs at least \$25. Goo Gone leaves a residue that has to be wiped off. Woodland Scenics sells Tidy Track Clean Track Solution in a small 1.85 fl oz bottle for about \$7.00. Why spend all this money, when Mineral Spirits on a paper towel at \$20 a gallon does a better job? Corroded rail surfaces should be burnished with a Scotch Brite pad after cleaning with Mineral Spirits. Never use steel wool, because it leaves steel strands that are attracted to Lionel Magntraction.

Last, about cleaning wheels. Refer to the attached illustrations. In my experience, after much use the wheels on our locomotives and cars usually become caked with a black dried petroleum based residue, which I call “track slime”. Using Q-Tips and paper towels wetted with Mineral Spirits will take forever to remove it. I use a 1/8 inch flat blade screwdriver to “plain” the slime off each wheel separately while turning the wheel with my left thumb. Then I finish it up with a paper towel saturated with Mineral Spirits. This is very labor intensive, but I know of no easier or faster method. Some operators use a Dremel tool with a wire brush wheel to clean the wheels. This approach can get messy, because the wire wheels will throw the “slime” everywhere including in your face. This would replace the screwdriver scraping step.

Larry's item continued:

Last, our friends at the EPA have apparently banned Mineral Spirits in LA and Orange Counties. It has been replaced by "Paint Thinner". I have no experience with this "Paint Thinner", but it probably works similar to Mineral Spirits. It has an annoying smell, while Mineral Spirits is generally almost odorless. Mineral Spirits is available in Riverside County, and probably other counties in California. Buy it while you can. A gallon should last you a lifetime.



Roy Bell Insurance Agency Inc

11335 Magnolia Blvd. Suite 2B
 North Hollywood, CA 91601-4955
 Bus (818) 766-6444
 Fax (818) 766-1052
 roy.bell.b9cc@statefarm.com

Insurance Options:

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- * Condo Insurance
- * Home Insurance
- * Renters Insurance
- * Life Insurance
- * Motorcycle Insurance
- * Small Business Insurance
- * Medicare Supplement

State Farm



TOY TRAIN MEET

Monthly Train Meets

**Educational Displays,
Trains for Sale,
Super Auction,
Great Raffle,
Operating Layouts,
Kids Korner & Snack Bar**

MEET DATES 2020

Jan 26	Feb 23
Mar 22	Apr 26
May 24	Jun 28
Jul 26	Aug 23
Sep 27	Oct 25
Nov 22	Dec 20
*May/Dec - Open House	

Map not to scale.

PUBLIC INVITED: 10:00 TO 2:00
DONATION: \$5.00 PER PERSON / FAMILY

Brookhurst Community Center
 2271 W. Crescent Ave. - Anaheim, CA

www.ttos-sp.org
 For information visit our website
 or call Jeff Meyer our President at (909) 851-9846

Train Collectors Association Western Division

Celebrating 66 Years!

Invites You To Attend One of Our Monthly Train Meets

Enjoy our operating layout, gain knowledge on how to collect and grade toy and model trains, meet like-minded hobbyists, partake in the free coffee and donuts, and best of all, view the monthly theme exhibit to see rare and collectible train items brought in by our members for display and story-telling.

Bring this invitation and be our GUEST for FREE admission - 10:00 am until 1:00 PM

At the Arcadia Park Activity Center
 405 South Santa Anita Avenue
 Arcadia, CA 91006

Our 2020 meet dates are as follows: January 25th, February 22nd, March 28th, April 25th, May 30th, July 25th, August 22nd, September 26th, October 31st, December 12th - Annual Holiday Party
 Note - dates and location subject to change, please check our web site at www.tcawestern.org

Stephen J. Waller, President
 626-710-7768 (evenings)

Robert Caplan, Vice-President
 213-369-2446 (daytime)

All Gauge Toy Train Association

San Diego, California 2019 Meeting Schedule

AGTTA Saturday Meets 9 AM to 2 PM
 St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
 6556 Park Ridge Blvd.
 San Diego, Ca 92120

	Meet Dates 2019
	Sat Feb 16 Sat Jun 15
	Sat Mar 16 Sat Jul 20
	Sat Apr 13 Sat Aug 17
	Sat May 18 Sat Sep 21

BUY AND SELL TRAINS

SUPER RAFFLE & SNACK BAR

Contact: Jim Weatherford at wjfd@cox.net 619-441-8462
 Website: www.agtta.com
 Meets generally 3rd Saturday of the month

GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

Bringing Arizona tinplaters of all stripes together for fun and activities

Monthly meetings, travelling layouts twice yearly, huge swap meets and lots of camaraderie.

Info: Dave Brown
eaglefour@juno.com
Website: www.gcmrr.org

MTA Model Train Association "The Friendly Club"

Please join us for our meetings at the Womens Club of Bellflower
 9402 Oak Street (Chark and Oak)
 Friday Evenings at 7:00 pm

Call for 2018 Dates

For information call
 Larry Garrett at 714-893-2979
 Bruce Engelbach at 562-925-7797

We are a diverse group (all ages - men, women & kids) of toy train collectors, rail fans, and modelers of all gauges (Z-to the real Locomotive).
 Our meetings feature historical slides and videos, usually of actual Railroads.

Wouldn't your advertisement for your business look good here?
 Or how about recognition of a special birthday or anniversary or remembering someone who is special in your life?

Photos from the January 2020 meet



More photos from the January 2020 meet



Hal Rothenborg shares his photos from his time with the Big Boy! Thank You Hal.

Big Boy #4014 Service Stop at Cima, CA. About 30 miles south of the Nevada Border 10/8/10



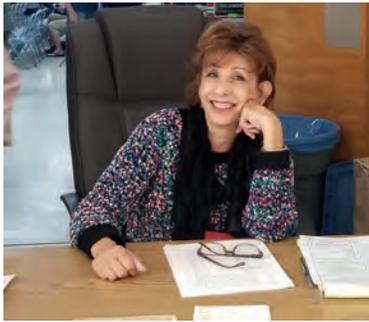
◀◀◀ More Work at the Service Stop

Union Pacific Big Boy # 4014 at Barstow, Ca. On Sunday 10/13/19



◀◀◀ Inside U.P. Passenger Car pulled by Big Boy up Cajon Pass on Saturday 10/12/19 with Hal enjoying his seat!

Photos from the February Meet

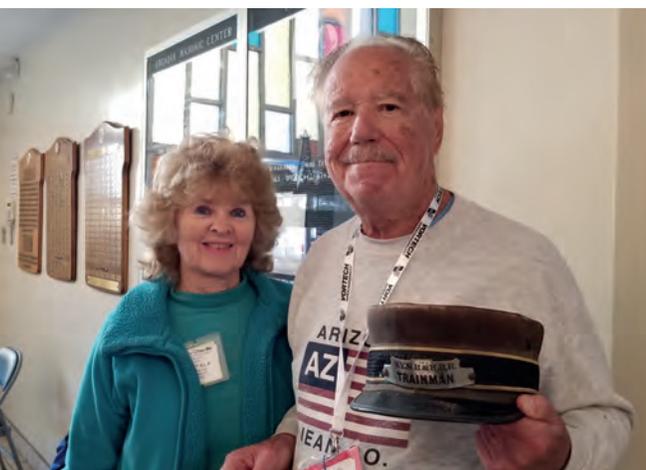


See Fred Kramer to order one of the shirts he is wearing. For every shirt sold, the club earns \$5.00. Available in Blue or Gray.

More Photos from the February Meet



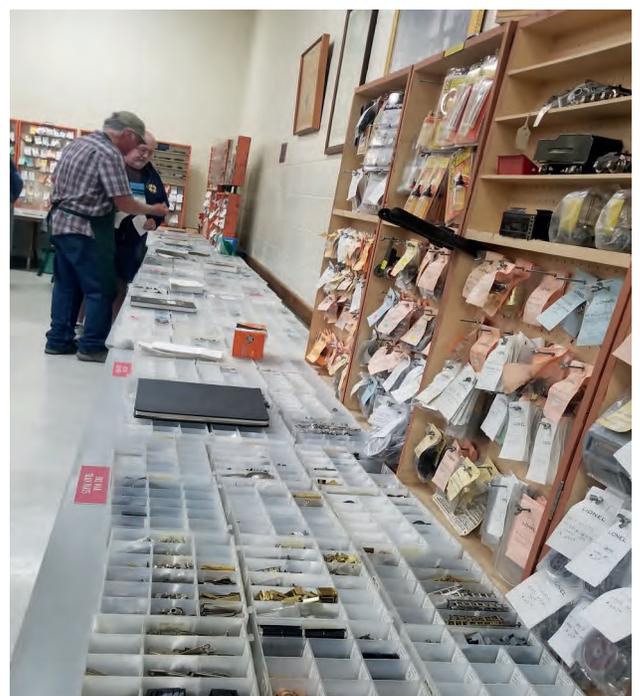
Photos from March Meet



More photos from the March 2020 meet



More Photos from March 2020 meet



WANTED:

Volunteers to help in all aspects of our club. Many of us are getting older and would really appreciate having people step up to help us. Please feel free to let us know how you would like to join in and help.

Mike Roman's N Gauge Layout

Yes along with all the O and S there is another layout. 7 1/2' by 4'





TIME DATED MATERIAL

FIRST CLASS

RETURN ADDRESS:

MIKE & SHEILA ROMAN
5024 NAGLE AVE.
SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91423-1516

LARRY PEARSON, PRESIDENT
SHEILA ROMAN, EDITOR
MIKE ROMAN, MEET PHOTOGRAPHER
MARTIN FOLB, SPECIAL EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHER
LOGO COURTESY OF GINNY COTTON

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Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91423

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(c) 818-426-6519 (h) 818-718-0340
(e) frktrains@gmail.com

This is a copy of our new certificate which we will send to those who make donations to our club. From honoring birthdays, anniversaries, new grandchildren, promotions in jobs, awards from organizations, retirement and even honoring those who have passed away, this certificate will be printed on nice cardstock and mailed in a matching envelope to whomever the donation honors. (Just a bit of different wording in title to honoree saying In Appreciation of a Donation Made in Your Honor)

In Appreciation of Your Donation
In Honor Of

From



Thank You From the T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division
Larry Pearson, President