

Richard White
Editor

"The Toy Train 'Beacon of the West'"

December 2012

the NOR-CAL EXPRESS

The Newsletter of the Northern California Division of the Train Collectors Association

Check out the latest *Tinplate Times* at
<http://www.tinplatetimes.com/>

DATE CHANGE: Note that the January 2013 meet is now on **JANUARY 19**, not 12. Note that the National Headquarters News is still indicating the date as January 12.

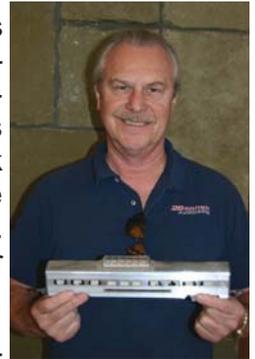
See the Nor-Cal Express in
FULL COLOR @
www.norcaltca.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rod Cornell, #82-18662

I am up to my neck in turkey. As always, Karen and I host the annual family Thanksgiving Day dinner. This year 36 hungry relatives showed up. While it is a lot of work it is a blessing to have the whole family in one place at one time. Truth is, I wouldn't have it any other way.



Last week we received a little surprise. We have known for some time that the Worlds Greatest Hobby (WGH) show will be held February 23 & 24, 2013 in Sacramento. We had planned to go there to promote our Cal-Stewart. Just last week we found out that WGH has made an eleventh hour plan to hold a show March 2 & 3, 2013 at the San Mateo Event Center, just one week before our Cal Stewart! While there is obvious concern that this show will adversely affect the attendance at our show, I believe we can actually benefit from it. These shows attract a huge number of train enthusiasts so if we are there at both WGH shows, I feel we can stimulate interest in ours. These are, after all, the exact people we want to reach. If you're planning to attend either WGH date, and would be willing to help us promote Cal-Stewart please contact me or any other Board member.

Speaking of Cal-Stewart, in case you have not yet marked your calendars, the dates are March 8 to March 10, 2013. We will be back in the same location at the Santa Clara Convention Center and we are moving back to the same halls (C and D) where we were from 2010 and before. Access to loading and unloading is far easier at this hall. With all the changes we have implemented, we are expecting a bigger turnout. As mentioned in the August President's Message, the Cal Stewart Committee, chaired by Cliff Jarrard, is doing a great job in making the changes necessary to (continued on page 2)



This is Ira Keeler's latest project, an interurban electric locomotive, in Standard Gauge. It is constructed of sheet aluminum, with McCoy trucks, pilots and trim. This is the pilot model for a planned limited production run. This a beautiful, impeccably constructed model. Details of construction are on page 4.

FUTURE MEETS

December 8, 2012 Holiday Meet, Nor-Cal members and families only at this meet, at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

January 19 (Note date change) at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette

February 9 at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette

March 8,9,10 Cal-Stewart Meet at the Santa Clara Convention Center

April 13 at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette

May ? in Sacramento at the Scottish Rite Temple

June 8, July 13 at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette

August—not determined, possibly at the CTTOM layout site in Crockett

September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette

Business Meeting: 9:30 AM

Trading: 10-11:30 AM

President's Message (cont'd. from page 1)

ensure a bigger better meet for all.

The Christmas luncheon is coming up on Saturday Dec 8. This year we are having fresh BBQ chicken and beef with all the trimmings. The concerns from last year have been addressed as there will be 2 serving lines, more food (last year we had 137 diners instead of the usual 110 or so!) and canned/bottled drinks etc. The round driveway we often use for unloading/loading will be occupied by the caterer's

grill so plan to park in the main lot and allow sufficient time to unload. In addition, remember that this meeting is only open to members and spouses/significant others. Sellers, as we expect a big turnout please remember to use only 1 or 2 tables so all can display their wares.

We hope to see you on Dec 8. In any event, have a happy healthy Holiday Season and/or Merry Christmas. Don't forget to share your love of trains with a youngster if you can.

-Rod

Page 2

CHANGES ARE IN THE WIND FOR THE SPRING 2013 CAL-STEWART MEET, ALSO KNOWN AS THE TOY AND MODEL TRAIN EXPO

As you probably already know, there will be significant changes for the Spring 2013 Cal-Stewart Meet. Some things will be the same; we will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center, it will be a two-day meet, and there will be lots of trains both in operation and for sale. But several things will not be the same.

The Spring 2012 meet had some problems that needed to be addressed. Several sellers complained that there were not enough people attending and this was affecting their sales; many of them said they would not come again. Their observations were in fact correct, as both the number of tables sold and the number attending was down about 50% from the all time high in 1997.

Shortly after the meet, the Nor-Cal Division Board of Directors discussed this situation. It was felt that there was a need to bring more people into our group and more people into future Cal-Stewart Meets. The board decided to open the meet to the public on Saturday as well as on Sunday; previously the meet was open only to members of TCA and TTOS on Saturday, but open to the general public on Sunday. It was also decided to emphasize trains of ALL gauges rather than just the traditional O and S gauge trains; it was felt that a wider variety of trains should be available to potential buyers in order to attract those who interests differ from the toy trains found at most TCA meets.

The board felt that some of the public attendees will have an interest in joining TCA and our division. Additionally, the board felt that those who may not want to join would benefit us by both increasing our income and making our sellers happy by providing more potential buyers. A sliding scale of admission fees was approved with the highest fee on Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM., a reduced fee for the rest of the day, and an additional reduction in fee for Sunday.

A Cal-Stewart Committee was formed to develop changes as well as advertising that would encourage more of the public to attend. The committee members are Cliff Jarrard (Chair), Randy Anderson (Seller Liaison), Bob Burke (Publicity and Operating Layouts), Jack Wittenmyer (Clinics and Related Activities), Richard White (Webmaster), and Bob Spivock (Senior Advisor). The committee has had several meetings (with more to come) and has made several recommendations that have been approved by the Nor-Cal board.

One of the most significant recommendations was increasing the advertising budget and being more efficient in how our advertising dollars are spent. In past years there was an advertisement that appeared only in The Mercury News, the major San Jose Area newspaper. For the 2013 meet there will be advertising not only in The Mercury News but in newspapers covering virtually the entire Bay Area. The ads will run for five days rather than just the one day previously. The cost increase from the previous year will be virtually zero due to effective negotiation with the Bay Area News Group. As an added bonus, the price includes several Internet "banner" ads on the Bay Area News Group website.

Another advertising change will be the use of radio ads on KNBR Sports Talk Radio for the five days preceding the meet. This is something new for us, but radio ads have been used by other train related groups with great success.

There will be many more operating layouts this year. A variety of gauges will be featured. The layouts will be a big attraction for kids of all ages and hopefully will generate much enthusiasm for both our meet and our hobby. Bob Burke has been extremely busy securing commitments for layouts.

The clinic program will be greatly expanded, under the supervision of Jack Wittenmyer. The specifics are currently being developed. There will be some hands-on activities for kids and anyone else who is interested in running of trains; in addition there will be clinic subjects similar to those at past meets.

There has been a significant effort to notify sellers about these changes. The initial reaction to the announced changes has been quite positive. Several sellers who said they would not return have had a change of heart. Sellers who have never before come to a Cal-Stewart Meet have indicated great interest in coming in 2013.

A new feature will be free appraisals on Saturday afternoon between 1:00 and 4:00 PM, to anyone who pays the admission price. This is being offered in order to encourage the public to come to the meet on Saturday afternoon, which traditionally has been a slow time. Several Nor-Cal members have volunteered to be appraisers; just a few more volunteers are needed.

A new website has been developed at www.trainexpo.org, to provide information primarily for the public. The site refers to **The Toy and Model Train Expo**, since the name "Cal-Stewart" has no meaning to the general public. The newspaper and radio advertising is directing people to this website.

The Saturday night banquet at the Convention Center has been in decline, and has now been dropped. Replacing it will be a Saturday night dinner at a local restaurant. This will be a small affair with very limited seating.

For the Cal-Stewart Committee and hopefully all of the membership of the Nor-Cal Division, it is FULL STEAM AHEAD. The volunteer help of Nor-Cal members is needed to assist with the implementation of these exciting changes. Just an hour or two at the registration desk or some time assisting with one of the scheduled activities would be of great benefit to the success of the 2013 meet.

In conclusion, the objective of these changes is to make the 2013 and all subsequent Spring Cal-Stewart Meets bigger, better and more inclusive, as well as to attract new and younger participants in the toy and model train hobbies. The Nor-Cal Division of TCA anticipates that these changes will make the Spring 2013 meet both bigger and better and will increase the membership in both TCA and the Nor-Cal Division.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

The Cal-Stewart Committee





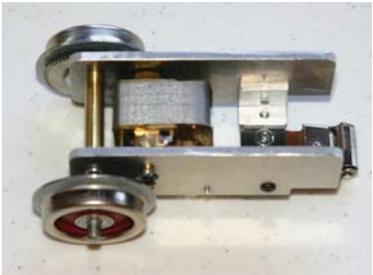
Rod Cornell brought in this Deluxe 30-Piece WWI Army Train set, in O-gauge, as designed by the Toy Train Historical Foundation, circa 1992, and manufactured by the Rich-Art Company. See the whole TTHS story in the October 2012 Quarterly.

Paul Guariglia displayed these Winross semi-trailer trucks (1/64th scale- S-gauge size) advertising past political campaigns. Paul stated that this is a “non-partisan” display! To visit the Winross website go to: www.winross.com/



At left: Mark Boyd brought in two boxes of recently acquired “Flexrail.” Each box contains a number of coils of flexible rail– the rail being flexible owing to notches in the top of each rail, about 2 mm. apart (resulting in a rather rough ride for toy train passengers!). The included wood ties have five slots each, into which the rail is to be inserted (“pounded”), allowing for the track to be assembled into either two-rail S or three-rail O-gauge configurations. A segment of assembled S-gauge rail is shown in the second photo. These were probably manufactured in the early 1950’s.

ITEMS SEEN AT THE NOVEMBER MEET



From Page 1: Ira Keeler’s “pilot” model interurban locomotive features a power truck of his own design, shown above and at the right. It incorporates a small motor, obtained from McCoy trains, geared to one axle of the truck. One or two power trucks are possible.

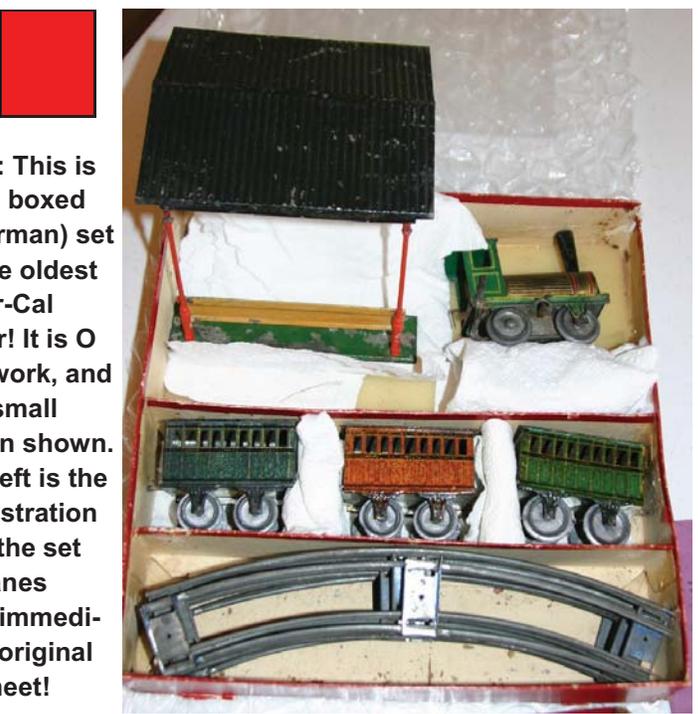
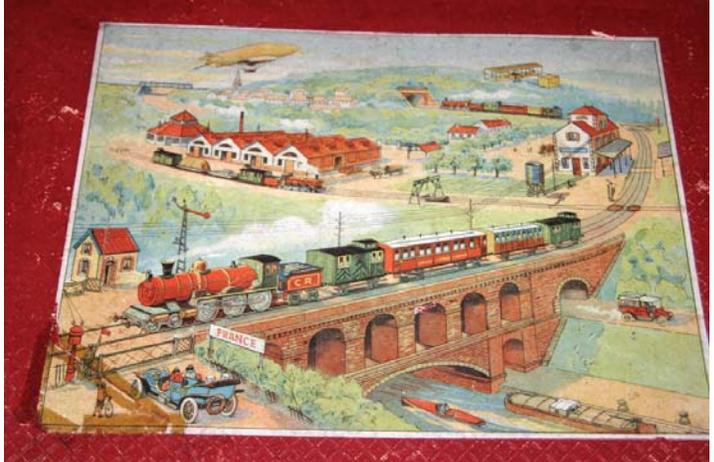


This is Craig Miller's Ives O gauge #3238 loco, from 1914-16 . It has a cast iron body, and a manual reverse. The pilots swivel with each 2-wheel truck.



Three photos at the right: This is a Rossignol (French) boxed O-gauge clockwork set of the 1920's.

Note the beautiful illustration is on the cover of the original box. Note the dirigible and Wright Flyer airplane (see detail), which would place the date of the illustration (but not the set) at about 1903-1908.



Three photos: This is Rod Cornell's boxed Issmayer (German) set of 1890-95, the oldest set at any Nor-Cal meet this year! It is O gauge, clockwork, and includes the small canopy station shown. At the upper left is the wonderful illustration on the top of the set box (no airplanes here!). At the immediate left is the original instruction sheet!





This is Richard Hofmeister Ives Wide Gauge set from 1927. This is the transition set with the stamped steel underframe on the #3235 loco.



Gary Espinosa brought in this clockwork Bing 4-4-0 from the twenties, in One Gauge. It has a combination of lithographed and hand-painted body. It's a beauty!

Check out this site : <http://www.tandem-associates.com/lionel/lionellocomotives.htm>

MARK BOYD'S PHOTOS FROM THE ONTARIO CAL-STEWART MEET



The theme for the of the Meet was Reproduction Tin-plate Trains. Display items illustrating this theme included trains manufactured by Lyle Cain, Varney-Sirus, Toy Train Historical Foundation, Rich-Art, and others.



These are some of the types of trains of various scales and gauges that you might find at the Toy and Model Train Expo.



**TRAIN REPAIRS, PARTS AND SALES
Mike Raymond**

MTH
PS1
PS2
DCS



Lionel
TMCC

Lionel and MTH Authorized Service Center, 2575 Knolls
Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 Phone: 707-578-1198



**Just
Trains**

Largest Selection in the East Bay
Friendly help for the young and the young at heart
O-Scale, Hi-Rail and Tinplate, G, HO and N

9650-H Imhoff Drive, Concord
Tuesday-Saturday 10-5:00 PM Joan Saunders, Owner
Sunday 12-4:00 PM Website: www.just-trains.com
(925) 685-6566 FAX: (925) 685-7997

Submit address and email
changes to: Mark Boyd, E-
mail: mark.boyd54@att.net

the NOR-CAL EXPRESS