

Richard White
Editor

"The Toy Train 'Beacon of the West'"

June 2013

the NOR-CAL EXPRESS

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

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There will be **NO MEETS** in July and August. The July meet conflicts with the TTOS.LOTS convention in Reno. The August meet was cancelled owing to low attendance (less than 20 members) at the August, 2012 meet.

The 2013 Cal-Stewart Report is on Page 2, with more info on Page 5. And don't forget to mail in your Nor-Cal ballots, on Pages 3 and 4.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rod Cornell, #82-18662

Summer is upon us already and at this time of year we often turn our thoughts to other things besides trains. I am planning to use the time to make some changes to the train room. Maybe even pick a few items out of my collection to thin it out. (No laughter please.)

Any of you who attended Cal-Stewart know that it was hugely successful. The major changes we made resulted in the biggest turnout ever. Cliff Jarrard and his crew did a terrific job. Please read the Cal-Stewart report submitted by Cliff elsewhere in this issue.

Also included in this issue is the ballot for the next Board. Please note the ballot is 2 pages. Please read and follow the instructions. The ballot must be returned to Cliff Jarrard and postmarked by June 26, 2013 to be counted. Cliff's address is on the second page of the ballot.

Every 3 months we all receive the wonderful Nor-Cal Express. This doesn't happen by magic. It is published and distributed by Richard White. Please make sure you thank him in person when you see him at the meets. He's the guy with the camera hanging from his neck frantically snapping pictures for the next issue. Thanks, Richard!

As some of you may know this is my last Presidents Message as my 3-year term as Nor-Cal president ends June 30, 2013. I would like to thank all who voted for me and who have supported me over the years. I would especially like to thank all those who over the **(Continued on Page 5)**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dan Cherry, Lafayette
Michael Dreiling, Citrus Heights
George Downs, San Lorenzo
Russell Fabrizo
Paul O'Donnell, San Francisco
Charles Black, Stockton

FUTURE MEETS

June 8- at the Veterans Hall, Lafayette
July and August—**NO MEETS!**
September 14, October 12, November 9,
December 14, at the Veterans Hall,
Lafayette
Business Meeting: 9:30 AM
Trading: 10-11:30 AM



Above: This is Ira Keeler's latest paint variation on his new steeplecab loco, in Standard Gauge. Seen at the May meet in Sacramento.

Below: Floor toy seen at the April meet.



2013 CAL-STEWART REPORT

Congratulations to all of the members who worked on the 2013 Cal-Stewart. The team members are listed on a different page.

CAL-STEWART COMMITTEE: The Cal-Stewart Committee provided many fantastic new ideas and worked tirelessly to successfully incorporate so many changes to the meet. I can't imagine the meet results without all the planning, leadership, and creativity from the Committee.

CAL-STEWART TEAM: Many Nor-Cal members contributed time and effort to make the 2013 Cal-Stewart meet a success. [see Page 5]

PUBLIC: Allowing the public in on Saturday had a positive effect on the dynamics of the meet. On Saturday afternoon, there were many attendees in the hall. In the recent past, Saturday afternoon had been dead. It also helped to close the hall on Saturday at 4PM. This compressed the action and reduced the image of no trading towards the end of the day.

EXPANDED GAUGES: We didn't experience the large number of HO, N and G gauge sellers we had hoped for. But this was our first year of this expanded mode and it takes a while for new ideas to catch on. We need to push this theme further.

OPERATING LAYOUTS: I don't recall attending any previous train meet anywhere which featured as many operating layouts as we did. They added excitement, livened things up, and were most appealing to the young (and old) people.

FIANANCIAL: Please refer to Treasurer Pete Goodier's financial report.

OUTREACH: We had a presence at virtually every meet in Northern California from the fall of 2012 on. We had representatives at the *Worlds Greatest Hobby* show in San Mateo both days, where we handed out flyers. There were hundreds of people streaming through the door - but many ignored our booth. Our videos and signs didn't attract enough attention. One way to overcome this would be have an operating layout and other unthought-of radical gimmicks to encourage people to pick up a flyer. Playboy bunnies might help.

COMPETITION: There are now so many train shows held in northern California that one could probably attend a show every weekend. Twenty five years ago the Cal-Stewart meet was the only show in town. People were excited and anxiously anticipating this big show. There also was no e-Bay nor were there the numerous auction houses selling train collections back then. Today, there is an overabundance of meets from which the train collector's might choose. We need to keep searching for those meet activities which make our meet stand out from the others.

STAFFING: One major concern I have is the same that I have in general about Nor-Cal. There aren't enough members taking leadership roles in the major activities. This results in situations where one person is responsible for several major activities. The danger and result is eventual overload and burnout. We also lack leadership depth. If a key person were to become ill or need an emergency leave, there's typically is no substitute to take his place. Back in March 2012, my goal was to assemble a larger number of people to take leadership roles for the various activities. We partially achieved the goal, but in the future more people to step up and become leaders. We need to find better ways to recruit. We need to make more people feel like they are needed – they are. However, we did have more positive success this year in recruiting new people to help out with the various activities. Team leaders were encouraged to assemble their own teams.

TRENDS AND THE FUTURE: Cal-Stewart registrations and table sales continued the trend of decline. TCA membership continues to dwindle across the country. The Nor-Cal Board and its advisors need to look at continued changes in its meet and Cal-Stewart format in order to survive. We took a big step forward in 2013 but need to change further.

Respectfully, Cliff Jarrard, 2013 Cal-Stewart Meet Chairman

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION
TRAIN COLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS: Remove this page and mark your ballot for the candidates indicated below. You may either fold the ballot in half and mail it or, if you prefer, place the ballot in a separate envelope.

Folded and Mailed Ballot: Sign your name and write your TCA Number in the space indicated. That part of the form will be cut off prior to examining or counting the ballots. Do not include your return address. Tape the closure (no staples!).

Separate Envelope: Send only the ballot portion of this page. (portion below "FOLD HERE"). Sign your name and write your TCA Number on the back of the envelope Ballots will be separated from envelopes prior to counting.

**IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED
YOUR BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR PRIOR TO
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013**

FOLD HERE -----FOLD HERE

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL BALLOT - 2013**

FOR PRESIDENT

() BOB NICHELINI 81-16938

() _____

FOR SECRETARY

() MARK BOYD 77-10940

() _____

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

() MICHAEL ANDREWS 95-41371

() _____

FOR TREASURER

() JACK D'ANGELO 77-10735

() _____

BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013 TO BE COUNTED

Signature _____

TCA Number _____

Cliff Jarrard
217 25th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

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217 25th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

CAL-STEWART COMMITTEE

Randy Anderson, Bob Burke, Bob Spivock, Richard White, Jack Wittenmeyer, Cliff Jarrard, Chairman

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Michael Andrews, John April, Stuart Armstrong, Mark Boyd, Leigh Bradbury, Jack D'Angelo, Albert DiMatteo, David Gallardo, Don Gholson, Pete Goodier, Barbara Goodier, Ed Guldner, Richard Hofmeister, Craig Matoza, Bob Nichelini, Mary Ann Nichelini, David Pfeifer, Mike Raymond, Rickey Renfro, Linda Renfro, Mike Rakasis, Stephen Rodriguez, Will Taylor, Bill Widman, Richard Zanotti, Mike Zolna

Thank you everyone for contributing to the best Cal-Stewart Meet yet!

In Memoriam Henry ("Hank") DeGuc TCA 70-2985



Hank, a long-time Nor-Cal member and former Nor-Cal Secretary, passed away on March 20. Hank was a frequent seller at Nor-Cal meets, and was most recently selling and talking with friends at the Cal-Stewart Meet in Santa Clara. Hank had lots of friends in Nor-Cal, and will be missed by many (including your Editor).

The officers and members of Nor-Cal TCA offer their condolences.



This rare Lionel #203 Armored Train from 1917-21, in O gauge, was offered for sale at the May meet in Sacramento. A few minutes prior to this photo being taken, the seller sold a boxed original set!

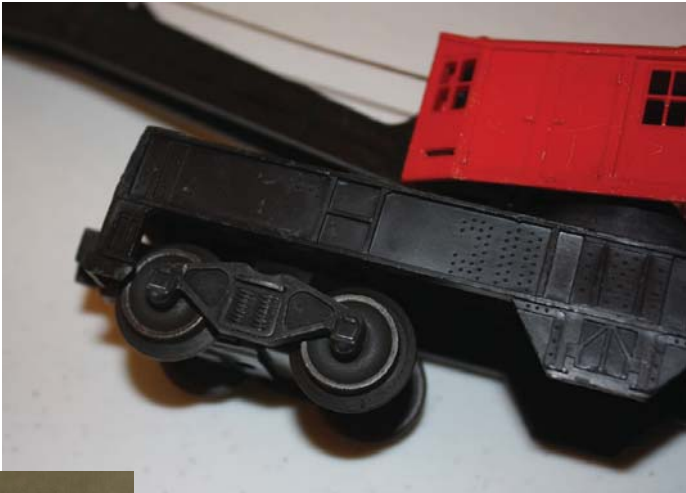
(President's Message, continued from Page 1) last 3 years have served on the board and those who chaired and/or served on the various committees. Without these "worker bees" Nor-Cal could not function.

See you at the next meeting Saturday June 8. And have a happy 4th of July. Be sure to fly "Old Glory" with pride.

Rod Cornell
President
Nor-Cal Division TCA



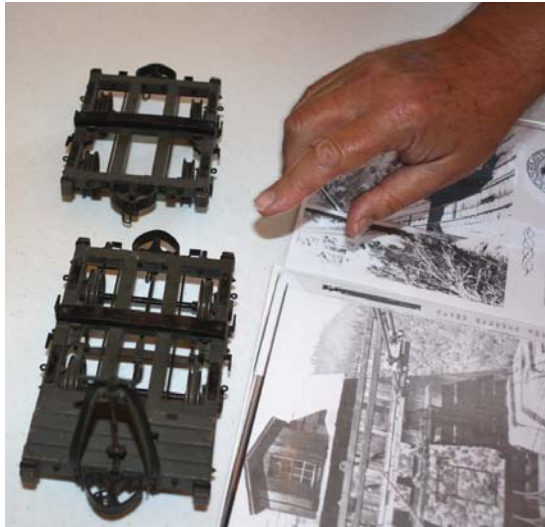
ITEMS SEEN AT THE APRIL MEET



Above: Mark Boyd brought in variations on the Lionel Rock Island FA's, 2031, 2041.
Right: Paul Ready brought in this unusual Lionel 6560 crane: orange plastic cab with smokestack, plastic frame, metal trucks



Richard Zanotti brought in this Bing 1 gauge lumber flatcar, possibly a factory prototype. It has working brakes (see lever at near end).



SEEN AT THE MAY MEET IN SACRAMENTO



Dave Pfeifer and Richard Zanotti at the check – in table.



Scene in the trading hall

MORE ITEMS SEEN AT THE MAY MEET IN SACRAMENTO



Three Photos: The display layout of Grieg Muselman.
Below: Another display layout.



Left: Ira Keeler at his table.



Above: These are two of the three car set (two end units and a center car) of the Consolli Bros. standard gauge model of the New Haven RR Comet. The motors are in each of the two vestibule units. Ira is going to replace the motor units with improved units of his own design.



A view in the trading hall



TRAIN REPAIRS, PARTS & SALES

Mike Raymond
2575 Knolls Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
707-578-1198 after 6pm

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changes to: Mark Boyd, E-mail:
mark.boyd54@att.net

Cliff

the **NOR-CAL EXPRESS**