



T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division The Southwestern Limited

Vol. 43, No. 2

Summer, 2026

Visit www.ttos-sw.org or contact info@ttos-sw.org



2026 SWD Meets:

Southwestern Division's Meets take place once a month. The official start time for a meet in Arcadia is 10AM, although you may arrive as early as 7AM, but please allow sellers time to get set up. Opportunity drawings are at 11:45 AM and the auction starts around noon, at which time the sellers start packing up.

Location:

Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W. Duarte Road
Arcadia, CA 91007



Upcoming 2026 Meets:

July 12 (second Sunday)

Aug. 8 (second Sat.) LA Live Steamers picnic in Griffith Park. (See page 4.)

Sept. 6 (first Sunday) Open House Meet; "New Attendees Only" drawing for a toy train set. (For more meet dates, see p. 2)

Directions from the 210 Freeway:

Exit Santa Anita Avenue; go south 1.5 miles; turn right on Duarte Road. The Masonic Center shares the parking lot with the Arcadia Library, on the south side of the street.

Features: Buying & selling of toy trains, with operating layouts, free train repairs, test track, complete food service, free parking and opportunity drawings. The winning 50/50 ticket will be drawn at 11:45 AM, followed by a lively auction.

Repair Clinic: We offer free toy train repairs at our meets, with volunteers Larry Pearson, Joey Giammatteo and Ed Vanderpool at your service. To order parts, see Mike Marple's ad on page 7 or visit Corey Friend's tables at the meet.

Admission is free for Members and \$5.00 for the public. Kids under 21 are free w/adult admission.

Sellers: 8 foot tables are only \$5 each!

Club members: Call Hollis Cotton at (818) 590-0553 to reserve yours!



On Sunday July 12th, come celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America with T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division at our regular monthly train meet in the Masonic Center, Arcadia, CA. We'll be running patriotic trains on our layouts in the lobby. Bring red, white & blue trains to share! **Have a Happy 250th!**

The #1776 American Freedom Train (above) was built in Std. Gauge for Steve Eastman by Waterman Locomotive Works. It's running on the large monthly layout in the lobby of the Arcadia Masonic Center.



Breaking News: After 75 fun-filled years on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, CA, the **Original Whistle Stop** train store has moved! The new address is 23 N. Altadena Drive (see ad on page 7). That's a block north of their prior location. Come by soon to visit Fred Hill and his crew. Their famous animated neon sign can't be moved to the new facade, so the plan is to donate it to the **Museum of Neon Art** in Glendale, CA. (Click on the links above for more info.)

Southwestern Division President's Message



LARRY PEARSON

President, 2026-2027

T.T.O.S.

Southwestern
Division

1108 West Palm Ave,
Burbank, CA 91506

Phone (818) 848-2653,
mornings, after 8:00 am,
or (818) 994-4890 (cell).

AUGUST 8TH LIVE STEAMERS PICNIC

We invite you to attend the 2026 T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division Member Appreciation Picnic, located at the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum in beautiful Griffith Park. The address is 5202 Zoo Drive (a half mile east of Travel Town).

The event starts at 11 am on Saturday, August 8, 2026. Food service stops at 1:30 pm. The last train leaves the station at 2:30 pm. Free parking in the gravel lot on the east side of the facility. Enjoy hamburgers & hot dogs, with all the trimmings, and chips, baked beans, sodas, and desserts. (See Renée Mylander's note about the dessert contest on the next page.)

You may have noticed that the date has moved from the first Saturday to the second Saturday of August. This occurred due to a mixup on the LALS calendar. The first Saturday was given over to an LAPD event, so that is why we are going on 8/8.

All riders must be at least 34" tall to ride (no infants in carriers or on laps), and weigh less than 350 pounds. Handicapped riders must be able to transfer to a straddle-type riding car, and be able to sit upright for at least 20 minutes. Animals are never allowed to ride.

The picnic is for **dues-paid** SWD Members, their families and invited guests! Please, children must be supervised at all times during this event. *Sorry, no train sales permitted at the park.* Although this is called a "Member Appreciation Party," SWD members are encouraged to invite friends, family and neighbors to this fun event.

The price for the picnic is \$9.00 per adult, in advance, by mail. Or, you can pay \$12.00 at the event, providing food is still available. Young people between ages 8 and 12 are only \$4.00 each. (Kids under 8 are free.) Reservations are due Sat., August 1st. Look for the picnic flyer in the SWD dues letter you will be receiving, which will also be available at our July 12th Meet or attached to the bottom of the online version of this newsletter.

I want to thank all the Board Members and attendees at our Monthly Meets and the annual August picnic for making our Club the biggest & best toy train club on the west coast!

- Larry Pearson

TTOS Southwestern Division President

*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 T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division (SWD), and its Members and Officers, or the editor & publisher of **The Southwestern Limited**.*

Call me at the above phone numbers in the mornings after 8:00 am if you need to get in touch with me. Or email me at lpears1941@att.net. Call, I love to talk.

~ ~ ~

SWD 2026 MONTHLY MEET DATES

The 2026 SWD Meet dates remaining are:

July 12 (second Sunday, due to 4th of July)

August 8 (second Saturday): LA Live
Steamers picnic in Griffith Park.

September 6* (1st Sunday) Open House.

October 4 (1st Sunday)

November 1 (1st Sunday)

December 6* (1st Sunday) Open House.

Note: The asterisks (*) above denote Open House Meets, featuring special drawings for first-time attendees. The hope is that this will attract new members from this promotion. The typical prize is a toy train starter set.

SWD ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL

Southwestern Division annual dues are renewed on July 1st of each calendar year. You should be receiving a postal letter which has the 2026-2027 Dues Renewal form. Our dues haven't changed: still just \$30.00/year. If your payment is late, your SWD Membership remains in place for three (3) months, ending with the October Meet date, when we will no longer honor the yellow badges. There is no extra charge for late renewals, but the fee remains at \$30.00 until July 1, 2027.

TTOS Southwestern Division's April Meet



Photos by Dr. Martin Folb

Inset:

Denyse Meyer's distinctive purple & pink Std. gauge McCoy train

This expanded Standard Gauge Fastrack layout took up more than half the lobby. Bill Senyak's red MTH locomotive (left) is pulling a train lettered for Erie Lackawanna.



Ulus Ekerman sets up a NY Central passenger set on the club's "O" gauge layout.



Members can reserve 8 foot seller's tables for only \$5 each; call Hollis Cotton at (818) 590-0553.



True to form, TTOS member and LA Live Steamer Don Kallgren had a stationery steam engine for sale.



Jim Kenney offers the Disney World Railroad "Golden Edition" train.



Early bird sellers are all set up by 9:00 am.



Linda Kramer sells tickets for the 50/50 raffle.



Original LIONEL No. 100 Electric Rapid Transit trolley, built in Std. Gauge from 1912 to 1914. Owner: Gary Merrill.



Arin Dunlap surveys a table full of trains for sale.

SWD President's Message, continued

TTOS PICNIC DESSERT BAKE-OFF

As summer draws to a close, the TTOS Southwestern Div. member appreciation picnic promises excitement and delicious treats. This year, we're introducing a delightful new tradition: a **bake-off competition** that will showcase the culinary talents of our members.



Our classic picnic fare remains - hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the traditional fixings - but the dessert section is getting a creative upgrade. Open to all members, our bake-off has only one rule: everything must be homemade. Depending on participation, we may even create separate categories for young adults and children.

Prizes will be awarded to top bakers: first place wins \$50, and second place receives \$25. When you arrive, simply bring your homemade creation to the kitchen staff. Each entry will be assigned a number and a brief description, with special notations for sugar-free or gluten-free options.

Voting will be democratic and fun. Attendees can sample multiple desserts while being considerate of others. A dedicated voting box will allow everyone to choose their favorite treat. And don't worry - our beloved fruit cups will still be available for those seeking a lighter option.

Whether you're a seasoned baker or a novice cook, this is your chance to share a sweet creation that reflects your personality. No entry will be turned away, though store-bought items won't be eligible for judging.

—Renée Mylander

NEW SWD MEMBERS

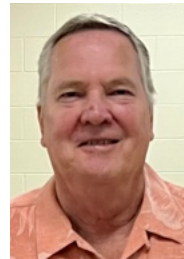
During the last quarter, SWD Division added the following new members (in alphabetical order):



Thomas Bowman, Evan Chapman,
Sean McKinney, Jerry Rindone,
Rudy Salinas, Ben Torres and
Roger Wilander.

Please make them feel welcome!

Nicholas "Nick" E. Mescher, TTOS #51232



Nick Mescher was born in Lynwood, CA, on August 1, 1952, and was a life-long resident of Pico Rivera. His death on April 14, 2026 at the age of 73 was the result of a fast growing cancerous tumor. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas Mescher, TTOS #5172. As a child, Nick had a strong interest in model trains. He made that hobby into his career and along with his brother Tom, creating **Classic Trains** in Rowland Heights. Initially, they sold mostly N-scale model trains, later manufacturing high-quality "S" scale track. Nick joined TTOS in 1979, selling Lionel trains so he could afford more American Flyer. *He will be missed.*

TCA NAT'L PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Train Collectors National Convention wrapped up recently & our own TTOS-SW webmaster Harold Shapiro has been elected TCA National President. He will have many new demands on his time, so we're looking for some tech-savvy TTOS-SW members to help Harold with the website. Contact Harold at info@ttos-sw.org for more information.



Jerome "Jerry" Moser, TTOS #1114



Longtime Southwestern Division member Jerry Moser died on April 26, 2026 at the age of 87.

Jerry was very involved with the TTOS Cal-Stewart train shows for many years. More recently, he helped out at the front desk at the SWD meets. Jerry was a Director-at-Large on the SWD Board of Directors. He was also known to his friends as a cat lover.

Jerry lived in Hesperia, CA at the time of his death and was one of the pillars of TTOS Southwestern Division. Services will be held in Wisconsin at a later date.

TTOS Southwestern Division's May Meet



Photos by
Steve Waller

Lee Johnson (left) of Sierra Madre won the 50/50 prize. Fred & Linda Kramer presented the award.



Steve Eastman's
MTH Std. Gauge 400E
Chessie with custom Waterman coal tender



Rudy Felix with a TTOS
Ward Kimball boxcar



George Blanch
gets the auction
underway.



LIONEL O27
post-war Union Pacific
2023 ALCo locomotives
from 1950 (only) for sale.



Corey Friend enters a bid. His dad George
and pal Larry Tozzi offer encouragement.



June 'Open House' Meet at Southwestern



David Nissen with LIONEL's 6-8101 "O" Gauge Chicago & Alton 4-6-4 steamer #659.



Auction Bidders



Nancy Giammatteo with the Guest Raffle Prize.



Ray Villaseñor (right) & son Sebastian (left) preview their new train store in Corona.
www.goldenspikerrailroading.com

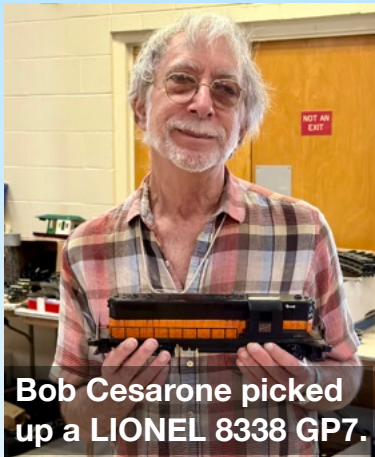


Photos by Steve Waller

Susan Edwards (left) won the 50/50 Opportunity Drawing in June, awarded by Fred and Linda Kramer.



Holly Tozzi (rear) & Renée Mylander



Bob Cesarone picked up a LIONEL 8338 GP7.

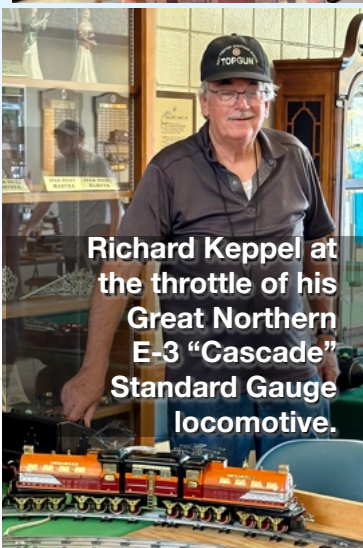


Admiring Ulus Ekerman's club layout.



(This early postwar car lacks 'Baby Ruth' markings.)

Lisa and Jim Amen



Richard Keppel at the throttle of his Great Northern E-3 "Cascade" Standard Gauge locomotive.



Rocco holds one of 6 Broadway Ltd. cars that he sold at auction.

Rocco & Renée Telese



Action at Corey Friend's table.

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TTOS-SP's "Trains & Coffee" in the parking lot at Bryant Ranch Center, 23621 La Palma Ave, Yorba Linda, California, 92887 - Sat. July 11th from 9 AM - 12 Noon. See website for more info: <https://ttos-sp.org/>

TOY TRAIN MEET
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2026 Meets:
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22
Dec 11-12
(Super Meet)

Public Invited: 10:00 to 1:00
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

ALL ABOARD! 2026 Meets
TCA Western Division
Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007

2026 Toy Train Swap Meets: 10 AM start (9 AM setup)
Saturdays: August 22, October 17, December 19

Operating Train Layout, Repair Service, Refreshment & Auctions
At the SW edge of Santa Anita Golf Course, near intersection of Huntington Dr. & Holly Ave.

Western Division members, reserve free selling tables: email info@tcawestern.org
Visit our website, www.tcawestern.org, for a list of the display table themes.
For more information, contact Jon Lang at (310) 871-8315 (talk or text)
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2026 Meets:
July 18
Aug. TBD
Sept. 19
Oct. 17
Nov. 21
Dec. 19

AGTTA Saturday Meets 9am to Noon
Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church
6556 Park Ridge Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92120

Website- www.agtta.com
Contact- Jim Andrews at dangodfrey@aol.com

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President: Larry Pearson**Vice President:** Renée Mylander**Membership Secretary:** Nancy Giammatteo**Recording Secretary:** (vacant)**Treasurer:** Manny Gonzalez**Directors-at-Large:** (alphabetically, by last name):

Hollis Cotton, Bill Elliott, Cory Friend, Fred Kramer, David Mylander, Jon Pincus, Calvin Smith, Joseph Ubrun and Steve Waller.



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