



THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED

Vol. 38, No. 3

November, 2021

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



Upcoming Meet:

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION's last gathering this year is the Holiday Meet on Sunday, December 5, 2021.

This year's Holiday Meet will have cupcakes for your sweet tooth and a visit from **Santa Claus**, himself, at Noon. Santa will be checking for who's been naughty or nice this year, so please be on your best behavior!

Meets take place at:
Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W. Duarte Road
Arcadia, CA 91007



Directions: from the 210 Freeway, exit south on Santa Anita Ave., and go 1.5 miles; turn right on Duarte Road. The Masonic Center is on the left.

We feature: Buying & Selling Trains, Operating Layouts, a 50/50 Drawing, a Live Auction at Noon, Repairs, Test Track, Snack Bar & Free Parking.

Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free for Members, \$5.00 for the public. Kids under 21 are free with adult admission.

Sellers: Tables are only \$5.00; reserve with Hollis Cotton (818) 590-0553.

Toy Train Auctioneer: George Blanch (818) 590-8238.

For more info: call Larry Pearson (818) 848-2653, mornings after 8 a.m. The website is www.ttos-sw.org.



David H. Otth 1939 - 2021

The toy train world lost one of its leading lights when David Otth, TTOS #257, passed away at age 82 on October 4, 2021, from COVID-19. Although he was fully vaccinated, Dave was immunocompromised due to the medical treatment he was receiving for a long-standing illness.

Dave Otth was born in Jacksonville, Illinois on April 17, 1939. When he was just a boy, Dave got his first train, a gift of a wind-up steam freight set, from his older brother Edward. Thus began Dave's love of Joy Line & Marx Trains.

Having an aptitude for all things mechanical, Dave received a BSME degree from the University of Florida in 1962. He started out with Boeing, and was transferred to Los Angeles in 1964.



Dave & his first train.

Oth relocated to Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena in 1968. He received an MSE from West Coast University in 1972. Dave was a Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer on JPL's Voyager Program, which launched in 1977.

[See **Otth**, p. 6]

SWD President's Message: November, 2021



LARRY PEARSON
President, 2020-2021
T.T.O.S.
Southwestern
Division
1108 West Palm Ave,
Burbank, CA 91506
Phone (818) 848-2653,
mornings, after 8 am.

Please be advised that the following article is comprised solely of my own thoughts, opinions, & 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 and publisher of **The Southwestern Limited**. Call me at the above phone number in the mornings after 8 am if you need to get in touch with me. Call, I love to talk...

~ ~ ~

ELECTIONS FOR THE SWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of the **SWD Board of Directors** are voted in for two-year terms, and 2021 is an election year for 2022-2023. I asked for nominations for all Board positions at the November 7 Meet. There was no interest by those in attendance in the SWD Officer positions, so those in attendance voted the existing Officers and board members to continue for 2022-2023 by acclamation.



For now, this will work. However most of your current Board Member, and volunteer workers, as I reported in the last issue of *The Southwestern Limited*, are in the **elderly** category (ages in the 70's and 80's), and, frankly we don't have much more time left to serve you. It is crucial that

younger Members volunteer into the Board of Director and volunteer positions and learn how the club is operated so they can take over. You don't have to be an elected Board Member to volunteer to help run the club. You don't have to be elected to serve on the Board. The Board has the power to appoint new Board members at any time.

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. Most of the current Officers and Board members are senior citizens and we need younger people to step up and begin to take over the operation of our Club.

MONTHLY MEET POST CARD BY EMAIL

Going back as many years as I can recall, the SWD has printed and mailed a post card announcing each Monthly Meet just prior to the meet, as a reminder and to make special announcements. In order to assure its delivery to the Membership, it must be composed, printed and mailed at least one week before the Meet. Although we pay first class postage, the Post Office seems to treat these post cards as "junk mail". It currently is costing us \$500 a month to print and mail



the post card, \$6000 a year. Many Members report that they never receive it. The COVID restrictions seem to be changing each week. Now the City of Los Angeles is requiring masks and proof of vaccination or a negative test result before you can dine in a restaurant. We need a way to inform the SWD Membership in a more timely and reliable way. The answer is email. It is instantaneous and it is free. My other clubs are doing this, and now we are too. We are at a point where we **have** to do this, and we need your cooperation. We plan to continue to print and mail the quarterly *Southwestern Limited* magazine, and plan to also send it out by email. One of the many advantages to email, is that the recipient can easily forward it to their friends. This might help grow our membership.

Our annual SWD Membership renewal form asks for your email address and permission to use it. I did a survey of the July, 2021 Membership list, and about 50 SWD Members did not list an email address. I know that most of these members do have email, but didn't

Plenty of Toy Train Action at the August Meet



Joey Giammateo fixes toy trains at no cost for labor. Ed Vanderpool & Larry Pearson also repair trains gratis.



Goodbye, Postcards; Hello, MailChimp!

By Harold Shapiro, SWD Webmaster

Every month, T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division members are sent a postcard via U.S. mail to remind them of the monthly train meets in Arcadia at the Masonic Center. The continuously rising costs of postage for sending items through the U.S. Mail have increased substantially more over the past few years. Plus, at the same time, the delivery services that the U.S. Mail system provides have deteriorated significantly and as a result, quite often, they are not delivering posted mail in a timely manner. This is a huge problem, especially when attempting to notify members of a specific meet that will be held on a specific date. T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division also is incurring increased costs to print the physical postcards. In an effort to reduce costs, and avoid the need to pass these increased costs on to the membership, T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division is looking to reduce reliance on the U.S. Mail system to notify its membership of the monthly meet dates and times.

In order to facilitate this goal, T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division has established an account with MailChimp, the on-line, all-in-one Internet based direct e-mail marketing platform that facilitates management of

contact lists and direct communications campaigns (mailings) to the subscribers, clients, customers, and other interested parties whose contact information is collected in the database. It is our hope that T.T.O.S. members will willingly provide us with their email addresses and forgo the desire to receive a printed piece of paper each month, that ultimately gets tossed into the waste paper basket. There are several advantages to opting into an electronic notification delivery system. Aside from receiving your notifications in a timely manner, reducing paper waste and saving trees, the on-line system tracks all the communications campaigns delivery success/failures, and will identify bad or malformed email addresses. The system facilitates a much easier way to notify and communicate with a large group simultaneously, in real time, and will ensure accurate information on the membership is maintained.



For the November 2021 monthly meet, this system was utilized for the first time to electronically post notifications to 279 email addresses obtained from records for current and past members. The system indicates that 252 of these email addresses were valid and that 171 members actually opened the notification.

[See **MailChimp**, p. 7]

[From Pearson, p. 2]

bother to list it. We have a handful of Members who not only don't have email, but do not own a computer!

We sent the November Meet postcard by mail and by email to see what happens. If you received the email, everything is fine. If not, we need to hear from you. Call me at the above phone number, or send your email address to info@ttos-sw.org. Or see us at the December 5 Meet at the registration desk. We plan to email and send a postcard announcing the December Meet. Harold Shapiro, our webmaster, set up an email for us with MailChimp and gives a more technical presentation in this issue.

FOOD SERVICE AT THE MONTHLY MEETS

We are still struggling to find someone to prepare food at the Monthly Meets. Hollis Cotton is working on it. As a minimum, we plan to provide donuts and coffee.

If you have a solution, call Hollis at 818-590-0553. We are open to using a food truck, but don't know of any licensed to operate in Arcadia.

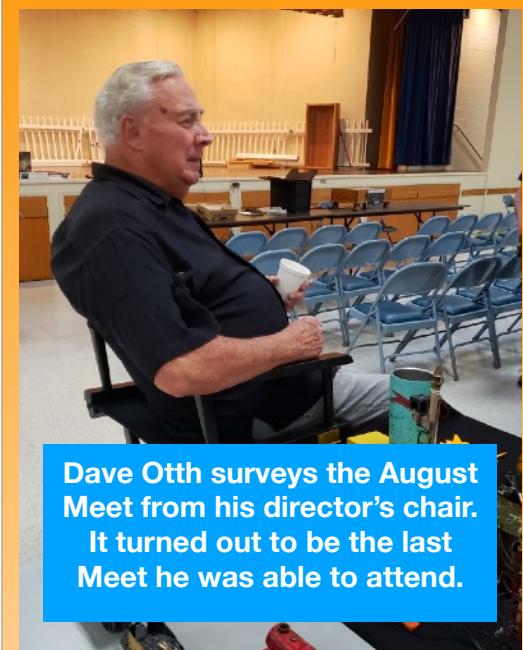


2022 SWD MEET DATES

We have contracted with the Arcadia Masonic Center for the following Sunday dates: **January 2, February 13, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, Saturday, August 6 annual picnic at the Live Steamers, September 11, October 2, November 6, December 4**. We were unable to book the second Sunday in January and had to take January 2, the day after New Years.

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!

Sold-Out Tables Kept the August Meet Lively!



Dave Otth surveys the August Meet from his director's chair. It turned out to be the last Meet he was able to attend.



SWD August Meet photos by Martin Folb.



Al Vargas has got more of what you need at his sales tables.



Ulus Ekerman (in blue shirt) manages the club's 'O' layout.



Fred Kramer congratulates 50/50 Drawing winner Hollis Cotton.

[Otth, from p. 1]

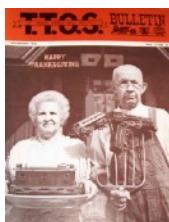
After working on numerous other projects at JPL, Dave retired in 2010 after 42 years.



Dave also had a storied career in our hobby. Always a visionary, he formed the Toy Train Historical Foundation in 1985, making trains for the collector market.

As the founder of Toy Train Heritage in 2012, he worked to donate train sets to at-risk youth organizations.

A 1966 founding member of the Toy Train Operating Society, Dave was editor for many years of the *TTOS Bulletin*, which was known for the humorous cover photos of Disney animator Ward Kimball.



"Toy Trains on Parade," opens in 1984.

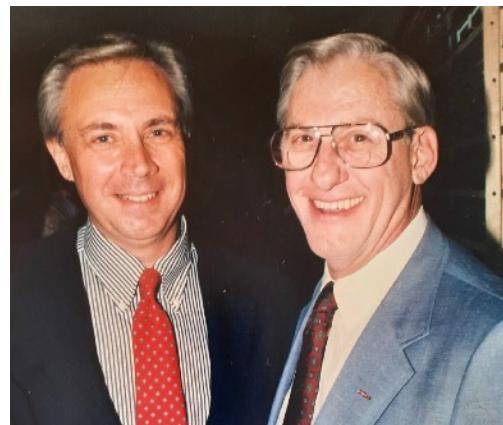
In 1984, Otth worked with Ward Kimball again on the "Toy Trains on Parade" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. For almost 20 years, the display fascinated museum visitors.

Dave produced videos for TTOS and later partnered with Jim Weatherford of San Diego to produce a series of videos about toy train repair.

In 1975, Dave designed a vintage-style train layout for Universal's *Ellery Queen* TV series. In the photo at right, Ed McMahon takes a break from acting in "The Eccentric Engineer" to examine Dave's Lionel 763E locomotive.



At Cal-Stewart, "the largest Toy Train Meet West of the Mississippi," Dave organized a celebration for the Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary in 2010.



David Otth (L) with Richard Kughn, then-CEO of Lionel Trains, Inc., at the Cal-Stewart train show in 1990.

Over the years, Otth was involved with many stunning train displays at the Cal-Stewart show.

Dave created "Toy Trains Go Hollywood," a multimedia experience, that was the cornerstone of the Display Hall at the 2003 TCA National Convention in Ontario, CA. One of Dave's toy train photos from the classic film "Four's a Crowd," signed by actress Olivia de Havilland, brought in \$2,700 at the TCA Banquet Auction.



When TTOS & TCA teamed up in 2008 to do a large holiday display at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Dave helped to set up the "Wall of Trains" exhibit. It was such a success that the "Wall of Trains" returned for three more years.



Dave's "Hollywood on Track" exhibit of movie train photographs at Travel Town in Los Angeles' Griffith Park was another big hit, garnering a positive review in *The Washington Post* in 2015.

Otth took the "Toy Trains Go Hollywood" concept to Facebook in 2014, where his large collection of movie photographs and lobby cards, depicting toy trains in film, can still be enjoyed.

Dave is survived by his wife Rita L. Otth and two grown children, Jeremy and Amanda. Our condolences go out to Dave's family and his many friends.

Roy Bell Insurance Agency Inc

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TOY TRAIN MEET
Monthly Train Meets

2021 Meets:

Nov. 28th
Dec. 19th
(Sundays)

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

All Aboard To Anaheim!

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

Map not to scale.

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

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

Train Collectors Association
Western Division
Celebrating 67 Years!

Holiday Meet: Sat., December 11, 2021
"Trains & Coffee" at Duke's Café
Parking Lot Meet from 9AM to Noon

Western Division Meeting: Noon - 2 pm
2099 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA 92870
Order Lunch 11:30 at Duke's Counter and eat in Mtg. Room.

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

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

All Gauge Toy Train Association
San Diego, California

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

BUY AND SELL TRAINS
SUPER RAFFLE & SNACK BAR

Contact: Norm Rosen at ncrosen@gmx.com
Website: www.agtta.com
Meets generally 3rd Saturday of the month

GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

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Info: Dave Brown
eaglefour@juno.com

Website: www.gcmrr.org

[MailChimp, from p. 3]

If you have provided the club with your email address previously, but you did not see the notice in your email inbox, please check your email SPAM folder. These messages will appear to be sent from this address: Larry Pearson, President <lpears1941@att.net>. Please make sure to include this email address as an approved sender in your email client so that the messages do not wind up in your SPAM



folder. If you have an email address, but have not provided it to the club previously, please do so by forwarding that information to the address: info@ttos-sw.org.

Thank you for your willingness to work with us to reduce club costs, maintain accurate records and to help protect the environment!

—Harold Shapiro

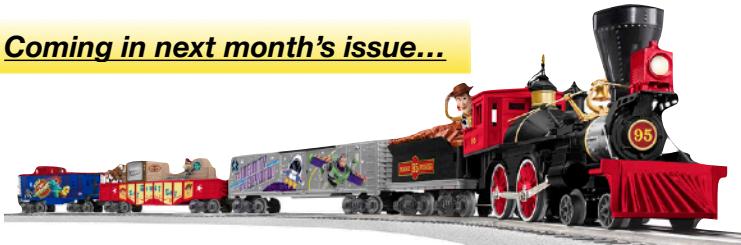
Return Address:

LARRY PEARSON
1108 WEST PALM AVE,
BURBANK, CA 91506

TIME DATED MATERIAL**FIRST CLASS**

*Toy Trains
Are Fun!™*

Coming in next month's issue...



THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED

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Recording Secretary: Jerry Moser

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Treasurer: Manny Gonzalez

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