

WINTER 2024

VOLUME 58

NUMBER 1

PINELLAS PARK (TAMPA BAY AREA) MEET STORY

February 10, 2024

Meet Host: Guy Ateniese, 727-480-7909, gateniese@tampabay.rr.com

We're returning to our beautiful location from the last few years - the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781 (<https://www.pinellas-park.com>).

Set Up for table holders will be Friday, 10:00A-5:00P and Saturday, **8:00-9:00A** (per contract with the venue). During set up, the building only will be open to table holders and authorized helpers. Remember to list on the Registration Form the full name(s) of any helpers. All helpers selling trains must be a family member or a current TCA member in good standing, unless preapproved by the meet host or a board member.



Tables: 8 feet each; SD members: **\$25** per table for 1-3 tables or \$20 per table for 4+ tables; TCA non-SD members: \$10 additional per selling table. Due to many early table pre-sales (table holders from other meets and repeat table holders), tables are limited. It will be a first-come, first-served basis. **Send your completed Table Registration Form with payment in advance of the meet.** There will be no "holds" or "pay upon arrival."

Hours: 9:00A for TCA Members only; **9:30A SD Members' Meeting;** and 10:00A - 3:00P to the public

Admission: \$5.00/person and free admission to a child 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. All children 12 and under will receive a free gift at the check-in table.

Activities: door prize drawings for adults and children throughout the day; Scavenger Hunt for families; and kids' play area

Food: A food truck may be on site, but there are several nearby restaurants (Cheddars, Firehouse Subs, Popeye's Chicken, McDonald's, etc.).

Open House: Dave and Gale Zitnik again have graciously agreed to host an open house at their store, Zitnik Trains, 5193 73rd Ave. N., Pinellas Park from **6:30-8:00P** on **Friday the 9th**. Sandwiches, snacks, desserts and beverages will be provided. Zitnik Trains is in very close proximity to the meet venue.



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Attachments / Inserts

1. Pinellas Park Table Registration Form
2. SD 2023 3Q Treasurer's Report
3. SD 2024 Budget

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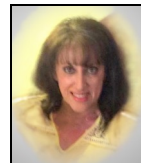
SDTCAWebmaster@gmail.com

Website: tcasoutherndivision.org

Facebook: [Train Collectors](https://www.facebook.com/TrainCollectorsAssociation-Southern-Division)

[Association-Southern Division](https://www.facebook.com/TrainCollectorsAssociation-Southern-Division)

*Reminder: Southern Division membership is
open to all TCA members in good standing.
If not already a TCA member,
you may join TCA when you join the SD.

***The Layout Editor***

Mary Anyan

MaryAnyan.MIA1@gmail.com

President's Perspective by Mike Setzer

As 2023 comes to a close, I hope you are enjoying a safe and wonderful holiday season.

I take this opportunity to compliment Mike Mills and Bill Trappen for their months of hard work in preparation for the November 10th and 11th events in the Orlando area. Happily, the barbeque and train rides were not canceled this year and were great fun. Thanks to Bruce Pemberton and his daughter Arianne for hosting. The train meet, dinner and show & tell were well attended. Check out the post-events recaps on the next page, and enjoy the photos.

Our next division show is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th in Pinellas Park. Hope to see you there.

My wife and I wish each and every one of you and your loved ones a healthy, happy 2024.

Mike

**Recap of the Lake Nona Train Show, Dinner and Show & Tell
by Mike Mills**

EXTRA! EXTRA! Your Southern Division fall event was a huge success!

When you read this story, our fall season will have come and gone from our Orlando/Lake Nona train show series of events. As you know, the first part was a barbeque and train rides on Friday the 10th. Bill and Rosemary Trappen organized all of this. See Bill's recap, below.

On Saturday the 11th our train show was held at the Lake Nona Middle School. SD members and the general public enjoyed viewing our 72 vendor tables filled with every scale of trains for sale, plus accessories. From what we were told by all, the sellers were happy with their sales. Attendees also were excited to view the operating layouts provided by The Jacksonville-based Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers. The Lake Nona Villagewalk Model Train Club displayed an HO Winter Wonderland and was a crowd pleaser with all its bell and whistles! Thanks to all of you for your hard work to set up and operate these layouts. As seen on the faces of the children, we provided lots of smiles. But we really surprised all of the U.S. Veterans with free admission to the show. The vets and their families were so appreciative of this gift, especially since it was Veterans Day.

The show ended at 2:30 p.m. but the fun didn't stop there. About 20 members and their guests attended the annual division dinner and show & tell at Giovanni's in Lake Nona and enjoyed great food. Thank you to Richard Tashjian, John Bailey, Clark Vegazo (and yours truly) who shared some of our treasures at the show & tell.

The division congratulates and thanks John Bailey for his generosity on winning both the silent-auction and live-bid auctions for the pre-production sample water towers. Thank you to all of the vendors who participated. Now my personal thanks to those who helped make this weekend a wonderful experience for all: co-host Bill Trappen; his wife Rosemary; Judy Tashjian; Todd Davis; Mary Irene Dexter; Carmen and Allen Eschette; and especially Barbara (my wife) for all of her hard work pre-, during, and post-show.

And to those who missed the fun - see you next year!

**Recap of the Barbeque Lunch and Train Rides
by Bill Trappen**

Blue skies and sunshine greeted 30+ SD members and families at Bruce Pemberton's 7½" gauge Outdoor Paradise Railroad on Friday, November 10th. In fact it was unusually warm for November so we brought bottled water and ice to keep everyone hydrated. The nice weather this year was in sharp contrast to the weather which caused us to cancel this same event planned for last year as two hurricanes had left Bruce's property too wet to have the train rides. Bruce was a gracious host, and his daughter Arianne and friend Jim Cassady took turns in the engineer's seat of the F3 diesel locomotive pulling happy passengers along the scenic wooded route.

Bubbalou's Restaurant catered the delicious food. Just a small disappointment was that the brownies ordered for dessert apparently were left back at the restaurant.

We normally have our November SD meet the Saturday before Thanksgiving, but this year we moved it one week earlier because meet host Mike Mills had a conflict with that weekend. That change in dates this year proved to be a stroke of good luck because had we scheduled the meet and the outdoor BBQ like in previous years, we would have had to cancel the outdoor event on very short notice due to almost continuous rain on the Wednesday and Thursday preceding the weekend which again flooded part of Bruce's property including some of the track!

Lake Nona Trifecta of Events Photos

Special thanks to Mike Setzer, Bill and Rosemary Trappen, and Ed Richter for the photos



Left: SD member Ernie Krillke holding sign to direct arriving vehicles to the parking area



Left: The always delightful Rosemary Trappen ready to check in the party-goers

BBQ and Train Rides



Left: Bill Trappen displaying the two pre-production sample water towers for the silent and live auctions



Left: Party Host Bruce Pemberton



(Above two photos): The little guy in the front seat of the train is Eddie Richter, 2-year-old grandson of Ed Richter (pictured at far right with his family). Sitting behind Eddie on the train is his dad, Christian Richter, who rode that same train when he was Eddie's age!



**Left (L-R):
Lucretia
Fischel
and
Patrice
Cavanaugh**



**Left:
Clark
Vegazo**



**Above (L-R): Arlene, Wendy, and
SD President Mike Setzer**



**Below (L-R): Judy Tashjian
and Barbara Mills**



**Above: Lake Nona Villagewalk
Model Train Club members and their
HO Winter Wonderland display**

**Train
Show**





**Above (L-R):
Richard and Judy Tashjian and
Bill and Patrice Cavanaugh**



**Greg and
Barbara
Christian**



Rosemary Trappen

**Below: members of the Jacksonville-based
Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers with their
magnificent portable display layout**



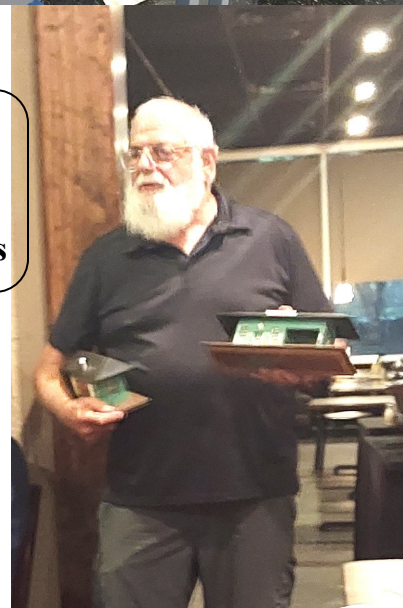
**Left:
John
Bailey**

**Show
&
Tell**



**Left: Richard Tashjian
displaying a rare tank car
variation and its common
counterpart (inset) and
Judy Tashjian**

**Right:
SD Vice
President
Mike Mills**



From *The Layout Editor*: Scott Easterling (pictured below) is an SD member and was kind enough to share this delightful story. Enjoy!

Florida Today's Editor's note: Engagement Editor John A. Torres was discussing today's Christmas column during his weekly Thursday morning hour on the Bill Mick show. He spoke about how much his favorite Christmas movie of all time, the 1970 film "Scrooge" with Albert Finney, affected him. (John went to see the movie twice this week at the Oaks Theater in Melbourne.) Later that day John received this touching Christmas memory from Scott Easterling, who listened to the show. [This article originally appeared on *Florida Today*: Albert Finney's Scrooge transformed Christmas then and now | A Christmas Memory]

"Like you, I was in the theater this past Sunday afternoon here in Melbourne taking in Albert Finney in the musical Scrooge. I very much wanted to see this amazing story on the big screen once again. In 1970 when the movie was first released, I sat with my family in a very grand movie theater in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC experiencing Scrooge the musical. I was in second grade that year, and arguably too young for the complex story-telling and extensions of the original story including flying thru the inhabitants of Hell and Ebenezer's eternal assignment as Lucifer's clerk in the only cold room there. No matter. My father, who at the time was just getting started in life and probably had to sacrifice a bit to get us all there, wanted us to see this side of Christmas that year.



Above: (almost 5-year-old) Scott on Christmas morning 1966 with his "All Aboard American Flyer"

My dad had sacrificed a couple of years earlier obtaining a massive train set for me at GC Murphy's — a regional discount department store. It was a place where he had scored a temporary position as floor help during the Christmas season of 1966, just enough to make Christmas happen for his fledgling family. I imagine his employee discount and low sales of discounted electric trains were the only reasons I could have received my "All Aboard American Flyer" train set that year.

By Christmas of 1970 we had moved out of a city apartment and into an old house my parents had purchased in the country only about 13 miles from Washington where my father had found more permanent work with the ABC Radio Network at their Washington Headquarters.

The house had a damp, cold dark root cellar type of basement with an unlit exterior entrance which was even scary at high noon in the middle of August. This root cellar's back-most room was where my electric trains were relegated when we moved into the house. This is where I spent most of my non-school waking hours in those days. It was there in that dark, dimly lit cellar that I became fascinated with engineering,

(continued on p. 8)

science, and electricity, eventually leading to college and an offer from Harris in a town I had never heard of in Florida — Melbourne.

The most memorable day of my 8th year on the planet (1970) was just before Christmas. Late on that cold dark afternoon I was busy playing with my trains in the cold dark recesses of the basement. I came upstairs to get an extension cord and some alcohol and cotton swabs to clean the track when daddy tells me that it is time to put away the trains because we are going to the movies. I protested, asking why and what for? He proceeded to explain the story of an old man at Christmas time with many regrets. I protested but before I knew it we were in our Plymouth Fury heading to the Langley Park movie theater. From that moment on, the images and memories are indelibly etched in my mind - the beautiful music, the modern cinematography, Ebenezer's redemption, everything. But there was one problem with all of this — I was too young for the terrifying scenes of Scrooge wrapped in chains in his eternally frozen counting chambers surrounded by rats, cold, dark, loneliness.

So, while thoroughly enjoying the experience, and looking forward to getting home to the pre-Christmas joy of my railroad empire, something had changed. That evening before dinner as I raced to the root cellar, my ears felt perpetually pinned back like a cat who hears something from behind. As I reached to open the haunted door that evening I found myself checking the backside of the door to see if Jacob Marley's pigtail might be protruding. After that, as I began the long walk down the hallway towards the back room, I half expected to see a phantom horse-drawn hearse wishing me (the Governor) a Merry Christmas. By the time I made it to my trains, the room seemed (in my imagination) to be the frozen counting chambers of Hell and I was sure I could hear the rats and the clanking of dinner silverware being set upstairs sounding to me as if the devils were on their way with my chains. It was too much for my 8-year-old mind. I banished myself from the root cellar indefinitely.

The spell finally broke Christmas morning when my father once again surprised me with more trains; and like when Scrooge promises to find a cure for Tiny Tim, my father proclaimed to me that day that the trains could be brought upstairs and set up more permanently in my bedroom.

What a grand Christmas that was in 1970!"



Above: recent photo of Scott

**Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting
via Zoom
November 8, 2023**

A Train Collectors Association (TCA) Southern Division (SD) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting was held November 8, 2023, beginning at 1:55 PM EST. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Setzer.

Secretary Dienzel Dennis called roll with the following board members in attendance: President Setzer; Vice President Mike Mills; Secretary Dennis; Treasurer Mike Powell; Communications Officer Bill Trappen, and Past Presidents Steve Johnson and Charlie Anyan. A quorum was present. Invited guest participating was *The Layout* Editor Mary Anyan.

Mr. Setzer advised that a one-day board meeting was held June 29 during the TCA 2024 Convention in Burlington. News was shared about TTOS folding, and this was included in the SD's fall 2023 newsletter.

Mr. Mills offered that all board members attending the Orlando/Lake Nona meet on November 11th should strongly encourage SD members to seriously consider stepping up by volunteering in an administrative capacity by serving on the board of directors. He proposed a more formal SD members' business meeting: at 9:00A the meet will open to all TCA members; at 9:25 Mr. Setzer will announce that the SD business meeting will begin at 9:30 and ask members to gather in a designated area and participate in the meeting; at 10:00A the meet will open to the public.

Mr. Dennis reported that as of this date, the SD Membership Roster contains 334 Active, 534 Inactive, and 106 Deceased members.

Mr. Powell and the board reviewed:

1. The SD 2023 3Q Treasurer's Report, previously emailed to the board.

Motion: The Southern Division Board of Directors approves the SD 2023 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report as written. Motion unanimously was approved.

2. The SD FY 2024 Proposed Budget, previously emailed to the board.

Motion: The Southern Division Board of Directors approves the SD 2024 Proposed Budget as written. Motion unanimously was approved.

The approved reports will be included with the winter 2024 newsletter.

Mr. Trappen reported on his Communications Officer's activities since the last board meeting. He: 1) prepared and sent the mailing list files for the Summer and Fall 2023 newsletters to the printer for those members who do not receive the newsletter by email; he also sent out the email version for the Fall issue. 2) prepared the Southern Division input for the complimentary ¼-page ad and calendar of meets column for the last few issues of the TCA National HQ News and the upcoming December issue. 3) posted Orlando meet announcements on the following on-line sites: Railserve.com; OGR Forum; Toy Train Mailing List io group; Lionel Super OTrack io group; Model Train Forum; and Orlando, Lakeland and Space Coast Craigslist sites. 4) emailed the Orlando meet flyer to Guy Ateniese (Pinellas Park Meet Host) who had 500 copies printed. Guy delivered them to The Villages Train show in September. Copies were placed on the info table at that show and at the GSRR show in Deland in October. Copies were also placed at Colonial Photo & Hobby Shop in Orlando. 5) worked with Mike Mills on the Orlando meet with emphasis on the Friday BBQ luncheon/train rides event at Bruce Pemberton's including soliciting quotes for catering and table rentals and several meetings with Bruce at his property. 6) responded to several emails and phone calls with questions regarding the Orlando meet.

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Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, November 8, 2023 (cont'd.)

Mrs. Anyan advised the board that: 1) items for the winter 2024 newsletter are due to her by December 1, 2023; 2) photos taken at all upcoming Orlando/Lake Nona events are emailed to her ASAP. She asked that SD members in photos be identified. In addition, she reminded them that prior to taking any photos of children, their parent or legal guardian must grant permission for the photos to be printed in the division's newsletters; 3) photos taken of the winners of the two water tower auctions are sent to her ASAP.

Mr. Mills, Mr. Trappen and the board discussed the 2023 Orlando/Lake Nona trifecta of events. 1) The barbeque and train rides at the Pembertons' are a "go" for Friday, November 10th. 2) The meet, dinner, water tower live auction, and show & tell are happening on the 11th. Mr. Mills stated that the train show has been highly publicized. Mr. Trappen previously had emailed the board that because the train show falls on Veterans Day, he thought it would be a nice gesture to honor any veteran attending the show by giving them a \$5 gift certificate to be used at any vendor's table. But he advised that there would be a cost to the SD and estimated that if 50 veterans used the certificate it would cost the SD \$250. The board discussed this. An alternate suggestion was to give every veteran free admission. The discussion continued and it was decided to admit veterans for free at the check-in table without requiring proof of veteran status and also make an announcement publicly thanking all veterans for their service.

Motion: At the November 11, 2023, train show in Lake Nona, Florida, every United States veteran who attends will receive free admission. Motion unanimously was approved.

Mrs. Anyan reported that she prepared the flyer, table registration form, and meet story for the February 10, 2024, Pinellas Park Train Show. All three documents were emailed to meet host Guy Ateniese for his review. The meet story and table registration form will be included with the winter 2024 newsletter.

Mr. Setzer advised that he spoke with TCA Convention Chairman Bob Keller regarding the 2025 convention in Jacksonville. Mr. Setzer provided info that the Bushnell museum director agreed to open the facility for a tour and miniature train rides, provided he receives a few months' advance notice. Also, SD members Clark and Ilene Vegazo offered to host a home tour of their train layouts during the convention. The plan is to include both tours on the same day, spending ½ day at each location. If anyone else from the SD is interested in hosting a home tour, they should contact Mike Setzer who will get the information to Bob Keller.

Updates: 1) Mr. Setzer advised that due to logistical issues, he advised Will Wagner that the division is unable to take over the Derrick Dean Wagner Foundation December show in the West Palm Beach area. 2) Mr. Dennis and the board revisited the possibility of a train show at the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) in Daytona Beach, and he advised the board that no further discussion is needed in the near future as logistics seem to be an issue.

Mr. Setzer and the board discussed another parking lot train show at the Bushnell Museum. A tentative date of Saturday, March 9, 2024, was proposed. Mr. Setzer offered to host. (Update: The Ocala Lions Club Model Railroaders is hosting a train show on March 9; therefore, an alternate date will be researched for the Bushnell meet. Information will be provided on the SD website and in a future newsletter.)

Mr. Setzer and Mr. Mills are in their second terms as division president and vice president, respectively. Mr. Dennis and Mr. Powell are in their 15th years as division secretary and treasurer, respectively. Mr. Dennis stated that a serious discussion and recruiting effort need to be held regarding getting SD members to perhaps assume these positions.

The Board entered Executive Session at 3:20PM EST and exited at 3:30PM EST.

During a future board meeting the board will discuss and vote on adding alternative payments for SD dues as well as table registrations for shows due to the rise in check fraud. The board solicits member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted:

Dienzel Dennis

Secretary

Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows 2024

For the latest updates, check first with the meet/show hosts by phoning or referring to websites.

Jan. 13-14: 83rd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., **Deland** 32724 Sat. 9A-4P, Sun. 10A-3:30P, Charles Miller 703-536-2954 rrshows@aol.com (www.gserr.com) (**Golden Spike**)

Jan. 20: Toy and Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., **Brooksville** 34601 (Vendors and Model Train Layouts, lunch available, Adults \$6.00, children 12 and under *free*, Hours 9A-2P, EARLY BIRD reservation (8-8:45A) \$8.00, www.regalrailways.com) (**Regal Railways**)

Jan. 20-21: Annual Train Show, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 S.E. Dixie Hwy., **Stuart** 34996, 9A-3P both days; contact Gary Hawken 772-692-9017, hawken1@outlook.com (**Martin County Model Railroaders**)

Feb. 3-4: Model Train Show & Sale, Savannah Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd., **The Villages** 32162 (Sat., Sat. 9A-4P/ Sun. 10A-3P Sun.) contact Sam Mathis 352-750-2433, sammathis1118@gmail.com or Rich Trifari 352-638-2788, rwtrif@gmail.com (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

Feb. 10: Train Show (Southern Division), Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center (info in this issue!)

Feb. 11: Zitnik Trains Spring Parking Lot Swap Meet & Open House, 5193 73rd Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (9A-1P) 727-201-9668 (**Zitnik Trains**)

Feb. 17-18: RealRail's 45th Annual Train Show, Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., **Palmetto** 34221 (Sat. 10A-4P, Sun. 10A-3P) David Fontaine, 941-685-2221, david_f_34205@yahoo.com (**Real Rail**)

Feb. 24: Toy and Train Show, Elks Lodge, 7201 Congress St., **New Port Richey** 34653 (**Regal**)

Mar. 2: Train Show, Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., **Melbourne** 32935 (9A-2P, call 321-805-1963, schultzspacecoastrains@aol.com) (**Schultz Space Coast Trains**)

Mar. 9: Train Show, Lions Club, 1908 E. Ft. King St., **Ocala** 34470 (9A-2P, www.OcalaModelRailroaders.com) (**Ocala Model Railroaders**)

Mar. 16: Toy and Train Show, Columbia Club of Osceola (Knights Hall), 2000 Neptune Rd., **Kissimmee** 34744 (**Regal**)

Mar. 23: Toy and Train Show, Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (**Regal**)

Apr. 6: Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., **Deland** 32724 Sat. 9A-4P, Sun. 10A-3:30P, Charles Miller 703-536-2954 rrshows@aol.com (www.gserr.com) (**Golden Spike**)

Apr. 15: 18th Railroad Day Festival and Car Show, 45383 Dixie Ave., 1000 Water St., **Callahan** 32011, 9A-4P (904-879-3406, www.wnhsfl.org) (**West Nassau Historical Society**)

Apr. 27: Toy/Train Show, Florida National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., **Crystal River** 344429 (**Regal**)

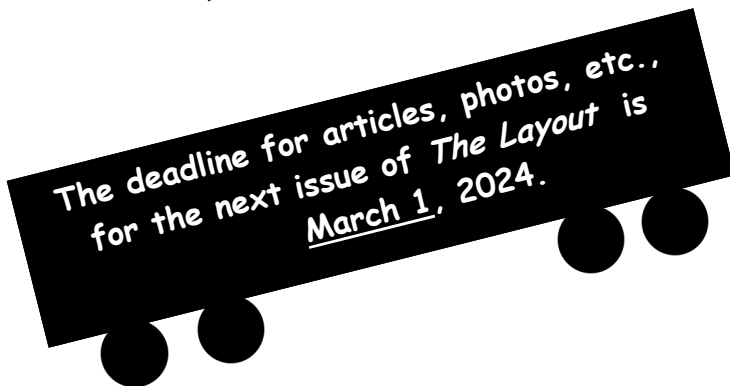
May 18: Toy and Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., **Brooksville** 34601 (**Regal**)

Please send notices of upcoming Florida train meets/shows to Mary Anyan, maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com.

Promotion and Attendance at Southern Division sponsored Train Meets: In order to promote awareness and thus attendance, we list a schedule of upcoming shows on our Southern Division website as well as in each quarter's *The Layout*. We also promote these meets with flyers about upcoming shows available at non-SD sponsored train shows, thus marketing to folks who already have evidenced an interest in trains by attending the show. We are looking for TCA SD members to assist in that distribution. If you plan to attend any train-related meets, shows or other events, please contact **Bill Trappen** (bill9678@aol.com or phone 407-365-7860). Bill will get flyers to you to take to the meets and leave out for others. If possible, please give Bill at least 10 days' notice to ensure he has time to get the flyers to you. Thanks for your help.

Train Collectors Association
Southern Division
P. O. Box 2381
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

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SWITCH LIST



Selling a large collection of Post-War and modern-era Lionel Trains. Most are mint in box. If interested, email Mike Setzer: setzermichael@hotmail.com.

Wanted: 1 piece each, any condition, curved or straight "00" gauge 2-rail and 3-rail track. Will take them separately or together.
Dienzel Dennis: 386-316-8339

Are you ready to **Sell** or **Thin out** your **Train and Toy collections**? Please call Dick Wilsen (Sarasota): 941-374-2288.

TCA Skytop Observation Car + TCA A & B Shells. **All mint**. Asking \$200 for all.
Vince Coffman: 407-678-7448

American Flyer Trains by A. C. Gilbert. Buy, sell, repairs done. Diesel bushings redone. Single motor, \$25; Double motor, \$40 (includes general servicing and parts). Contact Chris Lucibello: 2483 Pinellas Point Dr. S., St. Petersburg 33712, 727-867-3465, email: karen.lucibello@verizon.net

Switch List is a **free** service to members in good standing of the TCA and SD. Send your ad (space permitting) for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Mary Anyan via email: maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com.

If you do not have email, contact Bill Trappen: 407-538-9678.

Your ad automatically will renew in each issue of *The Layout*, until **you** cancel.

Note: per TCA rules and regulations, your full name must be listed and the words "make offer" cannot appear.