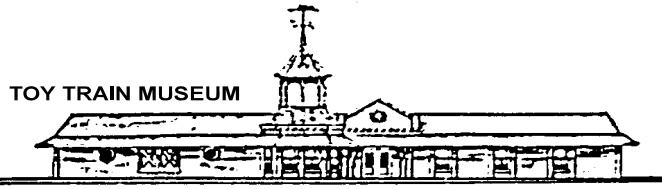


THE LAYOUT



ENJOY A VISIT TO YOUR MUSEUM

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Spring Edition 2009

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 2



St. Pete and Stuart Meet Photos Inside

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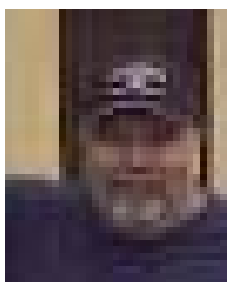
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President's Message



This is my first message as your new president. The very first thing I want to do is to thank our past President, Arnie Travitsky for his service for the last four years. He always had, and still has, the advancement of the Southern Division as his main priority. In his last message he thanked all the officers and volunteers who helped during his tenure. I would like to add my thanks to them.

We now have a new slate of officers. Besides myself, we have Will Wagner as Vice President, Mike Powell is the Treasurer. Leslie Brooks is the Communications Officer. The "old-timer" on the Board of Directors is Dienzel Dennis, who took over after Phyllis Weggeland resigned last year for personal reasons. Two other "old-timers" are Jake Jacob as Webmaster and Jeffrey

Mayer as Co-Editor of the "Layout". However, he is joined by a new member, Jim Spangler as Co-Editor.

The first two months of the new regime has been hectic. We had the St. Petersburg meet in February and the Stuart meet in March. Both meets were sold out as far as table holders. Stuart ran out of space for tables and St. Pete ran out of tables. We have already taken steps to have more tables available for next year at St. Pete. At Stuart, we could use a larger hall. Also at Stuart, Dave Weggeland has decided to step down as the meet host there. So if anyone of you in the Stuart area is interested in being a meet host, or if you have any ideas for a larger hall, please contact me.

Your Board of Directors had a very productive meeting the day before the Stuart meet. Some of the items we discussed that are the most important for members are:

We have a new Co-Editor of the "Layout", Jim Spangler

TCA identitags for restored or replacement parts items are now available at the front desk for every meet. The TCA requirement that these items be so marked will be more strictly enforced.

There will be a Southern Division table at every Southern Division meet. This table will sell items that have been donated to us. All profits from the table will go to the Southern Division. Donations to sell at the table are welcome. Also, volunteers to man the table are welcome.

We established standard meet entrance fees for all meets. The fee schedule will be supplied to the volunteers at the front desk at the meets.

We established standard Meet Host duties. Each Meet Host will be supplied with these duties to be accomplished at his/her meet.

The meet schedule was reviewed. The meets at Lake worth (August) and Maitland (November) are the same. The tentative date for the St. Pete meet is February 6th, 2010.

The board discussed one-day versus two-day meets. We asked the members at the membership meeting at Stuart for their opinions. They overwhelmingly voted for one-day meets everywhere. So, for now, that will be our policy.

The Communications Officer's duties were discussed. Hopefully this will result in better advertising for our meets.

For more details on these items, the minutes of the Board of Directors are published in this issue of The Layout, along with the current Treasurer's report .

Note to Jacksonville area members

There have been discussions and questions about having a meet in the Jacksonville area. Generally, they go like this: Hey - why don't "YOU GUYS" have a meet in Jacksonville? Well, "WE GUYS" would like to have a meet there, but we need Jacksonville members interest, support and a location. So far we have heard none of this, other than interest. So if you Jacksonville guys want a meet there, I need a proposal. The proposal only needs to say who the meet host would be, a tentative location (with cost), and what member support (volunteers) you have. Then we can work on the details. Send your proposal to me. Email address is on inside front cover. Charlie Anyan, President, Southern Division, TCA

Book Review — Barry Broskowitz's *DCS O Gauge Companion*

Reviewed by Jeff Mayer

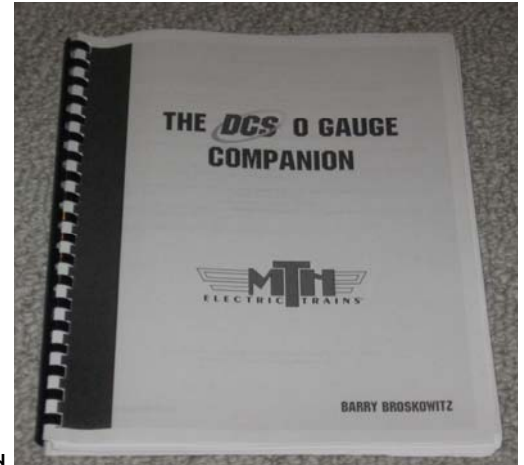


**Barry Broskowitz,
author of *The DCS O
Gauge Companion***

MTH's Digital Command System (DCS) remains the control system of choice for O gauge operators. Originally launched in 2002, the system has proved reliable and versatile. Now, Southern Division member Barry Broskowitz has written *The DCS O Gauge Companion*, a complete A-Z discussion of the DCS system.

Barry had been a Southern Division member for many years and has served as Communications Officer and Secretary. Working with the folks at MTH, Barry is a "DCS Ambassador" and has spent time demonstrating DCS at Southern Division meets.

Additionally, Barry is a frequent contributor to the online "O Gauge Forum" where he helps fellow users by answering questions and troubleshooting problems.



Above: Barry's new book *The DCS O Gauge Companion* is a must-have for all DCS users. You can buy a copy and download it from the MTH website at www.mthtrains.com

Sure, DCS comes with an instruction booklet which is sufficient to get you up and running, but DCS has so many features that it takes a certain amount of time to master them all. *The DCS O Gauge "Companion"* gives the user the benefit of Barry's experience as a DCS beta tester and systems guru, sharing his tip, tricks, and expertise to teach DCS users the ins and outs of the system. Barry's book not only tells the reader how the system works, but also gives insight into why the system is designed the way it is.

The book is divided into several sections, first introducing the system and explaining how it works, the various DCS components, and even the different screens on the DCS remote. Barry goes on to discuss layout planning, adding DCS to an existing layout, and using DCS with large or modular layouts. Barry also addresses accessories and switches, and explains how the Accessory Interface Unit (AIU) works. Other sections include using DCS with Lionel's Trainmaster Command Control System (TMCC) and their new Legacy system. For those who still wish to run their postwar or other non-protosound equipped engines Barry covers conventional engine operation in detail.

Operators can use DCS without ever accessing the more advanced features, but certainly one may wish to learn about some or all of the system's capabilities. Just some of the advanced features Barry discusses are lashups, subways/trolley operation, creating routes, scenes, record/playback, multiple remotes, and multiple TIUs.

DCS is easily upgraded, provided you have the necessary cables and access to a computer with internet connection. Two important parts of DCS include software upgrades and remote backup/restore, which Barry has taken the time to cover. Barry goes over these upgrades step-by-step, and even discusses advanced features such as upgrading Protosound 2 sound files and DCS remote backup/restoration.

Barry's section on layout design completes a "missing piece" where operators can get information on wiring for optimum signal strength. Specific information on layout planning isn't covered well in the DCS instruction manual, but Barry's layout planning section will help eliminate some grief. Anyone planning a DCS layout will want to read up on this section. Barry's tips and discussion on wiring considerations, Track Interface Unit (TIU) and AIU connection and placement for best signal strength are a must-read for all DCS users.

The DCS Companion is available by download only at www.mthtrains.com for \$12.95.

Maitland Meet Cancelled!

The May Maitland meet has struggled in the past and the decision has been made to cancel it. Look for information about our next meet (to be held in Lake Worth, FL, on Saturday, August 15, 2009) in the next issue of The Layout.



Meet your new Southern Division Treasurer

Hello from your new Southern Division Treasurer. My name is Michael Powell, but I prefer to be called Mike. I was born in Peoria, IL, and graduated from Bradley University with a BS in Industrial Engineering. I worked for Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY for 30 years mostly in the Purchasing and Supply Chain organizations supporting the Manufacture of Cameras and Copiers. I earned a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Rochester while working at Kodak. In 2004, Kodak sold its Space Systems Division to ITT Corporation. At that time I was the Manager of Subcontract Management and transitioned to ITT (with all years of service intact). I retired from ITT on 1/1/08, and spent most of 2008 relocating to Florida with my wife Lois, who also retired this year.

I was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Better Business Bureau of Upstate NY, also serving on the Finance and Executive Committees.

My interest in Toy Trains started like most of us when I received a Marx Layout for Christmas when I was 10. This is the genesis of my "collection" of Marx Tin Lithographed Trains with the 3/16" scale wheels. In Rochester, we had a 25' X 30' basement which I filled with a layout and my Collection. The home we purchased in Palm Harbor, FL has a 20' X 20' bonus room in which I am building a layout, although ½ the size of my Rochester Layout.

I have been a member of the Eastern Division of TCA since 1994, and the Southern Division since Feb 2009. I have attended all the York meets since I joined the TCA. I had the desire to get more active in TCA after I retired, so when the opportunity to volunteer for the Southern Division Treasurer was announced at the St. Petersburg Show, I contacted Charlie Anyan and volunteered.

Quiz Corner

You have all heard of the Alaskan Set. It was catalogued in 1959 as outfit #1611. It contained the Alaskan gondola and the Alaskan caboose. The trouble is, in order to get the 6464 Alaskan boxcar or the Alaskan hopper, you had to buy other sets (a practice that Lionel became infamous for in later years) or buy them separately. Collectors typically got rid of the cheap tank car and flat car that came with the set and substituted the Alaskan cars, making an all-Alaskan set.

Now, the quiz question is: Can you put together another post-war set of another railroad that only has an engine and those same four freight cars with only that railroad name on it? I could only find one. For example, if the engine is New York Central, all of the cars have to be New York Central. They must be regularly produced cars, not prototypes or "one of a kind". They can be catalogued or not. Hint: Lionel never made a set (Postwar) that only had all freight cars of the same railroad. Your choices will have to come from several different sets or separate-sale items. The answer is tougher than it looks.

The winner is the first one to email me with the answer. The winner gets recognition as a Quiz Champion, and becomes our first Post-war Lionel Expert.

Answer next Layout. Do you have a quiz for the quiz corner? If so, email it to me and we will try to include it in the next Layout. If you submit a quiz, you better have the correct answer!!

**Southern Division Train Collectors Association
First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
National Guard Armory, St. Petersburg, Florida-- February 7, 2009**

Call to Order: President Travitsky called the meeting to order at 8:25 A. M.

Members Present: Arnie Travitsky, President; David Weggeland, Vice President; Dienzel Dennis, Secretary; Charlie Anyan, meet host, Bill Trappen and Steve Harris, past Presidents. Treasurer Ken Stewart was absent.

Presidents Report: The report on today's show has 50 tables sold with 6 display tables provided. The show was advertised real well in the local area and a big public turnout is expected. Charlie and Dienzel both have received many inquires from snow birds who want to attend. This is our first show in this venue and we are anticipating a successful event. The results of the election were announced and distributed. Charlie Anyan will be the new President, Will Wagner Vice-President, Dienzel Dennis Secretary, and Leslie Brooks will serve as Communications Officer. Roy Lash was elected treasurer, but has to withdraw. We are still in need of a treasurer. John Bailey has also resigned as Layout Co-editor and we will need someone to take his place. Jeff Mayer is currently the editor and has kept our "Layout" at the top of all the divisions in the TCA. President Travitsky wanted to give Jeff special praise for the great job he is doing with our magazine. The President stated that this is his last official duty as President and wants to thank everyone for their support during the last 4 years

Vice-President Report: David reports that he has already sold 35 tables for his Stuart meet on March 21. We still need a site and a meet host for the Maitland meet on May 16. There still is a slight possibility that this meet could be held in Jacksonville. We are all set for Aug. 15 for the 3rd quarter meet in Lake Worth. Our final meet of the year is tentative scheduled for Maitland on Nov. 21. A meet host is still needed for this 4th quarter meet. The Vice-President was happy to report that there are no membership complaints.

Secretaries Report: Dienzel Dennis reported that we have 425 active Southern Division members with dues paid up through 2009. We still have 57 inactive members who haven't renewed for 2009 yet. We have 8 members who have recently deceased. The last SD membership number assigned is 2480. As of yesterday, the TCA reported 656 dropped members for the last quarter. Only 15 of these are Florida residents. Only two of these are active SD members and we will contact them concerning this problem. Remember, you can not be a member of the Southern Division if you are not a current member of the TCA.

Treasurers Report: Ken Stewart was not in attendance. President Travitsky distributed the financial report that showed we have \$4580.07 in the checking account and \$8439.26 in a C. D. Arnie distributed a suggested budget for the next year. We are to look it over and discuss it at a later date. This is Ken's final report after serving the club as treasurer for the past 4 years. We are in need of a treasurer. Arnie will serve in this capacity until we find someone to accept this assignment.

Communication Officer Report: Bill Trappen reported on the different advertisement that we have done for this meet and the upcoming meets. This includes local newspapers, flyers at hobby shops, the TCA Headquarters News, on Yahoo.com, an Internet site for train meets, and of course the trade magazines.(Classic Toy Trains, O gauge Railroad, etc). Bill also sent out emails to all current and past members that he had email addresses.

Internet-Web-Site: Jake Jacobs was unable to be in attendance to report on this item. We are still interested in Password Protection but so far we feel the cost is to prohibitive.

New Board Meeting: Mr. Travitsky turned the floor over to our new President. Bill Trappen and Dave Weggeland retired to the trading floor as their terms of service were over. President Anyan suggested that we will meet in the near future for a board meeting where we can take time to cover the items that are crucial to maintaining a first class club. Officers Anyan, Travitsky, Dennis, and Harris agreed and we adjourned at 8:59 A. M.

Dienzel Dennis, Secretary, Southern Division TCA

Southern Division General Membership Business Meeting National Guard Armory--St. Petersburg, Florida-- February 7, 2009

Call to Order: President Travitsky called the meeting to order at 10:25

Presidents Report: President Travitsky thanked everyone who has helped him during the past four years as President. He recalled some of the accomplishments that have taken place. He then introduced our new President, Charlie Anyan and turned the podium over to him.

New Presidents Report: Thanks for your vote of confidence in the election. We currently need a new treasurer and a co-editor for the Layout. Mike Setzer has agreed to host the Lake Worth show.

Vice-Presidents Report: Dave Weggeland gave the same report as was given to the Officers in the minutes above. Please refer to them.

Secretaries Report: Dienzel Dennis, Secretary gave the same report as was given to the Officers in the minutes above. Please refer to them.

President Anyan returned and opened the floor for membership questioning and suggestions. Mike Setzer remarked about the nice facility we have here at the National Guard Armory and recommended that any time we meet in an armory like this that we admit any soldier in uniform in free of charge. This suggestion was well received and the board will act on it at the appropriate time. Arnie Travitsky informed the membership that our magazine, the "Layout", was recognized as the best in the TCA. He thanked Jeff Mayer for serving as co-editor and again asked for someone to volunteer if interested in serving the club. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 and door prizes were awarded. The meet was open to the general public at 11:00 A. M.

Dienzel Dennis, Secretary, Southern Division, TCA

Southern Division – TCA Board of Directors Meeting, Stuart, Florida, 3/20/2009

The meeting was called to order by **Charlie Anyan**, President

Directors in Attendance:

Will Wagner, Vice President

Arnie Travitsky, Past President

Charlie Anyan, President

Leslie Brooks, Communication Officer (by Phone)

Michael Powell, Treasurer (after item 1 below)

The first order of business was the confirmation of **Michael B Powell** as Treasurer. A motion by **Mr. Travitsky** was seconded by **Mr. Wagner**. The vote was unanimous confirming **Mr. Powell** as Treasurer, Southern Division – TCA, and member of the Board of Directors.

There was a discussion led by **Mr. Anyan** regarding encouraging more member participation in articles for the "Layout". Deadlines for articles for future editions of the "Layout" will be published in each "Layout".

Mr. Travitsky reviewed the results of the St. Petersburg meet. Revenue was \$1887.00 and Expenses were \$1034.49 yielding a profit of \$853.51.

A desire to discuss Telephone Expenses was deferred by **Mr. Anyan**.

Mr. Anyan announced his desire to work on a written Southern Division Policy which would document the duties of a "Meet Host".

Mr. Travitsky led a discussion on Door Prizes for SD Meets. There are four categories of Door Prizes: Table Holders; SD members; Women; and Kids. **Mr. Anyan** assigned **Mr. Travitsky** the duty of handing out door prizes at the Stuart Meet.

Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, Stuart, Florida, Continued

Mr. Anyan will give **Mr. Brooks** the action item to create a card to collect names and emails of people who want to be notified of future SD Meets.

There are four people who have taken photos at past meets: **Jake Jacobs; Bill Trappen; Jeff Mayer; Arnie Travitsky**. Arranging for a photographer for each meet will be the responsibility of the Meet Host.

Volunteers are needed at each Meet. It has been difficult to get members to volunteer at past Meets. It was decided that securing volunteers for Meets is the responsibility of the Meet Host. **Mr. Anyan** will make an announcement at the Stuart meet to remind members that volunteers are needed for this and future Meets: Staffing the TCA-SD table at the meet; Door Guards to help monitor the doors; and Front Desk Duties. **Mr. Anyan** will also put a notice in the "Layout" regarding Door Guards for future Meets.

Mr. Anyan led a discussion regarding the St. Petersburg Meet in February 2010, specifically should it be a 2 day Meet, or remain a 1 day meet. After much discussion, it was decided to poll the members at the Stuart Meet, and abide by their wishes.

Mr. Anyan and **Mr. Travitsky** both mentioned that there has been repeated requests for a Meet in the Jacksonville area. **Mr. Anyan** will put a notice in the "Layout" requesting volunteers for a Meet Host to run a Meet in Jacksonville.

Mr. Travitsky will email the duties of the Communication Officer to **Mr. Anyan**, who will review them with **Mr. Brooks**.

There was a discussion regarding the Maitland Meet and an associated Banquet. It was decided that the 2009 banquet will be held on the night of 11/21/09 in the Orlando area, and Mr. Travitsky will be in charge of the Banquet.

The Treasurers' report was delivered by **Mr. Powell**, and approved.

The 2009 Budget was reviewed. There is a \$1205 shortfall projected for the year. It was decided to present the Budget to the members at the member meeting, and recommend approval with the action for the Board of directors to work on eliminating the shortfall. One idea tendered was to ask for volunteers to receive the "Layout" via email since the largest expense is the printing and mailing of the "Layout".

Mr. Anyan informed the Board of Directors that he has appointed **Jim Spangler** as co-editor of the "Layout".

Future Meets were discussed and are as follows:

- Lake Worth – 8/15/09
- Maitland – 11/21 and 11/22/09
- St. Petersburg – 2/6/10 tentative
- Stuart – 3/20/10

Mr. Wagner led a discussion about the Southern Division co-sponsoring a Meet at the Palm Beach City Fairgrounds on the second weekend of December. This meet would be concurrent with two other activities at the fairground that weekend. Mr. Wagner accepted the action to check with the Fairgrounds to see if 12/12 and 12/13/09 were available for this joint Meet.

Mr. Anyan led a discussion regarding offering a discount to multiple table holders – specifically reducing the cost of three or more tables by \$3 to \$5 dollars per table over the first two at full price. No specific decisions were made on this topic.

Mr. Anyan reminded the Board of Directors that Reproductions must be labeled as such with Identitags at all TCA Division meets. **Mr. Anyan** will make an announcement at the Stuart Meet to remind all members of this TCA rule.

Mr. Anyan discussed his idea to have a "TCA Table" at all Meets with the purpose of selling donations to raise money for the Southern Division. **Mr. Anyan** will staff this table at the Stuart Meet, and will ask for volunteers and for donations for future Meets.

TCA/ S.D Treasurer's Report March 20, 2009	
Checking Account Balance, Feb 1, 2009	\$4,650.07
St. Pete – National Guard Armory Tables	\$680.00
St. Pete show Meet Attendance Door	\$1,167.00
SD Dues 2009 collected	\$10.00
Bad check Payment	\$20.00
TCA National Dues collected	\$174.00
Total	\$2,051.00
Expenses (Jan – March 2009)	
St. Pete National Guard Armory	\$705.00
Door Prizes	\$80.00
St. Pete Meet Advertising	\$184.77
St Pete Flyers	\$64.72
Layout, Postage, Printing	\$952.88
Carl Edseel dues to TCA National	\$114.00
Dan Szafranski dues to TCA National	\$60.00
SD 2009 ELECTION Ballot Results	\$50.00
Stuart Meet Add – Press Journal	\$160.50
Total Expenses	\$2,371.87
Checking Account Balance March 20, 2009	\$4,680.20
CD First Bank Jan 1, 2009	\$8,439.26
Total	\$13,119.46

AMERICAN FLYER TIPS

“Cleaning Whitewall Drivers” by Chris Lucibello

During shows, people often ask me how I get the whitewalls of the A.F. locomotives looking so nice. The answer is simple; use the same stuff you would use to get the whitewalls of your car clean. I use Westley's "Bleche-Wite".

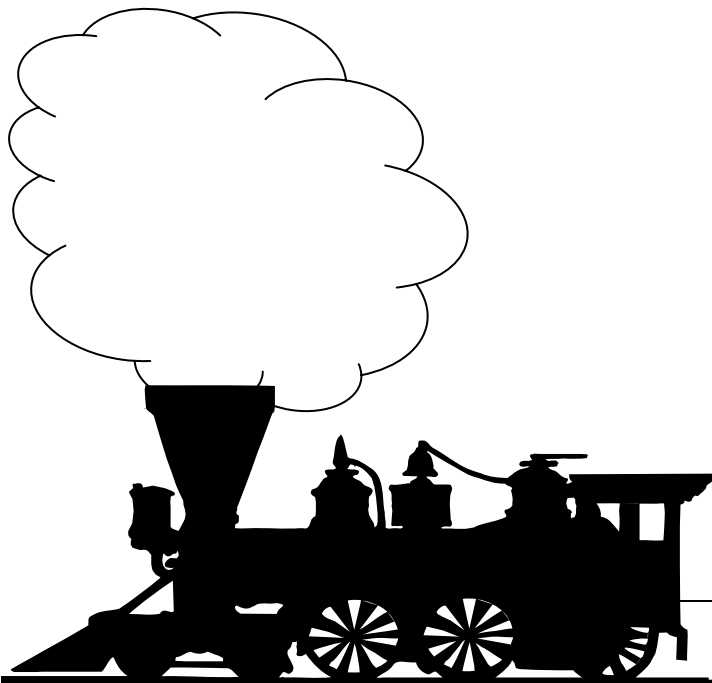
I place some into a small bottle or vial that I keep handy at my workstation. When doing Flyer whitewalls, removing all the linkage first makes it a lot easier. I then take a Q-tip and dip it into the Bleche-wite. Be sure to gently stir the Bleche-wite first (don't shake it!). Then rub the whitewalls with the moistened Q-tip. Most grease, grime, dirt, etc. will come off. But keep in mind that it will NOT remove scratches, chemical stains, glue and discoloration caused by electrical burns. I then take a clean cotton cloth on my finger tip and apply a bit of saliva on the end and wipe off the bleche-wite. Voila!

Gilbert used the whitewalls as an insulation so they are on all their steam locomotives that were made from 1946 until about 1960 when they introduced nylon black wall drive wheels on some of the locos or nylon hubs with steel rims as on the Franklin. Hope this helps and if you see me at a show, feel free to ask me about it.



Sad Tidings

Don Rausch, owner of Colonial Photo and Hobby of Orlando, passed away on February 5th at the age of 78. Don was well-known to hobbyists in the Orlando area for his love of toy trains and was always helpful with parts and train repairs. He will be missed.



The Deadline for the next issue
of *The Layout*
is June 15, 2009

Little Generals of the Civil War

By Grandpa Nelson G. Williams, HR 6535, SD 248



"Grandpa"
Nelson
Williams

The General is not as well-known as Robert E. Lee or William Tecumseh Sherman, but it was a steam locomotive that made history.

The General is famous because she was kidnapped from the Big Shanty depot northwest of Atlanta in 1862 by Andrew's Raiders. Conductor William Fuller chased after them in hot pursuit on foot, on a pole car, and with several locomotives (some running backwards). He finally caught the Yankee Raiders when they ran out of water and firewood and had to abandon the General about 20 miles short of Chattanooga. Some Raiders fled, some were later exchanged as

prisoners of war, and some were executed. Although they failed in their mission to destroy the bridges and tunnels en route, a few were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor.

This episode was retold in a hilarious silent film with Buster Keaton, a comedy called "The General" with no historic value or accuracy. "The Great Locomotive Chase," with Fess Parker is closer to the actual event than one might expect from a Disney film. Perhaps our late TCA president Ward Kimball, one of Walt's original animators, deserves credit for that. Both films are available on tape. Several northern Georgia railroad historians have published many factual details, including the names and fates of all the participants and a biography of the long service of the General after the war.

The latest tribute to this Civil War "General" is a new Lionel O-Gauge locomotive and tender shown in their 2008 Catalog. Like the original, this is an "American 4-4-0" locomotive with four small pilot wheels ahead of four big drive wheels and no trailing truck wheels. The W&A RR symbols of the Western & Atlantic Railroad appear only on the tender. Instead of W&A RR on the cab of the locomotive, it reads "1892". That date is 30 years after the General made history.



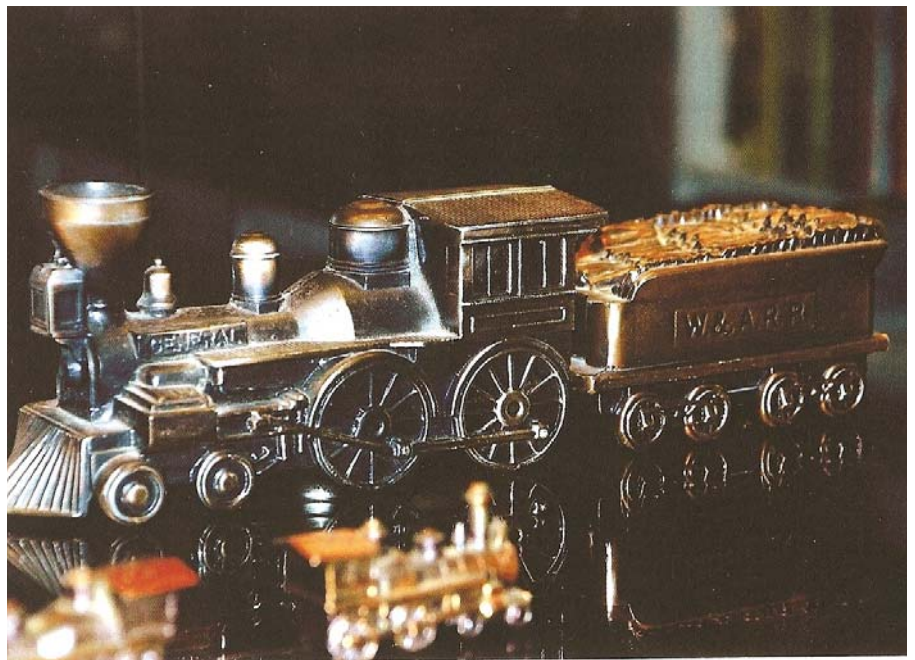
Above: Notable films featuring "The General" include "The Great Locomotive Chase" starring Fess Parker and "The General" starring Buster Keaton.



Above: Don't mistake this Marklin G-gauge W&A RR locomotive for the General.

I saw the actual General in dead storage in Tennessee, and later in Georgia after she was restored for her Civil War centennial tour. During that tour my family and I were privileged to ride on an open car just behind the tender at a National model Railroad convention in Indianapolis. The General is now an Exhibit at the site of the Confederate victory at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, north of Big Shanty on I-75 in Georgia.

Many model trains may be mistaken for the General because W&A RR appears on the locomotive or tender. One example is a short G-gauge train built by Marklin, who manufactured toy trains in Germany before the American Civil War began. Both the locomotive and caboose have W&A RR heralds. But this engine cannot be the General because its



Above: This bronze "General" and its tender are coin banks cast for members of the erstwhile American Flyer Collectors Club.



My display of small models of the General was seen by more than 3500 visitors during the 13th annual "Trains at the Holidays in December at Ocala. I also showed most of my "Gondolas, Hoppers, and Dump Cars" there. The major operating layouts of the Ocala Model Railroad Club and the Ocala 3-Railers were their largest ever at Central Florida Community College. We may have only had as much space for the 14th "Trains at the Holidays" next year because the college needs to collect rent from one of the large rooms we occupied.

Photo Above: Grandpa Nelson shows his earliest Lionel gondolas, hoppers, and dump cars (1906-1925) to more than 3,500 visitors during the 13th annual "Trains at the Holidays" at Central Florida

unusual wheel arrangement is 0-2-4-0. It has no pilot wheels, and the six drivers are oddly split apart. I own another similar large plastic W&A RR locomotive in my collection, but it is not the General as its wheel arrangement is 2-6-2.

You can see what the General really looked like from several other 4-4-0 models in one of my upcoming displays. The best example is a set of bronze coin banks of the locomotive and tender that were cast for the members of the erstwhile American Flyer Collectors Club (AFCC). I gave mine to my younger brother Paul on his 80th birthday, and he loaned it to me for displays this year. You may remember that the AFCC was founded by the late Frank C. Hare, a past president of TCA and editor of the magazines of both clubs.

The largest Generals in my collection are a cast iron doorstep and a commemorative pottery locomotive. The smallest ones are made of brass, cast iron, ceramics, coal, glass, plastic, or wood. Among those with the 4-4-0 wheel arrangement, another way to tell whether a model could be the early General is its smokestack. If it is shaped like a funnel it would have been a wood-burner; if its smokestack is round like a pipe it burned coal.

Stuart Meet Photos, March 21, 2009





Above Mike Powell, Charlie Anyan, and Will Wagner



St. Pete Meet Photos February 2008



A New Way to Find Members, by Grandpa Nelson G. Williams

You do not have to be as smart as Albert Einstein to recognize how futile it is to do the same thing over and over and expect a different result. When a problem is still unsolved, isn't it time to try another method?

Perhaps you share my concern that the membership of the Southern Division is not growing. With hard work by a few we signed up only enough new members to replace our losses from members passing away.

With about 400 now, we are just over one percent of total TCA membership. That's not many in such a large state with plenty of retired people who had trains in their youth and have time for the hobby now. Worse yet, the Southern Division has only one-third of all TCA members with Florida mailing addresses in our national directory.

When I joined TCA 35 years ago I became member 74-6535 and SD 248. In that year the TCA actually had 5,330 members, so the Southern Division was nearly five percent of the total. Why is it so much less now?

In 1974, SD/TCA membership was mandated in all of Florida and in several adjacent states. I attended Southern Division meets in Atlanta and Chattanooga, and another at Destin in the Florida panhandle. Those cities are now in the Dixie and Cottonbelt Divisions, established in 1988. Geography is not the major reason for the slow growth of the Southern Division since then. We never had many members along I-10, and today we have too few north of the I-4 corridor across Central Florida.

We do not have to write off TCA members who live in other divisions. They could remain in their home Division and also become members of the Southern Division if they wish. So could the northern "snowbirds" who make their homes in Florida during the winter months. But to get any of them to join us we need to invite them to offer some benefit that their home division cannot. What might that be?

Everyone knows what the huge Eastern Division offers to all TCA members — its semi-annual meets at York, Pennsylvania. Our national president comes from that Division, and my own grandson Richard H. Nelson Rector is a member there since he lives in Virginia. I would gladly pay his annual dues to become a member of the Southern Division, if he could join us without having to attend a Southern Division meet in Florida.

Why would Ricky or any other TCA member want to join our Division? Maybe because we could offer them some extra benefit ourselves. We can do so because we have an asset that is often recognized as the "best" of its kind in TCA. It is our quarterly newsletter, *The Layout*, of which I am proud to be a regular contributor.

Your first or second thought about *The Layout* may be "it costs too much to print and mail it." But who would refuse to pay a few more bucks in Southern Division dues to support the best thing we have had since Scotty Askenas was our editor many years ago? I realize that we cannot afford the cost and effort to send a sample copy of *The Layout* to all two-thirds of the TCA members in Florida who are not already members of the Southern Division.

But there is an easier and cheaper way we could reach even more TCA members here and elsewhere who might become Southern Division members if invited to do so. That would be to create an effective advertisement to be published in the TCA National Headquarters Newsletter. We could offer the option of a sample copy of *The Layout* and/or membership in the Southern Division by paying annual Southern Division dues. I would be glad to help compose such an advertisement.

As our elected and appointed officers consider this proposal I hope they will heed the advice of two American philosophers. In the words of Yogi Berra, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." And the poet Robert Frost wrote:

Two road diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Do you want the Southern Division to make this difference?

Switch List

Wanted: Lionel Trains 1900-1980s, all gauges, Weaver and Williams brass also. Gary Pedatella, Cell 814-207-4175, leave msg, 1-800-550-8697

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Call or Write: Chris Lucibello 2483 Pinellas Pt. Dr. So., St. Pete, FL 33712 (727) 867-3465
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O22 Switch Controllers (need rewiring); O27 Track, Straight or Curved; #31, 32,48, 49, 33,34, 37,38 Super O Track; Gargraves 2-rail track; #120 and #130 90° and 60° Super O Crossover; LW, TW, 1032, 1033 Transformers; #167 Whistle Controllers; #432 Bulbs; #19 Bulbs; All Reasonably Priced. Call **Paul Dean 352-223-4510**

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Postwar #1033 Transformer \$30
MTH 60' Aluminum Pennsylvania Sleeper/Diner Set (Tuscan) #MT-6117 \$45
Lionel Postwar 736 Berkshire w/Lionel Lines Tender, C6, \$195
Lionel Postwar 2035 Steamer w/Lionel Lines Tender, C6, \$100
Jeff Mayer 321-297-0501, jcjmayer@aol.com

WANTED: LIONEL and American Flyer prewar and postwar trains. Individuals pieces or entire collections. Contact Al Galli; email me at algalli@embarqmail.com or call my cell phone 908-619-1814.

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The Switch List is a free service to Southern Division Members. Send your ads (space permitting) for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Jeffrey Mayer, email jcjmayer@aol.com or call me at 407-366-8995.