

FALL 2023
VOLUME 57
NUMBER 4

**The Meet Story: Orlando Train-filled Weekend
 November 10th & 11th, 2023**

*All Tracks Lead Back To Orlando for Another Great **TCA Southern Division TRIFECTA Train-filled Weekend with Train Rides & a Barbeque Luncheon, a Large Train Meet, plus a Dinner followed by a Show-and-Tell Party!***

Event #1: The first event in our Southern Division weekend TRIFECTA will take place on the day before the train meet (Friday, November 10th) as SD members are once again invited to Bruce and Marya Pemberton’s spacious lakeside property in the Fern Park area near Altamonte Springs (we’ll try this again!). In addition to **riding trains on Bruce’s 7½”-gauge 2,800-foot-long “Paradise Railroad,”** attendees will **visit Bruce’s large indoor S-gauge layout and dine on a barbeque luncheon** catered by Bubbalou’s Bodacious Barbeque Restaurant (<https://altamonte springs.bubbalous.com/>). The menu will include BBQ chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, tossed green salad, rolls, iced tea, lemonade and chocolate brownies. If you’ve been an SD member for awhile you will probably remember the good times we’ve had there in the past. Unfortunately, insurance regulations will prevent Bruce from running any steam engines, but Bruce has a beautiful F7 AB diesel to pull us in our “passenger” cars. [Important note on participation in the train rides: the cars you will ride in overlap the track gauge by several inches on each side and therefore are relatively easy to tip over. As a result some adults may have difficulty sitting in the cars and maintaining their balance. To prevent possible injuries and damage to the cars and trackage, and to avoid disappointment, Bruce respectfully advises that due to insurance regulations he reserves the right to decline rides on his railroad to attendees who are not physically able to safely climb into and out of or sit inside the passenger cars.]

The cost to attend and participate is \$13.00 per person. Because the division is subsidizing a portion of the cost of the food, only SD members and their immediate families (spouse, children, grandchildren) are invited. Any member attending without family may bring ONE guest. The day’s activities will start at 11:00 a.m. and end by 2:00 p.m. To participate, please sign up on the attached or enclosed Table and Events Registration Form (TERF). Maps and directions to Bruce’s as well as to the other two venues we will be using during this fun-filled weekend are included on pages 5 and 8 of this newsletter.

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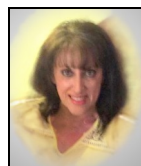
*Reminder: Southern Division membership is
open to all TCA members in good standing.
If you're not already a TCA member,
you may join TCA when you join the SD.



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A Note From Charlie and Mary Anyan: This past August we permanently moved to Billings, Montana! It was bittersweet moving away from so many family members and friends in the Missouri and Illinois areas, but it was time to move close to our daughter and her family. Charlie began plans for his new train room/office area (man cave). There's a group of Billings train guys who regularly get together, and we met them and their wives at a barbeque last month. They're a nice group and seem to be like train guys everywhere, but strictly are HO collectors. And . . . they've never heard of the TCA, so we've got some recruiting to do. Their layouts are housed in a building in downtown Billings. We visited and they have a nice set up.

We spend much time with our two young grandchildren. They have overnighted several times already, and they even cook and clean and cut grass for us! Mary and the grands have been enjoying baking, and she's so happy.

The old saying goes, "If you're ever in the area . . ." ~ we'll be happy to see you!

President's Perspective
by
Mike Setzer

The summer of 2023 is but a memory, and here we are into the beautiful fall season. We hope everyone was safe during Hurricane Idalia and encountered no major damage.

At the October 2023 York meet, the Eastern Division is going to try an experiment of opening the purple hall on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in order to combat some of the "bandit" parking lot sales. Cost is \$50 per table for all three days. Admission is free.

The division's next major events are November 10th & 11th in Lake Nona (Orlando area).

We're still hoping for folks to volunteer to host shows in the Venice/Fort Myers area as well as in the southeastern part of the state.

In case you haven't heard . . . the Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) has folded. This from TTOS Sacramento Division member Phil Fravesi on August 7, 2023:

"To All Sacramento Valley Division Members: I have just returned from the TTOS National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. I want to share some information with you before the rumor mill churns up. There was an announcement at the General Membership Meeting so this is not proprietary information. We had 46 members in attendance. As of December 31, 2023, TTOS National will no longer exist. Look at it as a decentralization of sorts. The existing divisions will still function as they do today which means we still get to hang out and play trains. This was decided during the Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, which consisted of 16 Board members. It was not a decision taken lightly and not something anyone really wanted, but in light of some undeniable facts, at some point in the future, it would be inevitable. The most immediate issue is that the existing board is retiring at the end of the year and no one wants to take their place. There were some division presidents willing to step up but only if they could continue as the president of their division. (Some of that is because no one will fill their shoes in the division.) Between the bylaws and Calif. state corporate law, this was not an option. There were several ideas discussed to make things work, but there was still the big elephant in the room: declining membership. For several years, we have been losing about 100 members per quarter. We are currently at 1474. The breakeven number for financial viability was set at 1500. You can do the math and see where this is headed. Just look at our membership numbers. The current treasury would allow us to keep going for another year or two, IF we had National officers to do it. Inevitably, we would go broke and just fade away. If we did that, no one would benefit. After a great deal of "spirited" discussion, the Board voted unanimously to give each viable division \$5000.00 to prepare for being on their own. Incorporating is one of those things, many already have done so. There will be funds left in the national treasury to complete the shutdown of National. Except for day to day expenses, we are currently debt free, but we must have documentation to prove to the state we owe nothing. This could take a few months or longer. When the process is complete, any remaining funds will be distributed according to the bylaws. We are also taking steps to protect the TTOS copyright so each division can continue using it. Also, Randy is going to contact our current insurance carrier to make arrangements for each division to buy their own insurance for meetings and meets. All the details need to be ironed out, so there will be more meetings in the near future with the Board. We are still the same local group of friends held together by the love of toy trains and will continue to meet. See you at the next meeting."

This should be a wake-up call to TCA National and all of its divisions and chapters. Again, we ask our Southern Division members to recruit new members as well as step up and become actively involved in your division.

Mike

The Meet Story: Orlando Train-filled Weekend November 10th & 11th, 2023 (cont'd.)

Event #2: The weekend's main event is our **Fall Train Meet** on Saturday, November 11 when we return to the Lake Nona Middle School which has high visibility along Narcoossee Road with easy access to the premises. We again will set up in the spacious cafeteria with its easy load-in/load-out access. Table holder set up is on Friday from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. and also on Saturday from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. The meet will open at 9:00 a.m. for TCA members (please have your TCA and Southern Division membership cards to show at the check-in table). General public meet hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. we also will have the opening of the sealed bids for the pre-production sample non-banquet water tower (see full details in the article on page 6). To reserve a selling or display table please sign up on the attached TERF as soon as possible.

(In case you (and the little ones) are wondering about Santa's appearance at this meet, Santa advised that it's a bit too early for him as he and the elves will be so busy working on toys and gifts for Christmas that they need the additional week. He's sure that everyone will understand.)

Event #3: The "caboose" of the weekend is actually a three-part event in itself. After the meet ends on Saturday afternoon, we will head up Narcoossee Road to Giovanni's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria (<https://giovannisrestaurant.com/lake-nona/>) for a **Happy Hour** starting at 4:00 p.m. where members and guests will have the opportunity to unwind and enjoy complimentary appetizers. Then at 5:00 p.m. we'll enjoy a **delicious Italian cuisine buffet dinner** including salad, dessert and soft drinks. The cost to attend the dinner and party is \$13.00 per person. Again, because the division is subsidizing a portion of the cost of the food, only SD members and their immediate families (spouse, children, grandchildren) are invited. After dinner ... the fun resumes with the always popular **Show-and-Tell presentations**. Several members will be displaying a unique item or two from their train collections. Show-and-Tell table space and available time will be limited to five presenters, so members who wish to bring something to show and talk about are asked to sign up on the attached TERF and send it in as soon as possible. We hope to wrap up the day's activities by 8:00 p.m. so everyone can be home or at their place of lodging at a decent hour.

We hope to see you at all three events!

Mike Mills and Bill Trappen

Please see below for additional and extremely important information from the SD Board of Directors.

Postal Service Warning Regarding Sending Checks Through the Mail

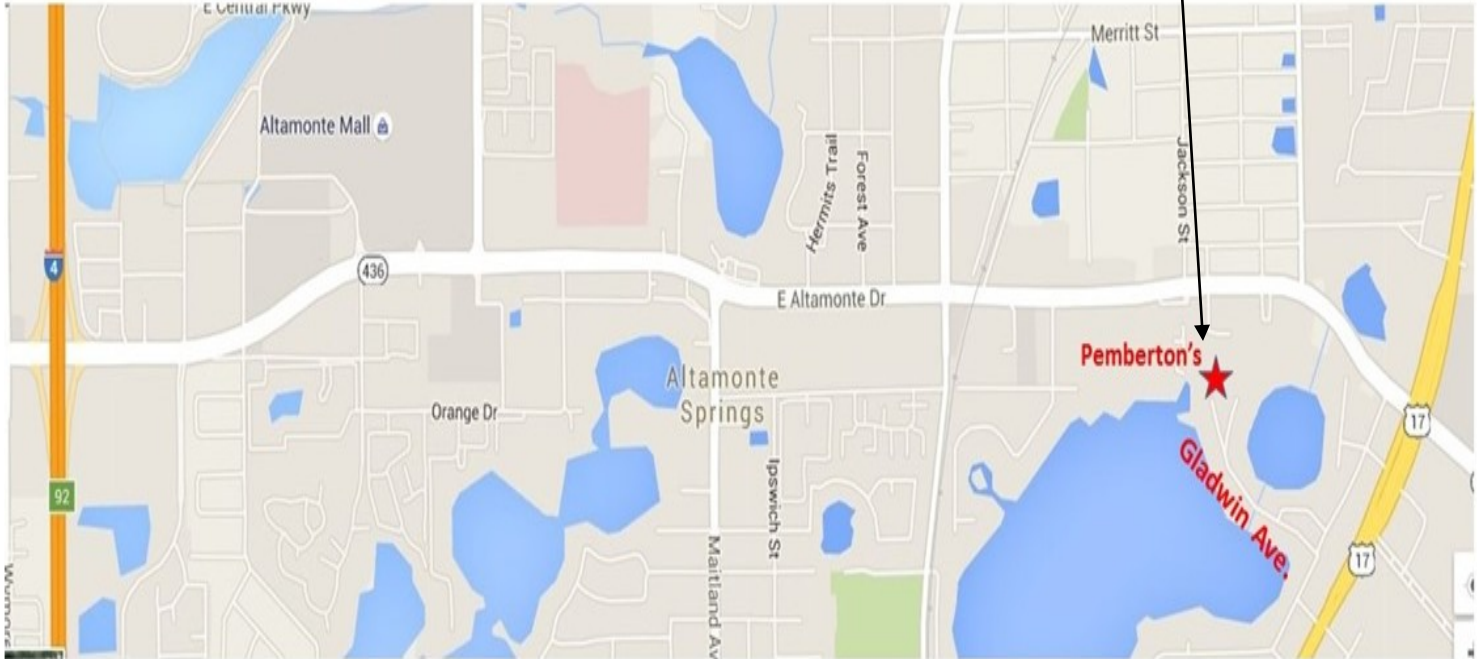
The Southern Division Board of Directors is aware of the increase in criminal activity impacting sending checks or other financial information through the mail. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently issued warnings to the public, and following are two, relevant suggestions from a USPS press release issued on May 12, 2023, for postal customers to reduce risk:

1. Don't let incoming or outgoing mail sit in your mailbox. You can significantly reduce the chance of being victimized by simply removing your mail from your mailbox every day.
2. Deposit outgoing mail through a number of secure manners including inside your local post office or at your place of business or by handing it to a letter carrier.

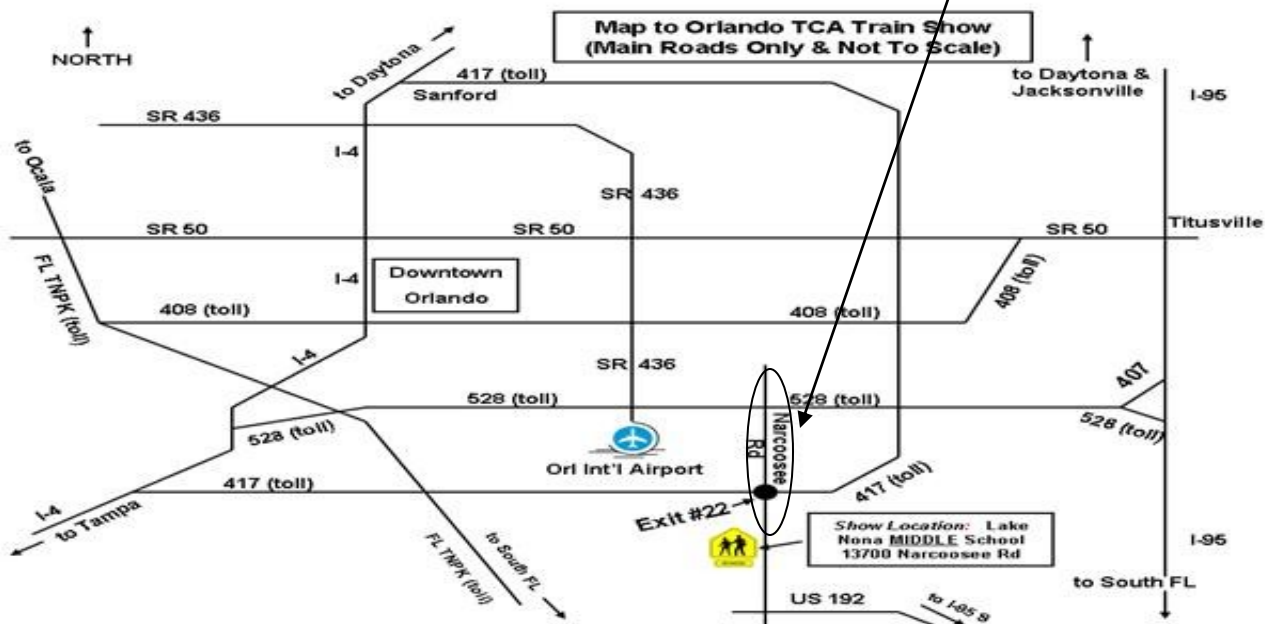
For more information here is the link to the complete press release: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2023/0512-usps-postal-inspection-service-roll-out-expanded-measures-to-crack-down-on-mail-theft.pdf>

**Map to Bruce and Marya Pemberton's
682 Gladwin Ave., Fern Park 32730**

Watch for one of our members directing you to the parking area. We will have a golf cart available for those that need assistance walking from the parking area to the event area.
Fern Park is a small, unincorporated community between Altamonte Springs and Casselberry.
(Gladwin does not have direct access to Highway 17/92.)



**Map to Lake Nona Middle School
13700 Narcoossee Rd., Orlando 32832**



(map to Giovanni's on p. 8)

2020 TCA Convention Pre-Production Sample Water Towers (portions reprinted from the Summer 2023 Newsletter)

In the spring 2023 issue of *The Layout*, we announced that the Southern Division will be auctioning the pre-production sample water towers made for us by Department 56 for the subsequently canceled 2020 TCA National Convention and provided preliminary details on the auctions. Below are the FINAL details. But first, if you're a newer SD member and are not familiar with the water towers, there is complete background information in the spring 2023 newsletter on the two different towers produced and why they were chosen as special convention souvenirs. This information and photos also can be found on the SD website. (www.TcaSouthernDivision.org)

At the June 2, 2023, SD BOD meeting the board voted to: 1) offer the towers to only Southern Division members; 2) have a sealed bid auction for the "Regular" pre-production sample tower with the bids publicly opened at the November 11th Orlando SD Train Meet; and 3) conduct a LIVE auction for the "Banquet Gift" pre-production sample tower during the Dinner/Show-and-Tell Party which will start later in the afternoon on the day of the Orlando meet.

Sealed-Bid Auction for the "Regular" Water Tower



The photo at left shows the pre-production sample "Regular" water tower on the left with the production run version on the right. In the sealed-bid auction for the "Regular" tower, bidders will complete the form included as an insert with or attachment to this newsletter listing the amount they will bid and then mail the form in an envelope to SD Vice President Mike Mills at his address shown on the form. **DO NOT** mail payment at this time. The winning bidder will **not** need to be present at the meet. Because the envelopes will not be opened until the Orlando SD Train Meet on November 11th, please make sure your full name is on the envelope in the return address area so that we can verify your valid TCA and SD membership. At 2:30 PM the envelopes will publicly be opened by a team of non-bidding volunteers. On-site sealed bids also will be accepted until 2:15 PM. By the way, if you submit more than one bid, only your highest bid will be used. Upon opening the envelopes and reading the bids at the close of the meet, the highest bid received

from an active TCA Southern Division member will be the winner. If the winning bidder is present, he or she will pay the winning bid amount for the tower and immediately receive it. If the high bidder is not present, he or she will be notified by phone and requested to mail a check for his/her bid amount plus \$20.00 for insured shipping to the SD Treasurer. Upon receipt of the correct payment amount by the treasurer, the tower will be shipped to the winning bidder.

LIVE Auction for the "Banquet Gift" Water Tower

The auction for the Banquet Gift Water Tower will be LIVE, so to bid on this tower **you must be present!** This auction will be held during the post-meet "banquet" (how appropriate, although we officially call that event the "Dinner/Show & Tell Party") scheduled to take place later in the afternoon and evening of the Orlando Lake Nona meet on November 11th. Therefore, you must: 1) pre-register via the Lake Nona Meet Table and Events Registration Form (attachment to or insert in this newsletter); 2) send payment with the form; and 3) attend the Dinner/Show & Tell Party at Giovanni's. Because all bidders for this tower will have to be present, at the end of the auction the high bidder will pay his/her winning bid amount for the tower and receive it at the party.

How Do I Know I'm Bidding On A Pre-Production Sample Tower And Not A Leftover Actual Production Tower?

First, in this situation there are no leftovers! All 212 of the "Regular" towers produced have been sold, and all 88 of the "Banquet Gift" towers produced were awarded to Convention Committee members and other volunteers for their

(continued on p. 7)

2020 TCA Convention Pre-Production Sample Water Towers (cont'd.)

efforts. Therefore, the only towers remaining are the single pre-production sample tower of each version. Second, there are physical differences between each pre-production sample tower and its final produced counterpart. As a result, each of the pre-production sample towers is definitely **A ONE OF A KIND!** Let's look at how the pre-production towers differ from their production tower counterparts.

The following differences between the Pre-production Sample Towers and The Production Towers are common to both the "Regular Tower" and the "Banquet Gift Tower": The base of the pre-production sample tower is a lighter shade of gray than the base of the production towers. It's difficult to accurately measure the height of the towers but the pre-production sample towers are each about 1/8" shorter than the production towers. The underside of the base of all the towers has a large Department 56 logo and a D56 white paper label sticker, but the pre-production towers also have a white sticker on which the D56 Job Number is hand-written. The job numbers are different for each of the two sample towers.

PHOTO #2



The winning bidders will receive each sample tower in its actual Department 56 Styrofoam® packaging container which is also different from the packaging for the production towers as shown in photo #2. The label on the container has the same D56 Job Number printed on it as well as being hand written on the sticker on the underside of the base of the respective sample tower.

The following differences are unique to the "Regular" Tower: The dimensions of the pre-production sample "Regular" tower's irregular shaped base at its widest points are 5-1/16" x 4-3/8" while those of the base of the production tower are 5-3/8" x 4-1/4." As shown in photo #3, there is some white residue above the Department 56 logo on the yellow tank. This residue

appears to be Styrofoam® which came off the packaging and stuck to the tank, apparently due to the almost three years that the sample towers were in storage. We chose to leave it on rather than trying to remove it to avoid possibly damaging the tank.

There are differences unique to the "Banquet Gift Tower" (BGT) as you'll see on p. 9. The pre-production sample BGT also has white residue above the Department 56 logo on its tank which is much more visible on the dark blue tank than the white residue is on the yellow tank of the "Regular" tower. Again, this residue appears to be Styrofoam® which came off the packaging and stuck to the tank. The BGT includes an inscription on the base which reads "*Banquet Gift from TCA Southern Division*" spread over two lines. The production version has a flat brass plate on which the inscription is printed. But the pre-production sample uses what appears to be a piece of foam core board about 1/16" high on which the inscription is printed. The "outside" dimensions of the pre-production sample Banquet tower's base are 5-1/4" x 4-3/8" while those of the base of the production towers are slightly different at 5-1/4" by 4-1/4."

PHOTO #3

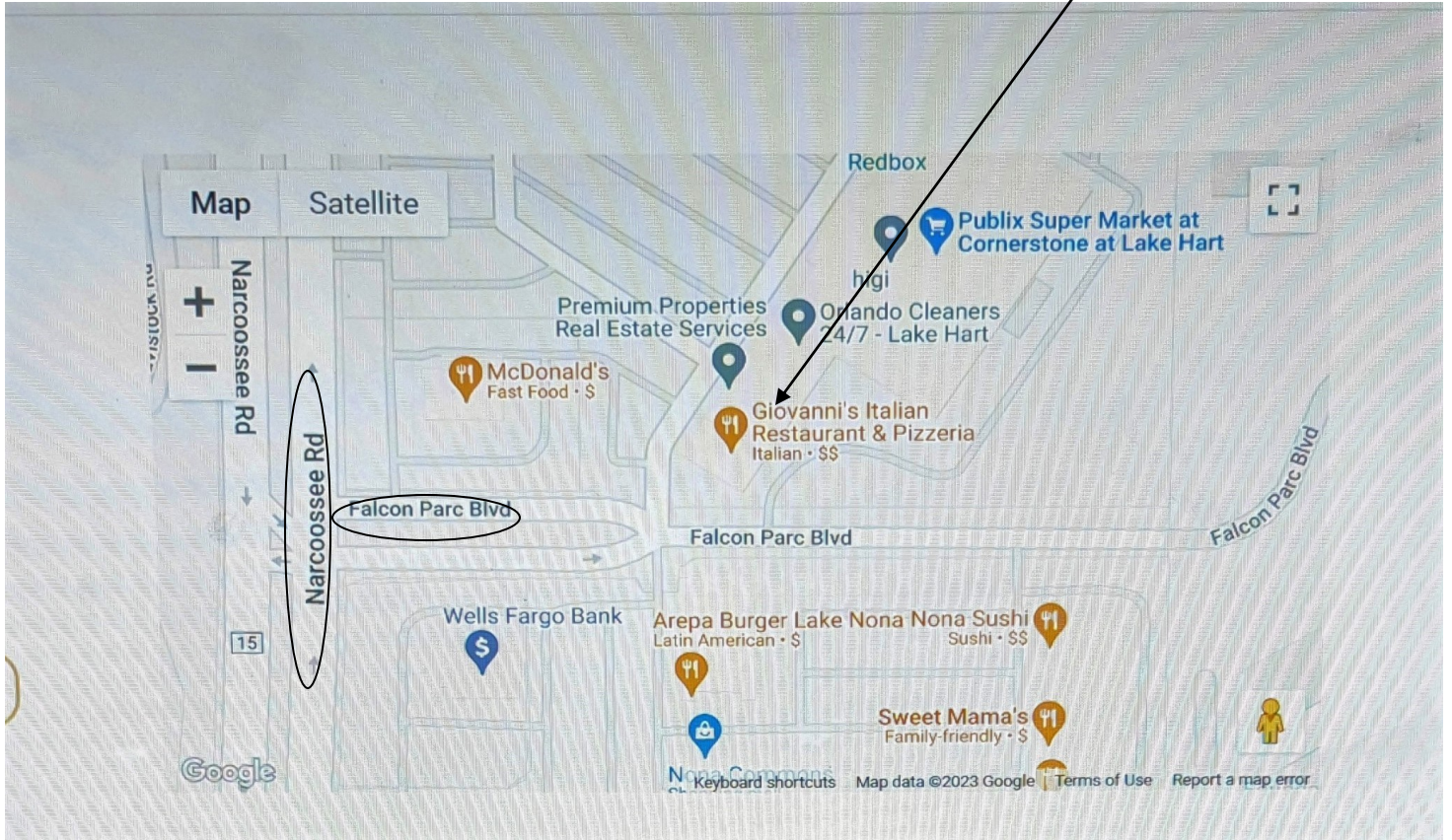


In summary: 1) You must be an active TCA Southern Division member at the time of the auctions in order for your bid to be accepted. 2) The auction for the pre-production "Regular" tower will be by sealed bid, and the bids will be opened at the SD Orlando Train meet on November 11th. 3) You don't have to be present when the bids are opened. You can mail in your bid or submit a bid on site. 4) The auction of the pre-production sample Banquet Gift Tower will be held live at the post-meet Dinner/Show-and-Tell Party held at Giovanni's. 5) You must be pre-registered, paid and present to attend the dinner in order to bid.

The production versions of these towers were very popular and have likely increased in value. These pre-production sample towers are the only ones left and will surely attract plenty of interest, **so bid high if you want to win one or both of these highly desirable unique souvenir items!**

Bill Trappen

**Map to Giovanni's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
10663 Narcoossee Road
Orlando 32832**



While traveling from Illinois to Montana, we passed through Marceline, Missouri. It boasts that it's the hometown of Walt Disney; however, he actually was born in Chicago and moved with his parents to Marceline when he was five.

Of course we stopped at the Disney museum, and Charlie Anyan didn't want to miss a photo op with the engine and tender of the mighty AT & Santa Fe & Disneyland R.R.

Pre-production Sample Banquet Gift Tower



***Pre-Production Sample
"Banquet" Tower***

***Production
"Banquet" Tower***

Fun photos from last year's Orlando meet



Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows 2023-2024

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

Oct. 7: Train Show & Open House (Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (9A-3P, suncoastmrrc.com) (**Suncoast Model RailRoad Club**)

Oct. 7: 82nd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., **Deland** 32724 (www.gserr.com) (**Golden Spike**)

Oct. 12-14: NMRA Sunshine Region Annual Convention & Train Show, Hillsborough Community College, Trinkle Center, 1206 North Park Rd., **Plant City** 33566 (9A-3P, Jim Robertson jnr@tampabay.rr.com or 352-746-4039 <https://www.sunshineregion.org>) (**NMRA Sunshine Region**)

Oct. 14-15: 75th Train & Toy Show, Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (10A-5P, hrtrains.com) (**HR Trains**)

Oct. 19-21: Eastern Division's **York** meet

Nov. 4: Train Show, First Christian Church, 1908 E Ft. King St., **Ocala** 34471 (9A-2P; contact Bob at 352-694-6381 or 813-203-3216) **Silver Springs Lions Club**

Nov. 5: Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668; (www.zitniktrains.com) **Zitnik Trains**

Nov. 11: **Lake Nona (Orlando Area) Annual Train Show (Southern Division)**
(Meet Story in this issue!)

Nov. 18: Train Show, 701 W. Palmetto Park Rd., **Boca Raton** 33486 (www.sfrm.org) (**South Florida Railway Museum**)

(cont'd. on p. 11)

Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows 2023-2024 (cont'd.)

Nov. 18: Toy & Train Show, Elks Lodge, 7201 Congress St., **New Port Richey** 34653 (Vendors and Model Train Layouts, lunch available, Adults \$5.00, children 12 and under *free*, 9A-2P, EARLY BIRD reservation (8-9A) \$7.00, www.regalrailways.com) (**Regal Railways**)

Dec. 2: Train Show & Open House (Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (**Suncoast Model RailRoad Club**)

Dec. 2: Toy and Train Show, Florida National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., **Crystal River** 34429 (**Regal Railways**)

Dec. 2: Melbourne Train Show, Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., **Melbourne** 32935 (9A-2P, call 321-805-1963 or visit <http://schultzspacecoastrains.com>) (**Schultz Space Coast Trains**)

Dec. 7-10: The Villages Holiday Train Show, Colony Cottage Recreational Center, 510 Colony Blvd., **The Villages** 32162 (7th-9th, 9A-4P, 10th, 10A-3P, Rich Trifari 352-638-2788, rwtrif@gmail.com) (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

Dec. 9-10: Derrick Wagner Foundation 12th Annual Toy & Train Show, St. Mark's Gymnasium, 3395 Burns Rd., **Palm Beach Gardens** 33410 (<http://www.derrickwagnerfoundation.com/index.html>)

Jan. 20, 2024: Toy and Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., **Brooksville** 34601 (**Regal Railways**)

Jan. 20-21: 17th Annual Model Train Show, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy., **Stuart** 34996 (<http://www.martincountymodelrailroaders.org>) **Martin County Model Railroad Club**

Feb. 3-4: The Villages Winter Expo, Savannah Regional Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd., **The Villages** 32162, <http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com>) (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

Feb. 10: Train Show, Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave., N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (**Southern Division** - Meet Story and Registration Form in the winter 2024 newsletter!)

Feb. 11: Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668; (www.zitniktrains.com) **Zitnik Trains**

Feb. 17-18: 45th Annual Train Show, Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., **Palmetto** 34221 (David Fontaine, 941-685-2221, david_f_34205@yahoo.com; www.realrail.org) (**Real Rail**)

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 407-538-9678). 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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The deadline for articles, photos, etc.,
for the next issue of *The Layout* is
December 1, 2023.



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.

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

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

NEW!

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

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.