

NOR-CAL EXPRESS

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A Lionel Set #96 of 1925, with #153 locomotive and #603, 604 cars, is passing a #191 villa and a #83 traffic signal.
Photo by R. White

MARK BOYD IS RUNNING FOR TCA VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark would appreciate our support and vote as he runs for National TCA Vice-President. REMEMBER TO VOTE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Michael Andrews

I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all the members who voted for me. I appreciate the vote of confidence. As my first order of business, I have appointed the following positions: Sergeant of Arms— Jim McCarthy, Assistant Sergeant of Arms— Bob Spivock, Standards Committee— Richard Hofmeister and Scott Douglas. Also an appointed position and a voting member of the Board of Directors is the Newsletter Editor, Richard White. As an old newsman myself, this position was a lot of fun. I was not only able to partake in the daily running of Nor-Cal but to report and write about it. What I am really trying to say is that this is a very important position. Everything that happens in Nor-Cal is and should be news, so go make some news and send it to Richard.

Other club business that is being considered is as

follows. The Nor-cal Web Page, the Kids club, an Annual audit, an update of the Nor-Cal Bylaws, a Liability Insurance Policy, bonding of the Treasurer, and the Cal-Stewart Meet. All of these items need work— some more than others. If anyone is interested in developing them further please contact me or any of your Board of Directors.

As another summer draws to a close I look forward to things slowing down, to cooler weather, and to the approaching Holiday Season. There is so much to do these next few months as winter approaches and we prepare for friends and family visits over the holidays. I look forward to seeing all of you at the next few meets, especially at our December Party, and at the Cal-Stewart Pasadena meet, or maybe even at York.



TRIBUTE TO KAREN RODGERS

by Mark Boyd

Karen Rodgers, TCA Member 92-34723, wife of member Jack Rodgers, passed away peacefully on August 27, 2002, in a hospital bed in Daly City where she had spent the last 3 weeks of her life and just about three and a half weeks after returning home from the TTOS National Convention in Las Vegas. She had fought off cancer in 1994 with treatment that placed the cancer in remission for several years. However it returned four years ago in another form. She was given six months to two years to live. She lived four more years. Through her pain and suffering she refused to complain or talk much about it. She dealt with it as "matter of fact." She was an inspiration to those of us who knew her well. People at the TCA National Convention still ask me about Karen. This year in Chicago they asked "How is the girl doing?"

The last time I saw Karen she was sitting at a head table at the TTOS Banquet with Les and Nancy Cochran, Barb Jones, Steve and Gwen Latta and several other TTOS dignitaries. She and Jack were honored to be included in that company. She loved socializing with friends at train conventions.

Karen was Registration Chair of the TCA National Convention in 1999. She was the one who kept us organized and returned all of those phone calls asking about special table assignments, and asking "Why do we need to have a Sellers Permit on file?" and "Could I have a refund?" While the rest of us enjoyed the meet, Karen ran the registration table and fielded all the grumpy complaints. She was never paid a salary, but she did all this because she was needed. She spent hour on the phone and

multiple weekends putting tour tickets in envelopes to fill the registration packets. Then she would re-check every packet to make sure no mistakes had been made, so there would be no complaints. This included nearly 1,000 packets at the national convention, and with the Cal-Stewart packets over 15 years, the total amounts to about 13,500 registration packets. Then add 39,150 identification badges that were sorted and placed in the plastic holders for our convenience. First class! And she got them right!

For 15 years Karen organized the registration for Norcal's Cal-Stewart Meet. When Don Stewart passed away the club found it had a month to organize the next Cal-Stewart and desperately needed someone to step in with the registration. Karen did, and quickly brought it all together.

Some years we would meet at Jack and Karen's house to assemble the packets, and other years we would meet at my house. We always had fun and we looked forward to the weekend before Cal-Stewart as an annual event where we would invite friends over, to look at trains for an hour, and then work for four or five hours putting the registration materials together. We would be a crew of about twelve to fifteen people and Karen's knack for organizing people helped things to come out right. We will miss you Karen. You were our inspiration. God be with you as you are now completely healed and in the presence of your heavenly father.

In loving memory of my adopted big sister,
Mark C. Boyd

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By Richard White

The Newsletter needs contributions from its readers! I would welcome articles detailing, among other things, your knowledge of some area of train collecting, or your personal reminiscences of toy trains or of full-size trains. I would prefer that we try for "new ground," rather than, for instance, "a history of 6464-series boxcars." Sample titles might include: "My Discovery of Toy Trains at Age Eight," or

"My Thoughts on My New Lionel UP 4-12-2 Locomotive," or "My Trip Las Summer on the Grand Canyon RR."

So write or E-mail me with your articles, notices and Buy/Sell items. Submittals by E-mail in MSWord format are the easiest for me, but I can retype articles too!

FUTURE NOR-CAL MEET SCHEDULE

**M = Montera Middle School
5555 Ascot Drive, Oakland**

**October 12, 2002 (M)
November 16, 2002 (M)
December 14, 2002 (M)
Christmas Meet (no guests,
except family members)
January 11, 2003 (M)
February 8, 2003 (M)**

**Set-up 8:30 AM
Business Meeting 9:30 AM
Trading 10:00-11:30 AM**



An American Flyer O gauge streamliner (1939 3-car chrome-plated set with Hudson locomotive #447) and Donald. Photo by R.White

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Just before Christmas, 1942, I was standing on tip-toe outside a toy store window in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The object of my fascination was a small figure-eight train layout in the window, including a tunnel and a small village. A locomotive was speeding around the track pulling shiny red passenger cars (I specifically remember the glossy red roofs). The cars were almost certainly the Lionel 600-601-602 (or similar 2600-01-02) passenger cars. Owing to that wartime year, the set was probably not for sale, but was instead being used to attract boys like me, and hopefully their fathers. But for me, I had just discovered the wonder of toy trains! (When I returned here in the early 50's the toy store, alas, was long gone!)

That same Christmas season I noticed the boxed sets of Tootsietoy trains in a department store window. These were apparently still in production. But now these "primitive" little trains just wouldn't do for me! However there was to be a Marx windup set under the tree that Christmas, a freight set with a Grand Central Station.

For Christmas 1944, in Miami, Florida, I received a cardboard train kit. This was not the Lionel set but was instead a streamlined passenger set. This seemed okay (heck, even little boys knew that sacrifices had to be made in the war effort against Hitler and his evil minions!). But then my friend down the street called me down to see HIS new train set—a Lionel brown and yellow City of Portland! His father must have had connections to get that out-of-production set in 1944! Was I ever envious! I did

notice however that his father (or brother— memory dim on this) didn't let him play with it except under strict supervision!

Then in 1946, still train-less, I discovered Jahn the Magic Man (a reference to the Gilbert magic sets) who was the Miami area retailer for American Flyer trains. His store, on downtown Flagler Street, had window displays featuring, among other things, Flyer HO gauge (with a small layout). Inside the long store was a long shallow layout, behind glass, with push buttons to operate the trains (always broken as I recall). The layout consisted of three or so tracks in concentric ovals, and a side track or two. The layout was approximately three feet wide and perhaps fifteen feet long. A partition, with painted-on scenery separated the tracks on the long side. Atop the layout, were placed the large Erector creations. I recall the "parachute drop" in particular. So here was total fascination for an eight year old!

I brought my father down to see all this, and indicated strongly that I'd REALLY like to get the Hudson freight set that I saw displayed in the window for my Christmas present.

And so I did. There was some confusion that Christmas, as my uncle had sent down a Lionel #221 freight set, with a Lionel water tower. Well, I found the Flyer set quite superior, and as I could only keep one, the Lionel set was sold through the local hardware store. I did get to keep the water tower, however!

Later, the Flyer set would be joined by more freight cars, green Pullman (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3) cars and various accessories. Later the whole American Flyer setup would be sold so that I could go into HO gauge (with an American Flyer HO gauge 0-6-0 as my initial loco-

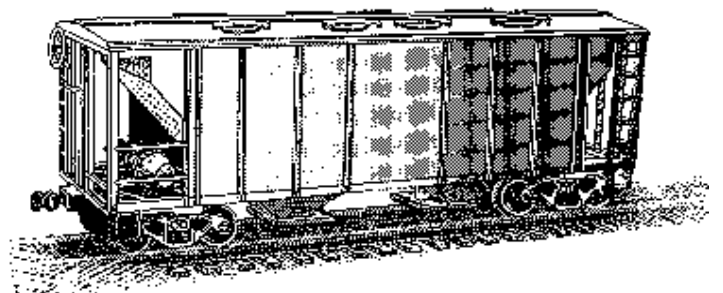
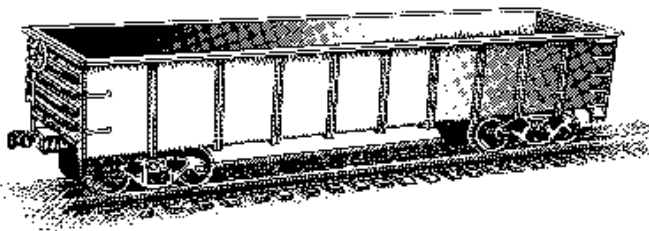
motive!) but I will always remember lying on the carpet and watching that Hudson freight train roll by with the wonderful-smelling smoke pouring from the stack!

DUCK TALES

by Richard White



The soft plastic Donald Duck on the left (blue coverall/yellow shirt) was purchased by late member John Breidis at an antiques gallery in Pasadena, during a Cal-Stewart Meet, then given to me. It has no markings. What is interesting is that this Donald appears to have been the prototype for the Pride Lines Donalds that have been produced (in metal) for the TCA National Conventions since around 1984. Note that the original Donald is not holding a sign, his hand is outstretched, whereas the others grasp a sign. The base is somewhat different as well, but note the same wrinkles in the shirt. Also, the original Donald is looking straight ahead and the Pride Lines Donalds have the head turned slightly to the right. Shown are TCA Donalds from 1984 (grey-blue/yellow), 1995 (green/blue) and 1998 (red/light blue). Photo by R. White



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Pete Goodier

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Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2002

Cash Balance June 30, 2001

Checking	4,286.74	
Savings	22,246.75	26,533.49

Income

Dues	4,770.00	
Interest	209.59	
Cal-Stewart	30,783.42	
Other	1,177.31	36,940.32

Expenses

Rent	1,048.00	
Coffee Service	270.00	
Cal-Stewart 2002	25,988.56	
Cal-Stewart 2003	3,180.00	
Election Expense	243.13	
Officers	625.71	
Christmas Party	1,614.60	
Nor-Cal Express	957.66	
Other	924.80	34,852.46

Cash Balance June 30, 2002

Checking	11,165.01	
Savings	17,456.34	28,621.35

<u>Net Change</u>		2,087.86
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Respectfully Submitted:

Pete Goodier, Treasurer

THANKS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY — by Bill Riley

On behalf of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley I'd like to thank TCA members Mark Boyd, John April and Pete Goodier for their help in managing the museum's August open house for the model train layout and exhibit. Additionally I'd like to thank Dave Pfeifer and others who brought their trains down to run on the layout. The "Junior Engineers" benefited greatly from the guidance and information the "Senior Engineer" TCA members imparted to

them as they ran trains together in the depot. For many of these young boys and girls this was their first exposure to model railroading. However, for a significant number of them this was their second or third year in helping out with the program. I'd like to offer special thanks to John April for coming down to present his Boy Scout Model Railroading Merit Badge program here.

NORCAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2001

Meeting convened at 4:55 PM Napa, CA. Cliff's ranch.

Voting members present: Cliff Jarrard, Bob Spivock, Pete Goodier, Mark Boyd, Mike Andrews

Not present" Phil Fravesi, Bob Nichelini

Cliff presented plans for the upcoming 2002 Cal Stewart. Mary Ann Nichelini has agreed to co-chair the registration.

Cliff and Mike will co-chair the meet. Bob Spivock will continue as hotel contract liaison. \$3,200 allocated for Don Church Party. \$1,000 allocated for the raffle prizes.

Mark Boyd moved Bob Nichelini be re-appointed editor of the Nocrca Express. M/S/UC.

Mark Boyd moved appropriate funds to purchase 2002 Mid-West Division and Western Division National Convention fund raisers to support those division efforts. M/S/C.

Mark Boyd moved appropriation of \$1,000 towards construction of a toy train layout at the Boy Scouts of America

Contra Costa Council Headquarters headed by John April. Motion tabled for further information. Bob Spivock suggested "passing a hat" at our monthly meet and publicizing in our newsletter.

Mark Boyd reported on the status of the approved Norcal Division Web page. The application for www.norcaltca.com has been made. There is a \$35 annual fee to maintain, a \$20 administrative cost, and a \$20 per month maintenance fee in addition to whatever software is needed to maintain the web page.

Cliff asked Mark to begin investigating the feasibility of hosting a south bay Norcal TCA meet once a year. The goal would be to begin a "central coast" chapter of our division.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

July 25, 2002

Meeting convened July 25, 2002 at 7:45 at Basil Leaf Café, Lafayette, CA

Voting members present: President Mike Andrews, VP Bob Spivock, Secretary Mark Boyd, Immediate Past President Cliff Jarrard

Not present: Treasurer Pete Goodier, Sac Sierra President Jack Ahearn

Also in attendance: Bob Spivock

Cliff M/S/C acceptance of past minutes as presented.

Bob Nichelini M/S/C new appointments as presented by President Mike Andrews

Sergeant at Arms: Jim McCarthy

Assistant Sergeant at Arms: Bob Spivock

Standards Committee Representatives: Rich Hofmeister & Scott Douglas

Editor: still under consideration

Bob Nichelini will review the Norcal By Laws and make recommendations to the board on mandates needing attention.

Mike Andrews will develop job descriptions for all board positions.

Bob Nichelini will investigate bonding of the treasurer and personal liability for officers.

Cliff will investigate and develop a proposal for a phone message system that will include an answering service and a permanent number for Norcal. Suggestions included a dedicated Norcal cell phone, an 800 number, and a Pac Bell answering service.

Mike Andrews M/S/C accept the meet dates as follows:

August 10, 2002 San Ramon, Iron Horse Middle School

September 14, 2002 Monterera Middle School, Oakland

October 12, 2002 Oakland

November 16, 2002 Oakland (Cal Stewart Pasadena is November 8, 9 & 10)

December 14, 2002 Oakland

January 11, 2003 Oakland

February 8, 2003 Oakland

April 12, 2003 Oakland

June 14, 2003 San Ramon, Iron Horse Middle School

July 12, 2003 San Ramon, Iron Horse Middle School

Motion to increase division dues was deferred to future meeting to include treasurer.

Mike Andrews will investigate kid activities for Cal Stewart Meet which would include a "Sitter Service."

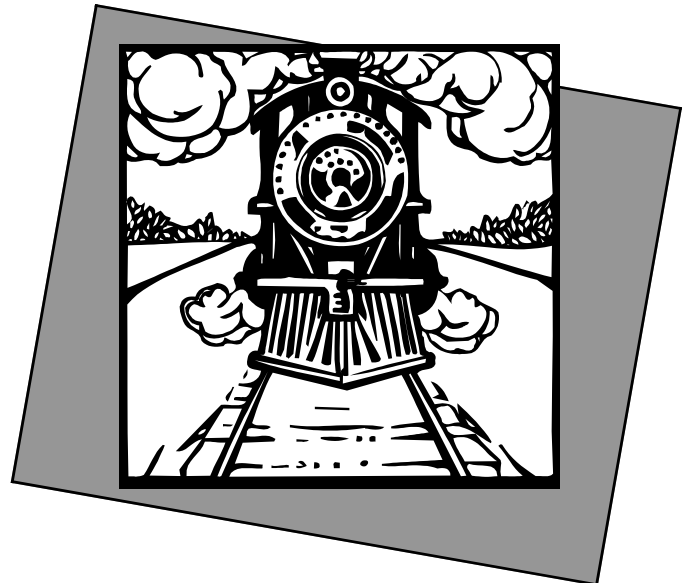
Bob Nichelini M/S/C 2003 Cal Stewart Meet fees \$30 early registration, \$35 regular registration, \$25 table fees.

Nichelini M/S/C appointment of the following co-chairs for the 2003 Cal Stewart: Mike Andrews, Cliff Jarrard, Bob Spivock, and Bob Nichelini.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 PM.

Northern California division - Train Collectors Association

Nor-Cal TCA Express
Richard White, Editor
7 Francisca Drive
Moraga, CA 94556-1583
Fax: none yet
Email: Toytrain13@hotmail.com



*Submit all address changes to:
Secretary Mark Boyd—norcaltca@spade.net*

MEMBER SURVEY

Here are the results of the survey that was included with the Norcal Membership Renewal Form: 375 Norcal members responded. Of these 65 members did not mark anything and are not represented in the results:

88% collect O gauge (1% collect O Scale 2-rail)
28% collect S gauge
31% collect Standard Gauge
15% collect G gauge

8% collect Erector
14% collect HO or OO gauges
22% collect N gauge
3% collect Z gauge

BUY/SELL Send your personal ads to the Editor

Wanted: American Flyer O gauge 9-1/2 inch prewar freight cars— the early version with black frames and trucks, metal name plates- #3210 tank car, #3207 gondola car, #3211 caboose. I need these in Excellent condition, please. John April (925) 254-4436

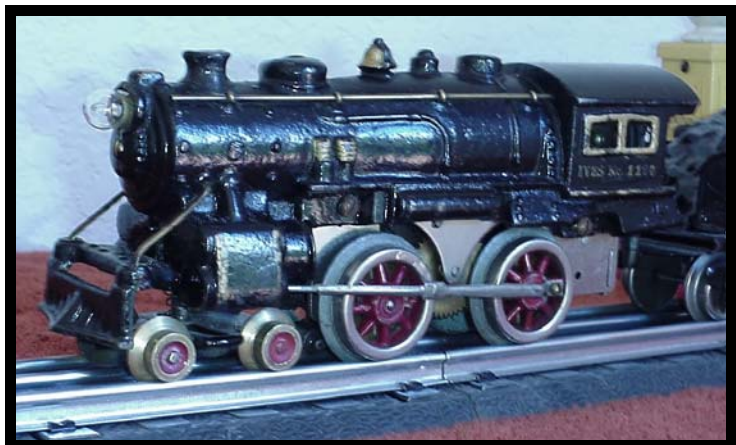
Wanted: Any French “scale-proportioned” O-gauge trains, such as those manufactured by Marescot, Fournereau and Munier. Richard White (925) 376-5821

For sale: Various Hornby O-gauge accessories. Richard White (925) 376-5821

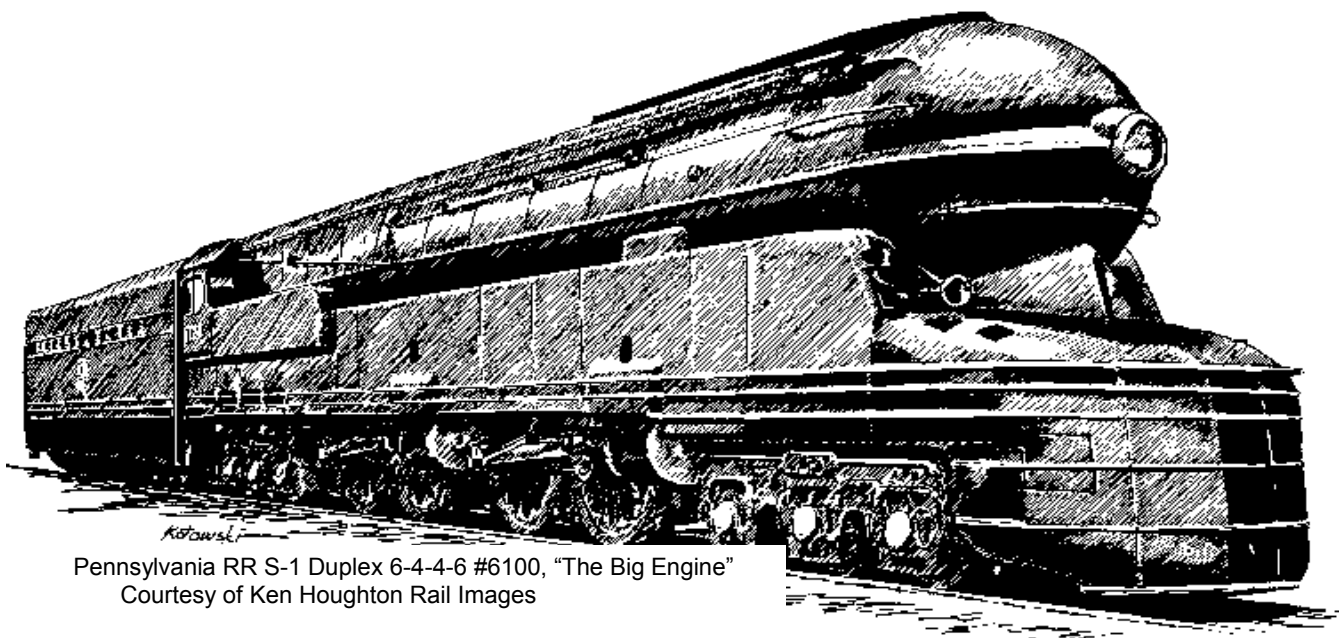
NOR CAL DIVISION OFFICERS

President — Michael Andrews
Vice President — Bob Nichelini
Secretary — Mark Boyd
Treasurer — Pete Goodier

Congratulations to the new Division Officers



NOR-CAL NEWSLETTER



Pennsylvania RR S-1 Duplex 6-4-4-6 #6100, "The Big Engine"
Courtesy of Ken Houghton Rail Images