



THE MAIN-LINE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALL GAUGE TOY TRAIN ASSOCIATION

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A message from the President of AGTTA to its membership and all those who help keep the hobby of model railroading alive.

"501(c)3"

We have mentioned several times prior to this message, both in the Mainline and at our regular meetings, that the BoD has been considering the option for us as a club to become a 501(c)3 organization. What we are now is a fraternal club with no practical abilities or lawful means to seek corporate grants, donations from businesses or bequests of cash or property from regular citizens as they cannot deduct those contributions from their own taxes. If we become recognized as a 501(c)3 organization by the IRS that status would change to our favor.

HOW-TO CLINIC

Pendulum E-units

The *How-To Clinic* this month will cover a topic that every prewar and standard O gauge operator and collector will not want to miss. We would like to welcome back to the Clinic Table **Larry Pearson**. Larry will be discussing how to service and how to overcome some of the difficult operational aspects of the pendulum e-unit used on Lionel prewar standard and O gauge locomotives. Definitely another *How-To* that you don't want to miss.

Future Clinics – Mr. Jim is always looking for possible subjects for upcoming Clinics. If you have a subject that you would like for Jim to cover, then please talk to Jim and let him know. Or if you would like to host a clinic and share your knowledge on some favorite topic, then by all means let Jim know. ☺

THE MAIN-LINE

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please mail or e-mail all contributions for publication by the 1st of the month to:

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meets are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North, La Jolla, CA, beginning at 4:30 PM. Big All-Day Saturday Meets are held in June & December.

AGTTA CLUB WEBSITE

www.agtta.com

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The following are the pros and cons that the BoD has considered and enumerated for the consideration of all the members of the AGTTA.

The Pros:

- 1) Incorporating allows us to be visible as a viable and educational organization.
- 2) We can accept bequests of property and cash.
- 3) Anyone can bequeath to the Club, in part or in whole, their train collection or other forms of property, including real estate.
- 4) We can solicit donations actively - the Club will not have to passively 'hope' that someone will send something our way.
- 5) We will be recognized as a public charity that is eligible for corporate grants.
- 6) Those who make donations to the Club can deduct those donations from their IRS, state & local taxes.
- 7) Donations that we receive will be exempt from federal, state and local taxes - what we receive is for the benefit of the Club.
- 8) We will be expected to follow our By-Laws as they are written with no deviations or dictatorial adventures.
- 9) The duties of each of our Officers is enumerated in our By-Laws and those Officers will be expected to adhere to those By-Laws.
- 10) Those same By-Laws will be accessible to the public.
- 11) This new status should help create a more member-involved attitude which will benefit our Club.

The Cons:

- 1) We must incorporate, which means there are forms to fill out which will require some time and effort on our part.
- 2) We will be 'transparent', which means that all of our activities (educational, social, and financial) will be available for perusal by the public.
- 3) We will have to provide a filing fee for this process - a one-time \$400.00 fee
- 4) We may have to utilize the services of an accountant to file our annual activity/financial report.
- 5) We will need to keep detailed records of any donation of property or cash made to our club.

- 6) Any salaries or other expenses paid out must be detailed and open to public inspection.
- 7) We will need to increase our insurance coverage to cover liability for the Officers and Board Members - this is in addition to our existing Club liability in general.
- 8) Possible necessity that anyone who sells at either of our all-day meets (not our monthly meets) must provide a re-sale number.
- 9) All property donations must be independently appraised.

We should be aware that there are national organizations who are already allowed 501(c)3 status (TCA, TTOS, LCCA, NASG), and also there are local outfits with that status (SDMRRM, SDMRRC), and also that the 3-Railers and the local 'S' Gaugers are in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status.

We cannot afford to be left out of the beneficial possibilities of a 501(c)3 status as this is in our long-term benefit. This is a time-proven opportunity for achieving substantial solvency, community awareness and visibility, and membership expansion.

The AGTTA needs to consider this as a viable 'next step' towards maintaining and expanding our organization. We will soon celebrate our 50th Anniversary, which in itself will be noteworthy and I hope that we can meet that half-century mark with stamina and foresight.

*It is our honor and our duty to mention the recent passing of two long-time and well-known members: **Pete Pearson** (1973), and **Chuck Seitz** (1976). It may be difficult to realize that multiple decades have ensued since those two joined the AGTTA, but indeed the time has swept onward.*

There are a lot us in a similar situation as far as 'surviving the decades' is concerned and we should pause to appreciate those who are still with us. It does not matter how popular or extroverted one is and we should be thankful that we survive on a day-to-day basis as ultimately another day will not arrive. Every day is another opportunity to make a new friend and to appreciate what we have already.

We have just lost two devoted rail-roaders, who were also two fine men who were each part of our unique organization for the better part of 40 years. We mourn their passing in the realization that we are still among many of the same as those two gentlemen.

I am sure that there are none of us who knows all of the many members in our meeting hall on any given 2nd Thursday, so I ask us all to make an effort to meet a 'stranger' and therefore make a friend for perhaps the next 40 years. The fact that Pete and Chuck will attend no more meetings should inspire the rest to appreciate those who remain.

See you this Thursday,

Jim Andrews - President AGTTA

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members – Jim Weatherford is again pleased this month to announce that he received two new Club membership applications in August. From San Diego we would like to extend a very warm welcome to **David Land** who prefers O gauge. And we would like to welcome another out of the area member, **Danny Spendlove**, who lives in Highland, CA and who likes O, S, & ON30. Welcome aboard to you both. ☺

Membership Renewals – Jim is also pleased to report that another one of our past members has rejoined after being away for a while. We would like to welcome back to the Club **John Zomiski**.

Membership Total – Jim reports that our 2015 Membership total currently stands at a very healthy 144. That's excellent! ☺

NEXT BOARD MEETING

President **Jim Andrews** has called for having our 8TH 2015 Board Meeting on **Tuesday, September 8th** at 6:30 pm at the SD Model RR Museum in Balboa Park. Board Meetings are open to all members who are very welcome to attend. If you need directions to the meeting room, please contact Jim.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The 2015 Board held its seventh meeting of the year at 6:30 on August 11th at the SDRRM in Balboa Park. Here are the Minutes of the Meeting.

BOD Attendees: Jim Andrews, Alan Hamel, Bill Hohnhorst, Ed Jones, Al Kiel, Steve Pierce, Ed Samsen.

Visitors in Attendance: Bart Grey, Caroline Poindexter, Cristina Poindexter and Bob Wall.

1. **All Day Meet** – All the feedback that was reported by Board Members was very positive. A special thanks goes to **Bob Schultz** who would not take any payment from the Club for his additional advertising expense for including the All Day Meet verbiage. He paid for it all. **“Thanks Bob!”**
2. **October Meet** – The always popular **Ed Karper Memorial Free-Bee Table** will again take place at the October Meet.
3. **2016 Board Elections** – Nominations will be accepted at the October Meet with voting at the November Meet.
4. **Christmas Dinner – Ken Steele** has again accepted responsibility for making arrangements for our year ending festivity.
5. **Club Run at SDMRM – Al Keil** reported that the Set-up for the Fall Run at the Museum will be on Monday, October 12. The layout will be operational from the 13th through the 25th with a Sunday afternoon take down.
6. **Books For Club Members – Jim Andrews** brought up the idea of ordering books and getting a price discount which could then be passed onto Club Members. Kalmbach Publishing supposedly offers 20% off. Jim will pursue.
7. **501(c)3** – Further discussion took place regarding the requirements of becoming a 501(c)3 organization. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held to create a list of the pros and cons of becoming a 3C Club. Jim has for action.
Note: Jim Andrews had a follow-up Meeting at his home on August 19th to discuss the pros and cons of becoming a 501(c)3. Please see his President’s Message for the results of that meeting.
8. **On-30 Layout** – A presentation was made by **Brain Liesberg** and **Kristian Tristan**, who along with **Chris Buono** make up a group that calls themselves “The Motormen”. They are in the process of creating an ON-30 display that they are planning on having ready for the

Rendezvous event at the Poway Midland RR on October 1-4. After their presentation Jim Andrews made a motion to donate \$300 to The Motormen to purchase supplies for the display. As recognition of our donation a display sign will be created and placed near the display during this event and all future events where the display is set-up. Six board members votes in favor with none opposed.

9. **Club Layout Storage Trailer** – There was additional discussion regarding acquiring a trailer in which to store and transport the Club’s Modular Layout. A trailer was located, but it sold before the Board could take action. This item remains open.
10. **Next Board Meeting** – September 8th - Unless otherwise announced there will always be a Board Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. And visitors are always welcome.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

CLUB NEWS

Another Very Successful White Elephant Raffle – Bob Wall reports that the White Elephant Raffle that was held at the August Meet was another great success. He said that there were so many donated raffle prizes that it took over an hour to complete raffle. He was so busy he did not have enough time to record all the winners’ names. But he believes he got all the donors. If he missed your name he hopes you will understand why. In addition to the tickets distributed for the raffle donations, Bob reports that he took in \$120 from raffle ticket support. This was enough to pay half the hall rental expense. In closing Bob would like to thank all who participated to make the raffle another huge success. It was a lot of fun.

Cheryl Celebrates Her B-Day With a Delicious Feast - Cheryl Lyman brought a delicious feast of home cooked Pulled Pork and Fixings to the August Meet, which it turned out was her birthday. Congratulations Cheryl and thanks so much for bringing the feast. ☺

In Mourning – It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of three longtime Club Members: **Pete Pearson, Charles Seitz** and Dave Ely’s lovely bride, **Jean Ely**.

Pete Pearson was a very active model train enthusiast belonging to both AGTTA and the 3-Railers for many years. He first joined back in

AUGUST WHITE ELEPHANT RAFFLE RESULTS

<u>WINNER</u>	<u>ITEM DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Bob Gyde	K-Line 'O' KCC MP-15 2 Motors Diesel	Donated by Bart Grey
Caroline Poindexter	Lionel 'O' #52053 Quad Hopper	Donated by Dennis Drake
	Lionel #9608 BN Hi-Cube Boxcar	Donated by Dennis Drake
	'N' ATL Caboose Track Cleaning Car	Donated by Al Keil
Bob Shaw	Williams 'O' #TC03 3-Dome Tank Car	Donated by Tom Jaworsky
	Lionel #3356 Stock Car	Donated by Al Vargas
Bob Gyde	IHC 'O' Victorian House	Donated by Richard Thomson
	Lionel #456 Coal Ramp & Controller	Donated by Richard Thomson
Christine Poindexter	Lionel 'O' #19940 Vat Car (Inside Track 1996)	Donated by John Kennett
	Lionel 'O' #19924 1983 LRRC Boxcar	Donated by Ron Decker
Scott Moller	DVD Movie Set: "All Aboard Great AM RR's"	Donated by Bill Hess
Caroline Poindexter	Hallmark Ceramic Ornament – Blue Comet	Donated by Sam Halderman
	Hallmark Ceramic Train Ornament #8	Donated by Sam Halderman
Al Vargas	Lemax #83693 Village Piece – Hoop Stars	Donated by Tim Lewis
	Lionel 'O' #1002 Gondola w/ Scout Coupler	Donated by Tim Lewis
Larry Pearson	Lionel 'O' #167 Whistle Controller (2)	Donated
	Railroad Stock Certificate	Donated by Jon Everett
Kristian Tristan	Box of HO Buildings & Signs	Donated by Richard Thomson
Brian Liesberg	Box of Scenic Materials	Donated by Dennis Drake
Christine Poindexter	Marx 'O' – 4 Freight Cars	Donated by Greg Smyth
Bob Gyde	Lionel 'O' #12748 Illuminated Station Platform	Donated by Bob Shultz
Christine Poindexter	Lionel 'O' MRX Caboose (2)	Donated by Bob Gyde
Kristian Tristan	'HO' Box of Straight & Curve Track	Donated by Bob Gyde
	Lionel 'O' #12737 Whistle Shed	Donated by Bob Shultz
Brian Liesberg	'N' Plastic Toy Train & Track	Donated by Bob Gyde
Stanley Strom	'HO' Transformer	Donated by Ed Jones
	Lionel 'O' Railroad Station Building	Donated by Jerry Ward
	K-Line 'O' K4011 Police Station Building	Donated by Bob Shultz
	Marx 'O' Trestle Bridge	Donated by Dennis Drake
Kristian Tristan	'HO' Oil Derrick Diorama	Donated by Rhudy Fowler
Dennis Drake	VHS Movies: "Sherlock Holmes & Lost in Space"	Donated by Ed Jones
Derek Westwood	Lionel 'O' #1122 Remote Control Switches PR	Donated by Doug Bowen
	K-Line Diner Building	Donated by Richard Thomson
Bob Gyde	Lionel 'O' #12949 Billboards	Donated by Bob Shultz
Brain Liesberg	Box of 'HO' Buildings & 'O' Signs	Donated by Greg Smyth
	Marx 'O' Tin Derrick Crane	Donated by Tony Shanley
Mike Quigg	Antique Carpenter's Wood Plane	Donated by Derrick Westwood
	Lionel/K-Line 'O' Street Lamp Set of 6	Donated by Bob Shultz
	Lionel 'O' - Box of Straight & Curve Track & 90 Degree Crossing Track	Donated by Bob Gyde
	Lionel 'O' Telephone Poles (Box of 10)	Donated by Bob Gyde
	Bog of RR signs and Crossing Gates	Donated
	Lionel 'O' - Box of Straight & Curve Track & 90 Degree Crossing Track	Donated by Bob Gyde
	'HO' Transformer	Donated by Ed Jones
Kristian Tristan	'N' Plastic Toy Train & Track	Donated
	Lionel 'O' #5540 90 Degree Crossing Track	Donated by Greg Smyth
	'G' Storage Shed Building	Donated by Rhudy Fowler
	Lionel 'O' Telephone Poles (Box of 10)	Donated by Bob Gyde
	Bag of RR signs & Crossing Gates	Donated
	Lionel 'O' #6026 Remote Control Track	Donated

AUGUST WHITE ELEPHANT RAFFLE RESULTS

<u>WINNER</u>	<u>ITEM DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
	Lionel 'O' #1024 - Pair of Manual Switches	Donated by Doug Bowen
	Lionel 'O' #1019/6019 – Pair of Remote Control Switches	Donated by Doug Bowen
	Lionel 'O' #1020 O-27 90 Degree Crossing	Donated
	Train Parts Storage Containers	Donated Marshall Carpenter
Bob Wall	2 Snow Men Christmas Drin Cups	Donated by Ed Jones
Bob Wall	Red Leather Bag	Donated by Derek Westwood
Bob Wall	Bathroom Facet Set	Donated by Derek Westwood
Bob Wall	Braun Food Processor	Donated by Derek Westwood
Bob Wall	2 Home Exterior Light Fixtures	Donated by Derek Westwood

A "Very Warm & Sincere Thank You!" to all you great Members who donated to the this year's fabulous White Elephant Raffle.

1973 and has been an active member ever since. He had recently had a couple of heart attacks and had underwent angioplasty and had had three stints inserted. He seemed to be doing fine, but that was only for a short time. He passed away two weeks after his 85th Birthday.



Charles Seitz was another long term and very active member of AGTTA and the 3-Railers. He first joined us back in 1976. He has been living in an assisted living facility for the past year and half and age simply caught up with him as it will with all of us. Charles was 83.



Jean Ely, the lovely dedicated wife of long time member Dave Ely, passed away this past month. They were both very active model train enthusiasts who several years ago moved back to Iowa to be near their son. But they would always come out and visit their southern CA friends during the winter time and would always come by for a couple of Meets. She will be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to Dave and their family.

MAY 2009 TECH TIP REPRINT

Alternative Track Contactor for Block Signals

By Jim Weatherford

Lionel originally built the 153C Contactor in 1946 for use with the 153 Block Signal. It is a single-pole, double-throw weight activated contactor. After the introduction of the 153C contactor, it was subsequently included with many other Lionel accessories throughout the postwar era

The contactor has the feature of a normally closed set of contacts in one position along with a normally open set of contacts. This means a trackside accessory (like a block signal) can be wired so that one light (green) is always on until the weight of the train causes the contacts to change to position two where the first light goes off and a second light (red) comes on. Three accessories that must have this kind of switch are the 153 block signal, the 450 signal bridge, and the 452 signal bridge. Of course, you can use the 153C in place of the 145C contactor to temporarily activate any accessory (like the 145 Automatic Gateman).

The one major disadvantage of the 145C or the 153C is that the spring adjustment is weight sensitive and has to be adjusted according to whatever train needs to activate an accessory. A secondary disadvantage is the track must be loose for several sections before and after the contactor. This is OK for a temporary setup on the floor at Christmas time but not for a permanent layout.

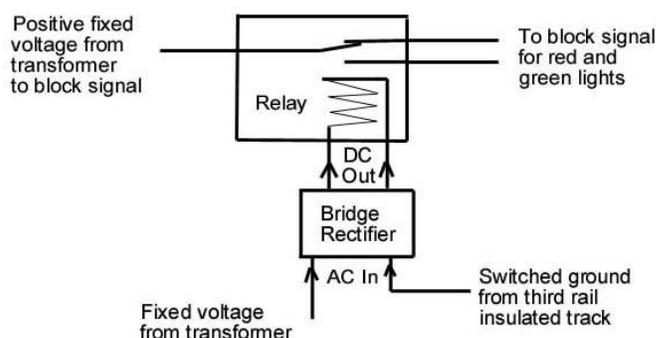
Fortunately, the same function of the 145C can be duplicated with a third rail insulated track section. Unfortunately, the features of the 153C cannot be duplicated with an insulated track section. There is, however, a simple alternative to the 153C contactor that will allow the layout operator to use the third rail insulated track in conjunction with a 12 volt DC relay and a small solid state full wave bridge rectifier.

Automotive relays that are activated by 12 volts DC will perform the same function of the 153C contactor since the relay has a set of contacts that are normally closed/normally open. However, the typical three rail model train runs off low voltage alternating current (AC). Not a problem! We can add a small rectifier in front of the relay to convert the AC voltage to DC.

New DC relays are readily available from electronic supply stores or used ones from salvage

stores. I have successfully used either a 12 VDC or a 24 VDC relay on Lionel layouts. The signals only use less than one ampere of current so you can purchase a relay and bridge rectifier accordingly. (I used a 30 amp 12 VDC relay and a 3 amp rectifier for my contact replacement. Overkill, I admit, but that's the kind of person I am.)

Here's the wiring diagram for replacing the 153C contactor with a third rail insulated track, a DC relay, and a bridge rectifier.



Once you connect the relay and rectifier to the insulated track section and the block signal, you will have one of the block lights on constantly (normally closed position). When the train makes contact with the insulated third rail, the relay is activated and causes the internal contacts to switch, thus turning off one light and turning on the other light. The second light stays on until the last car of the train leaves the insulated track.

The placement of the insulated track section is important so the signal is switched at the proper time. You can use a second insulated track section to keep the signal switched on longer to emulate prototypical operation. Just connect the wires from the two insulated rails together at the relay. This makes the signal stay on from when the locomotive touches the first track section until the caboose leaves the second track section.

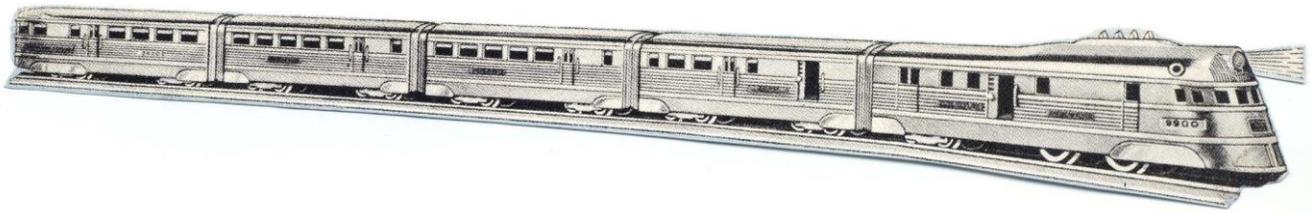
Of course, you can also use an infrared (IR) 153C offered by Lionel and MTH that uses the train itself to reflect a light signal back to a sensor and switch contacts to operate your block signal. I've tried these devices and found them to be unreliable since they're sensitive to the amount of ambient light.

AGTTA SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 10 Thursday AGTTA September Meet
Jim Andrews (619) 441-8462
Sep 13 Sunday TTOS-SW Open House Meet
www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm
Sep 27 Saturday TTOS-SP Open House Meet
J. Keeley (714) 842-8190

Oct 8 Thursday AGTTA October Meet
Jim Andrews (619) 441-8462
Oct 10 Saturday SDMRM Swap Meet
Jim Anderson (619) 224-1041
Nov 19 Thursday AGTTA November Meet
Jim Andrews (619) 441-8462



ALL GAUGE TOY TRAIN ASSOCIATION
6621 Cartwright Street
San Diego, CA 92120-2407

NEXT MEET:

Thursday, September 8th

4:30 – 8:00

Torrey Pines Christian Church

8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North