

# DIXIE DIVISION NEWSLETTER



As we approach the convention next month, the excitement builds!

The convention registration deadline is **June 6:**

<https://traincollectorsassociation.regfox.com/71st-annual-national-convention-jacksonville-fl/>

The hotel reservation deadline is **June 2:**

<https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/jaxrj-hyatt-regency-jacksonville-riverfront>.

There's still space on the buses for some tours, and I'm happy to "spotlight" a few of them. Check out their listed websites.

**Tour 9 (one price, two venues): *Clark and Ilene Vegazo's Home Layout* and *Bushnell Station & Gulf Coast & Central Florida Railroad Museum*:**

**Vegazo Home:** Both Clark and Ilene are longtime TCA members, and both have their childhood trains on display. Also on display are 400+ boxed sets collected over the last 40 years. Clark has concentrated on Postwar Lionel, American Flyer and Marx. Ilene loves the flashy bright colors of Prewar. She also has an extensive HO collection in the house while Clark's display is in a separate 2000 square-foot building. Highlights include a #100 from 1903 which was the very first locomotive that Lionel built; a #224 Super-O Factory Display Layout, along with several large original display posters; the Lionel Boat of 1965; sets like the Girls sets, both Prewar Blue Comets, the AF S-gauge Circus Set, etc.

In parallel with collecting trains, Clark began collecting Slot Cars early on. Starting with vintage Lionel Slot Cars and expanding to all types of vintage slot cars, Clark even enjoys a modern slot car floor layout (over 1500 vintage slot cars on display - see the photo on the convention registration website).

As an additional treat, Clark and his friends will also be displaying many classic cars. You don't want to miss this outstanding collection of trains and automobiles (sorry, no planes)!

***Bushnell Station:*** <https://bushnellstation.com> Owner and President Craig Hurst will welcome you to this non-profit venue which provides an educational model railroading experience. The museum occupies part of the building and contains 20 trains running inside and outside including interactive exhibits, and it boasts hundreds of trains from all over the world. The rest of the building features operating layouts in all of the popular U.S. model railroading scales and gauges from Z to G, inclusive. A 3-rail O-gauge layout and a 2-rail S-gauge layout are included. In addition, there are static displays of model trains in all of those scales plus lots of railroad memorabilia, photographs and artwork hanging on the walls. On the property outside of the building is a large G-gauge "Garden" layout, plus the station's largest and most entertaining "model" train which is a 1/8th scale, 7-1/2 gauge, 16-hp gasoline powered train on which visitors can ride a 1/2-mile trip around the perimeter of the property.

**Tour 12** (*one price, two venues*): **Cummer Museum** and **Sweet Pete's Candy Store:**

***Cummer Museum:*** <https://www.cummuseum.org> The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is the largest fine arts museum in Northeast Florida. Established in 1958, art collector, garden enthusiast and civic leader Ninah M. H. Cummer bequeathed the art collection and riverfront home she shared with her husband Arthur to create the Museum. Today, the core collection of 60 pieces from the Cummers' estate has grown to include nearly 5000 works of art. The 2.5 acres of historic gardens, set against the backdrop of the St. Johns River, serve as a centerpiece of beauty for all to enjoy.

***Sweet Pete's Candy Store:*** <https://www.sweetpetescandy.com> Sweet Pete's Candy offers a line of handcrafted quality chocolates and over a thousand different types of candies as

well as **interactive factory tours**. Explore this 3-story candy mansion and **join in on a candy making class!** You can also enjoy lunch inside the shop at the Fizzles and Fare.

Be sure to check out the Social Media and Content Creators groups. Especially exciting is the fact that [Trainz.com](https://www.trainz.com) headquartered in Georgia (<https://www.trainz.com>) will have representatives Jonathan and Daniel in the house and in the Marketplace with multiple tables on Friday and Saturday. [Trainz.com](https://www.trainz.com) also will be sponsoring the Social Media Panel on Thursday and the Content Creators Social on Friday. Check out their Facebook page ([Trainz.com](https://www.trainz.com)).

Speaking of the **Marketplace**, over three-fourths of the tables have been sold.

And then there are the **parties!**

Monday: **Meet & Greet** from 7:00-8:00 PM

Wednesday: **Welcome Party Cocktail Hour** from 6:00-7:00 PM followed by a **Dinner, Entertainment and Silent Auction** from 7:00-10:00 PM

Saturday: **Banquet Cocktail Hour** from 6:00-7:00 PM followed by the **Banquet Dinner with Table Prizes and a Live Auction** from 7:00-10:00 PM.

A complete Schedule of Events will be included in the gift bag you'll receive when checking in at the TCA Registration Tables at the Hyatt's 2nd Floor Sky Bridge.