



# The Semaphore

## April 2020

### Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club



There is no screech of brakes or shrill blast of a trains whistle. There is no vintage monster movie playing at the Drive In. Smokey the Bear stands as a silent, watchful sentry from high on the mountain but there is no one to be seen. The Chicagoland Lionel railroad Club is empty and dark.

We strongly hope that you, your families and all of our members are taking care to follow the safety guidelines and avoid the Covid 19 virus. When it is safe for us to share our hobby with you again, we fill be open and will welcome everyone both new and return visitor alike.

Thanks to Kevin B. for the picture and story

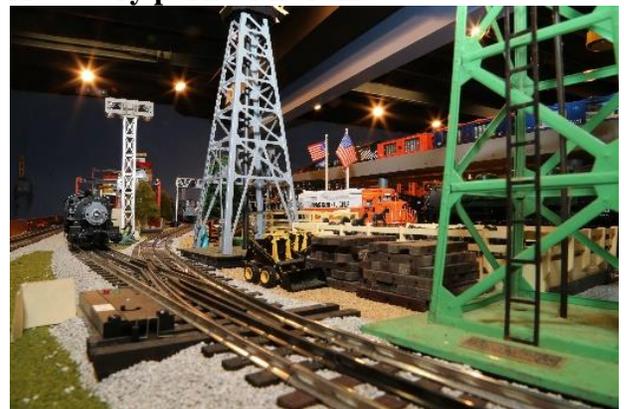
### Stay at Home, Thinking about Trains

It has been over a month where we have been staying at home as directed by our local governments. The downside is that it can feel like ground hog day. I try to mix things up with different trains on my layout. The month of April I have been running first generation diesel engines pulling consists of freight trains. Next month will be modern Diesels. If stay at home

continues, June is steam. I feel the need to keep changing.



**Accessory park with trains**



**Maintenance of Way area**

I would also like to pass on that various members have been bidding the time with various projects. Lyle Eimen has chosen a project involving various digital cards that have sound and talk and applied the circuitry to activate his engine. Jim Ammirati has spent time on his layout and completed various puzzles which he uses to decorate his train room. Bob Pintozzi loaded a flatcar with Ghost Buster ambulances.

Mike Sirtak says that he is currently upgrading all his Union Pacific passenger cars to LED

lights and adding more people to the cars. “I have all the MTH ones done except for 1 then will need to do all the Lionel ones. I need to bring the amperage down on my long, heavy passenger train and I’ve been meaning to do this for a while now so no time like the present.

Steve Goshko is working on his full basement layout. It is a real beauty. You can see much of his work on our CLRC layout. He has been working on his home layout and the CLRC layout for some time now.

We have also made it into a few publications. The *New Lenox Neighbors Magazine* did a story on us. *Classic Toy Trains* posted a picture and story of our new Santa Fe Club Car. By the way, only 100 are on order with Lionel. LOTS Train Club included our story in their *Switcher* April 2020 issue. All these items are attached.

While we are waiting to reopen our CLRC Train House, I have asked our Board Members to individually visit our building to make sure it is in sound condition. They make sure the water is working as well as the heating/air conditioning systems. If anything, out of the ordinary is discovered, it is investigated and if necessary repaired. So far all is well.

As you know, due to the Corona Virus, we have closed our building. We have canceled our Open House Program until September. We have also canceled the Railroading Merit Badge Day. This is a day which I personally like very much. We typically have 100 Scouts, both boys and girls, earn the merit badge. I will miss it this year.

I was thinking that during our CLRC Train House shutdown that our toy trains are still part of our lives. I would like to hear from you describing how you are passing the time. Are you working on your layout? Running trains? Modifying rolling stock...aging? Whatever you are doing, send me a picture and I will get it in the next newsletter.

Also, we have many CLRC videos. [www.clrcrtrains.com](http://www.clrcrtrains.com) I notice that after one or

two of our videos play, YouTube issues other videos of interest. I find some remarkably interesting. We have over 30 videos in our YouTube Library. There are unlimited train videos that are very enjoyable.



**Mike populates his passenger cars**



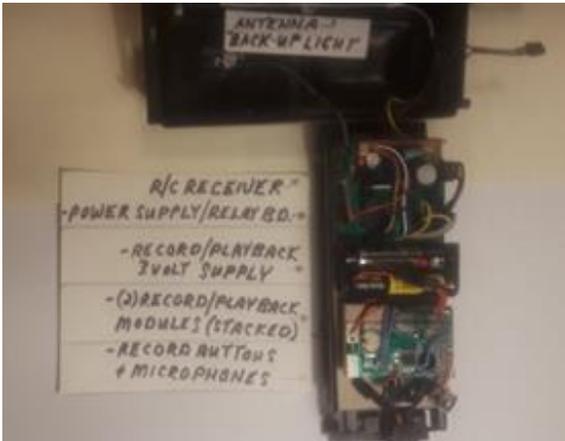
**Bob puts Ghost Busters on a flat car**



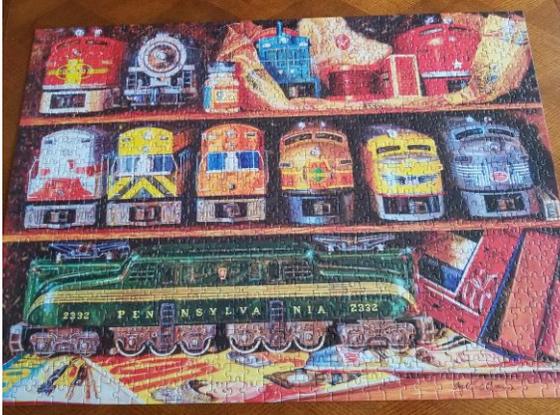
**Steve’s new mountain with a tunnel.**



Bob's Puzzles



Lyle's engine update plan



Joe Smolinski's puzzle

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and to the many members for their pictures

## The CLRC is proud to present the 31<sup>st</sup> Club Car

The CLRC is proud to present the 31<sup>st</sup> club car. The Santa Fe Special Orange PS-1 Boxcar is made by Lionel in their Concord, North Carolina, USA manufacturing facility. It is

Lionel's modern LionScale PS-1 Boxcar with Die-cast Trucks, separately applied extras, including the ladders and more. The length is 11.5". This car will enjoy riding with the rest of your CLRC consist on your railroad or enjoyed on your wall of other CLRC trophy cars. We have 100 cars on order with Lionel. Sales are first come first serve. Anticipate delivery is October 2020.



## May Brings Changes in How Small Businesses Operate



Now that May is upon us and most local businesses can now offer curbside pickup for orders, this would be a great to support our local hobby stores.

These small business owners depend on our support. What a great time to pickup some scenery, a building kit, or some new rolling stock to improve our layouts.

The small purchase you make today may mean they are still around when you need something in the future.



## Classified Ads

This space will be used to advertise items for sale by the Club or by members.

Club owned items may be purchased by seeing **Bob Ciolino** at the clubhouse or contacting him via phone at 708-828-2041 or e-mail at [robertciolino@att.net](mailto:robertciolino@att.net). For member owned items, the seller must provide contact information. Member listings are restricted to two specific items, or a general listing identifying the type(s) of items for sale. Listings will continue to appear in the newsletter for two consecutive months, or until sold, whichever is the shorter time. Member listings shall be submitted to **Curt Ward** either via e-mail at [cward508@msn.com](mailto:cward508@msn.com) or via snail mail at 1211 Prairie Creek Trail Joliet IL 60431

## Do you have something you want included in the newsletter?

Club member Curt Ward will be creating and distributing the newsletters. If you have material for the newsletter, you can send it to Curt via e-mail at [cward508@msn.com](mailto:cward508@msn.com). To help Curt please use MS Word to create the information and format it into a two column page.



## Coming Down the Tracks

**Important upcoming events:**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> – Open House Event**