



The Semaphore

December 2020

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

Happy New Year

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas as this is such a great part of the year. I also wish everyone Seasonal Greetings. Despite our setbacks with the COVID Virus, we have continued to make the layout available to our members within the guidelines of the State of Illinois. I am continuing the picture tour of our layout and some updates that have been going on with our layout scenery, electrical and mechanical teams.

Regarding our future, we are looking very good. Membership continues to be strong. If you have not signed up for 2021, please do so. As you know, we have not had a chance to run our Open House Program or the Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Day as we would have liked. Income from these sources has always aided our financial bottom line. Fortunately, the major investments to the layout and our building have been made in previous years. As our current income is solely from membership, your renewing is more important than ever. We cannot let the year end without thanking you for being a valued Club Member.

I look forward to seeing everyone running their new trains next year. I also look forward to a regular schedule where we can have the flexibility to run trains and meet at our CLRC Train House at a much more casual pace. We are looking to have our activities start up next year. We are starting with the Railroading Merit Badge on June 5, 2021. Depending on the success of the Corona Vaccines, we may be able to start our Open House program in April 2021. Our entire 2021 schedule is dependent on the

State of Illinois' guidance. We will make sure everyone is notified of any updates. Currently we are enjoying our layout by appointment. Give me a call for availability. When you run trains, please be courteous with respect to the requirement of wearing a mask while in our building and do your best to keep 6' apart. If you have a cold or have a fever, stay home so you do not infect others.

All of us hope and pray that next year will be much better than this year. I also want to mention that there are two new videos starring the two "General" type of engines that were used to celebrate the completion of the Transcontinental Railway. You can view both at www.clrcrtrains.com, ([Link to UP 119](#)) ([Link to CP Jupiter](#))

The CLRC Board and I wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year. YEA 2021!



Metra boarding at Downtown Station

Thanks to Herb K for the story and picture

2021 Club Dues

As a reminder, club dues are due by the end of December. If you have not received your renewal notice, please reach out to Bob Ciolino at robertciolino@att.net

CLRC Dedicated to the Hobby



The 2019-2020 Lionel Ambassador Club of the Year has now been raised alongside the three previous banners. This marks the 4th straight year in a row that the CLRC has been recognized by Lionel for its work to promote the hobby of model railroading. Thank you to the many CLRC members who worked to make this possible.

Thanks to Herb K. for the picture

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

By Ken Jaeger

I hope you, your family, and all at CLRC are fine doing well during this holiday season. We arrived safely here in San Antonio on Nov 1st after a grueling 3 day trip. The fact that we left Woodsmoke Ranch very tired certainly didn't

help at all. It took us longer than expected to get our property all squared away for our 6 month absence. We also made a detour to Peoria to see my mother for a couple of hours.

As expected, I have become involved with the Texas Transportation Museum. I am sending some pictures of our gauge layout.

As you can see it is not CLRC but it works!

There are only 3 of us that are authorized to run that layout. Although it is only conventional, there are plans to upgrade it to Legacy. The museum is only open on Saturdays and Sundays. It is closed now until mid - January.

We had a train wreck I was operating the layout during one of our Christmas showings. I thought it would make an interesting story for **CLRC'S Wreck of the Month**. Here we go:

On the evening of December 20, 2020 a Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club based Santa Fe locomotive # 3430 collided head on with a Texas Transportation Museum based Polar Express train just inside the San Antonio city limits at approximately 1830. The engineers from both engines suffered only minor injuries after being thrown from their engines. A building just off of the tracks did sustain structural damage. Initial reports indicate that a switch malfunctioned. Casey Jones and the NTSB are investigating the exact cause of the crash.



The CLRC is proud to present the 31st Club Car

The CLRC is proud to present the 31st 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. Anticipated delivery is now summer 2021.



Missing Track Cleaning Cars?

We are missing TWO track cleaning cars that were repaired last fall. Evidently, someone BORROWED them. But....they are missing. Could you kindly return them to the layout.



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. 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 or via snail mail at 1211 Prairie Creek Trail Joliet IL 60431

For Sale:

Polar Express Skiing Hobo Observation Car. White Roof. Never on track, LCCA member only issue model, 6-85400. Asking \$60.00.

Same car sells for 84.95 plus tax.

Kevin Barry Jr., KGB60655@aol.com or 708-606-5677.

Trains Wanted

CLRC Member Kevin Rolley is looking for the following CLRC club cars. If you have any you would like to sell, please contact him at:

KPRolley@hotmail.com
815-474-8037

22nd car: GN Crew car – 2006

23rd car: GN Caboose – 2006

24th car: GN RC – 2006

28th car: CLRC ACW – 2016

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. 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: TBD