



# The Semaphore

## January 2020

### Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

#### The January Open House Event

The CLRC kicked off 2020 with the January Open House Event. The persistent snow and cold weather kept the attendance numbers lower than normal for this event. The snow and cold weather did not dampen the spirit of those who came to get one last glimpse of the clubhouse before the decorations were stored for another year.

Thank you to the members who braved the foul weather to ensure our visitors had a great time. Without your efforts, events like these are not possible.



The clubhouse decorated for the holidays

#### Clubhouse Update

Over the last few years, the CLRC landscaping team has done a superb job in making our layout very realistic and enjoyable.

Many thanks to Bill Weigt, Steve Goshko, Tom Zeglicz, Jeff Mills, Bill Herrndobler, Tom McGrath, Joe Oster, Joe Smolinski, Tom Mott, Herb Koch, John Billone, Mark Fears, Roger Keller and I am sure there are more. Please let me know if I overlooked anyone and I will add them to this list.

This month I am going to highlight many of these vignettes, structures, scenes, and dioramas that have been created out of the minds and imagination of our members. They are highly detailed and museum quality. Look at these pictures of our member's efforts. Use it as a list to search where each one is located, like a scavenger hunt. Some are easy, some take a while and some intensified searching to find. Try it out the next time you are at our Train House. We may put a scavenger hunt together for our next Open House February 15, 2020.



**Camping**



**Jeff's Bike shop and Bar**



**River canoeing**

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures



**Lionel Ambassador Club**

The work of our members as ambassadors of Lionel and model railroading was recognized in the 2020 Lionel Volume 1 train catalog. On page 238 the CLRC was recognized along with four other clubs. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Founded in 1994, The Chicagoland Lionel Railroad club as developed a strong recognition in south suburban Chicago through monthly open houses at their club house which features the largest interactive O-Gauge club layout in the mid-west. The CLRC were the inaugural Lionel Club Ambassadors of the year when the program relaunched in 2015.

With a close working relationship for more than 10 years, the CLRC was the first regional club that was allowed to market Lionel manufactured club cars. In addition, the club helped develop the Boy Scout's Railroading Merit Badge, in which over 3,000 scouts have earned. In 2000, the CLRC was chosen to provide their layout for the 100th year Lionel Convention.



NEW LENOX, IL  
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**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.



## Modeling Tip

Do you have a passenger or freight car that won't stay on the track? Perhaps it is not heavy enough. In many cases adding a small amount of weight can help your rolling stock stay on the track. What is an easy way to add weight? I like to use sticky weights that are used to balance automobile tires and wheels. They are thin, relatively inexpensive and divided into quarter ounce segments. Just peel off the backing tape and install the weights at the lowest point of gravity of the rolling stock.



## 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

1. Lionel 5 Star General engine, tender, and 3 cars. \$275 condition 9





## Coming Down the Tracks

Important upcoming events:

Open House Event – February 15<sup>th</sup>

Open House Event – March 21<sup>st</sup>

Offered by Jim Ammirati 815-370-1963

### 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.