



The Semaphore

March 2019

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club



CLRC 25th Anniversary Banquet Sunday May 5th

*****ONLY THREE WEEKS LEFT TO
BUY YOUR TICKETS-NO TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR*****

The Club is having its 25th Anniversary Banquet. There will be prizes, gifts and much, much. The event will be a buffet style dinner at SAWA's Old Warsaw Inn on 22nd St in Broadview. The party will be from 2:00 until 8:00 on Sunday May 5th, 2019. The cost will be \$25.00 per person; however, members and their wife or guest will receive a \$10.00 per person credit courtesy of the Club and therefore will only pay \$15.00 per member and \$15.00 per one guest for a total of \$30.00 per couple. If you bring more than one guest, the additional cost will be \$25.00 per additional guest. Seating is very limited, and the restaurant can only accommodate 80 people. So, make your reservations soon.

Send your reservation with a check to:

CLRC
c/o Bob Ciolino
19906 Pine Hill Road
Frankfort, IL 60423
Thanks to Herb and Bob for the information

March Open House Event

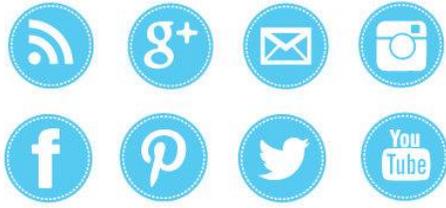
The March Open House was a very busy Saturday. In addition to our regular guest, the CLRC was pleased to welcome back the Steam Channel. Watch for video from the CLRC on their You Tube channel in the future.

Thank you to the many members who helped to make this a successful day. It takes the efforts of those who are willing to not only run their trains, but also those who are willing to staff the dinner, the front shop and much more. A special shout goes out to Herb and Kevin as they worked to untangle the parking mess created by so much happening in our area on a single day.

Plan to be a part of the next open house event. It is a great way to share our love for trains with the community and help out the Club at the same time.



Luke and Mike welcome Steam Video



Social Media and Website Update

1,300 Likes on Facebook!

On March 28, 2019, the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club hit 1,300 “Likes” on Facebook. A year ago at this time we were at 900 “Likes”. We have seen a steady increase in our “Likes” during the past two years. Our goal for the end of the year is to hit 1,700 “likes”. You and your Family and Friends can help us make this happen by liking us on our Facebook page. To Like us on Facebook all you have to do is go to our Facebook page at [Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club](#) and click on the “Like” tab. That’s it.

In the past six months half of our Open Houses attendees have been first time visitors. Many of the first timers have told us it was because they saw us on Facebook or a friend of theirs saw us on Facebook and shared this with them. Having high attendance numbers at open house help us run the club and keeps membership cost level.

CLRC Website Information

In case you haven’t recently visited our website (www.CLRCTrains.com) we have added pictures of all of the CLRC Club Cars that were built. Just click on the CLRC History tab at the top of our home page and you’ll see pictures of all the cars the club has made.

Thanks to Joe S. for the story.

March Clubhouse and Layout Update

Work continued on the layout throughout the month. Progress has been made on the logging line and the mining trestle. The ballasting work on the yard over the lockers continued and other fun changes were made throughout the layout. The next time you are in the clubhouse, see if

you can find the alligator in the water hazard and the Godfather Movie car.



Thanks to Herb for the pictures

Santa Fe Caboose 999758 Red Roof, 999556 Black Roof 52102-563 Red Roof, 52103-556 Black Roof

In honor of the Club’s 25th anniversary, the story of the club cars continues.



The Second Club Car



The Third Club Car

The next CLRC Club Car started out when John Flinn and I were looking for our new CLRC Train House. We are coming off a very good pace with our first car the C&NW 6464-555 boxcar. We knew it was only a matter of time before we could purchase our own building. We stopped at the Willow Springs Santa Fe yard to be inspired. After looking at the yard, the Santa Fe Red Caboose jumped out. Lionel did not make this caboose with prototypical graphics and we decided that we could design one that Lionel could build correctly for us. How nice is that. We brought the idea back to the rest of the members and knew we had a winner. There was one snag though; some members thought that it would look better with a black roof. For the heck of it, I called Santa Fe asking if they painted their red cabooses with a black roof. They only painted them in red but pointed out that some crews painted the top black on their own.

We made the drawings and sent them to Lionel. They approved and advised that they would be sending a prototype for our use for pictures. The prototype came back with the brake wheels on the outside of our SF Caboose. From the picture, we knew that the brake wheels needed to be inside of the deck. We asked Lionel if they could move the brake wheel to the inside of the caboose deck and they said yes. I have noticed that since our car was produced, Lionel started to put the brake wheel on the inside of the caboose decks. We are a pioneering club. This is the second time we established a new tradition with Lionel, the first being the end printing on our C&NW boxcar.

From the experience of our previous car, we needed to get the word out. We asked if Fred Dole of O-Gauge Magazine could put the picture

and advertisement together. He advised that he could do it. All we had to do was give him one of our cars. It was a sweetheart agreement. He sent the ads to both CTT and O-Gauge. As a new regional club, we needed to get our name out. By the way, in 1996 these ads costed us over \$3,000.00 for both magazines. In any case, it was nice that we were in the two big three rail magazines.

Regarding the club car numbering sequence.

Our first car, the C&NW Boxcar had the Lionel 6464 number on it and -555 followed. We made that number the beginning of our club car sequence. That is why the black caboose is 999556 (52103-556). We made the red caboose 999758 as it was the actual number of the caboose. It was not until later that we realized that we did not put our club number on the red caboose and ended up numbering it 52102-563. We recovered after the "Timezone Series", which is another story. That is why the sequence is off a bit. By the way, I still see the 999578 at the BNSF yard.

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures

CLRC 25th Anniversary Club Car Two

Our Anniversary car TWO is Lionel's modern LionScale 57' O-Gauge Refer Car, with Rotating Bearing Cap Trucks, separately applied extras, including the ladders and more. 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.

This car is made in the USA at Lionel's Headquarters, Concord, NC. Over 50 of the 100 cars have been sold. Sales are first come first serve. Get yours before they are gone.



The CLRC is featured in the Farmers Weekly Review

Karen Haave, a freelance writer, recently visited the CLRC and interviewed our Herb K. and others about model railroading and the success of our organization. The writeup was featured in the Farmers Weekly Review, a weekly newspaper that follows the news and events in Will county. The article was also posted on the newspaper's Facebook page as well. The link below will take you to the article online.

[Farmers Weekly Review](#)



Kevin helps Karen with the story
Thanks to Herb K. for the story and picture



The CLRC will be a 2019 Lionel Ambassador

Once again, in 2019, the CLRC will be part of the Lionel Ambassador Program. As in the past, we will work to promote Lionel and the hobby. Stay tuned for more details as we move forward as the only three-time Ambassador Club in the country.



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

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:

Open House Event – April 20th

25th Anniversary Banquet – May 5th

Open House Event – May 18th