



The Semaphore

November 2020

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

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

Scenes Hidden On Our Layout In Plain View

I hope that everyone is feeling well. We have enjoyed our Thanksgiving and are moving on to Christmas, a wonderful time when wishes, love and trains come together. The Christmas tree is going up and a train is running around it. It means even more this year as we are continuing to manage our health with the Corona Pandemic. I feel good about the vaccine news updates and look forward to when we can move back to normal. I like shaking hands and being in a group as we discuss our latest train acquisition or other related or even unrelated topics. I like running trains on our CLRC layout. I like seeing other members running their trains and complementing them on their latest train inventory addition or favorite.

Regarding our layout, I was speaking to Jeff Mills, who works with the Scenery Crew, about various landscapes and dioramas that we have on our layout. We have a great layout. When you walk around, you see them all in a general way as they blend together. But Jeff pointed out that each one has its own splendor and story. I am trying to focus in on the scenes and bring out the uniqueness of each one for all of us to enjoy.



Tommy's Used Cars



Bill Goat Tavern – Look Inside



A Busy CLRC Grand Central Station



Lake Shore Docks

Despite the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, we safely take a moment from the pandemic and enjoy running trains at our wonderful facility and take time to enjoy each other's company.

I want to personally thank all members for continually supporting our train club in these tough times. We will get back to normal, including our Open Houses.

Again, please contact me to get track time
708-577-3156 herbwkoch@gmail.com

See you next month. Have a Merry Christmas.

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures

The Christmas That Should Have Been

Three elves sat in the CLRC train house commiserating about the fact that there were no visitors allowed. They were really down because there were no happy voices of children watching trains or waiting to see Santa.

The elves, let's call them Jeff, Herb and Kevin, decided to do something about it. A plan was created to set a truly Christmas spirit and make a photograph that almost everyone who had been to a Christmas Open House would have seen. The Polar Express took to track, the marquee read "The Polar Express", the movie "The Polar Express" appeared on the Drive In screen, but something was amiss. Jeff, the crafty elf, spotted it right away; the Moon wasn't shining above the Drive In. It just wouldn't glow. A quick check of

the batteries led to the discovery that the batteries had leaked over the summer. The crafty elf quickly cleaned the battery box and installed new batteries and the Moon shown with a soft glow like it was a pearl. Another elf who is rarely seen without his camera snapped a picture said, "Everyone will remember this" with a smile on his face. Many of our CLRC members can recall just this scene with the Polar Express rounding the curve and the movie being shown for all the visitors to enjoy. The three elves all agreed that they had done a good job and sat down with a cup of hot cocoa and a candy cane to remember Christmas's past and dream about Christmas's to come.

Enjoy this Christmas with your families and stay safe and healthy



Thanks to Kevin B. for the story and picture

Movie Train Trivia:

The **2nd boy's house** and the **clock tower** at the North Pole actually exist in Chicago. Where are they located?

Answer:

The house is at 11432 S. Edbrooke Avenue. It was the childhood home of Robert Zemeckis, who wrote the screenplay.

The clock tower is part of Historic Pullman and stands near the intersection of 111th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. The clock tower is scheduled for a restoration this summer and will become the new Visitors Center.

Thanks to Kevin B. for this fun trivia

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.



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 from the Retail Shop

Call **Bob Ciolino 708-828-2041** or
robert.ciolino@att.net



Standard Gauge Pre War tank car

Produced from 1927 to 1940

\$200.00



Standard Gauge Pre War

Produced 1928-1940

\$170.00



**Standard Gauge Pre War
0-4-0 Electric Locomotive
Produced 1926-1932
\$300.00**



**Standard Gauge Pre War Caboose
Produced 1930-1940
\$105.00**



**Standard Gauge Pre War Operating Dump
Car
\$250.00**

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

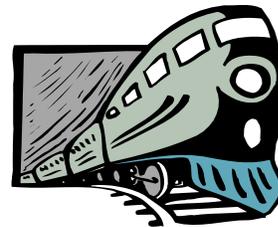
23rd car: GN Caboose – 2006

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