



The Semaphore

January 2019

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

A Letter From The President

Fellow Members,
Our club has done many things to make our club one of the best. Not just as a train club, but one of many friendships and accomplishments. The key thing to our success is the participation of our members. I thank each of you for your involvement.

Jim Ammirati, Kevin Barry, David Batson, Louis Beccavin, John Billone, George Carr, Ed Carter, Bob Ciolino, Dennis Dellaria, Lyle Eimen, Mark Fears, Tim Flaherty, Michael Fradin, Bill Herrndobler, Nick Gardner, Jerry Girard, Steve Goshko, Luke Hatje, Hayden Koehler, Al Havlicek, Ken Jaeger, Rich Jusack, Deb Koch, Swav Kojro, Bill Kragh, David Lerner, Ray Machtemes, Aaron Marks, Bob Marks, Charlie McCarthy, Tom McGrath, Jeff Mills, Tanner Neumeister, Zayden Neumeister, Joe Oster, Phil Partenach, Robert Pintozzi, Mike Sirtak, Howard Spurlin, George Stangel, Michael Sterne, Bill Trzaskus, Richard Vlk, Curt Ward, Bill Weigt, Ed Zeglicz, Tom Zeglicz.

I hope that I did not miss anyone. I look forward to seeing you in the future and especially at our 25th Anniversary.

Thank you all,
Herb

Herbert W. Koch
President
Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

The CLRC Participates in the World's Greatest Hobby Event

We started out with a bang, running our Drag Strip at the World's Greatest Hobby event to see who had the fastest engine. We were very surprised with the crowd we drew, passing out our trifold pamphlet showing the highlights of our club and dates of our Open Houses. It was nice to see Lionel come to see our event and continue to support our club.



Big Crowds enjoyed the Drag Strip



Tim controls the racers

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and the pictures.



2108 Lionel Ambassador Program Results

Congratulations to the 2018 Ambassador Program Winners

Chicagoland Association
of S Gaugers
Chicagoland Lionel
Railroad Club
NJ Hi-Railers
TTOS – Southern Pacific
Division
Wichita Toy Train Club

The CLRC along with 4 other clubs received the maximum number of points. This makes a three-peat for the CLRC. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who make this happen!

January Open House Event

Although it was a snowy day with 6 inches of blowing snow for our January Open House everyone had a great time. The morning was slow but attendance really picked up in the afternoon as the snow diminished.

The January Open House was well staffed by our members. It was rewarding to our guests who enjoyed the full support of our members showing them the details of the layout and our club. Many of our guests were new saying they saw us in Facebook.



The Chicago and Northwestern snowplow was taking a rest after clearing the tracks.



The Griswold's left for home after spending their Christmas Vacation as the CLRC Clubhouse.

Thanks to Joe S. and Herb K. for the story and Joe S. for the pictures.

CLRC 25th Anniversary Banquet to be Held May 9th

Fellow Members,
Our club is 25 years old. WOW!
As a founding member, time sure has gone fast. We have accomplished quite a bit. We went from a group of travelers, setting up the layout wherever we could for a few hours to getting our own building with a permanent layout. Also, we were the first local club to produce and design club cars that were built by Lionel. This opportunity helped us get the CLRC Train House that we all enjoy. Much more has happened. We are celebrating our 25th anniversary at SAWA's Old Warsaw In on 22nd St in Broadview, IL on May 5, 2019.

Please fill out the form Herb sent you in an email in early January as soon as possible and send it with the appropriate funds to Bob Ciolino. The restaurant has limited seating.

SWG Holds First Progress Meeting

The CLRC Signal Working Group (SWG) held their first progress meeting on January 19th. This was a follow-up meeting to SWG kick-off meeting held on November 24th, 2018 to chart the progress to date, to reconfirm the signaling goals, means and methods for signal installation and to solicit the best ideas and best practices to install a Club wide semi-prototypical signaling system.

Progress to date has been the acquisition of well over a hundred 3 color aspect signals of various types, such as cantilever, mast and dwarf signals along with the associated time delay logic cards. Additionally, dedicated tooling, expendable supplies, diagnostic electronic testing equipment, electronic breadboards and an electronic reference library has been furnished.

The goals of the signaling program are:

- Realistic as Possible - Signals that function prototypically as economically feasible.
- Scalable - Easily expanded or upgraded upon track expansion or train operational demands.
- Minimal Under Platform Work - Try to keep below the track grade at a minimum.
- Ease of Signal/Component Replacement - If a signal is broken or fails a replacement can easily be replaced.
- Independent of Track Infrastructure & Power - Other than using the existing installed isolation track isolation blocks the signal will be independent.
- Trouble Shooting and Maintenance Ease - Publishing a Signaling Maintenance and As-Built Manual.

- Sustainability - A supply of replacement signals and components will be on-hand.
- The Belt Mainlines will be the first to be signaled.

The SWG members have contributed great ideas on how to reasonably and economically achieve these goals as applied to the layout. Yet a lot of work is still remains ahead. In the next six weeks the SWG will be developing various prototype signal plug-in mounts for demonstration, testing and acceptance purposes on an independent track test board that replicates the Mainline and Belt Line platforms prior to full scale 3-D printing of the system signal mounts and to estimate wiring material needs.

Any CLRC members are welcome to contribute their knowledge, skills and expertise to the Signaling Program. The SWG is always recruiting. These skills set include but are not exclusive of: prototypical signal operations, soldering, wiring, experimenting with Arduino electronic breadboard, learning 3-D printing skills, and signal installation.

The next SWG Progress meeting is tentative scheduled for March 9th.

For any questions or information contact Tim at peru_indiana@yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The Signaling Program is being sponsored at no Club cost by Club member Tim Flaherty who has a hobby interest in trackside signals. He has stated he has no ownership or veto authority to the SWG as long as it is economical.)

Thanks to Tim F. for the article

January Clubhouse and Layout Update

The Layout enhancement continues. Work continues at our Chicago site with new buildings. A service area has been added to the main layout. A new bridge has been dug out at our logging route. Our Diner passed its annual inspection with no VIOLATIONS! With snow,

work was done to keep our sidewalks shoveled and deiced. PowerMasters went down and our team had to make sure the track was working prior to the Open House.



Tom and Bill work on a new station.



Joe works on the Sodor Island layout



Bill salts the CLRC sidewalks
Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures

CLRC 25th Anniversary Club Car Two

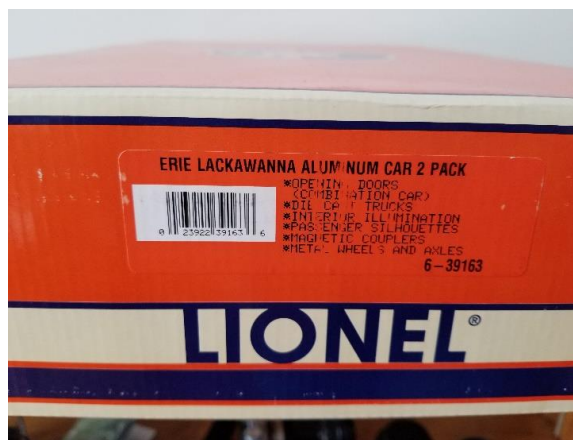
Our Anniversary car TWO is Lionel's modern LionScale 57' O-Gauge Refer Car, with Rotating Bearing Cap Trucks, separately applied extras, including the ladders and more. This car will enjoy riding with the rest of your CLRC consist on your railroad or enjoyed on your wall of other CLRC trophy cars.

This car is made in the USA at Lionel's Headquarters, Concord, NC. We only have 100 cars on order with Lionel. Sales are first come first serve.



Classified Ads

For Sale
Lionel Erie Lackawanna Phoebe Snow 2 Car Passenger Add On Pack. Brand New. Asking \$225.00. Contact Joe Smolinski at 815-922-6689 if interested.





Micro-Mark Bottom-side Creeper.

Like new

Padded, adjustable head and back rest.

Pad 2x14x51 inches

Wheel base. 26 x 44 inches

Height 11". Raise 16"

Price \$50.00. See George Stangel or call:
708 299 0571



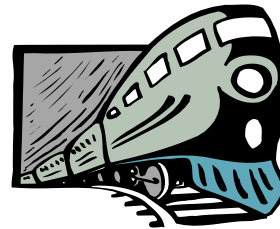
This space will be used to advertise items for sale by the Club or by members.

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 – February 16th

Open House Event – March 16th

Open House Event – April 20th