



# The Semaphore

## March 2020

### Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

#### In Like A Lamb, Out Like A Quarantine

We were doing so good the beginning of this month. Trains were running, members were enjoying each other's company, and improvements were being made to the layout. We were talking about our next club car, a beer car with the theme is *Lumber Jack Lager, The Lager For Loggers*. It will be a CLRC beer to keep from getting into copyright infringements. It sounds promising. There is a lot of discussion. If you have any thoughts, let me know.

Early in the month, Michael Fradin was updating our Legacy/TMCC coding to make it more flexible for members. The theme for members will primarily stay the same with some reassignments of engine and car codes. The Engine Number Board is key. If you see that someone is using the number you would like to use, the Engine Number Board number has priority. The options you have are to change your engine number, use another engine, or wait until the current member is off the track. Details to follow...



Michael updating base with Phil, Ed, Jeff, and Tom and implementing updated Legacy/TMCC coding

Thanks to Herb K. for story and Pictures

#### What are You doing during the shutdown?

I was thinking that during our CLRC Train House shutdown that our toy trains are still part of our lives. I would like to hear from you describing how you are passing the time. Are you working on your layout? Running trains? Modifying rolling stock...aging? Whatever you are doing, send me a picture and I will get it in the next newsletter.



Herb running trains at home



**Joe Smolinski works on train puzzles**



**Mike Sirtak adds passengers to the UP train.**

**Thanks to Herb K. for the story and Pictures**

## **CLRC Club Car #4 Shedd Aquarium Car 3435-557 52120-557**

**An ongoing history of the club during this time of self-isolation...**

Bob Ciolino had a Post War Aquarium car that he enjoyed on his layout for many years. He always wondered if there would ever be a Shedd Aquarium car. As we continued with our search for CLRC club cars, he challenged himself to go forward and see if he could develop this dream

car with the Shedd Aquarium. (As a side note, from what we knew, the Shedd Aquarium was the only Aquarium to have had Aquarium cars where they would take fish from the ocean and transport them to Chicago.) Through some connections, he contacted the Shedd Aquarium and presented his concept and they wanted to hear more. Wouldn't you know it, we had an appointment to meet with them in a few days.



On April 15, 1996, Bob and I met with Christian M. Raynal, Outside Sales and Marketing Associate to discuss using the John G. Shedd Aquarium name for our new CLRC Aquarium Car. We set up a circle of track and ran a train consisting of Lionel cars, our CLRC SF caboose and an existing Lionel Aquarium car. The SF caboose was a hit. (It turns out that the Shedd Aquarium Chairman was also a high official at SF.) We then discussed the Shedd logo and how it would fit on the car. "It was cute how the fish swim around the tank" Christian said. We told Christian that we were going to Lionel with our proposal in May and would like permission to use their name. Not only did they say yes, they gave us pictures of their Coral Reef Display that we were able to use as the background for this very special car. Our Shedd Aquarium car was the first Lionel Aquarium car to actually be named after a real aquarium!

Our contact at Lionel for the car was Mike Braga who was the Director of Consumer Services, which included Lionel Repairs and club cars. We showed him the Shedd Aquarium coral reef pictures for our background. Mike advised that once the pictures go into a Lionel product, they

become the property of Lionel. To safeguard it from being used again, I asked if a “CLRC” sign could be super imposed on the background picture. He said yes and now you know why the signs are there.

Every year while we were active in our large club car campaign, we would meet with Mike Braga at Lionel. On our March 26, 1998 visit, he brought us into the factory and surprised us with our Aquarium Cars on the assembly line. Naturally we took the opportunity to place ourselves on the assembly line simulating our making of our cars. How sweet it was. Thanks to Bob Ciolino, John Flinn, Rich Thayer and Irwin Bross who worked with me on the assembly line.

On April 2, 1998, Mike Braga of Lionel Trains advised that the Aquarium Cars shipped. However, on delivery we counted 8 cars short. Later at the Lionel Centennial convention in Dearborn, Michigan, we took a tour of Richard Kuhn’s collection. It turned out that he had taken our cars for his collection. (It is nice to be the owner of Lionel.)

When it was all done, Bob Ciolino’s car came to fruition!



**Rich Thayer, John Flinn, Herb Koch, Irwin Bross, Bob Ciolino, and our friend, Mike Braga, Lionel’s Director of Consumer**



**Two more views from Shedd Aquarium, with**

**CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB  
1997 SHEDD AQUARIUM CAR**

*The Shedd Aquarium is located in Chicago on Lake Michigan. It is one of the largest inland salt water displays. To transport salt water specimens to Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium customized railroad cars with large tanks. The specimens were safely delivered, so visitors to the Shedd Aquarium could enjoy observing aquatic life. Only two aquarium cars were built.*

**THIS IS OUR VERSION OF THE THIRD SHEDD AQUARIUM CAR**

*If you look at the background of the tanks, you can see that the scene in each window (4) is taken directly from the Shedd's own coral reef. They are all different. Add to your layout or collection and enjoy the view.*

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS OCTOBER 31, 1997  
DELIVERY ANTICIPATED IN APRIL, 1998**

Final product may vary slightly  
\* LIMITED EDITION \*  
WWW.ENTRACT.COM/~CLRC

**PLEASE SEND ME:**

Shedd Aquarium Car(s) 1435-557 \$49.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping cost on first car 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping cost on each additional car 2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois residents add per car 3.87 \_\_\_\_\_

Optional club membership, annual cost 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please do not send cash.  
Your check is your receipt.  
Make checks payable to:  
Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club, Inc.

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
CHICAGOLAND LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.  
DEPARTMENT CAR • 471 S. LIVERY BLVD.  
R/R GROVE, IL 60087-2041

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes):** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAYTIME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Herb Koch, John Flinn, Rich Thayer, Bob Ciolino, Irwin Bross**

**Thank you to Herb K for the story and the pictures**

## 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.



### 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

## 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.



### Coming Down the Tracks

**Important upcoming events:**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> – Open House Event**