



The Semaphore

November 2019

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

The November Open House

Our November Open House Event was a huge success. Many new and repeat visitors enjoyed a clubhouse that was decorated for the holidays.

Visitors young and old enjoyed a holiday train and the Polar Express on the center layout, and the Union Pacific “Big Boy” and a long intermodal train on the beltline. Upstairs, visitors enjoyed a second Polar Express as well as the North Pole Express.

Many thanks to the club members who operated trains, fed our visitors in the dinner car, staffed the retail shop and the back shop. Without everyone’s help, the Open House events would not be possible.



The holiday train circles the main layout



Sodor Island is ready for the holidays



The clubhouse decorated for the season

Help Wanted!

December Open Houses

Members, we need your help for the Open House Events on 12/07 and 12/14. These two Open Houses are our most attended Open Houses for the year. Last year we had 1,000 people attend on these dates. We need members to run trains, work in the dinner, talk to the attendees, and help manage the crowd when Santa arrives. We can't do this with just the members who work every open house. Please let Herb Koch or Ed Zeglicz on how you can help.



He knows if you have been naughty or nice!
Thanks to Joe S. for the picture

Polar Express Railroad Trivia Question

When it comes to hot chocolate, there's only one rule! What is it? The answer is found later in the newsletter.

November Clubhouse Update

Life at the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club is not just making our layout better; it is also about enjoying our high-quality layout by running trains. Saturday is the day when most of us go to the CLRC Train House to run our trains.

During the week we work on the layout and the building. There was an abundance of our gear near the east stairway reducing the walkway. It took a lot of creativity to clear it out. Now the walkway has plenty of room. A guest book was added to our entrance retail shop. By the way, more has been done to the layout.

Thank you to the many members who lend their talents to the club on a regular basis.



A clear walkway to the east stairs



Sway sets up the guest book



A car show downtown



John wires the track
Thanks to Herb K. for the pictures and story.

The North Pole Express

On November 23rd at 5:00 P.M., the train left Owasso, Michigan on route to the North Pole. Many of the passengers were wearing pajamas because they knew that this was a magical journey. Car Hosts soon served hot cocoa and by 6:00 P.M. we arrived at the North Pole (actually Ashley, Michigan). The town had been transformed into the North Pole and there were many attractions. The carnival, petting zoo, horse drawn carriage rides and a hay ride wagon caught everyone's eye. Several shops offered hand crafted gifts and food was offered at several locations. The "Hobo Kitchen" offered

soup and bread, a tasty offering for this trip.

The Pere Marquette 1225 steam engine had been scheduled to provide the power for this excursion but was side lined with mechanical problems. Fortunately the "Certified Repair Team" was scheduled to be on site on Monday, November 25th. Hopefully this 76 year old, 44 ton, Berkshire, a true Queen of the Rails will be operation for the November 30th runs.



The last event before boarding for the return trip was an appearance by Santa who awarded the First Gift of Christmas. This was open to all children under age twelve. The return trip was just as active as the outbound journey with Christmas carols, a pass the snow ball race and a visit from the Hobo who normally rides the roof of a coach.

Thanks to **Kevin Barry Jr.** for this exciting glimpse of railroading during the Christmas season.

Trivia Question Answer:

What is the hot chocolate rule? Never ever let it cool!



Lionel Ambassador Club

We have made two more videos for the Lionel Ambassador Club, [Lionel's Santa's Snowplow](#) and [Lionel's Rio Grand Steam Locomotive 0-4-0](#). Try the links and see them on YouTube.

CLRC 25th Anniversary Club Car Two

Our Anniversary Club Car Two was featured in the latest issue of Classic Toy Trains. It 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. With the advertisement in the magazine, the remaining cars will go fast. Sales are first come first serve. Get yours before they are gone.



2020 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



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

Bill Herrndobler has the following Lionel items for sale just in time for Christmas:

- GP20 American Fire and Rescue Engine # 209 \$75.00

- Pluto Christmas Operating Boxcar
\$75.00
- Holiday Boxcar from 2011
\$40.00
- Mickey's Holiday Hopper with
Presents \$60.00
- Polar Express Plug N Play Operating
Billboard \$60.00
- Old St. Nick or Lionel Operating
Billboard \$40.00

Items can be seen at the clubhouse on one of tables upstairs.

For sale: Lionel 6-85400 Polar Express Skiing Hobo Observation Car. New, Mint Unopened Box.

Limited production run, made for the LCCA as an add-on for the "White Roofed" Polar Express set.

Price: \$75.00
Offered by **Kevin Barry**.
KGB60655@aol.com or (708) 606-5677

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1. Lionel FM Santa Fe diesel good condition. \$100



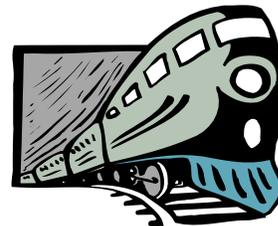
2. Lionel FM Southern Pacific good condition \$100



Offered by **Jim Ammirati** 815-379-1963

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. 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 – December 7th

Open House Event – December 14th