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Directors: Swav Kojro
 Edward Zeglicz Jeff Mills
 Bill Trzaskus James Ammirati

December 2024

CLRC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS PART III

Part III of our 30 celebration begins when Lionel is developing its new LEGACY control system. It is the next level from the TMCC control system. Lou Kovach engineered the system with Neal Young. Neal wanted to see the system work and Lou asked if he could show Neal the system while in concert in Chicago. On September 19, 2006, we were honored and elated to have Neal Young come to our building. When he got here, I asked young Connor McPhearson to give Neal the tour of our layout and building. Connor ran trains quite frequently and knew our facility very well. Neal also felt that way and later surprised him with a new Big Boy Engine. That was some tour that Connor gave Neal.



Lou, Connor and Neal at big Cab II



Members gather with Neal

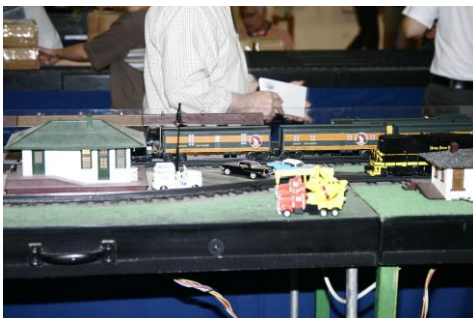


Neal scopes out our layout

We placed a big order with Lionel for our Great Northern Work Train. This was the first time we ordered four club cars at one time. It consisted of the Bunk Car, Tool Car, Welding Car, and a CLRC Drag Racing Team Bunk Car. Our members shipped them on August 25, 2006. One can see these cars in our CLRC Trophy Club Car case.



Members ready cars for shipment



Two of the four car GN set



More cars being processed for shipment

Our Lionel Visit gave us an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with Key Lionel Personal in Chesterfield, Michigan. We met with Jerry Calabrese, Lionel's President. On our way back home, we met with Lou Kovach to get more information about the new Cab II, Base II system.

Members of the Layout Committee have been working on our BIG layout for some time. Swav Kojro meets with the Layout Committee to continue the layout design so it can have loop running and prototypical running.



Herb and Jerry, Lionel's President



Stop at Lou's Design and Lab shop



Swav hosting a layout committee meeting

To keep everyone up to date with our club's progress, the CLRC Board holds annual meetings to update and get input from members of progress and get new ideas. We also packed our Western Pacific Boxcar. Al Havlicek and Bob Ciolino address members.



Al updates members on the layout



Bob gives a financial update



Members pack Western Pacific Boxcars



Look closely and see Santa's workshop (now the Back Shop)



Our building and layout in June 2006



Again, we went to the LCCA convention. This time it was in our own backyard, Crown Plaza – Chicago O'Hare. Ed Carter and Bob Ciolino set up our selling table, and we met with many LCCA and Lionel friends. Members including John Billone and Peter Jilbert enjoyed the Convention Dinner. Richard Kuhn, owner of Lionel and Louis Caponi, LCCA Officer were kind enough to have a picture with me.



Ed and Bob are setting up our table,



John and Pete enjoy the LCCA Dinner and



I meet with Richard and Louis

At the end of the year, we participated in the World's Greatest Hobby Show. We had our layout, seeing many friends including Lionel's Mike Braga. Al Havlicek showed how the TMCC Command Control worked.



Mike manning the Lionel Display



Al sharing TMCC control with visitors



Members manning CLRC Layout

Christmas Open House 2024

We had some enjoyable Christmas Open houses. Members were running trains. Others manned the Accessory Valley to make sure the accessories were ready to run. Members brought in their best Christmas Trains. What a great way to celebrate the Christmas Season.



Christmas Season with Christmas Trains



...And Santa with Mrs. Claus

Club Phone Line 815-485-2588 • Visit us on the Internet: www.clrctrains.com

Monday Whole Layout Runs Continue in 2025

Tom McGrath is heading up running trains on the whole layout on Mondays January 20, 2025 and February 17, 2025. He states, "Join us as we put the bridge down and run a route using the entire layout. Lionel command controlled (TMCC, Legacy or Lion Chief) are required. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Questions: contact Tom McGrath at twmcg904@comcast.net or 630-272-7976."

Pictures for CLRC 2026 Calendar

We are looking for members to submit a picture of our trains and layout in a "landscape" format for December. The best one will go into our December 2026 calendar page. Submit the picture to Herb Koch – herbwkoch@gmail.com or Joe Smolinski – josephsmolinski1@comcast.net

In the future I will continue our CLRC story by showing the modifications to our building and much more.

I have included two links below; the December Open House Video and the other is on a trip that Deb and I took to Morocco.

[CLRC Christmas Open House – Christmas Trains are running](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR6U2JiB7oc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR6U2JiB7oc>

[Herb and Deb in Morocco Part II of III parts, Spain, Morocco, and Portugal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1yjH1-4844)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1yjH1-4844>

Stories by Herbert W. Koch

Pictures by Herbert W. Koch

Please let me know if you want any of the pictures in full file size.

Phone: 708-577-3156 or email me at herbwkoch@gmail.com