



The Semaphore

January 2025

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

Candidate Statements and Ballot for CLRC Election Have Been Emailed to Members

The CLRC Election Committee has emailed the election material to all CLRC regular and long-distance members who are in good standing as of February 1, 2025. Members will be able to vote in person at the Clubhouse on March 15, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Alternatively, members are able to vote by mail. Instructions for voting by mail are stated on the ballot that the Committee has emailed with the candidate statements.

Three director positions are up for election and there are four candidates. The four candidates are: Jim Ammirati, Swav Kojro, Tom McGrath, and Ed Zeglicz. The three candidates receiving the most votes will be the winners. The Election Committee will count the votes immediately following the close of the March 15 open house.

Thanks to Ed Carter for the update.

Whole Layout Run Days – Monday, February 17 and Monday, March 24

On Monday February 17 and Monday March 24 the clubhouse will be open for whole layout running from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. **Please note the date in March is one week later in the month than usual.** Up to 8 trains will follow the

same route across the entire layout including the bridge. Trains will be limited to 12 cars and locomotives must be command-controlled (TMCC, Legacy or Lion Chief). Engineers must stay with their trains at all times and will be required to operate some switches to follow the route. No advanced sign-up is necessary. Engineers will have two-hour blocks if there are waiting engineers. We'll also be adding some elements of prototype running to the mix, such as delivering and picking-up cars or making passenger stops. **Questions: Tom McGrath 630-272-7976; twmcg904@comcast.net**

January 2025 Open House

The January Open House went smoothly as always. Members bring out their best engines and trains and our guests enjoy our hospitality and keep coming back for more. Kevin Mangan brought his new engine where the front boiler opens up showing its insides. Kevin added the engineer figure adding to the fun.



Kevin's engineer saying HI!
Thanks to Herb K. for the story and picture

CLRC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS Part IV

Our 30th year celebration continues with Part IV in 2008. This year Lionel began promoting the **Legacy Base 2 and Cab 2 system**. In discussions with Lionel Manager Mike Braga, I suggested that we, the CLRC should host a Legacy control system premier at our club for the Midwest. He agreed and we set it up. Dealers came in from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Iowa to get firsthand information about the new Legacy Control System. It was also open to interested Lionel enthusiasts. Lionel's Rich Mosher came in to demonstrate this new system. Al Havlicek printed out certificates for those participating. Swav Kojro brought his video camera equipment so everyone could see the presentation on two screens. A raffle was held for the complete Legacy system. Wouldn't you know it, our Charlie McCarthy was the big winner. How nice to see him so happy and appreciative of the day.



Lionel's Rich Presents Legacy System



Charlie won the Legacy System

Our annual **Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge** was held again. It is respectful to see the Scouts address the flag during the opening ceremony around our modular layout. The Merit Badge is held inside and outside to accommodate all the necessary requirements. Debbie Cambell, Tom Donovan, and Steve Goshko make their station ready for the Scouts. At the end of the session, Merit badge counselors reviewed the information presented with the Scouts concluding with the majority earning the RR Merit Badge.



Opening Ceremony



Ray and Kevin with Scouts

Amtrak was holding its annual Train Day at Chicago's Central Station. We participated with our small traveling layout (before it became the Isle of Sodor, Thomas the Tank, layout). Moving layouts has become a lot of work. The layouts seem to get heavier the older we get. Go figure! Despite that, we enjoyed participating. We also were a big attraction as you can see from the crowd around us.



Many of the contestants in costume



Big Crowds at Union Station

We held a **Halloween Open House** where guests dressed up for the occasion. We had costumes from train men in their engines, Scooby-Doo characters and much more. Members and guests enjoyed the interaction of this season's Halloween. There was a contest with Bob Ciolino as the master of ceremonies. The contestants gathered around to be reviewed for originality and appeal.



Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures



Bob reviews Halloween contestants

Help Wanted – Prototype Running

Three members are needed to help plan and run a prototype operating session. We held a prototype session last February that was well received, but help is needed to create a smoother running session. The volunteers will work with me to review and revise the operating scenarios/routes, update the operating rules, and help members understand and run the scenarios on the operations day. With the volunteers on board, we'll look to schedule a date for early 2025. Contact Tom McGrath: 630-272-7976 or twmcg904@comcast.net

Help Wanted – Members Swap Meet

Two members are needed to help plan and run a members-only swap meet for the spring. Contact Tom McGrath if you are interested in helping: 630-272-7976 or twmcg904@comcast.net

Thanks to Tom M. for the updates

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

The New CLRC Club Cars Have Arrived

The CLRC Lumber Jack Lager Cars are in. Members are already running them on the layout. If you ordered them with delivery, you should have yours. If you have not got yours yet, you

can pick them up now. If you are out of town, you can order yours and get it promptly. Look at the attached form and notice the “CLRC Water Tower Tap”, the Lumber Jack Lager logo and the two-tone paint on each car. Even better, there are two with different car numbers! and unloaded and stacked the new cars. If you have not yet purchased one of these great cars, consider doing so. The club has many in stock and ready for delivery. We need your help. Despite being such a nice car and a super addition to any railroad, it is not selling well. If you can swing it and add it to your pike, please order it. Frankly, we need the sales. Thanks



Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures.



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

Selling MTH Chicago & North Shore RR Electro liner 4-Car Set

Absolutely like new condition. Proto-Sound 2.0
& Digital Command System Asking \$650.

I also have Lionel Fast track sections for sale

9 straight 10"

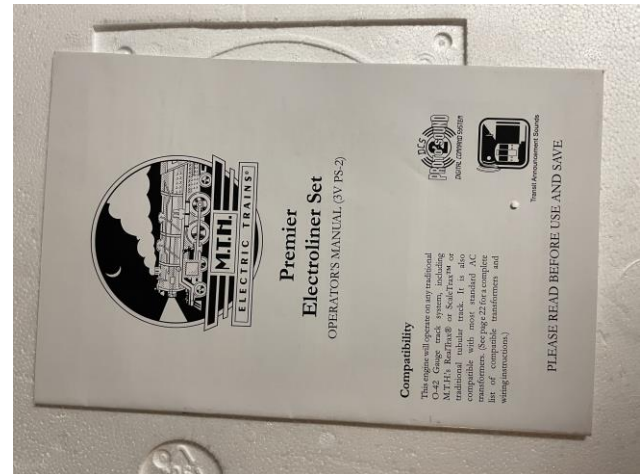
23 curved O36

\$ 80 for all pieces (all like new)

Thank you

Club Member: Peter Jachimiec, 773-425-6155

wb9w1949@yahoo.com



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:

February 15th, Open House Event

March 15th, Open House Event