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January 2025

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.



Mike Opens the program



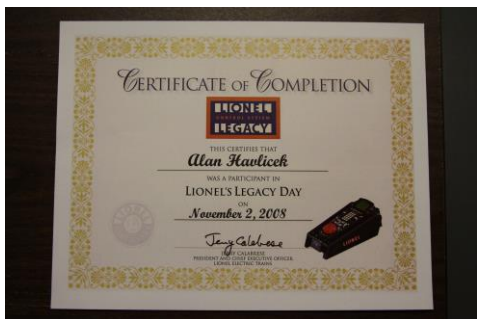
Lionel's Rich Presents Legacy System



Jeff, Dorothy and Mike



Al printing out Certificates



First Certificate Printed



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 review the information presented with the Scouts concluding with the majority earning the RR Merit Badge.



Opening Ceremony



Debbie, Tom and Steve



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.



Setting up the trains and drawing a big crowd at Amtrak's Train Day at Chicago's Central 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.



Bob reviews Halloween contestants Guests enjoy seeing trains running Many of the contestants in costume

We always have fun at our parties. **Our 2008 Winter Party** was no different. Members were able to interact enjoying the comradery of each other. Pictured are Gary Reed, Tom Zettergren, Aaron Marks, George Carr, and Gary Statkus.



Gary, Tom and Aaron looking up at the balcony, while George looks down, and Gary enjoys a new car.

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. As you can see from the 2008 review, we are a more evolved club with a super museum grade layout.



Kevin's engineer saying HI!



January's layout, we have come a long way since 2008



Monday Whole Layout Runs Continue in 2025

Tom McGrath is heading up running trains on the whole layout on Monday 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."

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

Pictures for CLRC 2026 Calendar

We are looking for members to submit a picture of our trains and layout in a "landscape" format for the rest of this year. The best ones will go into our 2026 calendar. 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 three links below:

1. Our January Open House Video with The Aurora Borealis at our layout and member's new trains.
2. The new Lionel Metca Aberdeen Carolina & Western GP9
3. The trip that Deb and I took to Barcelona, Spain. We have a tour of Barcelona, seeing the Cathedral and Antoni Gaudi's work on the Barcelona Mountain, and ended up at the Sagrada Familia Basilica.

[CLRC January Open House](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-r4mwPLg8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-r4mwPLg8>

[Lionel Metca's Aberdeen Carolina & Western GP9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GvhegkGiAk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GvhegkGiAk>

[Deb and my trip to Barcelona, Spain](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKVp5lnLDBs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKVp5lnLDBs>

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

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