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September 2024 CLRC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

On September 7, 2024 we had our 30th Anniversary Dinner Celebration with 80 members. Ken Jaeger presented his video going over our history and covering what we have done since our 25th Anniversary. Bob Ciolino coordinated our venue at Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant. Bill Trzaskus took care of the final arrangements including the super table displays. The Board approved table favors of a special CLRC Lumber Jack Lager Beer Mug, a 30th Anniversary Coaster and a CLRC 30th Anniversary flashlight pen. Every attendee got the set. Lionel and our CLRC shop made sure that every member got a train car for their consists. A special raffle was made for a super passenger set open to all in attendance, won by Dan Martinez. More CLRC history next month!



We all had a WONDERFUL time at our CLRC 30th Anniversary Dinner Party



Special Mementos of our 30th Anniversary



Members enjoying a GREAT 30th Anniversary Celebration!

CLRC VISITS MI-JACK



CLRC Members starting our Mi-Jack tour at the John J. Lanigan Training Academy.

Dan Heraty, Mi-Jack Board Member, invited us on a tour to see how the Mi-Jack soft tire cranes are made, maintained, their Training School, how RR yards are mapped out for efficient operations and much more.

In 1954 Jack Lanigan started Mi-Jack Products, named after his two sons, Michael and Jack. In 1960 Mi-Jack began distributing self-propelled rubber tire gantry cranes to the railroads. Prior to this, RR used the “circus” method of unloading trailers where each one had to be unloaded one at a time by a tractor truck, backing in to get each trailer off the train. The Mi-Jack method saved the railroads serious money and time. In 1998 Mi-Jack Pioneered with the Kansas City Southern Railway on a 50-year agreement to rebuild the Panama Canal 47.6 mile railroad forming the Panama Canal Railway Co. Currently Mi-Jack is innovating electronic-digital control, with the use of radio and GPS technologies for remote and automated crane operation, which keeps them the leader in container movement.

Roger Badun opened our tour with the background of how the Mi-Jack company was founded. At the Training Academy, we were given the Academy Hat, their official pen and a commemorative coin.



Academy Training Hat, Pen and Coin The Mi-Jack Coin of Golden Service \$3.5 million, 6 High Super Mi-Jack Crane

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Early days of Mi-Jack RR unloading



Mi-Jack Family Portrait



Mi-Jack today

To maintain the wear and tear of the Mi-Jack cranes, the Parts department is massive. Jim Lynch, General Manager of Parts Operations makes sure that the parts service department is maintained for its international market. He also showed us his personal Lionel Mi-Jack crane he received many years ago.

Pat Heraty, who was instrumental in the Panama RR, continued our tour in the manufacturing plant. Pieces over 100' were being fabricated. Jeff Mills, a welder at ComEd before he retired, was very impressed with the uniformity of the welds over such a long stretch on these long pieces. Next we went into the yard where Pat showed us the fuel to electric power plants, which are similar to Diesel-Electric RR engines. For the future, they are working towards zero emissions with battery and hydrogen power.

We next were introduced to what I am calling the "game room" where we were shown a container site where the Mi-Jack cranes were visibly moving containers from ship cranes to the storage site. It actually looked like a video game, but it is the overview in real time what the operations were doing. The details of the oversight of these operations keeps overlap to a minimum. They also monitor fuel levels, engine systems, tire air pressure and more. If a crane goes out of control, it can be ordered to stop until it is reviewed on site. Fuel loading has become much more efficient. As an example of additional efficiency, each Mi-Jack crane was fueled each morning. Some needed a full fuel in its 300-gallon fuel tank, while others only needed 3 gallons. They now are refueled when needed at a prescribed amount. This alone saved time and money for the container sites.

We ended the day with a surprise lunch of Aurelios Pizza. Everyone agreed that it was a super day at Mi-Jack!

Monthly Picture Contest

Pictures for 2026 Calendar

We are looking for pictures for our 2026 Calendar. I see many members taking pictures of their trains on the CLRC layout. We will be collecting your pictures each month. The best picture of the month will be used in the same month for the 2026 Calendar. With that in mind, we need you to take a themed picture. Be creative and think of something that would take us to October, November, and December for starters, as well as January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August and September which are open for your themed imagination. Submit your picture by the 10th of the following month.

We will be using the same criteria as national magazines use.

1. The pictures must be clear, well focused and properly lighted photographs for the calendar.
2. Photos can be taken with a digital camera or a smartphone capable of producing JPEG images of at least 3.3 megapixels.
3. Submit the largest file size possible on you camera or phone.
4. Send the original picture. No cropping, or other modifications are allowed.
5. Horizontal (landscape) pictures only. No portrait pictures.
6. Include the theme of your picture.

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Pictures are reviewed by the calendar committee.

Submit your best picture of the month to herbwkoch@gmail.com

Sincerely,

The Calendar Committee

Herb Koch

Joe Smolinski

Dan Martinez

Monday Whole Layout Runs

On three Mondays – October 21, November 18 and December 16 – the clubhouse will be open for whole layout running from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. 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 advance sign-up is necessary. We'll run two-hour blocks and switch trains if there are waiting engineers. Questions: Tom McGrath 630-272-7976; twmcg904@comcast.net

LCCA Convention

I would like to continue sharing our trip to Omaha, NE with the LCCA. On Saturday we walked over the Mighty Missouri River with the Omaha-Council Bluffs foot bridge. The National Park Service has a Visitor's Center showing the various trails to the west, including the Transcontinental Rail System. We ended the week with the LCCA Convention Dinner.



Large Foot Bridge over Missouri River



One of the Path Guards



LCCA Celebration Dinner

CLRC September Open House



Some September Trains

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Links to YouTube Videos:

[CLRC 30th Anniversary I of III by Ken Jaeger](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjCA_tnqqKk)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjCA_tnqqKk

[CLRC 30th Anniversary II of III by Ken Jaeger](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RDZCFO4WOk)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RDZCFO4WOk>

[CLRC 30th Anniversary III of III by Ken Jaeger](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1euTCISHi8)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1euTCISHi8>

[CLRC September Open House – Running of Trains](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_N-WSsbhow)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_N-WSsbhow

[LCCA Final Day, Walk over Missouri River and LCCA Convention](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI6Y4DpN0mA)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI6Y4DpN0mA>

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

Below is the background information regarding our latest club car. It is quite unique and very nice. 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 can add it to your pike, please order it. Frankly, we need the sales. Thanks

The NEW Lager cars are in with TWO numbers!



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 gotten yours yet, you can pick them up now. If you are out of town, you can order yours and get it promptly.

Take a 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. Now is the time to get yours. Even better, there are two with different car numbers. Order now!