



The Semaphore

April 2019

Official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

April Open House Event

The April Open House was a very busy event despite being on a holiday weekend. After a quiet start, visitors streamed through the clubhouse throughout the day. As always, the interactive accessories were popular with the young engineers. Thank you to the many club members who took time out of their holiday weekend to make the open house event a success. Without your hard work and dedication, these events would not be possible.



Bill helps our guests operate the accessories

Thank you to Herb for the picture

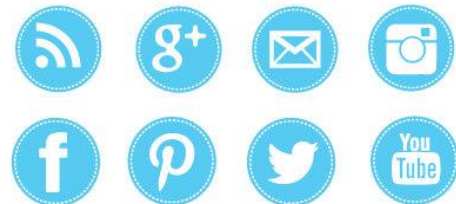
The CLRC to Host Railroad Merit Badge

Railroading Merit Badge is coming up in one month, June 1, 2019. How time flies.

We would like to have your help again this year. Please let me know if you are able to help this year. We are expecting a big crowd again and need your help. As in previous years, we will supply each volunteer adult leader with two hot

dogs, potato chips of your choice and two drinks of your choice. What a great deal!

Many of you have already committed to this event. To help, please contact Herb.



Social Media and Website Update

1,300 Likes on Facebook!

On March 28, 2019, the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club hit 1,300 “Likes” on Facebook. A year ago at this time we were at 900 “Likes”. We have seen a steady increase in our “Likes” during the past two years. Our goal for the end of the year is to hit 1,700 “likes”. You and your Family and Friends can help us make this happen by liking us on our Facebook page. To Like us on Facebook all you have to do is go to our Facebook page at [Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club](#) and click on the “Like” tab. That’s it.

In the past six months half of our Open Houses attendees have been first time visitors. Many of the first timers have told us it was because they saw us on Facebook or a friend of theirs saw us on Facebook and shared this with them. Having high attendance numbers at open house help us run the club and keeps membership cost level.

Thanks to Joe S. for the update.

April Clubhouse and Layout Update

We had one of the snowiest Aprils in Chicago History. At this time of the year we get tired of cold weather and snow. It is good that we can work on our layout. It is a good time to enjoy our layout and see our progress. Members work regularly to increase the intensity of our layout. Also our members did a real good job preparing for the April Open House. We did have a real good April Open House.



Roger builds a new bridge



Bill gives special attention to the new rocks



Jeff install track identification

Thanks to Herb for the story and pictures

Burlington Northern MAXI-STACK BN 64287, 52101-564

In honor of the Club's 25th anniversary, the story of the club cars continues.



From day one, our club was full of ideas for club cars. The initial search came up with the four cars, the Chicago and North Western, 6464-555/52081-555, Santa Fe Caboose, 999758/52102-563 Red Roof, Santa Fe Caboose, 999556/52103-556 Black Roof and the Burlington Northern, MAXI-STACK, BN 64287, 52101-564. The hunt for the Maxi-Stack took us to the Burlington yard in Cicero, IL.

I saw a special container that had a big heart on it, stating "We Care About Kids!". To me it was something special and would accent the three-piece set very nicely. We knew that this would be our next CLRC Club Car.

At this time many things were changing with Lionel. When we first discussing the Maxi-Stack and the other original cars in 1994, we were speaking with Mark Gordon, the Production Plant Manager. We discussed cost and the concern that we needed to order a minimum of 1000 cars and

pay for it up front. Also, they were not going to run this car in 1995, so we put in our request for 1996. In 1995 we were speaking with Mo Anooshah, the Plant Quality Manager. He made sure that we got the colors correct. He suggested that we take the colors from any Lionel Catalog and reference those colors. I wrote to him: *BN 64287 MAXI STACK-- THE FIRST CATALOG OF 1995, PAGE 40. USE THE RED OF THE SUSQUEHANNA MAXI-STACK FLATCAR.* When we got the prototype, the well car was red plastic. We confirmed from our description that we wanted the well car to be painted red and not just red plastic. They agreed. Again, we had printing on the end of our product with the containers. We also wanted to make the car as prototypical as we could. The picture above dictated the printing on the well car. This was the only car we did not put the Lionel number and our number on the car. We did put "CLRC" discreetly on the car as was required by Lionel. Looking back, this is a nice touch to the car, clearly making it one of ours.

In 1997 Mike Braga took over and stabilized the program for us. We had become partners with Lionel.

Thanks to Herb K. for the story and pictures

CLRC 25th Anniversary Club Car Two

Our Anniversary car TWO 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. Over 50 of the 100 cars have been sold. Sales are first come first serve. Get yours before they are gone.



The CLRC will be a 2019 Lionel Ambassador

The Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club will once again participate in Lionel's Ambassador Club program. This is the fourth consecutive year the club will participate. As you know our club was the "Ambassador Club of the Year" for the 1st three years. This year's program is being run a bit differently than the 1st three. This year Lionel only invited five clubs to participate, and we were one of them. This is quite an honor. Being invited was based upon the level of commitment and participation from the club from the prior years.

This year there will be no "Ambassador of the Year" named so no car awarded. The Lionel thinking behind this is for clubs to interact with each other and to share ideas in order to better promote our hobby.

So what's in it for us?

- Ambassador Club Dollars. Lionel will give each club \$2,400 to spend on Lionel product provided they meet the criteria Lionel has spelled out such as performing product video's, holding events like our Open Houses, and other tasks.
- Having our club being included in a two page spread with the other Ambassador clubs in the 2020 Lionel catalog.
- Providing input to Lionel on what products our club would like to see made by Lionel in 2020. For example, if there is engine, rolling stock, or building that you would like to see Lionel make, now is your chance to ask them. Personally, I am going to ask Lionel to make E6 diesels in the Lackawanna road name. What would you like to see Lionel to make? Please email your wish list to the clubs email address at

Info@CLRCtrains.com by June 15th, 2019.

We need to submit our list as a club to Lionel by 07/01/2019.

If you're asking yourself, "How can I help the club with this program"? The area we need the most help is by helping out during our Open Houses. Whether it's helping in the diner (the area most needing help), running trains, or helping out during the birthday parties that follow, your help will go a long way to make these events a success.

Thank you to Joe S. for the story



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

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 – May 18th

Railroading Merit Bade – June 1st