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Edward Carter – Vice President  
Robert Ciolino – Treasurer  
Joseph Smolinski – Secretary



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

## June 2024

### RAILROADING MERIT BADGE, PROTOTYPICAL FUN RUN, AND MORE!

The first Saturday of June is when we hold the Railroading Merit Badge for the Scouts in the Midwest. We had nearly 100 Scouts registered and over 90 earned the merit badge. We start on Friday to set up the tarps for sun and rain protection.



Club members assemble the tarps needed for the Railroading Merit Badge

Saturday started out with a heavy overcast during registration. Everyone went inside for the opening ceremony and the overview of what to expect for the day.



Scouts gather inside for the opening ceremony and an overview of what to expect for the day

Half of the Scouts stayed inside for the Operation Lifesaver presentations and the other half went outside for the other RRMB requirements. Outside, as predicted by the weatherman, the rain came down. As Scouts, we were prepared. The tarps were up, raincoats were on, and Scouts were able to work on the RRMB. At the outside stations, the Scouts move from one merit badge requirement to the next one. Fortunately, the rain let up at this time.



Scouts learn about Trains, how they work, putting together a train trip, types of RR cars, and much more.

Lunchtime went quite well under the tarps we set up earlier. At the end of the day, Merit Badge Counselors met with the Scouts to review and confirm that they earned the Merit Badge.



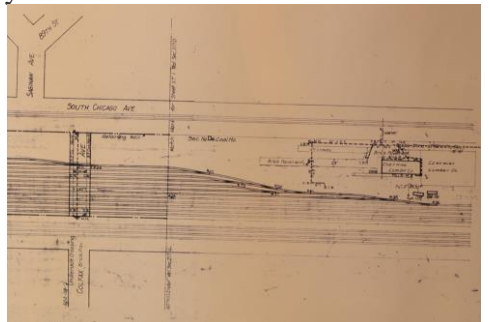
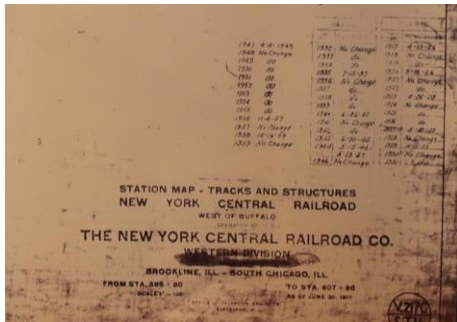
Lunch was good. Scouts continued to work on the merit badge after lunch.

On Sunday we came back and dried off the tarps so they would be in a good condition for next year's June 7, 2025's Railroading Merit Badge Day.



The Registration Tarp and all of the rest of the tarps are dried, folded and put away for the next activity.

Bill Trzaskus coordinated receiving about 40 (very brittle) New York Central Railroad Co. drawings of their Chicago, ILL track plan. Joe Smolinski, Pat Good and I took pictures of the prints for our records. As you can see, the resolution of the pictures are quite good. When you zoom in, you can make out details. The pictures will be available on our CLRC computer. Please coordinate with Jeff Mills if you would like to view them.



Pat and Herb mount NYC Railroad pictures for the club.

Note the detail when zoomed in.

Seth Dodge continues his development of the new HO layout. Here he is setting up the 4' x 8' plywood deck with our green paint. Swav Kojro is programming variable-colored lights for daytime/sunset/nighttime lighting. Looks promising. Nick Pucel is hard at work fixing trains from members and customers.



**Seth paints plywood deck**



**Swav programs new lights**



**Nick works in our Backshop**

Tom McGrath coordinated our second prototypical run. This time it was simplified for members to become more familiar with the prototypical running format. Bill Trzaskus ran his train to work out the “bugs” in the system, finding out that not all routes were as described. Modifications were made and all of us engineers enjoyed running our trains from the Beltline layout, over the Mark Fears Bridge to the Big Layout and back.



**Tom gives instructions to the engineers.**



**Engineers get ready**



**Bill works out the kinks to the run.**

Swav Kojro advised that the old variable light switches were not compatible with the new multicolored lights causing them to constantly blink. Tom Zeglicz installed new compatible light switches. The lights are stable and can be programmed for the super sunrise to sunset light show. Next Tom installs some multicolored lights.

We always wanted to show off our point-to-point logging run to our Open House guests. It was always a concern that someone had to be at the controls as the train ran. We went to Dennis Zander of Z-Stuff and he had a circuit board that would reverse the engine when it reaches an end point and then throws a switch for diverse running as appropriate. John Billone and Jeff Mills worked with Dennis to make sure it would perform well on our layout.



**Tom installs new light switches and mounts multicolored lights.**



**Dennis, Jeff and John work on new circuitry.**

## OPEN HOUSE VIDEO

Please look at our Railroading Merit Badge Day and our Prototypical “Easy” run from the Beltline over the Mark Fears Lift Bridge to the Big Layout and back Videos.

[CLRC Railroading Merit Badge Day](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFOu1-10_n8&t=321s)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFOu1-10\\_n8&t=321s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFOu1-10_n8&t=321s)

[Prototypical “Easy” Run](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygx4fWKQWFA&t=3s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygx4fWKQWFA&t=3s>

### NOTICE:

**SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 for our Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner Party! It is being held at Sawa’s Old Warsaw Restaurant, 9200 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Broadview, IL. Bill Trzaskus was able to get 8 additional tickets. Please let Bill Trzaskus or Ed Zeglicz know if you would like to get your tickets.**

Stories by Herbert W. Koch

Pictures by Clayton Pape and 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](mailto:herbwkoch@gmail.com)

**Below is the background information of 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!**