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New Year Begins With New Club Officers



President - David Palmetter

It is also VERY important to remember that we have Board members who have supported the Club for several years in key positions: Bud Hunter, Newsletter Editor; Treasurer/Secretary, Marion Hensley, and Membership Chair, Jeff Carter. I am sure I speak on behalf of the entire Club in thanking the three of you for a job very well done these past years, and for continuing in your positions in the future!

For 2012-2013, you have elected me, David Palmetter as President and James Driesbach as Vice-President of Programs. James is already forging ahead with lots of great plans and ideas for events in the coming two years. We will be announcing several of those in the near future.

The biggest event for the next two years, by far, is the **"Four Club Tour"** scheduled for Saturday, July 14, 2012. (Our) ILSR will host the Cincinnati, Columbus and

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The first order of business for me and the new ILSR Board is to thank the outgoing members of the Board for the excellent job they have done for the past two years. I am not even officially (as of writing this) President yet, but it is already clear to me, the significant amount of effort it takes to plan, organize and execute the Club's many activities. Our 2010-2011 President, Mike Smith and Vice President of Programs, Don Davis - made sure we had two excellent years of activities.

Thanks very much to you both for all that you did.



Program V.P. - James Driesbach

Dayton, Ohio garden railroad clubs, along with one from Valparaiso, IN. , for lunch and tours of four of our great layouts. We are also considering some unprecedented

(cont. bottom of pg. 7)

In This Issue

New Year Begins with New Club Officers	page 1
A Glance Back At Our Train Club Roots	page 2
ILSR Club Presidents	page 3
Club Presidents; Early Club Layouts	page 4
Permanent Train Displays; Jingle Rails	page 5
The "Depot" Where did it go?	page 6
The "Depot" Where did it go?	page 7
2012 Club Event Calendar	page 8



A GLANCE BACK AT OUR TRAIN CLUB "ROOTS"

Our Train Club didn't just happen by accident. Can you imagine starting a new Train Club from scratch NOW? Where would you start? Who would you contact? Where would you meet? How often would you meet? These are all questions that had to be answered by a dedicated small group of individuals who just happened to **like trains** and fell in love with a relatively new, large scale of train on the market known as **G-Gauge**. They were BIG, well detailed and colorful. More importantly, they were build to a very high level of quality and reliability that would last for decades, perhaps even a lifetime.

The fact that these trains were sold locally by Watts Train Shop in Zionsville cannot be understated. Now it was possible to visit and see hundreds of large, G-Gauge trains and equipment all at once. **A train lover's dream!** Fantastic! Besides having a place to meet when needed, **Jim and David Watts** supplied us with trains, track, mulch and even plants for exhibits and public shows.

Following the 1989 National LGB Convention held in Indianapolis, a group of folks who had worked long and hard to make that happen, was having so much fun with trains, they decided to call themselves "**Big Train Engineers**". One of the Club's earliest projects in 1991 was setting up and running a train layout display at Orchard in Bloom. With the help of Jim Watts and Joe Baker, this public display was well received and brought in many interested people. **Dave Lynn** began mailing a letter to interested folks about every three months, telling about new items, projects and scheduled meeting events.

As more interest in Large Scale Trains took hold, more requests for displays were made. Project displays were set up at Riley Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Indiana State Museum, Great American Train Show and Conner Prairie. We were outgrowing the scope of our original "core" of original members. **Linda Smith** volunteered to be Club secretary and start a Club Newsletter. **Phyllis Shirey** remained as treasurer (a hold-over from the '89 LGB Convention). **Dave Lynn** and **Uno Magnuson** drafted a set of Club bylaws that defined election of officers as well as administration of other Club business.

Club visits expanded beyond meetings at Watts. Visits to people's home layouts, both indoor and outside, became an interesting way to meet and discuss new ideas. It was decided to continue to have an annual dinner meeting. In **2003**, the Miami Valley Garden Railway Society invited us to visit Dayton, Ohio to tour six of Dayton's premiere garden railroads. Thirty three of our Club members made this road trip to Dayton and had such a great time, that we decided to invite the Dayton folks to the Indianapolis area for **2004** to enjoy our Club railroads. Columbus and Cincinnati Train Clubs wanted to join us and thus, the annual "**Four Club Tour**" was born and continues strong to this day.

Also In 2004, The Club's "Modular Division" was started by a group of members who expressed interest in running trains during the Winter months when it was too cold to be outside. They are still growing.

There was discussion among the membership that our Club name of **Big Train Engineers (BTE)** was perhaps misleading and not really defining what our Club was representing to the public at large. Some of our members were identifying strongly with the outdoor, garden railroad concept and renaming our Club the "Indiana Garden Railway Society" made a lot of sense. But we did not want to alienate some of our membership who had "indoor" train layouts. **Toward the end of 2006**, a ballot was sent out to adopt "naming rights" to our Club. As you now know, "**Indiana Large Scale Railroaders**" (ILSR) received the most votes. Hence, in January of 2007, our Club officially became known locally and nationally as such.

In 2008, David Palmeter launched a new **ILSR Web Site**. Communications such as the Newsletter, application to join ILSR, photographs of outdoor layouts, photographs of indoor layouts, last minute updates on Club activities and Open House reviews are all instantly available to us at the "click of a mouse".

As we move forward into 2012 and beyond, we want to remain strong in our traditional concept of **HAVING FUN WITH LARGE SCALE TRAINS**. We want to continue exchanging ideas concerning new train products, train maintenance and good, reliable train operation. We want to feel that we are all among friends when we are together, sharing a common, mutual fascination with truly, a unique interest in railroad-ing - both in Large Scale and in the real-life, prototype 1/1 scale.

ILSR CLUB PRESIDENTS

This page is being devoted to the service of all of the ILSR past presidents of this Club. All of these gentlemen have devoted untold time and energy during their terms in office to bring our **Indiana Large Scale Railroaders Club** to a high standard of excellence we have all come to expect. They haven't done it all by themselves, of course, for they have had enthusiastic help from all of the membership. But our Train Club is where it is today because of their leadership throughout the past 22 years. All of these people are still active members in the Club today. You are invited to shake hands with them at the next Club meeting and say **"Thanks a lot for all you have done"**.



Dave Lynn 1989 - 1993
"Man with a Vision"



Dave Graff 1993 - 1995



Jim Lee 1996 - 1997



Paul Bossert 1998 - 2000



Paul George 2000 - 2002



Jack Pittsley 2003 - 2005



Randy Banks 2006 - 2007

ILSR Club Presidents continued . . .



Andy Chester 2008 - 2009



Mike Smith 2010 - 2011



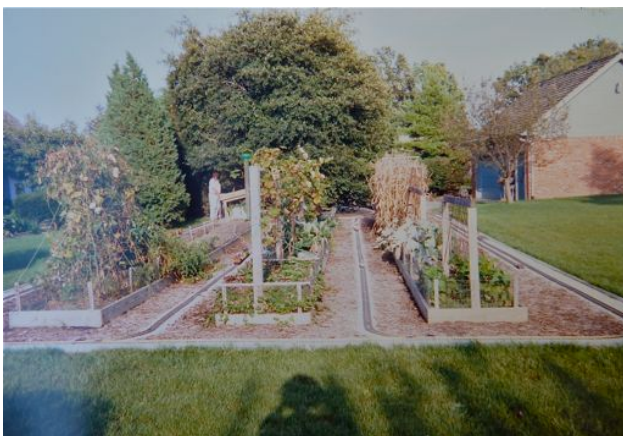
David Palmetter 2012 -

Question: What did some of the Club layouts look like back when we were just getting started?

Answer: I asked a few of our former presidents to send me photos of their original railroads.



Dave Lynn - David always enjoyed showing his indoor, basement train layout. Like many European train layouts, it was highly detailed with lots of tracks, short switch sidings and lots of people figures. The railroad featured two mainlines, one for freight and the other for passenger. In addition, one can see along the nice, sky backdrop, the elevated "trolley" line that automatically stopped on each end and reversed itself to return back from whence it came.



Paul George - Outdoor, garden railroad. Literally, a railroad built to haul fresh produce from Paul's 3-row garden. (read: tomatoes, beans, corn and peas.) It's true. I remember seeing it with my own eyes.



Our Train Club rebuilt an exhibit RR at Riley hospital in 1998. Pictured is Paul George, John Hazard, Dave Lynn, Uno Magnuson, Bud Hunter and Jeff Carter - all of whom worked on this project. *(Right now, it is out of service and not running)*

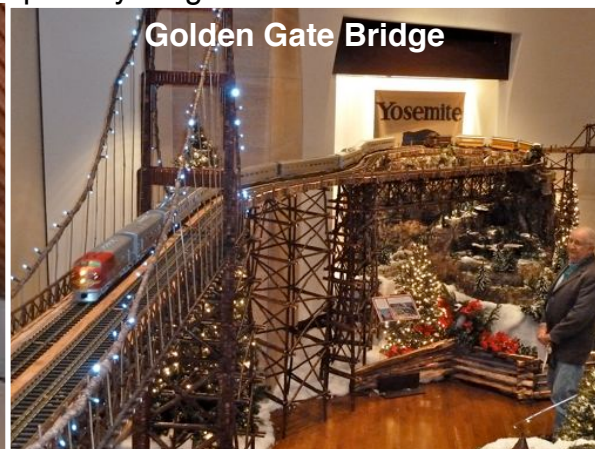


Our Train Club was asked to construct a similar exhibit RR at Methodist Hospital in 2000. Several of our members willingly spent several weeks building this railroad - climaxed with a final "ribbon-cutting" and gala punch & cookies party afterward. *(This railroad is still operating just great. It is at the back of the main entry lobby. Push "Start" button to go.)*



JINGLE RAILS at the EITELJORG MUSEUM Nov. 5 thru Jan 8 (2012)

We were all impressed with Jingle Rails last year. It has almost doubled in size this year! This is a "MUST SEE" for anyone even mildly interested in trains, especially Large Scale Trains.



The “DEPOT”

Whatever Happened To It? Where Did It Go?

- photos by Randy Banks



Anyone who attended the Indianapolis Home & Flower Show or Orchard in Bloom Show in 2011 will remember seeing this “Depot” built by Lemcke Landscaping Co. of Indianapolis. What ever happened to it after the shows?



After a little investigative work, it was discovered that **Randy Banks** purchased the “Depot” and had it trucked to his house where it now adorns his garden RR.



This Little Pine Tree Has Got To Go!



Randy Supervises The Operation.



Finally . . . all is in place and the "Depot" fits right into Randy's garden Railroad.

(Randy's beautiful, wooded railroad will be on the 2012 Four Club Tour in July. ILSR Club Members are also invited to visit the railroad at this time,)

Club Reminder

It is time for everyone to get your 2012 ILSR Club Dues paid up. Please send your check for \$20 to Marion Hensley ASAP. Nobody wants to miss out on this exciting Club year!

- Bud

(President's message cont.)

surprises as part of the day. All of this will take lots of members helping to assure that our guests have a day (with trains in Indiana) to remember. **Call Rex Bowman (765 483-9594 or email Rex at rinsbowman@comcast.net)** if you would like to help - or please say yes when he calls you. On behalf of our leadership team, we look forward to working with and seeing you at all our events. - David Palmeter, ILSR President

ILSR Club Officers

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2012 Club Event Calendar

- Jan. 1, 2012 *Happy New Year*
- Jan. 1 - 8 Jingle Rails Eiteljorg Museum
- Jan. 7 & 8 Huge Train Manufacturer's and Dealers
Show at Indiana State Fairgrounds
- Apr. 27 - 29 Orchard in Bloom - Indy
- May 19 Annual Spring Club Banquet - Indy
- June 9 Strawberry Festival - Upland, IN.
- July 14 Four Club Bus Tour of ILSR Railroads



Jingle Rails display at the Eiteljorg Museum.
Train is passing in front of famed Indianapolis
Union Station.