



INDIANA LARGE SCALE RAILROADERS

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THINK
SPRING



As we flip our calendars over to a new month, we all start getting that pleasant and optimistic feeling that Winter is almost past and we can look forward to sunny and warmer days. Golfers think about getting back out on the golf course and we garden railroaders think about getting our railroads back up into operation again.

Many of our Club Members have their own agenda of what we do to get back into “**Railroading Operation**” again come Spring. I am happy to share a few personal ideas I use on my own RR. I group these into two categories. (1) Maintenance (2) Building (rebuilding)
(1) Maintenance

Locomotives & rolling stock - All of the following can be easily done now before the nice, warm weather actually arrives. All locomotives and rail cars come into the kitchen, 4 to 6 pieces at a time. Using a coffee cup full of plain water and a soft paint brush, the roofs of all cars get a scrub-down wash job. The brush does well at getting layers of dust, grime and any other debris off of the top and walking-boards. This is followed up by rinsing with the sprayer at the sink, then blotting down with paper towel to soak up any water droplets. (You would be surprised at how much dust accumulates on our trains - even just sitting on a shelf) Then, I give each axle a drop or two of oil from a needle tip oil bottle. (these can be picked up at many hobby shops) This cleaning and oiling operation takes approximately 2 minutes per car, after which they are

laid aside on the counter while I move on to the next car. I return this first set of cars to the train shed (or shelf) and bring in 6 more cars and repeat the operation until every car (both freight and passenger) is done.

Locomotives are handled the same way with a scrub-down wash and oiling the axle bushings. If you are using steam locomotives, you will need to cradle these locos upside down in their original styrofoam box. Here, you can use your needle oil bottle to lube every moving side rod, pivot joint, reciprocating part and axle bearing. If the loco has electrical “pick-up shoes”, clean them now with paint thinner and rag. Check driving wheels to make sure they are clean.

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ILSR Youth Grant

In 2011, the ILSR Board voted to establish a Youth Grant program promoting the JOY and meaningful REWARDS of model railroading in large, G-Scale trains.

The first recipient of this Youth Grant is **Brandon Carney**. Brandon received his starter set at the recent Indiana State Fairgrounds "Great Train Expo". It is an LGB "Southern RR" steam passenger train set. He has been running it almost daily ever since.

A Note From Mom

(Dec. 24, 2011)

Brandon is very excited about his train set!! It is set up in the living room under the Christmas tree. He plays with it almost all the time. He loves it and is very thankful to all of you! I think he is just as excited to see, and talk, to all the nice people he has made friends with by being in this Train Club.

Thank you all for being so kind to him!!! It means so much to me! And a Big Thank You to Ron for giving his modules to Brandon. He absolutely loves being at the train shows and is so proud of those modules. I can't give enough thanks to all of you! You are such wonderful people!! God Bless You All!!!

Brandon & Sandi Carney



ILSR Youth Grant



Brandon receives his new train from David Palmeter and James Driesbach.



Brandon enjoys the trains at the ILSR modular display as much as anyone!



Hey - I can handle it!!



Anticipation mounts as "Steam Is Up"

NOW WE ARE
READY TO
ROLL



INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS – JANUARY 7 – 8, 2012

The Worlds Greatest Hobby On Tour

A TRAIN SHOW LIKE NO OTHER

– BUD HUNTER



Every 4 or 5 years, this Midwest train show comes to Indy. Hope a lot of our ILSR Club Members made it, because it was really awesome!



This “Lionel Collectors Club of America” pretty well says it all on an eight-foot tall sign at their booth. *(I think this applies to our Large Scale Trains as well)*



I knew when the South Parking Lot was full of cars that there was going to be a huge crowd of people inside. *(I did manage to pick up a new DVD plus a new 1/24 scale '57 Chev Wagon for my railroad.)*



Once again, THOMAS steals the show. Parents, Grandparents and kids formed a line that ran the entire length of the building, just to get a ride!!!



Of course, one of the highlights for me is getting to see and visit with our ILSR Club Members who are involved with our Module Division, and display such an incredible, Large Scale train operation.



New for this year is James Driesbach's 1950's style Drive-In movie theatre module. C'mon now guy's - we all remember those "good ole days", don't we? Awesome detail job, James!



Railroad Action is evident everywhere you look! No wonder people keep coming back year after year. (Hm m m - This train hobby is almost getting to be a year-around hobby.)



(Think Spring - continued from pg. 1)

(2) Building (rebuilding)

They say a Railroad is never done. There is always something that could or should be done to your railroad that would improve or upgrade the appearance or operation. Perhaps this is a good thing for us (and not a bad thing) for it keeps us fresh and thinking about having our RR better this year than it was last year.

Perhaps you have always wanted to add a tank car or two to your freight consist. Perhaps you wanted a new pick-up truck to sit in front of that grocery store. Perhaps you have a couple of industrial sidings already on your RR, but don't have any passing sidings that would hold a full length train. (I have seen some pretty nice garden railroads that lack this feature. When the owner wants to change trains, he has to physically pick up the 1st train, carry it off by hand, and bring out a 2nd train from the patio or garage) With a passing track, two trains can always be on line. The "On-Off" switch on the loco will prevent which ever train you don't want to run from interfering with the one that **is** running.



Fig. 1 -Track "Kill Switch" on Bud's Layout

Say your locomotive does not have a convenient on/off motor switch, NO PROBLEM. You can simply install an on/off toggle switch close to the track you wish to "kill". You will need two plastic insulator rail joiners. Simply install them both on the inside rail or the outside rail of the passing track. (close as possible to the switches) You will also need two rail clamps that are intended as terminal connectors as they have connector tabs screwed on the end of the rail joiner. (Hillman Co. makes this product) Connect a jumper wire close to the switch for power and run it to your on/off switch, which

can be partially camouflaged under a nearby bush or building. (refer to Fig. 1 picture) In my case, the on/off switch (Radio Shack) is threaded thru a 12 inch piece of scrap plexiglas cut in the shape of a tent stake. Bottom half is then buried under ground and the top half is painted a flat black to make it almost invisible.

Connect the other jumper wire from your on/off switch to your other terminal track connector (on the other side of your insulated rail). Now, your passing track is only "live" when your toggle switch is in the "ON" position. Power to the entire passing siding is killed when the toggle switch is in the "OFF" position. (Wires to the track can now be buried under ground)

I'm sure everyone has dozens of improvement ideas they could (or should) be doing this Spring to update their railroads. Please drop me a line (email or phone call) and let me hear what you are doing. I will keep a list and will publish your ideas in the May or July ILSR Newsletter. HAPPY RAILROADING!!!

- Bud

FIRST OF SIX CABOOSE'S RESTORED

Bruce Bowden sent me the picture below with word this former B&O I-5 caboose is now restored and is operational for when the Whitewater Valley Railroad resumes operation in Connersville this Summer. The WVRR will attach it to their Connersville to Metamora trains, so anyone that wants to have the experience of actually riding in the caboose, can do so. The remaining five cabooses are going (continued on Page 7)



Restored Caboose ready to go in Connersville, IN. B&O lettering will be added in March.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2012 ILSR TRAIN CLUB MEMBERSHIP NOW!

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. LOOK AT YOUR MAILING ADDRESS LABEL. IF IT IS CIRCLED IN RED, YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR 2012 ILSR MEMBERSHIP. THINK ABOUT ALL THE GOOD TIMES YOU HAD LAST YEAR WITH THE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES. WITH THE FOUR-CLUB TOUR, THERE ARE EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES AND FUN PLANNED! REMEMBER, OUR ILSR TRAIN CLUB IS AN EXTENSION OF OUR OWN RAILROAD ACTIVITY AND OPERATION THAT WE ALL ENJOY AT HOME. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED, PLEASE GET YOUR \$20 CHECK MAILED IN TO MARION HENSLEY NOW. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RENEWED YOUR ILSR MEMBERSHIP, YOUR ADDRESS LABEL IS CIRCLED IN GREEN AND YOU ARE SET FOR THE BEST YEAR YET IN LARGE SCALE RAILROADING.

(Cabooses Restored from previous page)

to be restored as time and financial contributions are met.

This first Caboose will be known as the “**Rotary Club**” car, since the Connersville Rotary Club kicked off this project with a donation of \$6,000 for the restoration of this first caboose. In 2012, plans are to restore two more cabooses - the first of which will be known as the “**Stant Car**”, since the Stant Manufacturing Co. has agreed to donate for this second caboose. The second caboose to be completed in 2012 will be the one paid for by interested donors. Recognition of each donor’s name will be posted inside the caboose.

Fund raising has gone well so far, as the Fayette County Foundation has received \$30,000 in donations. That leaves \$6,000 remaining. The restoration will help the WVRR increase usage with special events. Also, they are saving a piece of Railroad History. - Bruce Bowden

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE OFFICIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THE “JINGLE RAILS” EXHIBIT AT THE EITELJORG MUSEUM OVER THE PAST HOLIDAYS WAS 37,600 PEOPLE? AN AWESOME RAILROAD EXHIBIT!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members into our ILSR Train Club. Please make yourselves at home with us at the next several Club events so we can all get to know you.

Chris & Leslie Schulz - Dayton, OH

2012 Club Event Calendar

- Apr. 27 - 29 Orchard in Bloom - Indy
May 19 Annual Spring Club Banquet - Indy
Golden Coral in Noblesville, IN.
June 9 Strawberry Festival - Upland, IN.
July 14 Four Club Bus Tour of ILSR Railroads
Aug. 14 - 19 National Garden Railway Convention
Chicago, IL.
Aug. 25 ILSR Picnic TBA (*James is working on details for a
special train ride to a Pizza restaurant*)

