



Vol. XXVII No. 6

website: indylargescaler.org

Jan./Feb. 2016

# Happy New Year ILSR Club Members A Look at 2016 Train Activities

## What A Great Time To Be Involved with the Model Railroad Hobby

### (PARTICULARLY LARGE SCALE RAILROADING)

Life is always changing. That's because nothing ever stays the same in this world. People can try to stay positive and look at the "good side of life", or they can think negative and look at all the "bad stuff" covered in the newspapers and evening TV news.

For me, having grown up with Lionel Trains as a kid, switching to HO trains in my early 20's, and then switching to G-Scale in my mid 50's, model railroading has always been a constant fascination, intrigue, action - as well as relaxation for me. Now in my mid 70's, it very much still is part of who I am, and I don't see that changing anytime soon. I know many of you in this train club feel exactly the same way.

Have things changed over the years? Of course things have changed - that is life and we just adjust and deal with it. Who would have guessed that LGB would go bankrupt? Who would believe that Aristo or Watts Train Shop would go out of business?

Does that mean an end to our model train hobby? Does that signal an end of an era, and that real people don't "play with trains" anymore.

**For just a moment, lets take a look at what lies ahead for us in the year 2016!**

We have an active, Large-Scale Train Club of approximately 60 members, of which you are a member. Because you are a member, you read a Club Newsletter and refer to the Club website to stay inform-

ed of train and model railroad activities you probably would never be aware of otherwise if you were a non-club person.

### (1) New ILSR Club Officers for 2016 - 2017



Pres. James Driesbach V.P. Phil Streby

## In This Issue

A Look At 2016 Train Activities . . .	Page 1
A Look At 2016 Train Activities . . .	Page 2
December Club Christmas Party . . .	Page 3
December Club Christmas Party . . .	Page 4
"Jingle Rails" . . . . .	Page 5
"Jingle Rail" : From The President . . .	Page 6
Train Show at Fort Wayne . . . . .	Page 7
2016 Club Event Calendar . . . . .	Page 8



Bud Hunter (Newsletter Editor), Marion Hensley (Treasurer/Sec.), and Jeff Carter (Membership) will all continue to serve our ILSR Club as before.

**(2) January 9 & 10, The World's Greatest Hobby On Tour comes to the Indiana State Fairgrounds**

Web- Randy Banks  
master

This huge train show showcases the hobby of model rail-

roading and is sponsored by the Hobby Manufacture's Association Model Railroad Division and by the World's Greatest Hobby Program. The show is intended to introduce the general public to model railroading in an entertaining, lively and family-friendly atmosphere. The hobby of model railroading has a unique ability to bring the family together in activities that teach many skills. Our own ILSR "Modular Division" will be exhibiting their own spectacular G-Scale modular layout both days of this show. "Model railroading is truly the World's Greatest Hobby". (*The World's Greatest Hobby On Tour is scheduled for Schaumburg, IL. Jan. 16 & 17; St. Paul, MN. Feb. 6 & 7; San Antonio, TX. Feb. 20 & 21; and Kansas City, MO. March 5 & 6*)

**(3) June 20 thru 25, the Big Train Operator Club will be holding their Mid West Convention in La Porte, Indiana.** The Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in La Porte will serve as the host hotel, with an impressive list of day trips planned. Visits to the Hartland Locomotive Works and Paradise Railroad; the Hesston Steam Museum; the Taltree Arboretum G-Scale layout; the National New York Central RR Museum in Elkhart - all are planned. This is for BTO members only. (formerly known as the LGB Model Railroad Club) If you are not a club member, you will need to join the BTO Club. (This can be done on-line) BTO dues are \$35 per yr.

**(4) July 3 thru 10, the NMRA National Convention will be celebrated as "Highball to Indianapolis"**

Those of us attending our ILSR Spring Banquet were all shown a NMRA presentation of activities for this event. Several of our Club Members will be showing their own large scale railroads for this convention as well.

**(5) July 4th thru 10, the National Garden Railway Convention will be held in the Bay Area of California.**

I had the good fortune of attending the 1998 Bay Area National Garden RR Convention, and will have to say it was quite impressive with some of the most elaborate outdoor railroads you would ever want to see. Highly recommended!

**(6) Now may be a good time for you to consider designing a new track plan for that G-Scale layout you have always wanted to build.** Rick Witt at "Zionsville Train Depot" is the closest G-Scale train dealer in the Indy area. As of this writing, Rick has two LGB Mogul steam locomotives sitting on the shelf. Both have full sound and smoke. One is brand new for \$700 and the other is used (but in excellent shape) for \$400. I do not recall the road names on the tender, but give Rick a call if interested.

Sure, model railroading has changed a lot in the last 5 - 10 years. We have to adjust and live with what it is, rather than what we wish it was - and each of us can continue to enjoy this fantastic train hobby. One thing I have noticed is the availability of good used G-Scale trains at relatively reasonable prices. Back in 1993 when I was first building my railroad, everything was so new - there was no such thing as finding used G-Scale trains and track "For Sale".

Lastly, I have heard our new Club Officers talk of plans and ideas they hope to do this year. It is a little early to share any definite plans and Club Events, but as you can see, I remain upbeat about our train hobby and about our Indiana Large Scale Railroaders Club. Stay tuned.

By the way, our **2016 Club Dues are now due.** Let us all try to get your annual Club Dues paid up. Twenty dollars (Fifteen if you want an email Newsletter) is a bargain in this day-in-age. Then mail your check to Marion Hensley and you are all set. Please do not send your dues to me, as I am the Newsletter Editor - not the Club Treasurer. (Last year, I received 2 or 3 dues checks from folks and had to re-mail them on to Marion.)

- Bud



## ILSR CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Club Christmas Party was at the home of Randy & Jacquie Banks. Their Fall Creek home was so nicely decorated for the Holidays, that everyone was in the spirit of the season immediately upon walking in the front door. Club members congregated in the dining room, den, family room and kitchen. It didn't matter, because every room was decorated and full of food, deserts and holiday beverages. On top of all this, the **Christmas Train** was even running on the back yard Garden Railroad, so it just doesn't get any better than this. Everyone enjoyed a great social time together.



Dick Fair demonstrates the art of chocolate-coating your strawberries.



Randy & Jacquie give a warm welcome to all.



Plenty of good stories to pass around.



Obviously, most people went back for "seconds".



The "Christmas Train" was running outside.





Yes, Garden Railroaders **can** and **do** run trains in December - especially when Indiana weather is above 50 degrees and winds are calm.



## “JINGLE RAILS”

I hope that everyone took the time at some point to visit the elaborate “Jingle Rails” display at the Eiteljorg Museum in downtown Indianapolis. In case your calendar was just so “hectic” that you just couldn’t get it squeezed in, remember that this fantastic train exhibit is still open thru Jan. 18.

Since my last report in the Nov./Dec. Club Newsletter, I did my usual volunteer work at the exhibit, and was surprised to see, instead of seven operating trains, **there are now eight!** The main-line “Santa Fe Chief”, which circles the entire exhibit hall, has now been extended out into the main hallway, circles to the opposite wall of this hall, crosses over a crossover and comes in the other exhibit hall entrance and rejoins the original main-line to continue the trip. As if that is not enough, a new eighth train now operates out in the hallway on an inside loop of the Santa Fe outside loop, so there is plenty of non-stop action. Also new this year, is a “Las Vegas” exhibit under the “Durango & Silverton” Railroad in the main exhibit room. The shifts I worked were steady, non-stop visitors, to see all the trains operating. There were even some school field trip classes that all came thru as well. I suspect that crowds will start to taper off now that we are into the new year.

For all Large Scale train buffs, this is a railroad worth seeing year after year.



The “Santa Fe Chief” has now re-entered the main exhibit hall, and is continuing its non-stop journey of “Jingle Rails” .



Visitors are always amazed and awed at all the natural scenery detail in addition to the trains.



The “Santa Fe Chief” now exits out of the main exhibit hall and is now seen circling the main-floor hallway. Not seen in this photo, is a freight train circling on an inside loop of where “The Chief” is now visible.



Welcome to a somewhat “compressed” Las Vegas.





An unidentified Dad is treating his youngster to an overhead “train meet”. This scene tends to suggest that our love of trains and the “Train Hobby” is very much alive and well.

### ***from the president's desk***

I want to thank everyone who made the “Train Show in Fort Wayne” a success. We had a good show and lots of fun! We were able to sign up one new member who wants to get involved in the modular group. We also got back “an old member” who reinstated. I want to welcome back **Dan Perrott** who has been away for a while due to health reasons.

As the Modular Group Coordinator and your new 2016-2017 Club President, I want to make it perfectly clear that all Club Members are welcome to be a part of this modular layout. Whether you help set-up, tear-down, or just spend some time during the shows to help run trains and talk to people, it is all important help.

Communication and participation is key to our Club's survival and being able to grow. I want to thank **Phil Streby** for stepping up to be our new V.P. I look forward to our first Board Meeting to see what new ideas he may have in helping our Club grow.

By the time you read this, we will be just days from our club setting up at the **Worlds Greatest Hobby On Tour** show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The show date is January 9 & 10, 2016. I hope to see all of you there.

*James Driesbach*



Setting up the new Tee Pee Restaurant. Brings back fond memories of “growing up days”, learning to drive the family car and hanging out. *photo - Bill Duncan*

## MODULAR GROUP EXHIBITS IT'S TRAINS AT THE "GREAT TRAIN SHOW" IN FORT WAYNE DEC. 5 & 6



Time to get the trains up and rolling.  
photo - James Driesbach



Group of girls all enjoying the Drive-In movie theatre as a logging train roars by.  
photo - Bill Duncan



Granddad with grandson keeping a sharp eye on a passenger train. photo - James Driesbach



This Dad has brought quite a crew along to watch these trains. photo - James

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members into our Indiana Large Scale Railroaders Club. Please be sure to introduce yourselves at the upcoming events, because we want to get to know you. And, we want you to enjoy us!

Dan & Donna Perrott - Indianapolis  
Mark Wilkie - Liberty Center, OH.  
Bill & Beth Poor - Columbus, IN.

### ILSR Club Officers

**President** - James Driesbach

453 West Osage St.

Greenfield, IN. 46140

[jddriesbach@aol.com](mailto:jddriesbach@aol.com) (317) 529-2561

**V.P. (Programs)** - Phil Streby

172 West Second Street

Peru, IN. 46970

[pstreby@aol.com](mailto:pstreby@aol.com) (765) 473-6561

**Newsletter Editor** - Bud Hunter

1214 Morningside Dr.

Lebanon, IN. 46052

[nhunter@mymetronet.net](mailto:nhunter@mymetronet.net) (765) 482-6608

**Treasurer/Sec.** - Marion Hensley

11675 Atlantic Rd.

Fortville, IN. 46040

[mchmjh@embarqmail.com](mailto:mchmjh@embarqmail.com) (317) 485-4140

**Membership** - Jeff Carter

7167 E. Westfield Blvd.

Indianapolis, IN. 46240

**Website** - Randy Banks

[randal\\_banks@att.net](mailto:randal_banks@att.net) (317) 849-9501

**Modular Group Coordinator** -

James Driesbach (317) 529-2561



# 2016 Club Event Calendar

Jan. 9 & 10, 2016

Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour  
Indiana State Fair Grounds  
ILSR Modular RR Displayed

July 3 thru 10 - NMRA National Convention  
“Highball to Indianapolis”

July 4 thru 10 - National Garden Railway Convention - Santa Clare, CA. (Bay Area)



This is still one of the best models I have ever seen of the Indianapolis Union Station

Indiana Large Scale Railroaders  
1214 Morningside Drive  
Lebanon, IN. 46052