



Vol. XXVII No. 2

website: indylargescaler.org

April/ May/June 2016

A Look at 2016 Train Activities

Planned Club Activities in 2016

Our ILSR Club officers have met twice now - discussing several new ideas that we think everyone will understand and look forward to joining us for the diversified railroading activities.

First, you will notice this Newsletter is dated for April, May and June. That is because we are switching to a quarterly publication Newsletter. This will have no affect on the quality of pictures and articles written in our Newsletter - we will continue to keep the members aware of Club activities that are ongoing in our Central Indiana area that we feel are of interest to G-Scale train enthusiasts. Making use of our Newsletters and Web-site, we should encounter no problem keeping everyone informed. This will also reduce the man-hours needed to publish an "every other month" Newsletter, as well as save the Club money on publishing and mailing costs of an every-other-month issue.

Secondly, I think everyone is aware of the one year test period to keep the "*Hoosier State*" passenger train service between Indianapolis and Chicago running. Iowa Pacific has now taken over the management of this Indiana train and is now offering a full length "domed diner" for breakfast and dinner. Meals are nicely prepared and very reasonably priced. Amtrak employees are still operating the train, but the locomotives and coaches belong to Iowa Pacific and are using a chocolate and orange paint scheme resembling the former Illinois Central Railroad. This Indy/Chicago train service needs to be preserved and it is hoped that

offering full diner service plus extra fare "business class" service like many airlines offer will reflect an increase ridership on this train. Between the 4 day-per-week *Hoosier State* plus the 3 day-per-week *Cardinal* (New York to Chicago service), the public continues to have daily rail service from Indy/Chicago/Indy at very reasonable prices.

Be sure to read the 8 page article in the March 2016 issue of *Trains* magazine for what all is going on this year to "save the *Hoosier State*."

Thirdly, lets talk about our next ILSR Club event. We usually have our traditional Spring Banquet to kick off the start of our yearly event calendar. This year we would like to try something new and quite different and should be a lot of FUN for everyone!

(You need to be sitting down before reading any

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further. Are you sitting?? Okay - you may continue.

Our Club would like to arrange a day-outing to Chicago and back on **Sunday, April 24, 2016** on the **Hoosier State**. Phil thinks we can all ride in the domed diner car where meals are optional as well as reasonable. Generally we can figure on \$7-\$10 breakfasts and approximately \$15 for supper on the return trip.

Upon arrival in Chicago, our first destination would be visiting the famed Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Many things to see and do here, including the huge Model Train Exhibit featuring over 20 operating trains and over 1400 feet of track modeled between Chicago and Seattle, WA. We can also step aboard the Silver Streak - one of Americas first diesel-electric streamlined passenger trains. *(separate ticket for this)*

Phil is still working on logistics, restaurant for lunch, and a possible tour of Chicago Union Station prior to boarding our train for the return to Indianapolis.

Costs are somewhat flexible, depending on what all you choose to do. Following are some examples:

1. The **Hoosier State** departs Indianapolis at 6:00 A.M. and returns to Indy at 11:50 P.M. Cost of round trip ticket per person is a very reasonable \$31 per Adult (\$26.35 per Senior).
2. Since everyone can purchase your tickets on line, you can opt to board your train at Indy, Crawfordsville or Lafayette. I am considering boarding in Crawfordsville because it is a closer to where I live, ticket price is slightly less, departure time is a little later at 6:58 A.M. and a free Amtrak parking lot is right in front of the loading platform. People boarding at Indianapolis can note that street parking is free on Sundays. Parking garages are also available if you prefer.
3. Transportation to and from the Museum of Science and Industry via CTA bus is \$9.00 round trip. This trip is optional, of course, and the basic Museum entry fee is \$18.
4. Be aware that this trip is mainline railroading and we all need to adhere to a strict time schedule. Just like airlines, arriving at train stations at least 30 minutes before scheduled departure is good common sense. Same for any other time schedules that day that may be given.

Estimated Total Expenses

(per person)

Roundtrip fare to Chicago and return	\$31
Breakfast on the domed din.	\$10
Supper on the domed din.	\$15
Ticket to Museum of Science and Industry	\$18
CTA round trip bus service from Chicago Union St. to Museum of Sci. & Indus.	
	<u>\$ 9</u>
Total	\$83

We normally spend around \$25 per person on a Spring banquet dinner meeting, and we will probably try to do that this Fall, since our banquets are usually so well attended. We usually get what we pay for, and in this case, I doubt if anyone ever goes to the Windy City and spends under \$100, not to mention a nostalgic and FUN trip with people we all know. And don't forget about 2 good meals on board the train while traveling at 65 MPH.

Lastly, please write down on your 2016 calendars, **June 18** as our first Club Open House of the 2016 season. This will be a combination of Garden Railroad traditional Open Houses at the Lebanon homes of Rex & Nancy Bowman and Bud & Nancy Hunter. (these beautiful railroads are a mere 3 blocks from each other) There have been some important changes to both of these layouts since the last visits (which I think is fairly common with modal railroads), so plan to enjoy an afternoon of Club friends, warm weather, plenty of garden railroading activity as well as refreshments. Everyone is certainly encouraged to bring along a couple of guests - wives, friends, family members, or neighbors who enjoy being outdoors augmented with the sounds of chugging locomotives and steam whistles.

Anyone wishing to host a Club Open House needs to contact Phil Streby ASAP to get your date on the calendar. A Club Cook-Out is in the works for early September.

ILSR MODULAR RAILROAD DISPLAY AT INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS JAN. 9 & 10.

Hopefully everyone got a chance to get out to the Indiana State Fairgrounds to see first hand all the excitement and enthusiasm in seeing all sizes of model railroading from Z Scale all the way up to Large Scale. Over a dozen, huge operating layouts were in full operation - complete with fantastic detail and dedicated, friendly railroaders to talk and answer questions. Again, I felt the crowds of spectators were the largest hovering around our own ILSR operating modular RR.

Our Club Members are becoming pros at unloading, setting up, detailing, and finally getting long, impressive trains rolling along the double main-line through believable residential, industrial and open rural countryside. You should see all the expressions on everyone's faces when they see big, G Scale trains heading toward them. And we're talking little kids, big kids, and adults of all ages. Very impressive indeed. Another GREAT JOB everyone!



Check out the size of these Auto Rack cars.



Check out all the details of this Circus scene.



Crowds of people look on as the non-stop railroad action of Large Scale Trains unfold.

This is how it all began. A Brief Glimpse of our ILSR History

Hopefully everyone can take a few moments to read 3 early samples of our Club Newsletters. We have all truly come a long way since the beginning of our Club in 1989. The page below, written by Dave Lynn in 1990, was strictly a "one-pager" to spark an interest in forming a Train Club. A successful Chicago LGB Club had formed in that area, and several large scale people in our Indianapolis area had thoughts about forming our Club as an LGB Club as well.

L G B MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
? Indiana Chapter ?

8332 Mockingbird Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256

January 21, 1990

Dear Big Train Operator:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your interest in having a model railroad club for large scale enthusiasts. During the convention and ever since, many people have asked me why we don't get together and discuss our interests.

So here is your chance to meet. I note that the new BTO roster has jumped from about 15 to 47 members in Indiana and I'll bet that there are double that amount if we can just smoke 'em out. Pass the word to anyone you can think of that would be interested in discussing or cussing large scale at a meeting.

Our first meeting will be on Saturday, February 24, 1:30pm, at 950 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis. We will use the conference room located in the Farm Bureau Co-op Bldg thanks to Jim Lee. This is located in the center of Indy, right off of I-65.

We have some agenda items. we have a little bit of "seed" money to get started and with your ideas, we can go in any direction that you want. Meetings once a quarter, once or twice a year, guest speakers, clinics, workshops, modules, visits to child centers and elderly care centers with track and trains to run. You bring the ideas and we'll all learn something in putting it together.

If you have questions and are interested but can't make the meeting, let us know by letter or call most any evening:
Dave Lynn, 317-577-8286; Jim Lee, 317-636-7693; Wayne Shirey, 317-378-7548. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you and anyone interested in large scale.

Sincerely,

*Our club will depend
on your interest & support.
Don't forget - - mark
your calendar.*

Dave
Dave Lynn

This is what the front page of our Newsletter looked like in September of 2002. **Paul George** was President; **Jack Pittsley** was Vice President; **Marion Hensley** was Tres./Sec.; **Bud Hunter** was Newsletter Editor; **Dave Lynn** was Membership. Some of you will not recognize the names, but long time Club members will certainly remember such names as **Chris & Linda Smith**, **Joe & Di Baker**, and **Andy Shiel**.



INDIANA BIG TRAIN ENGINEERS

Vol. XIII No. 5

September 2002

BIG TRAIN VISITS FOR THIS FALL

September Event - Sat. Sept. 21 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Home of Chris & Linda Smith

The operative key word at this event is “**l-i-v-e steam**” We will all have a chance to witness first hand the “steam up” and “operation” of live steam locomotives rolling over G gauge track. This promises to be a lot of fun running trains and a real change of pace for most of us. If you have ever thought about perhaps someday I might like to have a real live steam powered loco, you do not want to miss this event. Chris would like everyone who already has a live steam engine to bring it (them) to the open house. The more the merrier. Rain date is Sept. 28th.

Directions: Chris lives at 6134 Hazelwood Ave. Indianapolis. Take Meridian St. (US 31) to 71st St; Turn West on 71st; Look for Hoover St. and turn South on Hoover; Turn West again when you see Hazelwood Ave. - Smith's house is a ranch on the left. Munchies are always appreciated.

October Event – Sunday Oct. 20 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Home of Joe & Di Baker

Joe has one of the oldest outdoor layouts in the club and is combining our visit with his annual Octoberfest celebration. (there will be other friends in attendance as well as our Club) We all know that an Octoberfest means food and in this case food and trains will all be provided. (no need to bring anything to this open house) **TRAINS & FOOD; TRAINS & FOOD;**

Directions: Joe lives at 5841 Indianola (Broadripple area of Indy approx. 14 blocks east of Meridian) You will need to drive in on Kessler Blvd. (just south of 52nd St.) and turn **south** onto Indianola. It's only a few short blocks to Joe & Di's home.

November Event – Sunday Nov 3 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Home of Andy Shiel

Andy has a large, indoor LGB layout based on European prototypes. The layout is L shaped with multiple loops containing approximately 500 feet of track. Andy controls the layout via a computer and LGB MTS controllers including switches and signals. He normally runs up to 6 trains at a time. The layout has detailed scenery which includes people, buildings, plus passenger cars from Doc Speckman's layout.

Directions: Andy lives on the north side of Indianapolis at 7903 High Drive. You will want to come in on the north side of I-465 and get off at the Meridian St. exit and start heading south. Turn left (east) on 79th St. which will become Williams Creek Dr.. Turn right on High Drive (5th cross street) and then left into Andy's driveway. As long as there is room, park in the driveway; otherwise it is OK to park on the street. In case you become lost, call Andy at 251-1260.



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web site: indylargescaler.org

July/August 2011

Club Open House at the Chester's Four-Club Tour to Dayton, Ohio Club Open House at the Palmeter's



Andy's "double track" mainline as it crosses over itself in an extended "figure-eight"

Club Open House at the home of Andy Chester Saturday, July 16; 2 - 4 P.M.

The Deer Ridge Garden Railroad has not been in hibernation since our last open house, although with the few number of "running sessions" since then, you might think it was. A good bit of work has been done in our back yard to improve the walkways and patio areas to make them safer and more attractive. Pattie has continued to add and relocate plants to naturalize the gardens with the woods. We lost several trees in recent storms which did not, fortunately, damage the tracks, but did smash smaller trees. So, we have some open space that might eventually be occupied by a railroad yard.

The railroad itself has been undergoing several year-long DCC electrification upgrades. At this point, I am ready to ask myself the question - "Just what were you thinking when you started all of this?" (doesn't everyone ask themselves this at some point in time?? - Ed.)

Two summers ago, I pulled nearly 3 miles of signal, sensor and power wires in conduits between the tracks. Last summer, I installed connector pins (nearly 400) on all wires, building connections and track signals. *(continued on pg. 2)*

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Occasionally our ILSR Newsletter is printed in full color. The July/August 2011 edition is one such example. **Mike Smith** was President; **Don Davis** was Vice President; **Marion Hensley** was Tres./Sec.; **Bud Hunter** was Newsletter Ed.; **Jeff Carter** was Membership; **David Palmeter** was webmaster.

INDIANA LARGE SCALE RAILROADERS
2015 Financial Statement

Starting Bank Balance 1/1/15		\$4346.57
Income:		
Transfer from Modular Group (\$1018.50, included in the starting balance above)		
Dues	\$1250.00	
Badges	20.00	
Club Lunch	1166.00	
Raffle at club lunch	167.00	
Donation, (Modular)	34.00	
Outstanding Check	15.98	
Modular Train Shows	350.00	
Bank Adjustment	3.00	
Ckg. Acct Interest	0.46	
Total Income	\$3006.44	\$3006.44
Expenses:		
Newsletter – (Printing, Postage & Misc. Supplies)	\$ 616.68	
Badges (Indy Labels)	17.12	
Club Lunch Door Prizes (gift cert's)	100.00	
Club Lunch (The Grill 2)	901.73	
Truck Expense (Modular)	537.20	
Liability Insurance	100.00	
Web Domain	15.98	
Modular Trailer Rack Rebuild	962.17	
Total Expenses	\$3250.88	\$3250.88
Year ending Bank Balance 12/31/15		\$4102.13
Respectfully submitted by Marion Hensley, Treasurer		

MEMBERSHIP

Please take note of your **“Address Label”** on this News-letter. If it is circled in **“Red”** that is reminding you that you have yet to get your 2016 ILSR Club dues paid for this year. You will be receiving a new 2016 Membership Directory in your next Newsletter and we don't want to leave anyone's name off the list. Check's should be sent to Marion Hensley

\$20 per year (regular)
 \$15 per year (email newslt.)

As Model Trains Near Line's End, Aging Hobbyists Trundle On

Did anyone see this article in the Feb. 11, 2016 Wall Street Journal? I wouldn't have, except one of my good friends sent me the clipping. The article centers around several retired gentleman who have been involved in the “model train hobby” (Lionel and HO) all their lives. According to the article, the once thought of as “every boy's dream toy”, model trains have become the domain mainly for older men. *(Average age is 64 - anyone younger than 60 is considered young bucks)*

One of the points made is that their children and grandchildren have little or no interest in picking up the hobby for themselves. “Kids today, they have skill in one thing - that's a video game or a smart-phone.” Our ILSR Club still has 12 active Garden RR's plus lots of Modular interest. Remember, **let's everyone keep on promoting Model Trains!** Because if we don't . . . guess what could happen!

- Bud

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.

Dan & Joan Meek - Indianapolis
 Steve Taylor Jr. - Greencastle, IN.

ILSR Club Officers

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 Fortville, IN. 46040
mchmjh@embarqmail.com (317) 485-4140

Membership - Jeff Carter
 7167 E. Westfield Blvd.
 Indianapolis, IN. 46240

Website - Randy Banks
randal_banks@att.net (317) 849-9501

Modular Group Coordinator -
 James Driesbach (317) 529-2561

2016 Club Event Calendar

April 24 (6:00 A.M. Sunday) Club Trip to Chicago on the ***"Hoosier State"***

June 18 Garden Railroad combined Open House
Rex & Nancy Bowman Layout
(1018 Brookside Dr.; Lebanon, IN.)
Bud Hunter & Nancy Hunter Layout
(1214 Morningside Dr.; Lebanon, IN.)

July 3 thru 10 - NMRA National Convention
"Highball to Indianapolis"

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



As "chief engineer", Doug Lynn keeps his eyes on the tracks ahead, and his right hand on the throttles controlling the Modular Div. Railroad at "The World's Greatest Hobby" Show on Jan. 9 & 10 at the Ind. State Fairgrounds.

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

