

DECEMBER, 2011

# THE LIONEL CUB

THE MINI-MAG FOR LCCA JUNIOR MEMBERS



Dear Parents,  
I want to assure you that we are working to build upon the success we've had in the past year. Thanks to you and many other thoughtful parents and grandparents, the Junior Membership is growing, and we are looking forward to creating interactive activities for JMs. Our Junior Members mean a lot to the club because they are the future of the hobby. It's imperative to us that parents encourage JMs to remain involved with toy trains and the club.

As an example of family-friendly involvement in the hobby, the LCCA recently co-hosted a holiday train meet in early December with the New Jersey Hi-Railers Club. That LCCA co-sponsored Special Event included a visit from Santa Claus, time for operating that fabulous train layout, and a wholesome dinner. We are planning more Special Events throughout the country in 2012, so check our website for the schedule and locations. These events will include activities for Junior Members, and each one will be a memory-maker.

I appreciate your support of the LCCA through the Junior Member program, and I hope that your family continues to provide regular membership renewals for your children or grandchildren.

To all of the LCCA members and their families, I hope your holidays are full of joy, happiness, and Lionel trains!

Dom

**FROM DOM'S  
DESK**  
by Dominic Caponi  
RM 12586



Hello Junior Members,

I wish everyone a happy holiday season during this December. I hope you're able to find time in between setting up and running your trains to enjoy your family and friends. With Thanksgiving behind us, I believe all are able to find plenty of things to be thankful for at this time of the year, including all of the wonderful Lionel trains we're operating.

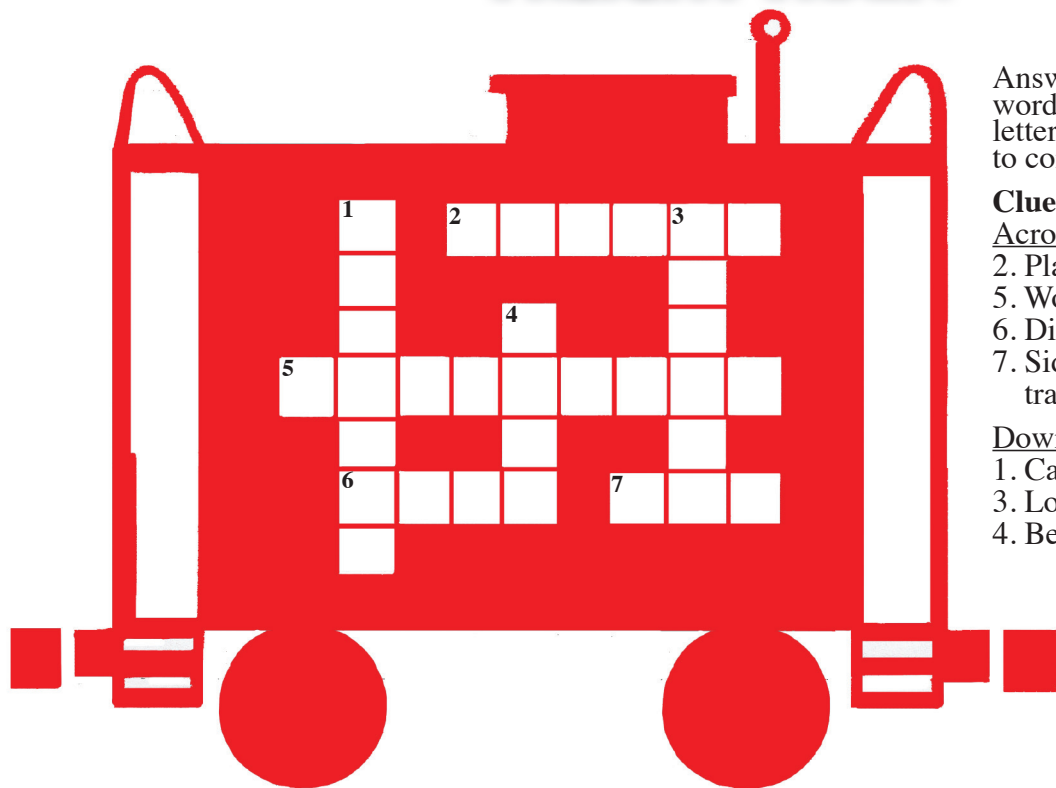
The LCCA included in this mailing envelope a gift to you and all Junior Members as a "Thank You" for being a part of the club this past year. Enjoy this sign of gratitude as we look forward to another great year in the LCCA.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

# PUZZLES BY BOOMER

Boomer is Gene Russell (RM 24608), a retired teacher and avid puzzler. [orly@saber.net](mailto:orly@saber.net) 530-865-9555

## "THE LITTLE RED CAR AT THE END OF THE FREIGHT TRAIN"



Answer each clue and then write the word in the appropriate spaces, one letter per box, inside the little red car to complete this crossword puzzle.

### Clues:

#### Across

2. Place where paper work is done
5. Worker in charge of the train
6. Dishes are washed in the \_\_\_\_\_
7. Side window for viewing along train and tracks

#### Down

1. Car at the end of the freight train
3. Lookout above the roof
4. Bed for sleeping

ANSWERS:  
 1 DOWN: Caboose  
 2 ACROSS: Office  
 3 DOWN: Cupola  
 4 DOWN: Bunk  
 5 ACROSS: Conductor  
 6 ACROSS: Sink  
 7 ACROSS: Bay

## HANDCAR PARTNERS

A handcar is a small four-wheel railroad car propelled by a hand-operated mechanism. Power is supplied by a person on each end pumping the handlebar up and down. Lionel has offered a number of different handcars over the years. Match up the handcar pairs by writing the name of Partner #2 from the Answer Pool on the line for Partner #1.



### Partner #1

1. Bugs Bunny &
2. Charlie Brown &
3. Goofy &
4. Mickey &
5. Porky &
6. Santa &
7. Snoopy &
8. Sylvester &

### Partner #2

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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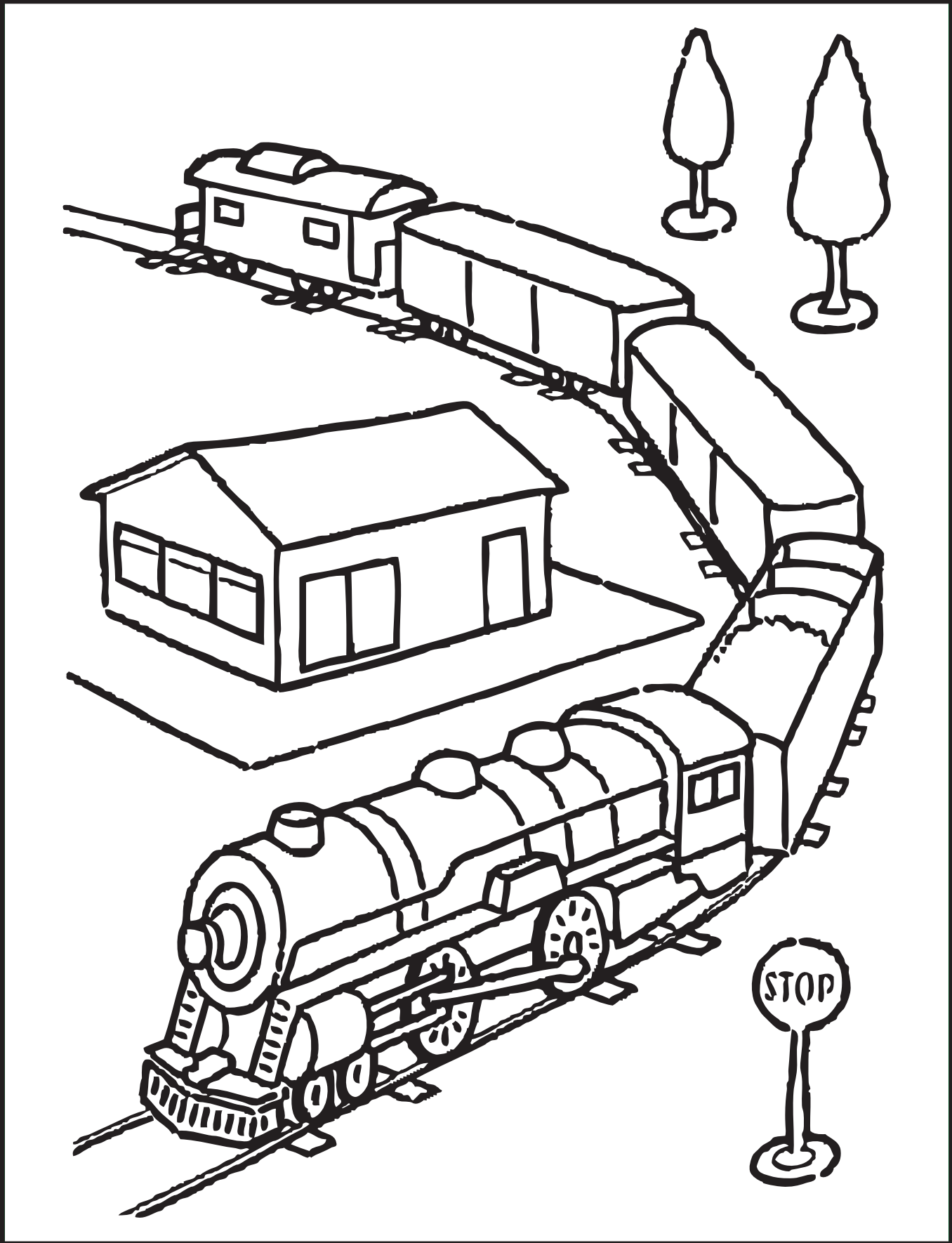
\_\_\_\_\_

### Answer Pool

- Minnie
- Tweety
- Daffy Duck
- Pluto
- Petunia
- Lucy
- Snowman
- Woodstock

Answers: 1. Bugs Bunny & Daffy Duck; 2. Charlie Brown & Lucy; 3. Goofy & Pluto; 4. Mickey & Minnie; 5. Porky & Petunia; 6. Santa & Snowman; 7. Snoopy & Woodstock; 8. Sylvester & Tweety.

# COLOR ME!



# THE SOCIETY OF THE DYNAMIC RAILS

by Mario Evangelista  
RM 19687

## Episode 5: The Best Gift

Seated on the floor near the living room coffee table, Kristi was at work busily drawing track plans for the new club layout. With her head in her hands, Kristi looked at the pile of papers in front of her and mumbled her consternation. This seemingly simple task had become, for her, a difficult ordeal. When her mother, Mary, walked by on her way to retrieve the mail at the front door, Kristi looked up at her with pleading eyes. That furtive look was an unspoken request for help. With a faint but encouraging smile Mary said, "Hang in there, kid."

Kristi's father, Dave, spoke from the recliner and cloaked behind the morning paper, "Why don't you get your cousin Josh to do it? He's great at that sort of thing. You are a club you know."

"Oh please," she groaned. "Daddy, the three stooges wanted to build a helix to the top of the ceiling and then back down again on the other side of the basement. That's way beyond impossible, it's goofy!"

Mary came back into the room with the mail in her hand and asked, "Where did they get that idea?"

Peeking over the top of his paper Dave said timidly, "I think it's a good idea!"

Kristi exclaimed in frustration, "So it was you!"

Mary handed Kristi a letter. "It's for you. It's addressed to the President of the SDR."

"For me? Lemme see." Kristi snatched the letter and read the return address: Nutcracker Toy Trains, Broomall, Pennsylvania. "Hmmm," she whispered, "I wonder what this is about?"

Tearing open the envelope and taking a few moments to read the letter, she yelled excitedly, "Oh — my — God! Jumping up and down and dancing around the room and waving the letter in the air, she kept screaming, "We won! We won! We won!"

"Won what?" her parents asked. Mary took the letter from Kristi's hand and read: "It is our pleasure to inform you that our sponsors, the Lionel Corporation and the LCCA, have chosen the SDR to receive a complete four by eight layout featuring the Polar Express train set."

"Why the SDR?" Mary asked.

"We each filled out a contest entry card at the Nutcracker last month."

Kristi called an emergency meeting of all five members of the Society of the Dynamic Rails, and they soon gathered around the dining room table at her house. She read the letter to them. After about five minutes of pandemonium, Kristi brought the meeting back to order and continued, "What are we going to do with this?"

The boys all asked at once, "What do you mean? We won it, so it's ours."

"Suzie and I were thinking," Kristi continued, "I already have a Polar Express train set, and the club platform is already built. Omar and Suzie's parents will buy the FastTrack we need, and Tommy's dad has promised to provide the switches and accessories. So our question to the board is, "Do we really need this special prize? Maybe not."

Sensing that his sister Suzie may have planted this idea, Omar asked, "Does this have anything to do with our big brother Ali and his job at the hospital?"

"Yes," replied Suzie. "It's a children's hospital. They would love to have this layout in their playroom. It would be a wonderful surprise for their Christmas party for recovering kids."

"But we are Muslim, and we ..." mumbled Omar, but he stopped in mid-sentence because of his sister's cold stare.

"Yes," added Kristi, and they would love to have the SDR help the kids run the trains."

"So can we count on you guys?" asked Suzie. One by one, the three boys slowly but half-heartily agreed. Tommy looked at Omar and whispered loudly enough to be overheard, "Girls!"

"Yea," added Josh.

At that moment Dave came in with a tray of cookies. He overheard the conversation and said, "Take it easy, guys. You don't want Aunt Mary to hear that kind of talk. Besides, the best gifts are the ones we give."

Josh sighed, "Just give me a cookie."

