

FEBRUARY, 2012

THE LION CUB

THE MINI-MAG FOR LCCA JUNIOR MEMBERS



**HI KIDS! I'M JENNY KRAUS,
THE GAL IN THIS PHOTO
NEXT TO LENNY THE LION.**

JENNY'S JUNCTION
by Jenny Kraus RM 30606

I am very excited to start working with Junior Members of the LCCA. Dominic mentioned that I attended the LCCA 2011 Convention in Dallas, TX. I worked at the registration desk every day. That was my first LCCA Convention, which is why many of you may not have recognized me at that time. While working there, I discovered just how much fun this club is, and I immediately knew I wanted to become even more involved.

Thinking back to that Convention, I realized most of my personal highlights centered around the activities planned for Junior Members. Whether watching the movie, *Cars*, with all of you, or meeting the wonderful artist Angela Trotta Thomas who showed us how to draw trains, there was no activity with the JMs that I did not love.

But if I had to choose one Convention highlight, it would have to be the Get Acquainted Party. Some of you may remember that I was the person chosen to read the winning tickets for the train sets presented by the club to lucky recipients. Seeing all of your smiling faces was very exciting for me, and I really enjoyed being a part of that event.

I will be working with Dominic on some new and exciting ideas that we want to roll out for the enjoyment of Junior Members in 2012, so stay tuned!

I hope to see many of you at the LCCA 2012 Convention in Norfolk, VA.

FROM DOM'S DESK
by Dominic Caponi RM 12586



Hi kids, I'll bet Santa stopped by and left you some really nifty gifts. I wonder how many of you received toy trains or a special train layout accessory.

I hope some of you took photos your Christmas tree and train layout. Please send me your photos, and we will try to publish a few in the next issue of *The Lion Cub*. Don't forget to enclose your name and age. Folks always enjoy looking at holiday photos.

Lately, I have been extremely busy with my "day job," and it seems there aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish all that I need to get done – including some of my LCCA duties. After giving this serious thought and speaking with the club President, I decided to recruit an assistant. Her name is Jenny Kraus.

Several of you met Jenny at the last LCCA Convention. She was working at the registration desk and assisting me and Lenny the Lion. Let's welcome Jenny aboard. She will work primarily with our Junior Members.

If anyone asks you what train club you belong to tell them, "I belong to the best toy train club on the planet – the Lionel Collectors Club of America."

Thanks, Dom



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

PUZZLES BY BOOMER

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Someone had their 40th birthday in 2011. To find the answer, cross-out the letters on the grid as listed on the left column. Place the leftover letters from left to right and top to bottom on the lines below to find the answer.

Cross out these letters:

4 B's, 3 C's, 4 D's, 3 F's, 2 G's, 3 H's, 4 J's, 3 L's, 4 N's

D	J	A	C	N	B
H	M	F	G	L	N
C	D	H	T	J	B
R	J	L	F	D	N
L	G	C	J	H	A
B	N	D	B	K	F

Answer: _____

Answer: AMTRAK



COLOR ME!



THE SOCIETY OF THE DYNAMIC RAILS

by Mario Evangelista
RM 19687

Episode 6: Time to Run Trains

“Well, here goes,” whispered Josh as he placed his hand on the switch controller. “I think we got the wires right this time,” added Omar. “Yea,” Tommy chimed in with a chuckle, “Who thought of looking at the directions.” They all stated their case at once on why it was not their fault that none of the switches worked when they first tried them.

Kristi rolled her eyes and said, “Oh please, Mo and Larry.” Suzie chimed in with a big “Woo-woo-woo” mimicking Curly from the Three Stooges movies they all loved to watch on TV on Saturday mornings. Then they both yelled, “Would you just throw the switch, please!”

The boys turned their heads as one to the task at hand. With a short whisper of escaping breath Josh pushed the switch control lever, and all heard a barely audible “Snap.”

“What was that?” asked Josh. “It worked,” replied Tommy. “Try the others.” Josh pushed each switch lever, and every switch responded obediently, which brought smiles to all.

It took a few weeks before they could propose a track plan that their parents would pay for, but all agreed the finished product was really cool. The final version was an extended passing loop that was six by twelve feet and



an elevated, over-and-under figure eight in the middle that was about ten feet long. There was a switch at each end of the figure eight that gave access to a siding on both sides with a power-kill switch to the center rail. The passing siding on the outer oval had the same power-kill switch as did each of the four tracks in the yard at the far end. Access to the yard was provided through a switch on one of the first turns of the outer loop opposite the passing siding.

This brought the layout plan to seven sidings, eight switches, and two main lines with an outside dimension of about seven by fourteen feet. Kristi’s mom insisted that every component be inventoried with

a number under the track or switch with the owner’s name listed. She had all the parents sign the list to make sure that there would never be any hard feelings should anyone have to move on.

“Fire up the Polar Express!” Omar said with a big smile. At that Josh pushed the switch controller marked as **Number 2** and closed **Track Power Switch A** on the control panel. This brought power to the passing siding of the outer oval, but not until Kristy powered up the CW-80 transformer that came with the set. Of course, they all wanted the new and wonderful Lionel ZW-L transformer with the Legacy Control System, but all the parents thought it best to start with the power pack provided with the trains.

With a slow push of the red throttle handle, the engine slowly moved forward onto the main line. “Blow the whistle!” Tommy and Suzie said together, and with a push of the whistle button a clear sound came from the add-on tender Kristi received for Christmas. The whistle tone was a sound trigger that seemed to say, “Go, Tommy!” Suzie and Omar placed some cars in the yard, and Josh started his Three Rivers Fast Freight Set from its position on the upper loop of the figure eight.

Kristie’s parents heard all the activity and came downstairs to see the action. “Wow, it all works,” Mary said. “That big Berkshire had no problem climbing the FasTrack elevated grade,” said Dave in reply. With no response from the kids to the parents, Mary looked at Dave and said with a smile, “Well, I guess it’s time to run trains.”

