



LIONEL COLLECTORS CLUB of AMERICA

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THE LION CUB

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
LIONEL KIDS CLUB BY LCCA

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Welcome – Harry Hampson, President, Lionel Collectors Club of America

A special welcome to the first edition of the Lionel Kids Club by LCCA digital magazine! The LCCA is taking a new direction with our Kids Club's magazine and we want you to be involved in the development of this publication. Gary

de Simone, who chairs our Kids' Club efforts, has put together this first edition with the outstanding assistance of a number of our Junior Members. Thank you for your participation! But don't stop here. Keep those articles and photos coming and urge your model train friends to join "The Best Toy Train Club on the Planet!" and contribute to the success of this endeavor. We welcome their involvement! And enjoy this inaugural edition of our Kids Club digital magazine.



Welcome – Gary de Simone, Lion Cub Editor, and Chairman, Lionel Kids Club by LCCA

To listen to some people talk, you'd think that the toy train hobby is dying and that young people are not interested in our hobby. When you read the articles in this magazine, all of which were written by Junior Members, you will realize that these nay-sayers are wrong! Our vision for the Lionel Kids Club by LCCA is to make it a club for kids, by kids. We have introduced several new initiatives in the past two years, such as special activities at our annual conventions and the recent poster and drawing contest. This new, digital magazine is the latest example of this new vision. This is a magazine for Junior Members, written by Junior Members. All of the articles were written by your peers, and as you read their articles, you will feel the passion and excitement that they hold for our multi-faceted hobby. We hope to publish 2 or 3 issues each year, but we need you to help by writing articles and sending us photos. What might you write about? Write about what model trains mean to you, or model railroad how-to-articles, or descriptions of your trains and layouts, or kids' convention activities you enjoyed, or train trips you have taken with your family, or why you like trains, or why a particular railroad is your favorite, or what is your favorite locomotive or train, or fun train events you have been to, or Lionel train product reviews, and more. You get the idea – tell us how you enjoy our club. We'd like at least three (3) articles written by Junior Members for each issue. So, don't be bashful – start thinking about articles you can write, and then send them to me at lionelkidsclub@lionelcollectors.org. We can hardly wait to read about how you are enjoying this wonderful club and this fantastic hobby. And, thanks to all of our inaugural authors for their hard work and great articles, and to their parents for encouraging and supporting their passion for trains!



Big Boy Adventure, by Caleb Sadowski, Age 8, JM 42431 (All photos by Caleb's parents, Chris and Alex Sadowski)

Hi, I'm Caleb, and I love trains! Besides trains, I also like LEGOs, playing sports, watching my favorite teams (the Steelers and the Cubs), and my family. As a family, we do lots of fun things together. We love big steam locomotives, real and Lionel. In our basement, we have a large Lionel layout that I and my dad love to run our big steam locomotives on. Some of my favorite locomotives are my Legacy Southern Pacific #4449, my Legacy #1225 Polar Express, my Harry Potter Hogwarts Express, and my absolute

favorite.....the Vision Line Union Pacific Big Boy #4014. That Lionel Big Boy is amazing. It's so big! I love all of its smoking features, and the sound, especially the whistle. The depleting coal load is so cool, too. It looks so real. Sometimes I close my eyes when it is running and I imagine that I'm trackside as the real #4014 thunders by. It is so cool.



Caleb standing in front of #4014



#4014 profile from the Fireman's side of the cab

In May 2019, the Union Pacific finished the Big Boy 4014 just in time to be part of the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad ceremony in Utah. My dad showed me an article on the Big Boy. It said that they started restoring it in 2013. That means that they have been working on the train for pretty much my whole life! That is crazy! I wanted to go so bad, but I was still in school and it was in the middle of the week. I was so bummed that we could not go. Not long after that, the Union Pacific announced that they were going to be taking the 4014 across the Midwest. We hoped it would come close to where we live. Luckily, it was coming to West Chicago, Illinois. That is close to where we live.

I and my family got to go and see the Big Boy! What a great day. It was perfect. There were so many people there to see the Big Boy and it did not disappoint. Wow, I thought my Vision Line Big Boy was big, but the real one is gigantic! It's bigger than a house! It was so shiny and new looking, and that whistle..... Holy cow was it loud. It felt like the ground was shaking when they blew it!

I really enjoyed seeing all the Union Pacific passenger cars, too. They also looked brand new. I want to get all of them for my layout at home. One of my favorite cars was the Promontory car. It had a history timeline of the Union Pacific railroad inside. It was really neat.



Caleb in front of UP car "Promontory"



Caleb in front of a display inside the "Promontory"

When we went back to see the Big Boy again, Ed Dickens was there in person doing some work on the 4014. My dad says that he is the Union Pacific's Senior Manager of the Heritage Unit Operations. When he told me who he was, I really wanted to say hi. As soon as I had the chance, I thanked him for bringing his Big Boy so I could see it. He thanked me for saying that. Then he asked me if I wanted to work on a train? I said, "Yes!" He laughed and told me, "It's a dirty job." I believe him because he was really dirty from working on the Big Boy.

After taking a few more pictures, we went to a tent where they were selling souvenirs. I got a really cool golden spike. I really like that golden spike. After that, we checked out the Big Boy one more time and then we went home. I'm so glad I got to see the Big Boy. It was a day I will never forget. We even made a video of the day for my YouTube Channel (Caleb's Trains). If you would like to see my day with the 4014, click on the link below. I hope you enjoyed my story about my Big Boy adventure. Happy Railroading!

To see Caleb's Big Boy video, please go to <https://youtu.be/G5qM6PMd8J8> - Editor.



Caleb and parents in front of a passenger car



Caleb and his dad, Chris, pose by the Observation Car



My Favorite Railroad, by Christian Schluter, age 13, JM 41496

(Photos were taken by, and provided by, Christian Schluter)

Hi there! Welcome to the first edition of my column! My topic for this edition is my favorite railroad. We all have our favorites, whether they are the big railroads like Union Pacific or small like Strasburg Rail Road. Mine is a small railroad museum line in Central Illinois.

The Monticello Railway Museum (MRYM) is based out of the north side of Monticello, Illinois. I have attended events here for all of my life. Their crown jewel is a 1907 Baldwin product, Southern Railway #401. She was delivered to MRYM in October 1971 and was returned to service in 2010.



Photo of Southern Railway #401.

One of the reasons I love this railroad is because of its volunteers. The railroad doesn't have any paid employees, they are all volunteers. One of my very best friends is a volunteer at the museum. Every single volunteer there is kind, respectful, and willing to take time to answer any questions you have. Each volunteer does their very best to fulfill their job there without hesitation, and it shows.

Another reason I love the railroad is that it has a nice variety of scenery. It runs along Interstate 72 from the museum grounds to their farthest north trackage rights, White Heath. They have a fair amount of flat track, as well as inclined track. The line north of the museum boasts an upward incline for a good portion of the way to White Heath. The line south into Monticello consists of a nice little valley, the Camp Creek Valley, and a nice and easy incline up for about a mile into Monticello. This provides a very nice display of locomotive abilities throughout the trip.

The Monticello Railway Museum owns a large amount of railroad equipment, over 100 pieces. They have some rare items, such as the first SD40 ever built, Illinois Central #6071. They also have one of only two surviving Southern H4s that I know of, number #401. IC #401 is the crown jewel of the railroad. They also have a nearly complete Illinois Central office

car train, only missing the IC engine. One of the volunteers is remodeling an ex-PRR E-8 and painting it to be an IC engine, completing the train.



IC #8733



Wabash #1189

Another part of the museum that I like so much is that it really draws volunteers, visitors, friends, and family closer together. On their annual Railroad Days, it's sort of like having one family with hundreds of your closest relatives altogether. I have found quite a few friends there. One of them I met in Kindergarten and have been friends since. He almost always goes to RR Days. The other is a museum volunteer who is frequently working on the pedal car displays.

One of the biggest reasons I love MRYM so much is because I have gone there all of my life and I have so many memories. I first visited when I was 3 when the #401 was inaugurated into service. I remember going through their display cars and seeing their train layout, the TriPod maintenance machine, and more. I also remember the first time I was invited into a steam locomotive cab, the cab of #401. I have been in the cab of half of the trains there, and I remember it all. I've been in the cupola of most of the cabooses, or "cabeese" as I call them.

Overall, I rate this museum 10/10. The only way that it could get better would be if they could run #401 on excursions off of their line. This is unlikely to happen though, as they don't have an auxiliary water tender or a tool car for mobile repair facilities. I'm OK with that though. Their line is perfect for steam excursions anyway.

I appreciate the time that all the volunteers spend maintaining and restoring all of the equipment there. The amount of time spent talking with visitors and caring for equipment is off the charts. It's a great place to visit, and I highly suggest it.

Highball on!



My First LCCA Convention, by Bentley Seufert, age 7, JM44085

Hi, my name is Bentley and I am seven. My grandpa invited me, my sister, and my mama and papa to the LCCA convention in Reno this summer. I was excited to go because I have never been to one before and I thought it would be fun. We only have one train. Before I was born, my grandpa gave the New York Central Flyer set to my sister. We set it up at Christmas around our tree. We have gotten other cars and one of them carries dinosaurs. We don't have many people so we use the dinosaurs as passengers. They wait at the train station and then the train comes around and picks them up. Trains don't have to be Christmas-y at Christmas!

I did not get to go on any of the sightseeing trips in but I spent a lot of time in the Train room at the hotel. We would go every day because there were always new things. The modular layout was so big! I got to run the trains and trolley. I counted the cars on one of the trains and there were three diesel engines, three cabooses, and 20 cars! That one was really slow. What was cool about the three engines was all the smoke that came out of their vents.



Bentley operating the modular layout in Reno
Photo Credit: Elizabeth Seufert



Bentley and his sister, Catherine, operating
the TimeSaver Switching Layout using an
iPad
Photo Credit: Gary de Simone

Another layout in the Train room had the best thing to watch. It was a Lionel sawmill. There were different buttons to press to make it work. First, there are logs on a flat car, it would tilt and the logs would roll-off. Then, the logs would get picked up by a log loader and the logs would go up and over to the other side. Then the logs would go into the sawmill and there would be a loud buzzing noise and little boards would come out the other side.

On our last night, I spent hours running the Timesaver Switching Layout. They gave me a card that told me where each car on the layout needed to go. The cars were all mixed up and it was hard but I finally finished it! I was using a remote that night. The next morning, I got to try the Bluetooth controller on an iPad and that made it even harder. The speed was hard to control

and when I was trying to get it to the right speed it would go too fast. Maybe some kids would be better on an iPad than me, but I like the remote better.

I went to the Lionel store and there were a couple of trucks that could go on the tracks and the road that looked really cool. I liked looking at all the engines. We bought a Silver Bells Christmas engine and I think it will be very funny to have the dinosaurs riding in the dinosaur car behind the Silver Bells engine!

The best part about the convention was running the trains and I definitely think other kids would love that, too. I hope I get to go to another convention!



Fun Times at the Reno Convention, by Landon Estep, age 13, JM31605

This year, as part of the Reno Convention, I actually got to drive a real diesel locomotive, the Western Pacific Railroad Museum's GP-9. IT WAS LOUD! It was incredible! I had driven a train on a simulator called "Trainz Simulator 12" on the computer, and I love operating model trains using Lionel's Legacy control system, and I was amazed that both experiences actually helped me drive the real thing.

I have belonged to this club since 2014 and have met interesting people from all over the country. Everyone is helpful and I have been able to assist putting together "Modular Layouts" with some very smart guys. I also had a lot of fun operating the Timesaver Switching layout, both with the Lion Chief controller and with the Blue Tooth iPad app. I just love running model trains, so it is fun coming to the conventions to get a chance to do this.



Landon driving a GP-9 during the Reno Convention!
Photo credit: Gary de Simone



Landon operating the TimeSaver Switching Layout using an iPad.
Photo credit: Gary de Simone

You may want to co-author an article with a friend, or ask a parent, guardian, or relative to help you.

Send us an E-mail at lionelkidsclub@lionelcollectors.org and let us know what you would like to write about.

Happy Holidays to all of our Members



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