

LIONEL COLLECTORS **AMERICA**

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Dennis DeVito, President 570 Brookside Avenue Algonquin, IL 60102-8824
847-658-8776 Home 574-870-0391 Cell

NEWS RELEASE

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The Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) announces the launch of a national O-gauge model railroad modular group using the Lionel FasTrack system. The project is endorsed by the LCCA Board of Directors in cooperation with Lionel LLC. This effort will generate a code of best practices and technical specifications, create an efficient set of design criteria, and provide organizational and promotional support to club members who want to become involved in building and operating a modular layout.

The initial goal is to build a minimum of eight modules – four corners and four straight sections – for operation at the upcoming LCCA 42nd annual convention in Norfolk, VA, during July 23-28, 2012. LCCA's ultimate goal, together with Lionel, is to build the world's largest modular train display.

"This new group will provide an environment where club members with a common interest can build their own module for placement with other modules built to the same standards," said Dennis DeVito, President of the LCCA. "Some members have already told me they would enjoy being a part of a modular layout group for expanded enjoyment of the hobby."

The LCCA will solicit design specifications from existing modular railroad clubs concerning module size, electrical hook-ups and wiring in general, cross modular bridge tracks and electrical connections, electronic control system grounding, general construction guidelines, minimum track radius, rail positioning and spacing, layout support systems, layout height, and other variables. Comments regarding the soft side of modular layouts – protective barriers, best venue for presentations, promotion and advertising tips, and related information – will also be gathered to help avoid pitfalls others may have experienced.

Since LCCA favors Lionel products, an important specification for the group will be using Lionel FasTrack exclusively. Advances in electronics, wiring systems, and wireless operation make it possible to utilize technology in sophisticated applications, including recording actions on the layout that can be repeated on command.

Although LCCA requests input from all sources, the club will limit participation in this group to LCCA members. The group will seek volunteers to serve on a modular layout committee which will review and finalize all specifications. Hobbyists interested in supplying modular specifications or becoming a part of this committee may contact Dennis DeVito by e-mail at: President@lionelcollectors.org. LCCA invites all FasTrack-oriented modular layout groups to join it in the project.