

LGB® Chicago Express



A Newsletter of the LGB® Model Railroad Club of Chicago

November, 2007

All Aboard!

by Bill Schwartz

Well, the iHobby show is over and we survived. I say that because our layout was huge and it took a lot of effort on the part of several members to install it, operate it and then tear it down. My message this month is that if we get more people to volunteer, it will take less individual effort. Our layouts are getting bigger and more complex, yet our volunteer base is not growing. It took a very long time to tear down the iHobby layout and load the trailer.

Our Club is going to be put to the test in November and December. On the weekend after Thanksgiving, November 23 to 25, we have committed to operating TWO layouts, miles apart. We will have one at Morton Arboretum and another at the World's Greatest Hobby On Tour (WGHOT) at the Schaumburg Convention Center. To add to the difficulty, our layout at Morton Arboretum will be different than previous ones.

I'll start with the WGHOT. This is a model railroading exhibition that travels around the country to promote the hobby in all scales. Although this show has been around for a few years, this is its first time in Chicagoland and it probably will not return for a few more years. They invite local model railroad clubs to participate and attract manufacturers and dealers from across the country. Go online to <http://www.wghshow.com/0708.htm> for more information.

So this is a unique opportunity for us to show the railroad community what large-scale railroading is all about. Bill Halupka has all the details in his *Along the Mainline* column on page 2. Just keep in mind that the setup on Friday and the operation of our

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Don't Miss Out!

World's Greatest Hobby Show


Morton Arboretum Holiday Display



layout on Saturday and Sunday are concurrent with the Morton display.

Now to Morton! Kevin Kell has an article in this issue of the *Express* about this year's display. I want to emphasize two things. First, the layout will be different this year. It will be raised above the floor with three different elevations of track and it will have running water. So the setup and its operation will be more difficult. Another point is that we will be running EVERY day (except for the holidays). So the need for volunteers at Morton is much greater than before.

PLEASE, PLEASE call Jim Snorek for the World's Greatest Hobby show AND Kevin Kell for the Morton display and VOLUNTEER as much of your time as you can. If you haven't run trains with us before, don't worry. Come on out. We'll show you how. I guarantee that you'll have a great time and come back again.

On another note, LGB of America and Märklin have reached an agreement on distribution of LGB trains in North America. The LGB press release is in this issue. 



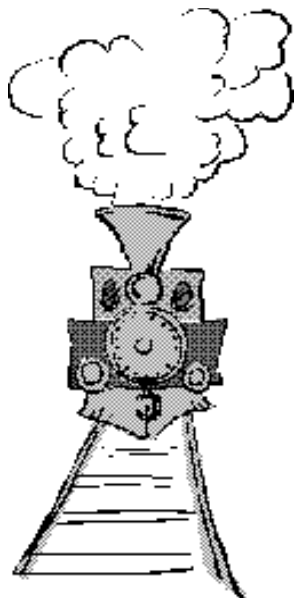
Member News:

I would like to extend a warm greeting to our new members this month:

Ron Althardt, Vernon Hills

Marcial Villauerde,
Mt. Prospect
(Raffle Winner)

I hope we see you at an upcoming event soon. After all, it's our members that make our club successful. 🚂



Along the Mainline

by Bill Halupka

Even though the outdoor "Open House Tours" are finished for the season, don't let the fires die down in your boilers just yet. November and December are going to be a little busy with plenty of chances to run trains and participate in club activities. Sunday November the 18th, we start our first set-up at Morton Arboretum. This will be two or three basic loops of track with signals and power supplies. By this time, most of the major construction, concrete block, dirt, wood platform, and ponds will be finished. All we'll need to do is the track and wiring. Possibly only some minor scenery as well. When you call Kevin Kell, to volunteer, ask about the scenery situation. Trains will also be needed for this layout. There will be an additional set-up day around November 26th or 27th. The switchyard and final loops of track will go in at that time. Kevin can tell you more about this. The Morton show officially opens on Friday November 23rd. The layout will need to be manned every day except Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Years, until January 4th. Teardown will be January 5th.

We are also committed to a 2nd show in the month of November. The "Worlds Greatest Hobby On Tour" comes to the Chicagoland area for the first time. This is a "Train-only" show that travels around the country. It probably will not be back in our area for five to six years. Set-up day for this show is Friday November 23rd, 9:00am to 8:00pm. The show runs Saturday, 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Sunday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Teardown will follow at 5:05pm.

You might have already noticed, that this show runs the same days as our Morton display!! That's the reason for two set-up days at Morton. We don't have enough signals and track to set-up both shows at the same time. We'll do a partial set-up at Morton, and when the Train Show is over, we can complete the layout at Morton. It sounds more complicated than it really is. The "KEY" to the success of both shows is our membership. The Morton Show only needs two to four people to operate and watch trains each day. If you have never helped out at a display before, this is the perfect chance. It's not hard work, plus you can actually play with trains all day. If you work for a living like most of us, please try and volunteer for the weekends. Possibly our retired members can cover the show during the week. It's actually a lot of fun running the trains all day, but the best part is

Club Officers

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LGBMRRC of Chicago

The LGB® Chicago Express is published monthly by the LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago. Material for the newsletter should be forwarded to the Editor at 688 Coral Avenue, Bartlett, IL 60103 on or before the 20th of each the month or e-mailed to Rusch13@comcast.net. Mail for the other club officers should be sent to 773 N. Sterling Rd., Inverness, IL 60067-4272. Electronic mail can be sent to keronjsj@netzero.net

Membership

Your mailing label shows your member number and your membership expiration date. To ensure uninterrupted receipt of the LGB® Chicago Express, you should forward your check for \$22.00 before your expiration date. Please make your check payable to LGBMRRC of Chicago, write your member number on your check and send it to 773 N. Sterling Rd., Inverness, IL 60067-4272.



watching the "Kids", young and old, when they first see the trains. Sort of makes you feel like Santa Clause!

Please just call Kevin Kell to volunteer for Morton, and Jim Snorek to help out at the Train Show. If you're interested in having your indoor layout open for the Holidays, just give me a call. Don't forget our annual Holiday Party will once again be at "The Wellington" in Arlington Heights. Mark your calendar for January the 12th.

Remember, you can visit our website at LGBmrrcc.com and log into the "Members Only" section for important information or schedule changes. If you have problems logging into the website, please let me know.

That's about all I have this month. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to call or send me an E-mail.

Bill Halupka ————— (708) 485-7193
E-mail ——— LGBer0672@aol.com
Kevin Kell ————— (708) 524-0483
Jim Snorek ————— (847) 359-7251

**Until next month,
keep those trains rollin ! 🚂🚂**

28th National Garden Railway Convention

We have a theme, now we need a logo!

As plans progress with the 28th National Garden Railway Convention, the theme for the Convention will be "*Rails to Friendship*". Now, we are looking for ideas for the logo using the theme as the tag line. Everyone is welcome to submit their drawings or artwork to the convention committee. All submissions will be accepted and reviewed. The Convention Committee will select the logo that best aligns with the theme.

All entries must be received by January 15, 2008. Please submit to Gayle Althardt, General Chair, 15902 Woodbine Circle, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.

We really would like to have your help on this, so go ahead, get your colored pencils out and be creative!

Thanks in advance for your participation and continued support.

Gayle Althardt - 847-634-0637 🚂🚂

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World's Greatest Hobby Show

November 24 & 25, 2007

Schaumburg Convention Center

1551 Thoreau Drive

Schaumburg, Illinois

Set-up is on Friday, November 23rd from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

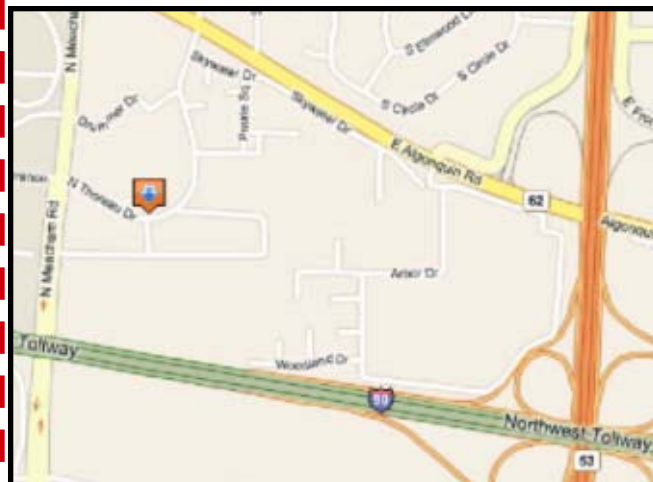
Don't miss the fun!

**Come and show off your
trains and talk with good
friends or even make
some new ones!**



Call Jim Snorek at 847-359-7251 to let him know you are not going to miss out on the fun!

West on I-90 (NW tollway) and exit at Rt 53 north, or north on I-290 and it merges into Rt 53 north. Take Algonquin Road exit and turn right (west) on Algonquin Road. Go about a 1/2 mile to Meacham Road and turn left (south). Go 2 blocks to Thoreau Drive and turn left on Thoreau. Turn right into convention center complex. Parking is free.



 **LGB® Chicago Express**



iHobby Expo 2007

by Bill Halupka

The iHobby Expo was a real success this year thanks to everyone that spent time helping out. Over a six-day period, twenty-six club members participated in set-up, running the show, and tear down. The 2 set-up days went very well. All the track and wiring was basically complete by 5:00pm the first day. That was no easy task since the actual track plan was 35ft by 60ft. That's a lot of track!! All of the scenery was finished on the 2nd day, thanks to Bob Juberg, who brought a complete town area this year. There were well over 3 dozen structures on the layout complete with roads, cars and people. All of this combined with our usual mountain and "Rigi" cable cars really brought the layout to life.




LGB of America had a booth right across from our layout. It was good to see Tony, Jack and Jonathan again. They loaned us a 13ft. LGB banner, which was set-up behind our layout.

They also let us run a new LGB Amtrak Genesis with a handful of passenger cars. To run the Genesis, they loaned us a brand new "Bridgewater" mag25 power supply. The real surprise was when Dave Sauerwald, the owner of Bridgewater donated the supply to the club. The next time your thinking of a new power supply for your layout, be sure to check out Bridgewater.

I want to thank the following people for helping at the show this year – Jim Snorek (co-coordinator), Bill, Bob, and Don Rustemeyer, Bob Klett, Jim and Leona Rusch, Ken Hammer, Larry Rostis, Larry Tomko, Bob and Collin Juberg, Wayne Zoeteman,

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Roy Fox, Craig Pecora, Paul Januska, Arv Gossman, Kevin Kell, Jim Huebler, Tom Trojan, Charles Papanek, Rich Cox, Bill Valkner, Clarence Volk, and John Benz. Without our dedicated members, we couldn't do these shows and promote our hobby of large-scale railroading. We have already been invited to next year's show. It all starts in February with a simple application. 



Club special!

Massoth is offering a \$999.00 deal on a few complete 800Z DCC systems. Klaus Stork has several slightly used 800Z central stations that he will sell including a Navigator wireless controller and receiving antenna for the above price. If you are interested contact Klaus at 1-770-886-6670 or email at klausstork@earthlink.net

- Q: Why don't elephants like to ride on railways?
A: They hate leaving their trunks in the baggage car.
- Q: Why can't a steam locomotive sit down?
A: Because it has a tender behind.
- Q: What is the difference between a school teacher and a steam locomotive?
A: The school teacher tells you to spit out your gum, while the locomotive says "Choo Choo Choo!"

LSOL.com
Come Join the Fun!



MORTON ARBORETUM HOLIDAY DISPLAY

As stated here last month we will be providing one of our famous large-scale railroad displays at the Morton Arboretum over the Holiday season. Setup will be on Sunday November 18th from approximately 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We will be running trains every day between the day after Thanksgiving and January 4, 2008 except Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Years Day. Tear down for this event would be on Saturday, January 5, 2008.

This year the display will go vertical with two levels for the trains and the displays. Our resident handymen, Bill Halupka and Jim Rusch, have committed to building the platforms for the Arboretum. Two ponds and a waterfall provided by Aquascapes will be incorporated into the display. The track plan developed by Bill and Jim will have our usual features of stopping blocks, point-to-point operation, and a reduced size MTS line. The Arboretum will be decorating the layout with scenes of different features found throughout the Arboretum. The displays will include live plants as well as the use of natural materials. There may be some limited need for our buildings. Check with me to see what you would like to bring will have enough space to fit in.

We will need three to four people every day that we run, with a bare minimum of two to start the trains, watch for little hands on the track, re-rail derailments, and shut down at the end of the day. Although it has not been confirmed with the Arboretum, expectations are that we will run from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the week, and until 5:00 PM during the weekends. As always this schedule may be flexible. This year has been complicated by the fact that the first weekend that we run, we will also be at the World's Greatest Hobby expo in Schaumburg.

As can be seen, there are quite a few slots to fill. If we distribute the fun among a large group of members, there should be no problem in making this enjoyable for everyone. This is also a great opportunity for members to show off their favorite train to the public, as well as an excellent time to get your feet wet with a Club display if you have never been involved with one before. Give Kevin Kell a call at (708) 524-0483 to volunteer to help setup, run trains, supply a train, or help with tear down. 🚂

November, 2007



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CLUB INTERNET SITES

Arizona Big Train Operators

<http://www.geocities.com/~azbigtrains/>

Bay Area Garden Railway Society

<http://www.bagrs.org/>

Chicago Area Garden Railway Society

<http://www.cagrs.com/>

Columbus (Ohio) Garden Railway Society

www.cgrs.org

Florida Garden Railway Society

<http://www.fgrs.org/>

Greater Cincinnati Garden Railway Society

<http://www.gcgrs.org/>

LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago

<http://www.LGBMRRCC.com>

Miami Valley Garden Railway Society

www.mgvrs.com

Puget Sound Garden Railway Society

<http://www.psgrs.org/>

Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society

<http://www.svgrs.org/>

San Diego Garden Railway Society

<http://www.sdgrs.com>

Washington, Virginia, & Maryland Garden Railway Society

<http://www.wvmgrs.org/>

Wisconsin Garden Railway Society

<http://www.wgrsociety.org>

For additional Club Listings

<http://www.gardentrains.org/gta/community/clubs/clubs.asp>



Southland Train Show

The fifth annual Southland Train Show held at H.L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn went off without any hitches or glitches. When all the necessary equipment and trunks arrived on Friday night, although a little late (darn traffic!), setup preceded like an army of ants attacking its foe. The yard, race track, cross over, catenary line, trestle line, coaling tower, signals, a mile of wire, the MTS section, some more wire, the “Stinkin” mountain and RIGI, decorations and such all came together to produce another work of model railroading engineering. PHEW!

Kevin’s new “Massoth” digital control system was used along with our MTS system. How sweet it is! Jim Rusch has given the “Massoth” great reviews and thinks



he’ll keep Kevin’s for a while. It should be mentioned though, when someone is operating the DCC portion of the layout no one should talk to the operator for any extended period of time, as this has proven disastrous.

Oops! Not again!

Kevin Kell, who is rehabbing after an ankle replacement, stopped by with his son Jacob, and operated trains (played with?) for a time. I know he enjoyed himself. You can’t keep an old engineer down.



Our newest member, Colin Juberg, manned the controls of the race track that now has eight yard tracks. He was now the “Yard Master”. He did quite well pulling trains in and out of the yard with the new control system developed by our “Web Master” Bill Halupka. And then ...he heard about previous records set for having the most trains out of the yard at one time. Well sad to say, Colin set a record for the most accidents in the shortest amount of time. One of the trains involved was his dad’s new Amtrak passenger express. Uh oh! The fellows who told him about the records failed to inform him of the finer

points for multi train operation. BAD BOYS!

Spectators both young and old enjoyed our club’s display. We received many compliments for a job nicely done. Seeing familiar faces of moms, dads and grandparents with the kids around the layout made me feel warm inside. Congratulations to our raffle winner Tom Curran of Oak Lawn. I know he’ll enjoy his new starter set.

I want to thank the following members who supported this show: Tom Trojan, Roy Fox, Larry Rostis, Jim “Doc” Huebler, Bob, Colin and Gwen Juberg, Jim Rusch, Bill Halupka, Ken Hammer, Wayne Zoeteman, Jim Snorek, Bob and Don Rustemeyer, Kevin “Scooter” Kell and a special thanks to Bob and Gerty Klett for the use of their trailer. Without your participation and support we couldn’t put smiles on the little faces that surround “our layout”. Who ever said this is “The World’s Greatest Hobby” is right!

Larry J. Tomko 

Internet Sites

LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago

<http://LGBMRRCC.com>

LGB of America

<http://www.lgboa.com>

LGB

<http://www.lgb.de/english>

Large Scale Online

<http://www.largescale.com/>

National Model Railroad Association

<http://www.nmra.org>

Finescale Railroader Magazine

<http://finescalerr.com>

Garden Railways Magazine

www.gardenrailways.com

Large Scale Central

<http://www.largescalecentral.com/>

Big Train Operator Club

<http://www.bigtrainoperator.com/>

trains.com

<http://www.trains.com>

November, 2007



Open Houses

No Open House are schedule this month.

All Open Houses are from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

CHOO CHOO CONNECTION
OF SCHAUMBURG



NICK PAGE

847-882-7728

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LGBoA Signs Exclusive Agreement with Märklin

Released 10/5/2007

LGB of America today announced that it has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Märklin. The agreement means that LGB consumers in North America will continue to get quality LGB products and service from their friends at LGB of America.

"I have seen Märklin's commitment to keeping the spirit of LGB alive," said Tony Castellano, President of LGBoA. "And now, LGB of America is prepared for a very bright future as the one-stop source for the best model trains in the world."

LGBoA expects to receive shipments soon of LGB products from Nürnberg. Märklin has also announced that it expects to restart the successful "LGB Club" and its member magazine as soon as possible. "Containers to be shipped to our Freehold warehouse are already being prepared, and we're pushing hard to serve our customers even better than before," said Castellano, who noted that details concerning new products, prices and availability will be released as quickly as possible.

In conjunction with the Märklin agreement, LGBoA also announced today that its parent company, G45 Inc., has been transferred to new owners: LGBoA President Tony Castellano and Munich attorney Stefan Jakob, who represented LGBoA in the Lehmann bankruptcy proceedings. "I saw the potential in LGBoA," said Jakob. "Now, I can see that potential becoming reality." 



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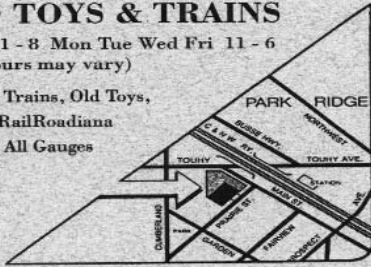
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LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago 2007 Schedule



LGB Club Display Layouts and Meetings

November 24th & 25th Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour - Schaumburg, IL - Jim Snorek 847-359-7251
 November 23rd thru
 January 5th Annual "Holiday Trains" -- Morton Arboretum, Lisle - Kevin Kell 708-524-0483
 January 12th, 2008 Holiday Party - The Wellington -- Arlington Heights - Joe Lienau 630-985-8244
 Feb 8 -10, 2008 Old House New House Home Show at Pheasant Run Resort - Bill Valkner 815-496-2861
 March 8th - 16th Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show - Rosemont - Bill Valkner 815-496-2861

Conventions & Shows

November 10th & 11th Trainfest 2007, Wisconsin State Fair Park - West Allis, WI
 Nov. 24th & 25th - 2007 World's Greatest Hobby on Tour wghshow.com Schaumburg, IL
 Jan 5th & 6th World's Greatest Hobby on Tour wghshow.com Sacramento, CA
 Jan. 12th & 13th World's Greatest Hobby on Tour wghshow.com San Diego, CA
 Jan. 18th - 20th Diamondhead International Small Scale Steamup diamondhead.org/Diamondhead, MS
 Feb 9th & 10th 6th Annual Gateway Garden Railroad Club Winter Meet Carlyle, IL
 Feb. 15th & 16th South East Large Scale Train Show largescaletrainshows.com/article_9.html Perry, GA
 Feb. 16th & 17th World's Greatest Hobby on Tour wghshow.com Norfolk, VA
 March 8th - 16th Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show http://chicagolandflowerandgarden.com/ Rosemont, IL
 March 15th - 16th High Wheeler Display Show - Harper College, Palatine
 March 15th & 16th World's Greatest Hobby on Tour wghshow.com Kansas City, MO
 March 28th & 29th East Coast Large Scale Train Show largescaletrainshows.com/article_2.html York, PA
 April 29th - May 4th 24th Annual Garden Railway Convention http://www.ngrc2008.org/ Chandler, Arizona

Open Houses - See page 7 for future Open Houses

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