



Volume 19, Number 12

December 2016

!At The Throttle!

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.”
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Odds and Ends . . . of the year

This will be a potpourri of a few items at the end of the year. (Now there’s another word for the day!)

The recent Train Fest in Milwaukee was an expansive show of products, demonstrations, and layouts for all types of model trains. It was a good opportunity for us to meet fellow modelers, especially those in the far northern parts of our area. We extended an invitation to them to join likeminded folks and to become members of our group. After explanations of our group activities and where and when we met and a little bit of candy, we signed up six new memberships. After they had filled out the membership request form, they asked, “How do we get in touch with you?” I suddenly became evident that we had directions on how to reach our website, but what do you do if someone has a question and needs some help. It didn’t take long for our trusty volunteers at Train Fest to figure out what was needed – an e-mail address! To make a short story even shorter, we now have one. It is cagrs2017@gmail.com. Thanks to a new rubber stamp, our handouts and new business cards have the address on them for all to enjoy and find connections. Lorrie Rockey is our mail site respondent and is

looking forward to sharing information about CAGRS. Thanks to all our volunteers for the solution and their representation at the various train shows around the area.

And now for something completely different. (Yes, I am a Monty Python fan.)

As the result of recent events associated with our group, I have something else that requires a little help. We have had the unfortunate passing of some members, health issues, moves to new locations, and other life changing events that raise the question, “what do I do with my trains?” This comes under the heading of estate planning or management. Some questions that I have heard lately are “how do I dispose of my trains, how do I determine what they are worth, who can put me in contact with someone who has some knowledge of the above questions?” You get the drift. Some of the life events occur abruptly and the trains end up as an afterthought. Having a plan seems like a good start, but where to start? Here’s where I need your help developing a plan. This does not need an attorney, but will provide steps to ease the process of disposing of your own trains or helping others who do not have a clue about our hobby. Keeping it simple should be a prime requirement. Think about it and get back with me.

And finally, have a safe and happy holiday season. That’s an order!!



**CHCAGO AREA GARDEN
RAILWAY SOCIETY**
<http://cagrs.com>

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The Ink Well
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Keep 'em running,
Madison

CLUB MEMBERSHIP



by Jim FioRito
Membership Chair

Dues are Due!

As a valued member of the CHICAGO AREA GARDEN RAILROAD SOCIETY we are extending to you an invitation to continue your membership for 2017. Enclosed with this newsletter is your renewal form.

It is very important that you provide all your current information so that the club has an accurate record of all members. Be sure to include your current email. Please print clearly.

Once you have completed your form, please mail it with your check to: CAGRS, c/o J FioRito, 1204 Sunnybrook Dr, Naperville, IL 60540. The goal is to complete the renewal process by the end of January. Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Do it today! Thank you.

Thanks.
JIM

CAGRS

November Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2016

by Dora Mecko
Secretary



The monthly meeting was held on Sunday, November 27, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Itasca, IL.

Attendees:

Paul Allodi, Ron & Gayle Althardt, Edward Astrauskas, Mel Boldt, Larry Cerwin, Clark Davoust, Bob & Laurie

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DeFoe, Matt Drennan, Joe Genc, Fred & Penny Haberkamp, Paul Hough, Butch Huvaere, Grant Law, Joe Lienau, Gary Marcheschi, Dora & Don Mecko, Ron & Martha Messner, Karen & Gabi Morelli, Madison & Gayle Parker, John Peart, Dave Rodelius, Bill Rustemeyer, Judy Rustemeyer, Robert Rustemeyer, David Silverton, Donna & Jim Snorek, Jill & Jonathan Treubig, Brian Valleau, Wayne Zoeteman (38)

Announcements:

Madison thanked the club members for their generosity during Walter's raffle at the last meeting. A total of **\$612** in donations was collected and given to Gail Radtke. She was deeply appreciative. Gail in turn, made a donation to the PADS organization that serves the homeless community. (**Pay it Forward**)

Grant Law offered to exchange any Kadee couplers that members don't need for ones they do.

Dave Rodelius advised there are some Aster locomotives and cars available from an estate sale. John Peart advised the pictures will be on the CAGRS web site.

Jim Snorek invited members to see the LGB train layout at Brookfield Zoo in December.

Word of the Day:

"Eisenbahnscheinbewegung" (noun)—The false sensation of movement, when looking out from a stationary train, you see another train depart.
(Madison Parker)

Old Business:

Butch Huvaere brought in more LED light strips to give away to members. He only asks that you give a short presentation to the club on how they were utilized on your layout.

Gayle Althardt A BIG thank you to all those who volunteered and participated at Trainfest.

CAGRS had an excellent location in the Trolley building. In 2017, the club will be given two 8ft tables at the same location. Trainfest showed better results than High Wheelers. Six new members signed up.

Holiday Inn update..... the 2017 contract is in the works. Hopefully, there will be no changes. As long as we reach our **minimum of 40 for dinner**, our room/AV equipment is free.

It is very important that we reach that amount or the **club could end up paying \$400 or more** each month.

New Business:

Reports:

Vice President, Lorrie Rockety: (Absent)

Secretary, Dora Mecko:

The minutes for the October 2016 meeting were presented. No changes or corrections were requested.

Treasurer's Report, Wayne Clauss: (Absent)

The checking account balance as of November 20, 2016 was \$24,140.80. The CD balance was \$10,205.42.

Report read by the Secretary; accepted by the President.

Membership, Jim Fiorito: (Absent)

Editor Report, John Peart: None

Caring and Sharing: Email info to Carol Veldhuizen at Carolv712@sbcglobal.net or call 817-437-2978

Contact Steve & Beth March, if you plan to have an open house in 2017.

Contact Ron Messner for club shirts (long & short sleeve available).

Contact **Judy Rustemeyer** for the new CAGRS wind breakers which are available for purchase in different sizes.

Ron Althardt has club pins available.

Comments:

The next meeting will be Sunday, Sunday, January 22, 2017 at the Holiday Inn in Itasca

Presentation:

Matt Drennan advised of the latest news regarding G Scale manufacturers.

Madison wished everyone a Happy Holiday as we adjourned the meeting.

Contact Madison Parker if you have any comments, recommendations or ideas for presentation topics for future meetings.

Phone: 630-851-4056 630-542-9062

Email: madisonparker@yahoo.com

Respectfully submitted,
Dora Mecko, Secretary



**Caring & Sharing
Corner**

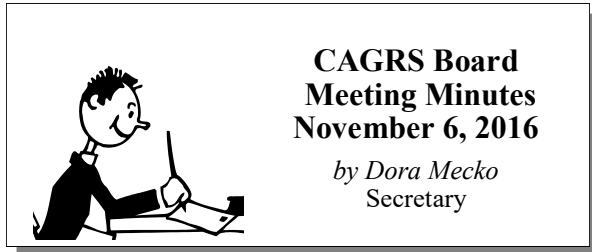
Carol Veldhuizen
Caolv712@sbcglobal.net
817-437-2978

Happy Birthday to

Craig Pecora
Michael Lawrence
Raymond Skowron
David Fox
Mari Louise Jastrzebski
David Silverton
Diane Vavra
Peggy Kell
Minor Thomas
Bob Defoe

Happy Anniversary to

Beverly and David Fox
Karen and Ray Holich
Beth and Steven March



Attendees: Ron & Gayle Althardt, Jim Fiorito, Fred & Penny Haberkamp, Butch Huvaere, Joe & Mary Lou Lienau, Beth March, Dora & Don Mecko, Madison & Gayle Parker, Lorrie & John Rockey, Dave Silverton, Jill & Jonathan Treubig.

The **Chicago Area Garden Railway Society (CAGRS)** was called to order by President Madison Parker at the Althardt's residence on November 6, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

Madison presented the proposed **CAGRS calendar for 2017**. The final is listed below.

- A. January 22, 2017
- B. February 26, 2017
- C. March 26, 2017
- D. April 1, 2017 (**Saturday, GOLDEN OLD-IES REUNION**)
- E. April 23, 2017 Annual Elections (Vice-President & Treasurer)
- F. May 7, 2017 Spring Board Meeting (3:00 pm Althardt Residence)
- G. May 21, 2017 (May 29 is Memorial Day)
- H. June 25, 2017
- I. July 23, 2017
- J. August 27, 2017
- K. September 24, 2017
- L. October 22, 2017
- M. November 5, 2017 Board Meeting
- N. November 26, 2017
- O. December 2017 **No Meeting**

Madison advised there was a great outcome

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for the raffle held for Walter's stock. Club members were very generous. The funds were then given to Gail Radtke who was very appreciative of it.

Word of the day: "**Petrichor**"—pleasant smell from a fresh rain following a dry spell.

Old Business:

Budget:

Wayne Clauss was not present. Budget discussion at a later date.

Still need a **back-up for Web Master/Ray Sargent**. Madison will speak to him to see who he would recommend.

Approximately 20 of 131 memberships do not have email. (Discussion ref electronic vs snail mail.)

The **Holiday Inn in Itasca** will continue to be our CAGRS meeting place. Ron & Gayle Althardt will assist in negotiating a renewal contract/menu. No indication from the Holiday Inn of any price increase. They also have not charged us when we do not meet the **minimum of 40 dinners**. The buffet continues to offer soup and salad vs having only one choice as listed on our contract. **Continued member support is needed to maintain the current arrangement.**

Presenters are needed for the monthly meetings.

We presently have speakers lined up until February. **Bruce Moffat** will return again, speaking about Chicago's underground tunnel system. Contact Madison with any ideas/suggestions.

Jill & Jonathan Treubig led the discussion on the **CAGRS markers** which are given to open house hosts. After much discussion, a motion was made by Fred Haberkamp and seconded by Gayle Parker. The motion was passed unanimously to continue to offer the hoop design along with a new CAGRS "rock"

that was designed by Jonathan. The hoop will cease once the supply is gone. (Approximately 40 of 75 are left.)

Open House Schedule: Steve and Beth March will continue to coordinate. Beth requested that the members submit the info to them instead of the Editor or Web Master.

New Business:

Fred & Penny Haberkamp volunteered to oversee the **elections** which will be held on April 23, 2017. The members will be voting for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer.

CAGRS will have a display table vs a booth at the 2016 **Wisconsin Trainfest**. Booths are expensive where there is no fee for the display table. It will be in the Trolley Barn. The fest is held every year on the second weekend in November.

Saturday, April 1st, 2017 "Golden Oldies Reunion", celebrating the **50's, 60's and 70's**. The contract/deposit was made with **Chandler's** (Schaumburg) with a **minimum of 40 attendees**. Family style dinner (cash bar) with music supplied by **Ernie Gamer, our regular DJ**. A big thank you to Fred Haberkamp who provided a contact from his previous non-CAGRS events there. A proposal was made by coordinator **Gayle Althardt**, to request that the club subsidize the event in the amount of **\$750**. That would cover the DJ fee (\$350) along with \$10 toward each person's dinner. Guests would also be included. Previously, funds were used from the High Wheeler event which was not held this year. A motion to accept was made by Fred Haberkamp and seconded by Jill Treubig. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Open Forum/Comments

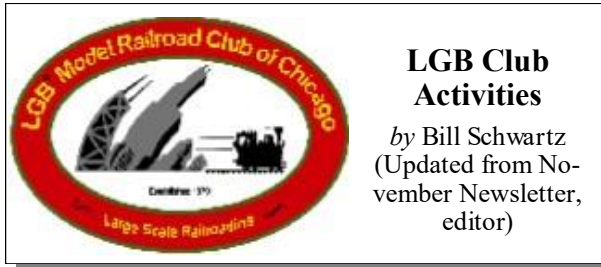
Jill Treubig made a presentation on the suggestion to update the **CAGRS club display** for better visibility at events such as Trainfest. She also recommended that the club participate in more local shows to promote G Scale. The discussion was made that sufficient manpower could be a problem to staff the shows.

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Madison adjourned the meeting and we retired to an evening meal.

Respectfully submitted.

Dora Mecko, Secretary



Our next event will be our display at Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic 2016, Chicagoland's largest light festival (a million leds). As always, we will be located in the lower level of the BZ Red Hots Restaurant. Operating dates are the weekends of Dec. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and the entire week of Dec. 26 to 31. Operating hours are 4 to 8:30 pm each day. www.brookfieldzoo.org

Saturday, January 7, 2017 will be a busy day for the LGB Club. We will be disassembling our Zoo layout and installing the Enchanted Railroad layout at Morton Arboretum. This will be the LGB Club's 16th consecutive year at the Arboretum. The 2016 layout had a record attendance.

The Enchanted Railroad layout will be open from Friday, January 13 to Sunday, February 19, 2017. Operating hours are 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

CAGRS members are always welcome to participate in any of the LGB Club's activities. If you want to help us operate any of these layouts or help with setup and teardown, call me at 630-567-2221.

Bill Schwartz



Legacy along the Right-of-Way Christmas Events

*By Brian Valleau
Updated from November Newsletter,
editor)*

This edition will be a little different in that while I will be writing about Christmas and other Holiday Train displays and/or events, they won't be about the past but will be about what is happening this season. As a few of them will be starting before or just after Thanksgiving, I am providing a list of what you might want to check out. Just please remember that is no means a complete list and can definitely be added to. So here are a few to wet your appetite:

The Chicago Botanic Gardens with the Wonderland Express large scale display indoors with the buildings from Applied Imaginations. From Friday November 25th thru Monday January 2 2017. www.chicagobotanic.org

The Polar Express will be departing in South Elgin from the **Fox River Trolley Museum** starting November 20, 26, 27, December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18 2016 with departures at 3:15, 4:25, 5:35, 6:45, 7:35 on selected evenings. The train will transport you to the North Pole where Santa will be waiting. Tickets can be purchased on line at www.foxtrolley.org

The **Illinois Railway Museum** will be operating the **Happy Holiday Railway**. You will embark on a magical 40minute train ride through the winter countryside with Santa Claus himself. Treats will be served and gifts will be given to children on Santa's good list. Days for this event will be December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18. Saturdays trips are hourly from 2 to 7pm and Sunday trips are hourly from 1 to 7pm. Tickets are \$18.00 a head and are to be purchased on line at www.irm.org

Over in Indiana way north of La Porte is the **Hesston Steam Museum**. On the first two

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weekends in December they will be operating the **Candy Cane Express**. The cost to ride the train \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. If you bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys For Tots you ride free. Santa arrives at noon and can be visited in his magical ca-
boose. More information at www.hesston.org

Lets go to our northern border and to the town of East Troy home to the **East Troy Electric Railroad**. The Christmas Trains will be running December 10,11,17 & 18 departing 9,10,11 am, noon 1,2 pm. Departing from the East Troy Depot your destination is Santa's Workshop located at the Elegant Farmer. Where you can visit with the jolly elf and have you picture taken with him. Tickets can be purchased either on line or at the depot. For more info www.easttroyrr.org

This just a small sample of what will be going on in our area. Remember to visit downtown Chicago to see the different displays in the stores, at the John Hancock building or maybe Navy Pier and do not forget the Lincoln Park Conservatory. There is a site that you can go to www.santainchicago.com/santaonthetrain/santaandtrains.htm . This will provide you with a list of what is happening by city what events are happening with trains that the city is sponsoring. It is definitely THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

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SAVE THE DATE!!!!

CAGRS GOLDEN OLDIES PARTY!!!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST, 2017

**WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER!**



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OFFICIAL CAGRS CLUB LOGO SHIRTS AND JACKETS AVAILABLE

CAGRS JACKETS

Judy Rustemeyer is the *Jacket Lady* for the club..

Jacket Order Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make Checks Payable to CAGRS


Contact Judy Rustemeyer
6067 N. Newburg Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60631
312-513-2227



Men's



Ladies

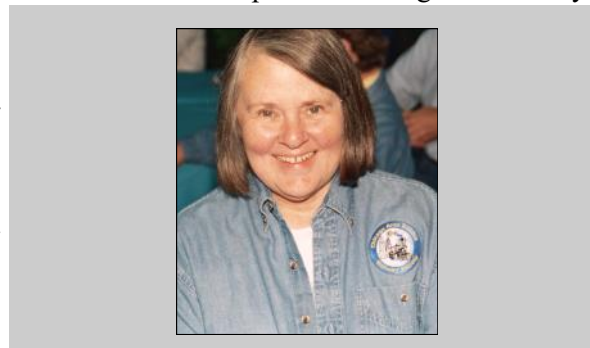
	Small	Medium	Large	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X	Total
	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$55.00	\$58.00	\$58.00	\$61.00	
Men's Quantity									
Ladies Quantity							N/A	N/A	

CAGRS SHIRTS

Ron Messner is our *Shirt Man*. Our members are seen here in the photo wearing our smartly styled denim versions with logo. The shirts are available with short or long sleeves.

All shirts are available in sizes Small thru XXXL. The Polo short sleeve version is \$28. for all sizes. The denim shirts are \$30 for all sizes and sleeve styles. Please contact Ron for his inventory. You can contact him by phone, email, or at a CAGRS monthly meeting to place your order.

Ron Messner
4936 Berenice
Chicago, IL 60641
Ronmarstation@sbcglobal.net
773-794-1779



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Chicago Area Garden Railway Society
1204 Sunnybrook Drive
Naperville, IL 60540



Coming Up this Month

NO DECEMBER Meeting

December

(Numerous Christmas Events, For details check LGB Club Activities article and Legacy along the Right-of-Way article)

Coming Up Later

January 22

January Meeting, Holiday Inn, Itasca, 5:30

Jan 13-

Feb 19 2017

LGB Club "Enchanted Railroad" at Morton Arboretum

April 1

Saturday, CAGRS "Golden Oldies Reunion"

April 23

Annual Elections (Vice-President and Treasurer)

May 7

CAGRS Spring Board Meeting (Althardt Residence)