

Happy Birthday to The Lion Roars

by Charles M. Switzer, Jr., #5747

The Lion Roars, the bimonthly magazine of the Lionel Collectors Club of America, is celebrating its eighteenth birthday with the April 1991 issue.

A succession of devoted voluntary editors have brought this important club publication to all members, almost without interruption, since publication of the premier issue in April 1973. That issue was the first to use the title *The Lion Roars*. The first issue consisted of four folded mimeographed pages on rough paper. In contrast, a recent issue had thirty two professionally printed pages on quality paper with full color covers and color photographs inside. Clearly, the magazine has come a long way in the last eighteen years, reflecting how the LCCA itself has grown.

Curiously, the first issue of *The Lion Roars* published in April 1973 is labeled Vol. 2 No. 3. You may wonder how this could be the first issue? The answer, supplied by the first editor James Hunt, #CM9, is that this numbering continued the numerical sequence of the predecessor to *The Lion Roars*, the LCC of A Newsletter. The LCC of A Newsletter started with Vol. 1 No. 1 and continued to Vol. 2 No. 2, although it was never labeled that way. It should be noted that in its early days the club's name was officially abbreviated as the LCC of A instead of today's familiar LCCA.

The LCC of A Newsletter, inaugurated with the October/November 1971 issue, was intended to be published every two months for members of

the then brand-new club.

Apparently, that timetable could not be met, for succeeding issues were published as follows: December 1971/January 1972, February/March/April 1972, May/June/July 1972, December 1972/January 1973, and March/April/May 1973. These Newsletters provide interesting reading and insight into early club growing pains. All six Newsletters were apparently compiled and produced by the first LCCA secretary, James Brady, #38.

How many club members are aware of an LCCA publication entitled the Lionel Model Railroading Magazine? It must be very scarce because only one issue was ever published in August '72.

The Newsletter for February/March/April 1972 makes reference to the "forthcoming new LCC of A publication, the Lionel Collectors Club Magazine, possibly a monthly, with photos and advertising, for publication in mid-1972." The Newsletter for December 1972/January 1973 states in a report from the then president that "... the first issue of the magazine is off the press and available." And the first issue of *The Lion Roars* contains this statement in the President's column: "The Lionel Model Railroading Magazine was the official magazine of the Club." Subscriptions were taken by mail and received at the convention. Since then, no other publications have been made. At a meeting of the Club's officers, it was decided not to continue publication at that time, however they did plan on publishing the magazine when

funds and manpower were available.

Initially, the name of the club magazine was proposed to be the Lionel Collectors Club Magazine, but the title was never used. The only edition of the Lionel Model Railroading Magazine, dated August 1972, consisted of twenty four pages between blue card stock covers. It sold for one dollar and an annual subscription was two dollars. The subscription turned out to be a bad investment as things turned out. A number of black and white photographs were included, as well as eight pages of commercial advertising and even some poetry. Perhaps the most significant contents of the new magazine were four pages of "Have/Want/Trade" ads modestly labeled under the column "Interchange Trade", clearly the forerunner of today's bimonthly LCCA publication, *The Interchange Track*. The *Interchange Track* is indisputably the best such publication in today's toy train world. There were nineteen "Have/Want/Trade" ads in this issue. A like-new 6464-500 Timken boxcar could have been purchased for \$9.50 from one of the few ads which stated prices.

With attention again to the current *The Lion Roars*, an extra annual Toy Fair Special Edition was introduced in February 1984. This first Toy Fair Edition was not marked as to volume or number, and contained only black and white photographs. The second Toy Fair Special Edition in February 1985, also unmarked as to volume and number, contained

color photographs, as have all succeeding issues through 1990. Toy Fair special editions beginning in 1986 have been assigned regular sequential Lion Roars volume and number designations, so that there have

been seven numbers per volume since 1986. These special Toy Fair editions, all authored by current LCCA president, Bill Schmeelk, provide a thorough advance look at each year's new Lionel train products.

Unfortunately, due to club budgetary limitations, there will be no separate Toy Fair Edition for 1991. The toy fair information will be included in the April 1991 issue of The Lion Roars.

There have been eight editors of The Lion Roars:

1. James Hunt April 1973 - Feb 1975
2. Robert Hazlett April 1975 - June 1978
3. Frank Kloss August 1978 - June 1980
4. Bernard Puralewski August 1978 - June 1980 (Kloss and Puralewski were co-editors)
5. Dave Weggeland August 1980 - June 1981
6. Fred Sanford August 1981 - December 1985
7. Larry Black February 1986 - October 1990
8. Glenn Patsch December 1990 - present

Some milestones for The Lion Roars:

- First cardboard cover - Volume 12, No. 4, February 1983, orange and blue outside covers
- First color photo on cover - Volume 12, No. 6, June 1983
- First color photos inside - 1985 Toy Fair Special Edition
Volume 15 No. 4, February 1986
- Largest edition, 32 pages - Volume 19 No. 2, October 1989 and Volume 19 No. 6, April 1990
- First Table of Contents - December 1990 issue

Those who may be interested in putting together a collection of past issues of The Lion Roars should know that several issues were inadvertently mis-marked as follows:

Date	Incorrect Marking	Marking Should be
October 1977	Vol. 7 No. 1	Vol. 7 No. 2
June 1978	Vol. 7 No. 7	Vol. 7 No. 6
August 1980	Vol. 9 No. 7	Vol. 10 No. 1
February 1986	Vol. 15 No. 1	Vol. 15 No. 4
Toy Fair 1986	Vol. 15 No. 2	Vol. 15 No. 5
October 1987	none	Vol. 17 No. 2
February 1991	January 1991	February 1991

Note that the October 1987 issue can be identified by the Lionel #6520 diesel Seaboard switcher on the cover.

Three issues of The Lion Roars have had pastel colored cardstock outside covers.

1. Vol. 11 No. 3, December 1981, green
2. Vol. 11 No. 4, February 1982, pink
3. Vol. 11 No. 6, June 1982, orange

A limited number of back issues of The Lion Roars are available from the LCCA Business Office. Occasionally back issues are found at train meets for sale. The club librarian, Dennis DeVito, has indicated that selected reprints of past issues are being considered as well as a comprehensive index of past issues. The inside page two of each Lion Roars lists which back issues are still available.

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