

The Illinois Traction Society



Photo courtesy Steve Mueller

Before you know it, another year rolls by and it's time to start making plans for attending the 32nd Illinois Traction Society Annual Meet, which will be held in Litchfield, Ill., the site of multiple events. Lonnie Bathurst and Mike Schafer will be your hosts to welcome you to another excursion of exploring the Illinois Terminal.

Early registration and activities will begin on **FRI-DAY, April 27** at 1PM in our host hotel, Holiday Inn Express, 4 Thunderbird Circle, Litchfield, (217) 323-4556. The annual informal dinner will be held on that same evening at the historic Ariston Café, 413 North Historic Old Route 66, Litchfield (217) 324-2023). Step back to the 1940s at world-famous Ariston's at the time of your choice between 6PM and 9PM. At 8:30PM, the Film Festival returns and will be held in the special William B. McKinley Meeting Room set aside for us at the Holiday Inn Express. Pizza and cocktails will be available.

On **SATURDAY, April 28** at 9AM until 3:30PM, the railroad memorabilia and model railroad swap meet will be held at the Litchfield Community Center, 1100 South State Street, Litchfield, (217) 413-6605. There will be a variety of items for sale or trade, appealing to both collector and modeler. At a time slot yet

Informal Friday Supper Gathering at Famous Ariston Cafe
~~~~~  
**Friday Evening Film Festival**  
~~~~~  
Saturday Railroadianna and Model Railroad Swap Meet
~~~~~  
**Mini Motorcoach Tours of Nearby IT Sites**  
~~~~~  
Litchfield Model Railroad Group Open House
~~~~~  
**Railroad Model Craftsman "Look Both Ways"**  
**Columnists Bill Navigato and Mike Schafer on Modeling the IT**  
~~~~~  
Special Staged Photo Op With Illini Terminal "Football Scheme" GP9 No. 1604
~~~~~  
**Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center**  
~~~~~  
The 2018 Annual Meeting and Litchfield Flyer Dinner
~~~~~  
**Post-dinner Audio/Visual Presentations by Mike Schafer and Mike McBride**  
~~~~~  
"Until We Meet Again" Sunday Brunch at Famous Ariston Cafe

to be determined, noted **dueling columnists from *Railroad Model Craftsman's* "Look Both Ways" column**, Bill Navigato and Mike Schafer, will give a presentation on their two own approaches to modeling the Illinois Terminal on their current layouts. This will be held in the William B. McKinley Meeting Room of the Litchfield Community Center.

At mid-morning and at early afternoon of the 28th (exact times to be announced), we will provide two 90-minute **City of Litchfield deluxe motorcoach tours** that will include area IT locations, including Hillsboro. *Both tours will have the same routing*, which will provide some flexibility in how you spend your time during the day for other venues, such as the swap meet, Route 66 museum, the Litchfield Model Railroad Group, and other attractions. Boarding will be at the Community Center and advance reservations are required, as the capacity for each tour is limited to about 36 people. **The Litchfield Model Railroad Group** (as featured in the July-October 2014 issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman*), located at 510 North State Street—side door of the Ameriprise Building—will be open for viewing between 8:30AM and 10AM. At 3:30PM, the Illini Terminal Railroad will present a **"Return to 1957 Photo Op"** with engine 1604 conducting run-by photography opportunities and a staged scene at old Route 66 with a 1957

Chevrolet and the locomotive in the crossing. The annual **Social Hour** will be held at 5PM in the Community Center and **Litchfield Flyer Dinner** will be served promptly at 6PM. For the evening dinner, you will have your choice of Fried Chicken, Prime Rib Beef, Tortilleni with Cheese, Twice-Baked Potato, Salad, Green Beans, Dessert, Tea, Coffee, Lemonade. The cost of the dinner and entertainment event will be \$27 per person. After dinner and a brief State of Society report, Mike Schafer will present his new 15-minute multi-media audio/visual presentation **Time Line With Tunes: Illinois Terminal**. This will be followed by a slide presentation by Mike McBride of **Railroading in the Litchfield Area**, featuring the IT, Litchfield & Madison, Wabash, Burlington, Illinois Central, Chicago & North Western, and other related rail lines.

On Sunday morning at 11AM, for those who have chosen to spend Saturday night at Litchfield to recover from Saturday's breathtaking events, the **Ariston Café Brunch** has a wonderful offering of food that you'll find worth staying around for to please your palate. Those of us staying into Sunday morning will gather here as our closing event to the weekend.

This annual event is one that you will not want to miss. Looking forward to seeing you at Litchfield!

Use this form or — if you want to keep this beautiful registration form intact — a facsimile

ILLINOIS TRACTION 32nd ANNUAL MEET

LITCHFIELD, ILLINOIS

Main event: SATURDAY APRIL 23, 2018

Bus departs at mid-morning and early afternoon (times to be announced) on Saturday the 28th.

TOUR RESERVATION MUST BE MADE BY April 23, 2018

City of Litchfield motorcoach TOUR: \$25 each X No. of people _____ TOTAL \$_____

ITS Litchfield Flyer DINNER

Promptly at 6PM, dinner will be served followed by evening program.

ITS evening dinner & program @ \$27 each X No. of People _____ TOTAL \$_____

Make check or money order payable to Illinois Traction Society TOTAL \$_____

Please Return to: ITS/Dale Jenkins, 264 Victoria Ave., Decatur, IL 62522

Registered guests and ITS member will receive an ITS badge when registering

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN APRIL 23, 2018