Illinois Live Steamers

Dear Large Scale Railroad Enthusiast,

We would like to thank you for requesting more information about the Illinois Live Steamers (ILS). We hope this information will interest you and perhaps encourage you to join our organization. Our members are persons that truly enjoy the sound of the whistle and the sight/smell of those trains of both yesterday and today. The purpose of our organization is to bring together individuals that share a common interest in railroad equipment, operations, and other types of model construction. In this information package, you should find the following items:

1. Large Scale Railroading/ILS Background Information.
2. Probationary Member Training Program
3. Membership Classifications available and explanation of fees.
4. Maps: Club Location with respect to Chicago Suburbs and Track Layouts.
5. Membership Application Questionnaire.

All regularly scheduled club meetings and run days are held each month at the club unless announced otherwise. Members are encouraged to participate in club activities and projects whenever possible. Throughout the year, the club sponsors various train meets at which time other interested live steam and large-scale railroad enthusiasts may bring their equipment to operate on any one of the ILS tracks.

The ILS is always interested in new members that are willing to commit themselves to our club and the hobby. We hope that new members will be willing to devote their time to come out and enjoy our company. It is **not** necessary to own equipment in order to join our organization, but we hope the influence of the club will increase your desire to purchase new (or used) or start to build something on your own.

Further details concerning available ILS membership can be found on the attached membership classification description. Please note that prospective Probationary members have several payment programs to choose from. If you have any questions concerning the Illinois Live Steamers or you would like to forward your membership application form, please contact our organization as follows:

ILS Corresponding Secretary
c/o Jennifer Mohr
16541 Churchview Dr.
Orland Park, IL 60467

Your name will be registered on the ILS Membership Roster when your application form is returned with payment (partial or entire). Thanks again for your interest in the ILS and large-scale railroading.

Cordially,
The Illinois Live Steamers

LARGE SCALE RAILROADING & THE ILLINOIS LIVE STEAMERS

Model railroading has been a hobby that has fascinated both young and old persons for over one hundred years. Every year, the large-scale railroading hobby has increased in popularity as well. You can find large-scale railroading clubs with operating tracks located all over the United States, Canada and even throughout the world. Although many tracks are either personally or privately owned, there are also many tracks in public parks.

Large-scale railroading includes many different sizes or "scales". Due to availability and convenience, perhaps the three most popular scales are: (1) 3/4 inch scale or 3-1/2 inch track gauge, (2) 1 inch scale or 4-3/4 inch track gauge and (3) 1-1/2 inch scale or 7-1/2 inch track gauge. In the 1-1/2 inch scale, you will find that there is also a 7-1/4 inch track gauge used in the Northeastern United States and Canada. Technically, neither 7-1/2 nor 7-1/4 is correct. A true 1-1/2 inch scale model should ride on 7-1/16 inch gauge track. The 7-1/2 inch track gauge really represents a 1.6 inches to the foot scale. In the opinion of some modelers, this scale looks better. There are also larger scales than the ones just mentioned. These include the 10, 12, 15, 16 inch and larger track gauges. This size equipment is usually used for amusement park railroad operations.

All hobbies are meant to be fun and large-scale model railroading is no different. We are constantly reminded that RULE #1 IS SAFETY FIRST! Safety guidelines and rules are important at all times if the hobby is to remain active and safe. Steam locomotive boilers must be tested and certified before allowed to operate on any track. Boilers must have two safety valves and two methods of getting water into the boiler. All locomotives and other rolling equipment must satisfy specific wheel gauge standards. Operating brakes on all engines are recommended, but not necessarily required. The fact that large-scale railroading is not child's play is of great importance. An accident can have serious consequences. Live steam railroad clubs are not child playgrounds. Adults visiting the ILS with children shall keep youngsters controlled at all times. With this in mind, persons seriously interested in our club are welcome to visit by invitation.

Most locomotives being built today are in the 1 inch and 1-1/2 inch scales. If you have no equipment at this time, the scale size you choose to model will depend on several factors. Every model builder selects the scale that suits his own needs. A modeler should take into consideration his machine shop equipment limitations, model transporting capability and his ability to possibly manhandle heavy locomotives that can sometimes exceed 1000 pounds. It is also best to find out some of the pitfalls to avoid before you start to build something on your own. This could save you valuable time and hard work. Depending on your interests, you might find that castings are available along with plans from various sources for different types of locomotives and rolling stock. Some models are scratch-built from photos and other research. Advice is usually available from some of the more experienced model builders. This is an added advantage of becoming a club member.

Today, live steam locomotives can be fueled by coal, oil, propane, butane and even wood. Coal and propane are the more popular fuels used. Many of the model steam locomotives have the same features as real locomotives. Steam powered turbine generators are used to operate headlights, operating steam-powered air and water pumps and sometimes power reverse mechanisms are also modeled. The newer, diesel locomotives are usually powered by gasoline engines or battery supplied electricity. Gas engines use mechanical, hydraulic or other means to transmit power. Interurban and streetcar models are also usually battery powered.

Live steam models were being built as long ago as the 1920's in the Chicago area. The Chicago Society of Model Engineers was the leader in all types of model making activities and is still in existence. In August of 1967, several of the CSME members chartered a private club that eventually became the Illinois Live Steamers (ILS). In 1968, the ILS purchased a 7-1/2 acre plot of land Southwest of Chicago. A great deal of effort went into planning and laying track. The backbreaking grading and ground leveling could have equaled that of the transcontinental railroad, except on a smaller scale. ILS facilities include a heated clubhouse with a shop,

kitchen, washrooms and several other structures for club member locomotive and rolling stock equipment storage. Other storage facilities are also provided for club maintenance equipment.

While the ILS likes to maintain a friendly and cordial atmosphere, the club expects its members to respect the rights that form the foundation of the ILS. Here are several items that new members should keep in mind:

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AS A MEMBER OF THE ILS:

- Unlimited use of the club tracks and facilities.
- Monthly meeting every second Sunday of the month all year long (except May).
- Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and other family-type Mini-Meets.
- Monthly minutes of membership meeting e-mailed to all members.
- Work Day every fourth Sunday of the month.
- Open Board of Directors meeting available to all members.
- Upon joining the ILS members may receive:
    - Access to club constitution, bylaws, equipment regulations and standards on member's only section of website
    - Club History
    - Membership Roster
    - Calendar of Events
    - Engraved plastic laminate name badge for member and spouse

WHAT THE ILS EXPECTS OF YOU:

- RULE #1 - SAFETY FIRST!
- Members are encouraged to participate on various committees.
- Members are expected to help maintain: club property, tracks, etc., by doing their share of work. No heavy power equipment (such as tractors) shall be operated unless more than one person is present on the club property.
- No beer, wine, liquor or any other kind of alcohol is permitted on the club property.
- No firearms of any kind are permitted on the club property.
- No club equipment (train or other) shall be removed from the club property without the authorization of club officers.
- No member shall operate or use another members' engine or cars without owner permission.
- No overnight use of campers or tents is permitted on the club property.
- All members should sign the club register in the clubhouse every time they visit the club property. It is the duty of every member that brings children, or guests with children, to keep them under control at all times.
- It shall be the duty and responsibility of the last member to leave the club property on any given to day to properly secure all equipment, buildings and property. Guests are not to be left on the property unless a key-carrying member is present.

You can find additional information on the live steam hobby and club site locations in magazines such as, "Live Steam", on sale in the larger hobby shops.

www.illinoislivesteamers.com

ILS PROBATIONARY MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAM

Last Revised 12/30/05

Prior to being upgraded to Regular Member status, the following list of training and information activities are required for all Probationary Member. This program is intended to introduce new members to the ILS and to foster a sense of involvement. This program also allows new members to meet current members and vice versa.

Probationary members are required to complete task items #1, 2, 3 and #12. Items #1 and #2 are required to be completed prior to any Probationary Member operating train equipment without supervision or bringing any train equipment on the club property. After tasks #1, 2, 3 and #12 have been completed, at least 3 additional tasks/events from the list below prior to membership upgrade approval. Probationary and Regular Members are encouraged to involve themselves in as many activities as possible. Participation and involvement will provide for a more fulfilling, safe and enriched experience for all the members of the club.

Probationary Members shall submit one or more of sign-off forms with supporting documentation on the day of the vote to upgrade to Regular Member status. A current list of club members authorized to sign off each activity for Probationary Members is listed in the Probationary Member Program Book in the clubhouse.

1 - Club Grounds Safety and Security Orientation

Complete the current orientation program as posted in the clubhouse. Orientations are generally given after the monthly meetings, weather permitting. This orientation program generally takes about an hour. Individuals needing certification are urged to contact an authorized individual for specific scheduling.

2 - Train Operation

Operation orientations are generally given before the monthly meetings weather permitting. This program generally takes about two hours. Individuals needing certification are urged to contact an authorized individual for specific scheduling.

1 1/2" Track: Complete the current orientation as posted in the clubhouse.

1" Track: Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

3/4" Track: Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

3 - Work Weekend

Complete activities as directed by any club officer. A task list is usually posted.

4 - Annual Meet

Complete activities as directed by Meet Chairperson(s)

5 - Night Run

Complete activities as directed by any Regular member

6 - Point to Point

Complete orientation as directed by the Dispatcher

7 - Holiday Run

Complete activities as directed by any Regular member

8 - Track Department

Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

9 - Grounds Department

Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

10 - Buildings Department

Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

11 - Paint Department

Complete orientation as directed by authorized member

12 - Board Of Directors Meeting

Attend any BOD meeting. Signed off by senior member at the meeting

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

The ILS has three types of membership classification available for new members:

1 - PROBATIONARY MEMBER

Live within 60 miles distance of the ILS club property (see map provided with this information package) and must serve a one-year probationary period and complete the "Probationary Membership Training Program" before being approved for Regular Member status by a majority vote of the general membership. Probationary Members have the privilege of using the club facilities when a Regular Member is present, but have no voting rights, nor are they allowed to hold a key to the club property. Probationary Members are not allowed to store train equipment on the club property until upgraded to Regular Member status and pending space availability. [NOTE: Regular Members over 21 years of age have all rights and privileges and are allowed to hold a property key.]

*Probationary Members may join the ILS by paying a **minimum** of $175.00 ($100.00 Entrance Fee + $75.00 for first 3 months dues) when they submit their membership application. Other payment options are listed below OR if desired, submit **full payment** or $400.00 with their application.* Note: Late dues payments are subject to a late penalty charge after the first three months as follows: $5.00 after the first (3) months and then, $5.00 per month thereafter. Members are dropped from the ILS roster when their dues are six months in arrears.

First Year Probationary Member Cost

Entrance Fee	(one time charge = $100.00)	$ 100.00
Regular Monthly Dues	(12 months x $25.00/month)	$ 300.00
Total First Year Cost		$ 400.00

Probationary Member Payment Options

		Option #1 (Quarterly)		Option #2 (Bi-Annual)	Option #3 (Year Total)
First Payment		$175.00		$250.00	$400.00
Plus	3@	$ 75.00	1@	$150.00	--
Total		$400.00		$400.00	$400.00

2 - AFFILIATE MEMBER

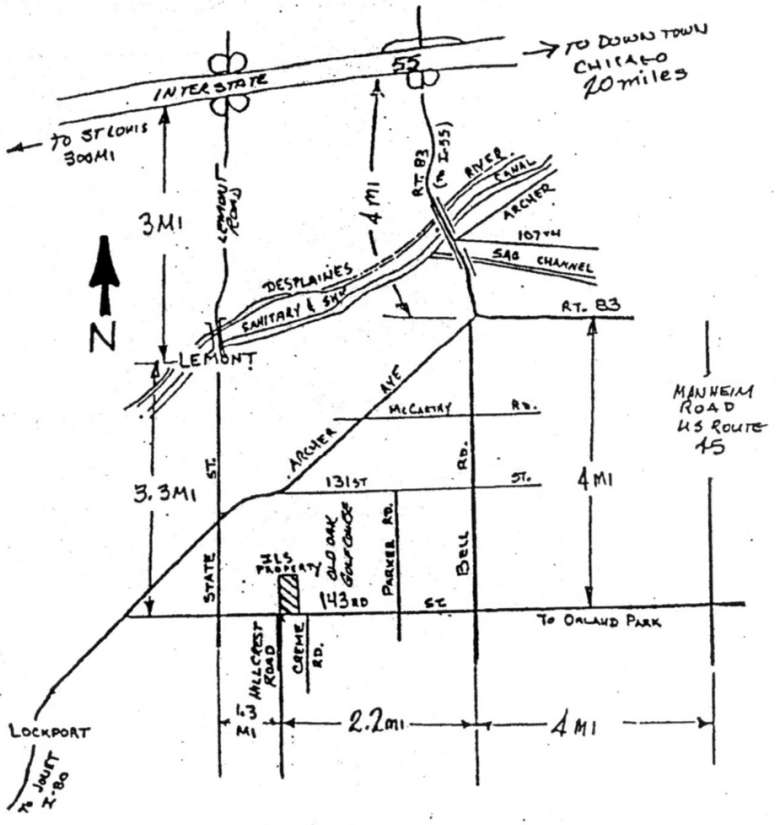
Live beyond a 60-mile distance from the ILS in the Lockport, IL area. Affiliate members are invited to use the facilities at the club grounds upon their visits and have no voting rights. Affiliate members cannot hold a key to the ILS property. Affiliate members are not allowed to store train equipment on ILS property. *Affiliate member dues are $25.00 per calendar pear, usually due in January.*

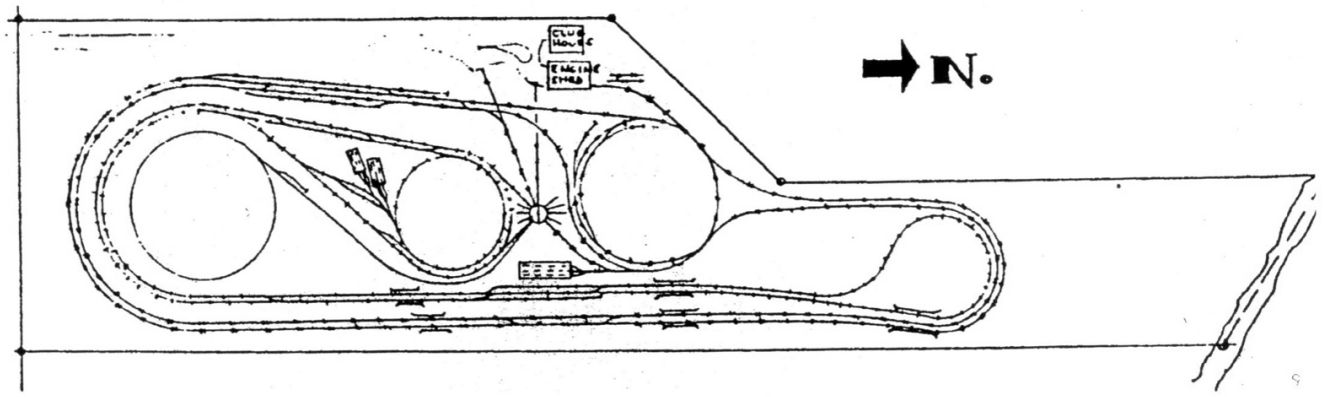
3 - JUNIOR MEMBER

Young adults over 12 years of age, but less than 21. A Junior member must be sponsored by a Regular member in good standing (usually the parent). The parent Regular member must be present on ILS property at all times the Junior member is on ILS property. Junior members have no voting rights. Junior members cannot hold a key to the ILS property. Junior members are not allowed to store train equipment on ILS property. *Junior member dues are $25.00 per pear calendar pear, usually due in January.*

ILLINOIS LIVE STEAMERS

CLUB HOUSE PHONE 708-301-0027





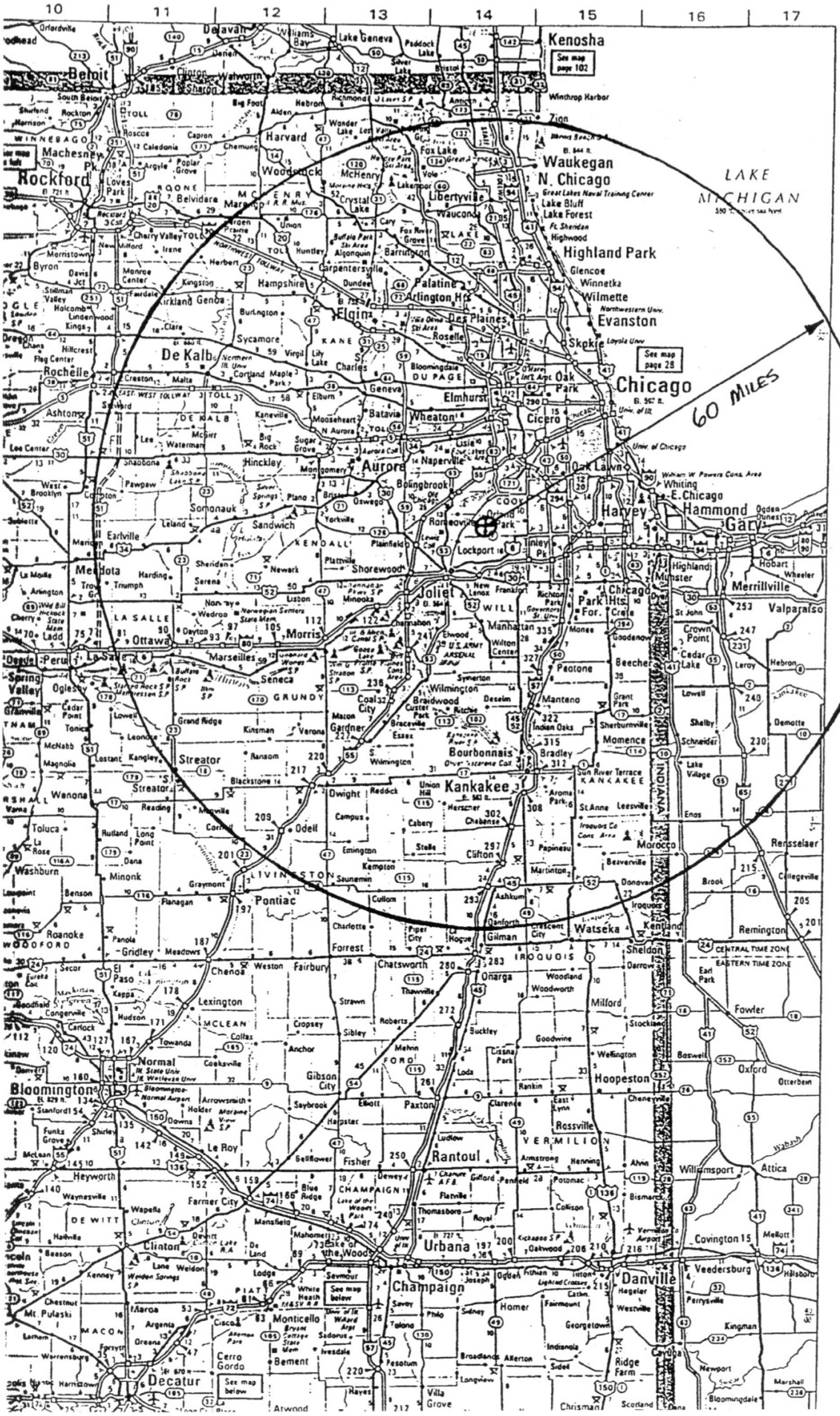
ILLINOIS LIVE STEAMERS

TRACK LAYOUTS.

1½" GAUGE

1" GAUGE

¾" GAUGE



Mileage Between Principal Cities

	Chicago	Champaign	
E St. Louis	154	135	52 Bloomington
171	369	234	Cairo
96	328	193	Carbondale
160	135		Champaign
288		135	Chicago
114	177	47	Decatur
275	68	147	De Kalb
	288	180	E St. Louis
93	207	74	Effingham
285	41	148	Elgin
189	184	139	Galesburg
249	43	111	Joliet
228	56	76	Kankakee
228	163	189	Moline
77	274	139	Mt. Vernon
164	157	89	Peoria
156	289	193	Quincy
285	86	181	Rockford
90	197	86	Springfield
313	41	172	Waukegan

Springfield	Rockford	Peoria	
62	131	39	Bloomington
221	395	294	Cairo
183	338	235	Carbondale
86	181	89	Champaign
197	86	157	Chicago
39	176	75	Decatur
183	43	118	De Kalb
98	285	164	E St. Louis
88	239	138	Effingham
195	49	141	Elgin
106	136	49	Galesburg
158	91	118	Joliet
139	125	109	Kankakee
165	101	92	Moline
137	300	210	Mt. Vernon
73	129		Peoria
102	259	132	Quincy
193		129	Rockford
	193	73	Springfield
222	69	194	Waukegan

Selected Recreational & Historical Sites

Bishop Hill State Memorial, G-7
Cahokia Courthouse Memorial, R-7
Chestnut Mountain Ski Area, B-6
Clayville Rural Life Center, M-8
Dickson Mounds, K-7
French Colonial District (Prairie du Rocher), U-7
Galena, B-6
Illinois Beach State Park, B-15
Lincoln's New Salem State Park, M-8
Lincoln Tomb, M-8
Marriott's Great America, B-14
Mississippi Palisades State Park, C-7
Nauvoo State Park, J-3
Postville Courthouse State Historic Site, L-9
Rock Island Arsenal, Y-3
Shawnee National Forest, W-13
Starved Rock State Park, G-11
Time Museum, C-4
University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana), L-13
U.S. Grant Home, B-6
White Pines Forest State Park, C-9
"Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln"

Illinois Live Steamers

ILS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ SPOUSES NAME: _____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (including area code): _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

REQUESTING MEMBERSHIP TYPE (circle one only): PROBATIONARY AFFILIATE JUNIOR
(refer to membership classification for description)

MODEL OF INTEREST (circle one scale only): 1-1/2" SCALE 1" SCALE 3/4" SCALE G SCALE

BACKGROUND INTEREST INFORMATION

OPERATING
EQUIPMENT: _____

_____

EQUIPMENT UNDER
CONSTRUCTION: _____

_____

SHOP
EQUIPMENT: _____

_____

OCCUPATION: _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE ILS? _____

FOR ILS USE ONLY

APPL RCV'D (date) :_____ DUES RCV'D ($):_____

TREAS (date) :_____CORR. SEC'Y (date) :_____ REC. SEC' Y (date) :_____

PROB PERIOD COMPLT'D (date) :_____REG MEMBER UPGRADE (date) :_____