



MONTHLY

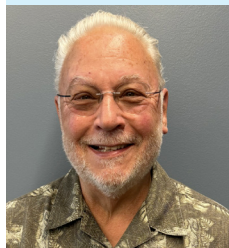
MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ JUNE - JULY 2025 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FROM THE EDITOR



This special six-page issue of **MEL Monthly** is chock full of pictures of MEL in action during a typical month. Thanks are due the many facilitators who sent in materials. Please keep up the good work! I can't promise to use every picture, every time, but I do promise I will always use some of them. Our feature story is about our trip to the Railroad Museum, and we have an article about kayaking, and blurbs about Texas Hold "Em, the Hearts, dinner, Mel's Margulies Movie Group, the Photo Group, and Spa Day. Plus Birthdays and Upcoming Events.

Enjoy! Gerry



MEL RIDES THE RAILS - By Gerry Linda



500 pieces of equipment: engines (steam, gas, electric), sleepers, dinning cars, cabooses, private cars, cattle cars, freight cars, early ice-refrigerated cars, trolleys, streetcars, rapid transit cars, signals and the like. Some were donated by major railroad operators like Sante Fe and Burlington Northern and manufacturers like Pullman and GM's Electromotive Division, and many others were purchased by the museum.

On June 12, 2025, 31 Melmen went west . . . to Union, IL to pay a visit to the Illinois Railway Museum, home of, by far, the largest collection of rolling stock in the US. The word "museum" though is misleading because it doesn't begin to describe 130 acres containing over

for the completion of a small town main streetscape, which now has a restaurant and a gift shop.

The lure of old-time railroading stems from US history in which railroads played such a prominent role and from movies and from the fact that railroads were once the largest industry in the US and employed the largest number of workers. Standing next to an old, steam-driven locomotive was awe-inducing. How did they conceive of and manufacture that giant? Of course, several of us also took a 40-minute ride on their roughly five miles of track in an old, overhead electric trolley from Cincinnati.



Much of the stock is on view in giant "barns" where the trains are viewable as exhibits with signage extolling some of the features and history. We were divided into two groups and led by volunteer experts, who marched us around several of the barns and explained what we were seeing and answered our many questions.

The Illinois Railway Museum was founded in 1953 by 10 men, who purchased Indiana Railroad 65, an interurban car about to be turned into scrap. And it still is very much a work in progress with much of the stock being repaired and/or refurbished so that it becomes fully operational—sometimes this can take as long as three years to remake a steam engine, for example. The site and equipment has been used to make movies like *A League Of Their Own* and TV shows like *Chicago Fire*. Plans call

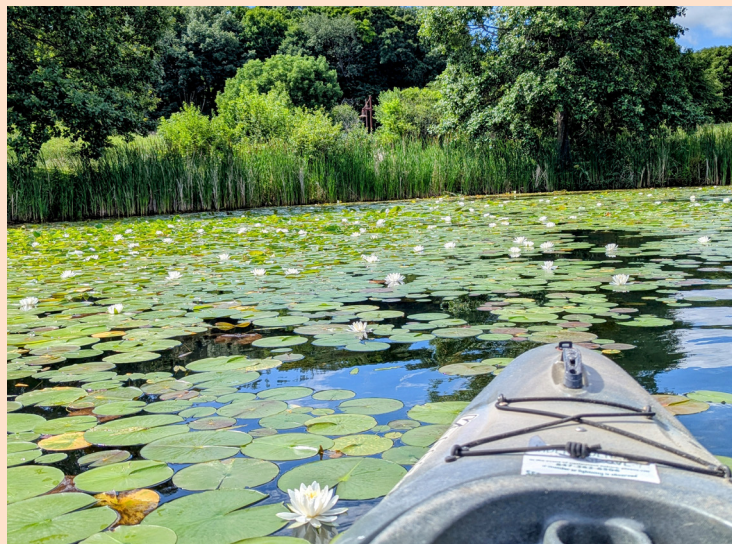


Prior to reaching the museum, we fueled at Lou Malnati's in nearby Lakewood, IL. We had salad, beverages, three kinds of pizza (cheese, sausage, pepperoni), and penne with marinara sauce. There was enough left over that many Melman brought back a gift.

Thank you, Bruce Edelson! You've done it again.



MEL KAYAKS AGAIN - *By Mike Stricker*



Friday, June 27th was a beautiful morning to be out on the water for kayaking at Independence Grove in Libertyville. Nineteen brave Melmen showed up to enjoy the morning. We had 15 in single person kayaks and 4 others on two-pedal boats. Participants were: John Belvisi, Rich Delevitt, Bruce Edelson, Alan Esterman, Morry Glicksman, Loren Hutter, Mike Lerner, Al Magit, Dave Markus, Ron Meibach, Gary Salit, Jerry Schecter, John Simon, Rick Spitzer, Corey Stricker, Mike Stricker, Ulfur Thors, Barry Veit, and Mitch Weiss.

Sixteen of us had a really great time. Three others, maybe not so much—two went in the drink and one got lost on the water. However,

the 16 have sworn they will remain anonymous.

We explored the lake at IG for a bit over an hour where we enjoyed the beauty of the lake and surrounding area. It's really a treasure for Lake County and northern Cook County.

After our Kayaking adventure, we proceeded to the Liberty Restaurant in Libertyville for our mandatory MEL meal and discussion of the morning events.

To be continued.

SUMMER TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT - *By Bruce Edelson*

We played "Texas Hold 'Em on Monday June 30 at D'Agostino's. The big winner was Jerry Ezgur, who was a previous winner as well. Kudos to him! The Fall Tournament will be held on Monday 9/29. Who can beat the champ?



MEL'S HEARTS DINNER - *By Bob Shuman**MEL Hearts Players Dinner.*

The annual dinner for hearts players was held on Tuesday June 17th at Spears Bourbon Burgers and Beer in Wheeling. Eleven Melmen attended with spouses, d-p's ,s-o's, or girlfriends. Fortunately, no-one brought two.

Everyone had a great time--even though there were no moon-shots, Jello-shots, queens passed, or anyone passed out. Come join the fun. We play every Wednesday from 11:00-3:00 at D'Agostinos.

*MEL plays bridge.**Couples Canasta*

MISSION POSSIBLE: MEL'S MARGULIES MOVIE GROUP - *By Bruce Edelson*

On Thursday, June 6, 17 MELMEN went to see the latest and maybe last Mission Impossible, **The Final Reckoning: Part 2**, on the IMAX screen at AMC Golf Mill. The film certainly was **LOUD** and action packed, and contained amazing live stunts, but the Melmen rating ranged from a 3 to an 8 (out of 10) due to an uneven, convoluted plot.

However, we all agreed dinner at Omega was terrific! Matzo ball and mushroom barley soups, sandwiches, pork chops, spaghetti; you name it, we ate it. It was a great outing. Watch your email for the next exciting movie event.



MEL'S ANNUAL SPA DAY - *By Buddy Kalish*



Thanks are due to our brave Melmen: Bob Silver, Art Callistein, Larry Williams, John Simon, Sol Shatz, Bill Gurolnick, Herb Canter, Ed Cohen, Ron Sandler, Paul Schiff, Elliot Young and Marv Topel, who enjoyed manicures and pedicures at Pretty Nails Salon. Paul Schiff had his annual coloring done.

Of course, coffee, bagels and cream cheese were provided. Afterwards, we added more calories with lunch at Portillo's.

Until next year!



Investment Club gathering.

MEL PHOTO GROUP MEETS IN PERSON AT PORTILLO'S ON LAKE 6/17/25.



Last night's photo meet was not on Zoom. Instead the meeting was at Portillo's on Lake Street. Sixteen members attended getting to know each other in person not just seeing one another on Zoom.



MEL Plays Canasta.



MEL's second
Adventure Walk.



Mel plays pickleball.



A MEL Memory: MEL co-founder, Ron Emmerman with Harvey Orloff's son, Richard and grandson, Danny-June 30, 2008.

JUNE – JULY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

4	Al Newman	80
5	Herb Kanter	86
6	Marshall Goldsen	89
9	Alan Esterman	76
11	Ron Kaplan	90
15	Gary Balm	77
16	Robert Abrams	87
16	Robert Matanky	90
18	Jerry Lasin	89
19	Bob Cremer	86
22	Joel Karlinsky	73
25	Bob Shuman	77
26	Robert Orenstein	69
29	Nick Brown	83
29	Arnie Goot	75
29	Abby Hans	78
29	Ron Meibach	77

JULY

4	Sol Shatz	69
7	Harris Cohen	75
7	Morry Dyner	83
9	Art Edelstein	91
11	Ralph Rehbock	91
12	Harvey Orlov	90
14	Tom Green	76
18	Neil Esterman	83
18	Rich Hirsch	88
18	Mike Stricker	78
22	Bob Kohn	71
29	Barry Voit	74
30	Joel Schwartz	74
31	Corey Stricker	69



UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

July 23	Annual MEL Dinner (Bruce-Bob Greenberg-Dave Marcus)
July 25	Bocce at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek)
July 25	Men who have lost a spouse breakfast at Scrambled 9:30 am (Larry Williams)
July 30	American Family Field Cubs/Brewers (Bruce-Bob Shuman)
Aug. 8	Mini Golf at The Highland Park Golf Learning Center (Bruce)
Aug. 15	Let's Talk Sports - Football Prediction Edition at Grill House (Bruce)
Sept. 4	Little City Bingo event (Alan Esterman)
Sept. 26	Let's Talk Sports -World Series Prediction Edition at Grill House (Bruce)
Sept. 26	Coat Drive Pick-up (Bob Shuman)
Sept. 29	Fall Texas Hold Em Tournament at D'Agostino's (Bruce)
Oct. 8	Casino Night at Beth El Temple (Bob Stein-John Simon-Bruce)