



# ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

THE ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB 111 E. 1<sup>ST</sup> ST ELMHURST IL 60126 630-530-9584 [WWW.EMRRC.ORG](http://WWW.EMRRC.ORG)

**THEY'RE HERE!** The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cars have arrived and are available for purchase.



The HO scale car is an Accurail kit for a 40 foot, steel plug door refrigerator car, yellow with a silver roof and black ends and underside, numbered 2019.



The N scale offering is a set of two, ready to run, 60 foot cylindrical hoppers by Bowser with the numbers 1969 and 2019.

An order form is available inside the newsletter. You can order them by mail or just grab them while you're at the club. Great for birthdays, Christmas, Bar Mitzvahs or weddings, these will make a fantastic addition to anybody's collection.

## SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR JANUARY 2019

Concessions	\$373.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1560.00
50/50 Sales	\$152.00
Club Sales	\$133.00
<b>GROSS SALES</b>	<b>\$2218.00</b>
Church Rental	\$400.00
Table Rental	\$515.00
Food Items	\$250.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$1165.00)</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$1053.00</b>

## CLUB HOURS

Sunday: Noon until 9:00 pm  
Open house until 4:00.  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:  
7:00 until 10:00 pm  
Friday: 7:00 until 10:00 pm  
Open house all night  
Saturday: 3:00 until 10:00 pm  
Tuesday night is work night.  
No operation.

**THE SWAP MEET SCHEDULE FOR 2019.** May 3rd and September 6th are the dates for the remaining swaps for 2019. The swaps are held three times a year at the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Center, 149 Brush Hill in Elmhurst. If you're interested in getting a table or lending a hand, contact Steve Cerka at (630) 309-8475 and let him know. Flyers advertising the swaps are at the front door and kept in the office, please don't hesitate to grab a handful and pass them out. One issue we do have to deal with on a regular basis is breaking down after the swap. If you can stick around after 9:00 and lend a hand it would make things so much easier and faster.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.** Meetings are now being held on the Saturday after the swap meet at 7:00 at the club. This year that will be on May 4th and September 7th (subject to change based on the activities by the City of Elmhurst). The Board gets together as needed to deal with issues.

**HO PROTO SESSIONS.** The schedule for 2019 is complete. Proto sessions are on March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> (special Sunday night session) and June 20<sup>th</sup>. After a summer vacation we'll start up again with September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup> (another Sunday night special) and the last session for 2019 on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The group meets at 6:45 and the start operations at 7:00 except for the two Sunday sessions that will meet at 5:30. If you're interested in being on the proto session notification list you can e-mail Ashley Chmura at [opssession2012@hotmail.com](mailto:opssession2012@hotmail.com).

**FUNFEST 2019.** The new year started off with a bang as another Funfest went off without a hitch. Thanks to Gloria Jeans Coffee for again opening their doors to us. Steve Cavaliere stepped up to the plate and took over grilling duties from Bob Pearson who “retired” after many years. Andrew Fidone and Ashley Chmura were re-elected to the Board for five-year terms while Paul Jasiczek was awarded Member of the Year for his work on the Shelbina lighting and the help he provides with the set up and take down of the Proto sessions.

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS.** After careful review, deep thought and cold slap from reality, the idea to try for a 50-hour marathon was scrubbed. Simply put, when we did a 40-hour event 10 years ago it was quite draining on the handful of members who volunteered. Now those volunteers are ten years older and have gained an additional decade of wisdom which fortunately came to the surface during follow-up discussions.

**So** the decision was made to open up for a weekend of Open House events. On Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> we will host a reception during our regular Open House with the event beginning at 6:00 pm and running until 10:00. Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> we will open to the general public at 12:00 noon and stay open until 9:00 pm. And on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> the doors will open again at 12:00 pm and close at 5:00 pm. **The club will be closed April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for cleaning and fixing. Please feel free stop in and lend a hand as there will be a lot to do.**

**Plus** we are planning an event for the members sometime in September so stay tuned.

**WEATHER OR NOT.** With the Polar Vortex upon us and the thermometer kissing 20 degrees below zero at the end of January we did have to close for a few nights. Our trusty old furnace kept the place sufficiently warm but this weather may have been too much for it and it might be in need of replacement.

**MARK YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS.** Those of you who use your own throttles take a minute and put your name on it so that if it gets left behind we know to whom it belongs and can help it find its way home.

**CLEANING.** Another one of those things that we shouldn't have to bring up but unfortunately we have to. It's not really that difficult for you to pick up after yourselves and be sure your trash winds up in the can. Key monitors or anybody for that matter, we provide the tools and supplies for cleaning the bathroom so it's not asking much for you to take 5 minutes to put them to good use. If it was done 3 times a week then keeping it clean would be easier and the room would be much nicer. The idea of a cleaning service has been brought up and may still be on the table but we can think of much better ways to spend our money.

**HOn3 NEWS.** What else can we say about the work being done on the narrow gauge. Wally and Steve have been going to town with the construction and installation of the new trestles on the south loops. The two trestles were custom built for this location on the layout. New lighting will be installed to highlight this location along with the revamped ore dock area. Once this trackwork is completed efforts will shift back to completing the livestock area and its surrounding scenery.



Wally Stein busy putting some finishing touches on the lower trestle.

Taken during one of several test fittings, the trestles are in place. The permanent installation should be completed soon.



**LAGRANGE NMRA SHOW.** We are still looking for a couple of extra bodies to sign up and lend a hand at the NMRA show in LaGrange on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The show is at Lyons Township High School. There is a sign-up sheet on the club bulletin board. We could use people either morning or afternoon or even all day if the mood hits you.



**HO SCALE NEWS.** Again the two big projects have been Shelbina and the ore dock. Paul Jasiczek continues bringing Shelbina to life with new lighting.



Bob Pearson is putting the final touches on the ore dock benchwork. A track plan is being designed and as soon as it is approved by the Board track work will begin.



**IN MEMORIAM.** Former member Bill Wilke passed away in December. Keep his family in your thoughts.

**N SCALE NEWS.** Progress continues on the N scale layout mostly in the form of scenery and buildings. In the industrial section Jim Shilt's kitbashed confectionary building is completed along with some auxiliary buildings. Lot's of great roof detail.



The hidden switchback area in block 9 has been covered with background buildings and the newly designed backdrop is to be installed soon. On the second peninsula a winding road from the industrial park proceeds past a small quarry at the tip and into the industrial area on the opposite side where the trackwork is newly completed along with a cold storage warehouse and a transfer building. Additional scenery including static grass, ground cover and trackside details are being added.

In other N scale news, the club will be showing up in "N Scale Railroading" magazine this spring. Issue number 113 (May/June 2019 edition) will have an article about the layout and it will be featured on the cover.

Also mark your calendars for the **N Scale National Convention** to held in Rosemont from June 26<sup>th</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup>. We are on the layout tour schedule for this event and expect a decent sized turnout.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** N scale theme night has been expanded to encompass the whole club on a special run night on Saturday, March 30 starting at 7:00 PM The theme will be Ride the Rails...passenger train night. Members are encouraged to run their favorite passenger train and share their stories of their own train travels. The Bar Car will be open too, as the club will provide complimentary light snacks, soda and water for members present.

**C&NW HISTORICAL SOCIETY.** We will be hosting the Swap Meet at C&NWHS annual meet on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Milwaukee. Flyers with more details are available at the front door.

**OPEN HOUSE. THIS REALLY SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY AGAIN BUT....** let's take a moment to remind the members of what we expect during open house.

We are very unique in that most clubs are open to the public once or twice a year we are open every week. Interacting and being friendly with visitors is paramount. A lot of our visitors may have no clue about what exactly scale modeling is. Be helpful and answer any questions.

Let's keep our eating confined to the club room. Snacking on a candy bar is OK but chowing down on a pizza while visitors are looking around or asking questions creates an unfavorable impression. Also let's keep the bench open for our guests and not congregate around the desk. If you need to take a breather that's why we have the club room.

**Appropriate appearance and behavior is expected of all members. Key monitors you are responsible! You'll never get a 2nd chance to make a 1st impression.**

**Open house is our chance to show what we are all about, let's make the most of it.**

**STYROFOAM PACKAGING.** We need to bring this up again to those of you who use the original Styrofoam packaging for your trains. Please take a second and clean all the Styrofoam "remnants" from your equipment and dispose of properly. They fall off while you're operating and can foul turnouts and make a mess.

**CARE AND FEEDING OF A THROTTLE.** Recently Darryl spent an evening dissecting and repairing throttles that were having issues. Of the handful that he worked only two sustained damage from obviously being dropped while the others were damaged from mishandling. A quick and easy way to prevent this is to remind members that throttles are meant to be kept in your hand, not your pocket. If you are leaving the premises for a bite to eat or something else return it to the key monitor but let them know you'll be back.

**CLUB CARS, LOCOMOTIVES AND THEIR USAGE.** We leave locomotives and cars around the layout for appearance and to be used for proto sessions. **Occasionally** members can use the club equipment if they don't have their own with them but the practice of using it every time they come down to the club is not allowed. It may sound a little harsh but the club is not in the business of providing trains for members to operate, that is the members responsibility. Should a member need to use club equipment we expect them to clear it with the Key Monitor, take care of it properly and put it back where they got it from.

**CLUB HOURS.** On the second page was noted the club's hours of operation. There are two quick points that need clarification. One is that the closing time listed is exactly that, the time we close up for the night not the time you begin to pack up your equipment. Now we are aware that there has to be some "wobble room" especially on Open House days. But as a rule of thumb try to be ready to go by the appointed closing time or shortly thereafter unless someone else other than the scheduled key monitor is willing to lock up later than the scheduled time.

This leads us to the next point, that being the policy regarding the club being open at times other than the regularly scheduled hours. From the "Layout Operation Guidelines" of which all members should have a copy:

If there is a member that is operating outside of regular hours, and another member shows up and wishes to run, then the first member assumes the role of Key Monitor and the club is considered "open" for the duration of the Key Monitor's stay.

If the regularly scheduled Key Monitor does not show up for their designated time and there is already a Key Monitor operating then that Key Monitor either assumes the role of the missing Key Monitor and finishes out the regular scheduled time or all members must leave and the club is considered "closed".

**YOUTH GROUPS.** There is a belief that our hobby is dying and depending on who you listen to this statement can be either confirmed or debunked. For many years and continuing today we have held special evening and daytime events for groups (mostly youth groups but we have had adults). If you know of a group looking for a way to spend an evening give the club some consideration. If you have questions call Dan Hollis at (708) 269-2503. There is another group scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**NEWSLETTER, NEW & IMPROVED.** After recently having the opportunity to look back on some of the club newsletters from days gone by (really gone by, starting with the first one in July 1969 plus others over the last 50 years) it's interesting to see how we've gone from photocopies and typewriters to digital color printing and e-mail. Even with the vast improvement in the quality of the newsletter its purpose remains the same: to get club information to club members. And just because we have made the move to newer formats the importance of the information provided is not diminished in any way.

On a different note we would love to post pictures showing the early days of the club locations and different club events but age takes a toll on film and photographs. We will try to make some these presentable over the next few months but there are no guarantees. Some pictures from the latter years were digitally produced and are in good condition so you'll be seeing some of them in future publications.



**NOW AVAILABLE..**  
**ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**  
**50th ANNIVERSARY FREIGHT CARS**

**HO SCALE** 40 FOOT, PLUG DOOR, STEEL REFRIGERATOR CAR KIT BY ACCURAIL



A STAPLE IN EITHER STEAM OR DIESEL ERAS THESE CARS COULD BE FOUND ON RAILS FROM SHORTLINES TO THE CLASS ONE ROADS. YELLOW WITH BLACK ENDS AND A SILVER ROOF, CUSTOM PAINTED FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY.

**24.00**

**N SCALE** 60 FOOT, STEEL CYLINDRICAL HOPPER BY BOWSER, READY TO RUN



LOOKING GREAT BY THEMSELVES OR IN A UNIT TRAIN THESE GRAIN HAULERS, PAINTED IN OUR ANNIVERSARY SCHEME, ARE AVAILABLE AS A SET WITH TWO (2) ROAD NUMBERS .

**SET OF 2 30.00**

**FOR INFORMATION: E-MAIL "EMRRC@COMCAST.NET" OR CALL (708) 269-2503**

ORDER FORM PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HO SCALE	24.00 X _____ (QTY)	TOTAL _____
N SCALE	SET OF TWO , 30.00 X _____ (QTY)	TOTAL _____
DELIVERY	_____ PICK-UP _____ SHIPPING (ADD 5.00)	ADD'L _____
		TOTAL _____

**SEND PAYMENT TO: ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, 111 E. 1ST ST. ELMHURST, IL 60126**