



# ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER Winter 2018-2019

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)

**FUNFEST FOR 2019.** Is scheduled for January 1st starting at 11:00 am. We're finalizing the details as we speak and we'll let everyone know as soon they're complete.

**SOUNDTRAXX VISIT.** On October 20th, George Bogatiuk from Soundtraxx paid us a visit. He was in town for the RPM Meet in Lisle/Naperville and after doing clinics at a few local shops took the time to come down to the club and give some of our members some tips on the new Tsunami 2 decoder and some of its programming and sound options.



## SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Concessions	\$357.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1428.00
50/50 Sales	\$144.00
Club Sales	\$62.00
<b>GROSS SALES</b>	<b>\$1991.00</b>
Church Rental	\$300.00
Table Rental	\$555.00
Food Items	\$250.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$1105.00)</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$886.00</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.** They're scheduled for January 11th, May 3th and September 6th. 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.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.** Are now being held on the Saturday after the swap meet at 7:00 at the club. This year that will be on January 12th, 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 the first part of 2019 has sessions on January 17th, February 21st and March 21st. The group meets at 6:45 and the start operations at 7:00. As soon as the rest of the dates are decided we'll post them.

**RECENT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW VOTE.** During the year members in good standing were asked to vote whether or not to accept a revised club constitution and by-laws. The existing documents that we were working under were from the 1990's. Over 90 ballots were sent out, 36 were returned with the vote totals of 27 for adoption and 9 against.

**2018 IN REVIEW.** Another successful year is coming to a close. Our membership number has remained steady at around 150. Even with the cost of everything rising we still find ourselves financially in fine shape and do not foresee a dues increase in the coming year.

Funfest on New Year's Day was a success with Wally Stein receiving the Member of the Year Award and Dan Hollis getting elected to another term on the Board.

Again there was no show at Harper College in 2018 due to construction but we did appear at the annual LaGrange NMRA Show in March. We had three successful swap meets along with visits from scout groups and daycare centers throughout the year. Scale Trains Inc and Soundtraxx both stopped in during the year and spent some time with our members.

We did not have any major issues with the layouts or the building this year. We know there are still a few odds and ends to wrap up and we're working to get caught up.

It takes dedicated people who are willing to give of their own time and effort to keep an organization like ours running smoothly.

We have the people who spend hours of their time organizing, setting up, taking down and keeping the swap meets running smoothly and seeing to it that the attendees are well fed. We have our key monitors who open and close the club and are there every day whether other members show up or not.

The key monitors who are responsible for the weekly open house deserve a special nod. Not only do they have to keep track of the members but throwing the general public in to the mix makes things more interesting.

To those who take the time to clean, fix, install, run the office, wait for repairmen, maintain the vending machines, shop, cook, organize, text, make phone calls and tend to all the other little daily nuances that keep us running the Club says "Thank You".

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

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 they may have.

Let's keep our eating confined to the club room. Snacking on a candy bar is OK but inhaling leftover Chow Mein 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, lead by example! 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.**

**N SCALE NEWS.** 2019 is shaping up to be quite an eventful year for the N scale layout. The Spring edition of "N Scale Railroading" will be featuring our layout along with a cover photo. the National N Scale Convention will be held in Rosemont in June with our club on the layout tours as a host club. It is a safe bet that extra hands will be needed for these events so stay tuned.

As far as the layout goes new buildings are nearing completion with lower level of block 9 trackwork completed. Scenery including towns, roads bridges and other objects is moving along quite nicely.



On November 17th there was a special Steam Night on the N scale layout. A real good turnout of members and an assortment on non-internal combustion motive power made for a fun evening. Plan on seeing more special nights in the future.



**IN MEMORIAM.** Member Marc Brzezicki passed away suddenly last month. Please remember him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

**HOn3 NEWS.** Scenery is still the order of the day on the HOn3 layout. The livestock area with all the new buildings is nearing completion and is looking great. The trestles at the front entrance are nearing completion and may be installed before the end of the year.



**HO SCALE NEWS.** Construction is off and running on the benchwork for the steel mill / ore dock expansion. With this last expansion we've pretty much used up every square foot of space in the basement.



Shelbina continues its upgrades and improvements. The station and platform lighting are now permanent and more building and lights are under construction and being installed.



The electrical crew is in the process of designing and getting ready to install point protection signals for blocks 3 & 4.

**50th ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** In case you are unaware the club will turn 50 in April 2019. Last time we had a major milestone we decided to try and shoot for a 40-hour operating marathon. After a discussion the Board decided we'll try it again this year with a 50-hour continuous session. It will begin on Friday the 12th of April and continue through until Sunday 14th in the evening. This will take effort from many members so if you plan to be part of it keep the dates set aside and more information will be out after the first of the year. The Friday night Open House on the 12th will be a special even with invitations going out to local clubs, media, local officials and anyone else we think warrants our attention. There has been talk of a members only event later in the year and we're in the planning process for that.

We will also be doing club cars to mark the occasion. After things with Atlas fell through we were able to set up deals with Bowser for N scale and Accurail for HO. The artwork is shown below and order forms will be available soon.

The N scale car will be a Cylindrical Hopper.



The HO scale car will be a 40', plug door steel refrigerator.



**THE FRONT HALL.** The front stairs were repainted and new tread covers and walk-off mats were put down. While experimenting with different floor coverings and tiles we found the biggest issue appears to be the adhesive sticking to the old paint then lifting the old paint from the concrete. This may require a complete scraping of all old paint if we wish to install new floor coverings.



Before Open House on Fridays and Sundays a quick hit with the broom to get the dust and leaves off the stairs will work wonders.

**STYROFOAM PACKAGING.** Those of you who use the original Styrofoam packaging for your trains please take a second a 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. Also if you need a flat surface to pack and unpack use the carts not the layout.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**