

ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

THE ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB 111 E. 1st ST ELMHURST IL 60126 630-530-9584 WWW.EMRRC.ORG

NEW ARRIVAL. Let's lead off with the new arrival of Edward to John and Priscilla Sheskier on Friday the 21st of February. Congratulations.

SCHOOL DAY VISIT. Over 70 youngsters from the 3rd grade class from Holmes Elementary School in Oak Park were visiting the Elmhurst Historical Museum and their railroad exhibit on the morning of February 25th and they decided to stop over and spend some time with us. Thanks to all the members who were there to help.



SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR JANUARY 2020

Concessions	\$232.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1421.00
50/50 Sales	\$105.00
Club Sales	\$353.00
GROSS SALES	\$2111.00
Church Rental	\$400.00
Table Rental	\$594.00
Food Items	\$250.00
EXPENSES	(\$1244.00)
NET	\$867.00

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 2020. May 1st and September 18th are the dates for the remaining swaps for 2020. 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. 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 2nd and September 19th. The Board gets together as needed to deal with issues.

HO PROTO SESSIONS. The schedule for 2020 is complete. Proto sessions are on March 19th, April 16th, May 21st and June 18th. After summer vacation we'll start up again with September 17th, October 11th (the only Sunday night session) and November 19th. The group meets at 6:45 and the start operations at 7:00 except for the Sunday session 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.

FUNFEST 2020. The new year started off with a bang as another Funfest went off without a hitch. There was no shortage of good food for munching and other members for socializing. Thanks to Gloria Jeans Coffee for again opening their doors, to Andrew Fidone for putting out the spread and taking care of the arrangements and to Bob Pearson and Gib Allbach for helping with the set up. Steve Cavaliere was once again our “grillmaster” for the day.

Darryl VanNoort and Tom Fretch were re-elected to the Board for five-year terms while Russell Pearson was awarded Member of the Year for his time and effort on the N scale layout and helping with other events.

UPCOMING EVENTS. We have several events besides regular open house on the agenda in the next few months. On March 13th, 14th and 15th we’re on the list of layout tours for the O scale convention in Lombard. Since two of these times are our regular Open House hours we’ll only have to have the key monitor open the front door on Saturday night. The show at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange for the NMRA Dupage Division is on the 21st of March and we could use some people to man the table for the day. We’re scheduling an evening visit from the Elmhurst Newcomers Club on a Sunday in April. On May 2nd we have a special request for a noontime visit from someone who was down with a group back in 2009 and wants to come down again (Art in the Park in Wilder Park is that weekend also, so we may just open up) and then Buttons and Bows Daycare comes down for their annual visit in June. Throw in the regular open house and you can see we’re going to be busy in the next few months.

If you’re interested in helping with any of these events just let us know. You can call Dan at 708-269-2503 or send an e-mail to “emrrc@comcast.net”.

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 can help it find its way home.

CLEANING. It’s not really that difficult for you to pick up after yourselves and be sure your trash winds up in the can. Leaving the club room a mess with food items left on the table and the workbench cluttered with modeling debris is not acceptable.

Key monitors or anybody for that matter, it’s not asking much of you to take 5 minutes to wipe down the restroom. There is a “Swifter” and mops for the floor and bleach wipes and a brush for the other surfaces. If it was done 3-4 times a week then keeping it clean would be easier and the room would be much nicer.

When the option was first presented to have our own restroom the single biggest point of contention was who would be responsible for cleaning it. Now we are seeing that there may have to be some changes made if the room is not kept clean.

PICK YOUR BRAIN (ANSWER). The Poop Train, maybe more information than you really want to know. The Chicago Sanitary District Railroad is the only railroad in the country that is approved to haul human waste (“biosolids”). It operates over 13 miles of track down around Stickney / Summit with reporting marks of CSDX. Cars load of waste are shuttled around to drying beds where it dries for 6-18 months, then it is shipped out. The CSD used to give rides around the facilities in the “biosolid” cars during the open house at the treatment plant.



PICK YOUR BRAIN. Set the wayback machine...it's 1962, Kruschev blinked and is pulling out of Cuba. As you sit at the counter at the Grier's Diner in Burlington, Iowa waiting for the Zephyr you order a Number 3 (that's 2 wheat cakes, 3 strips of bacon or 2 sausage patties and coffee). How much will it cost you? **A.** 65 cents **B.** 70 cents **C.** 75 cents **D.** 80 cents.

HOn3 NEWS. Installation has begun on the industrial spur on the upper level. While scenery behind the yard / shop area progresses.



HO SCALE NEWS. There are test fittings being done on the ore dock area with tracks, boats and the Hulett's. As soon as we pick up the homasote the project will take off in earnest.



The lighting project at Shelbina gets better as each week passes. The alternating lights in the storefront building are eye-catching to say the least. Below is The General on display and lit up for all to see in the park.



HO SCALE NEWS (CON'T). The train sheds for the passenger station in block 3 are being test fitted. The shed height will need some adjusting and when complete the clear roof will be highlighted by the lighting.



SPECIAL TRAIN NIGHT. Another one of our “theme” nights was held on Saturday, February 22. This time it was “Special Train” night. Wreckers, ballast trains, maintenance of way trains and other less than popular trains were the order of the day.



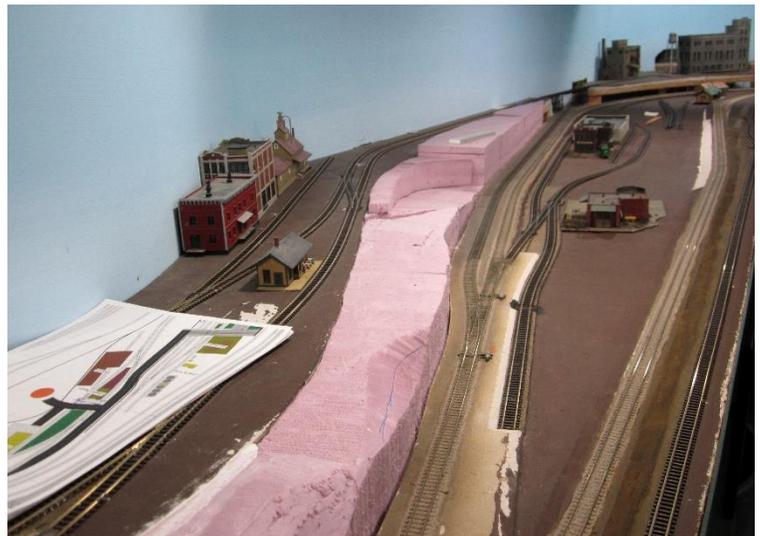
On a side note three representatives from Athearn stopped by after their day at a local hobby shop. They were apparently quite impressed with our operations.

N SCALE NEWS. Again, scenery is the word of the day on the N scale layout. The industrial area and quarry on the front side of the first peninsula is wrapping up and now they've started working on the back side.



The front side of the first peninsula with the industrial area in the background and the quarry operation in the foreground.

The back side of the first peninsula with new foam in place and buildings being tried for placement.



A friendly reminder: Proper scenery is very time-consuming. Working around obstacles, placing structures, checking clearances and making sure it looks right all take time. It may seem redundant about the layouts getting mostly scenery work being done but that's what it takes.