



ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019-2020

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

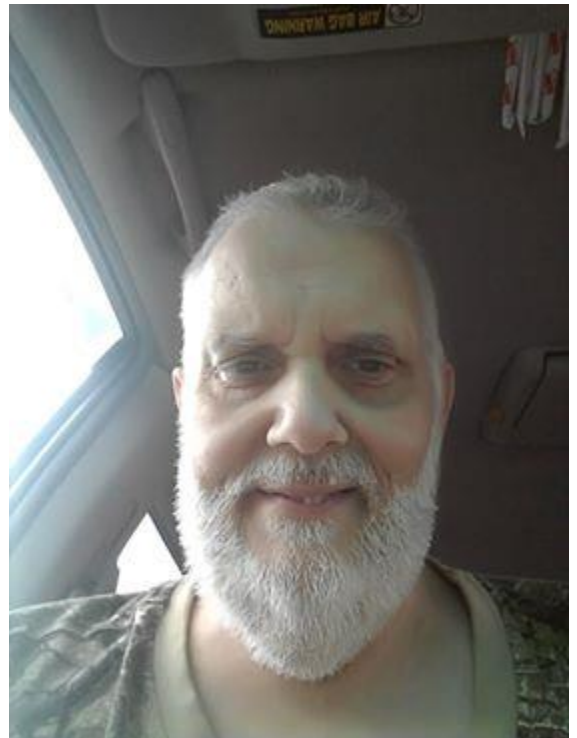
FUNFEST FOR 2020. Is scheduled for January 1st starting at 11:00 am. We're going to be utilizing the coffee shop again for fine dining and conversation. The last details are still being ironed out. We'll see you there.

ELECTION 2020. There are three (3) candidates for Board positions this year. Ballots will be available starting December 2 if you are not going to be able to attend Funfest. Board members will have access to the ballots and you will have to sign for it.

IN MEMORIAM. Long-time member Mike Hoffman (aka Mayor McCheese) passed away unexpectedly in September.

Mike has been a fixture around the club since Phase 1, always helping out at shows and swap meets whenever he could. If he wasn't inside handling weekly key monitor duties he could be found holding court outside, watching trains or just generally entertaining us with his unique perspectives on life, the universe and everything.

We ask that you remember the Hoffman family in your thoughts and prayer in the coming days.



SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR SEPT 2019

Concessions	\$282.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1331.00
Club Sales	\$675.00
GROSS SALES	\$2288.00
Church Rental	\$400.00
Table Rental	\$515.00
Food Items	\$250.00
EXPENSES	(\$1165.00)
NET	\$1123.00

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. The swap meet dates for 2020 are as follows: January 10th, May 1st and September 18th. 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 the tables and cleaning up after the show. If you can stick around after 9:00 and lend a hand it would make things so much easier and faster.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. We hold these meetings to members a chance to express concerns and ask questions. Meetings are held on the Saturday after the swap meet at 7:00 at the club. For 2020 this will be January 11th, May 2nd and September 19th. Be forewarned that the September meeting date might change if the City is holding events downtown that evening. The Board gets together as needed to deal with issues.

HO PROTO SESSIONS FOR 2020. Proto sessions for the first half of 2020 are on January 16th, February 20th, March 19th and April 16th. The group meets at 6:45 pm and then start operations at 7:00 pm. Dates for the remainder of 2020 are yet to be determined. There is at least one Sunday night session also in works for later in the year. If you're interested in being on the proto session notification list e-mail Ashley Chmura at opsession2012@hotmail.com.

CAB DEPOSIT. On page 6 of the “Layout Operating Guidelines”, which you all should have received, it states that “Members signing out a cab must leave a \$5.00 cash deposit for the cab with the dispatcher in charge”. We think this is pretty cut and dry. We don’t want credit cards, FOID cards, first-born children or drivers licenses. There are several reasons that we do it this way. For starters it is meant to remind operators to return their cab to the key monitor and not go home leaving it lying around. If the operator does not return it then the \$5.00 goes into the cookie jar (thanks for the donation in advance). Secondly in a day and age of identity theft we do not want to be put in a position to be responsible for anything that may have the potential to lead to such a situation.

Now if maintaining the \$5.00 deposit is proving difficult we do have a few suggestions. If you have a locker keep the money clipped inside. If you use a grey “A-Line” bag or other types of bags then a luggage tag will hold a \$5.00 bill quite nicely. If you use a box then you can tape the money to the inside of the lid. Any way you do it you will always have the required \$5.00 on hand. Now we do realize that things happen and on a rare occasion waiving this requirement may be in order however this will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

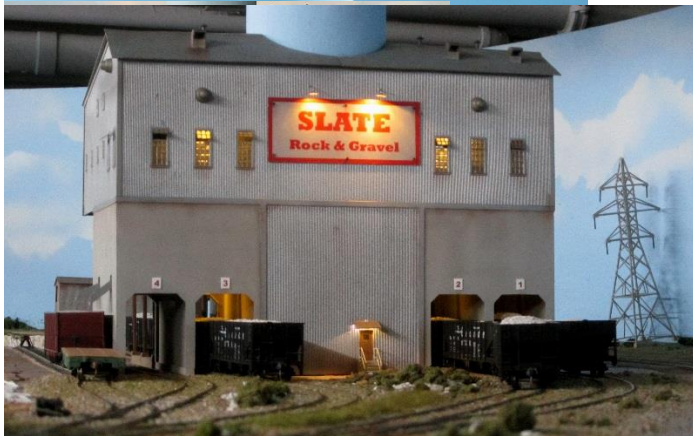
HO SCALE ELECTRONICS. Darryl VanNort along with Don Fisher, Paul Jasiczek and Ashley Chmura have recently begun to attack some of the annoying little problems that have surfaced since the inception of the DCC upgrade a while back. Right now they are going around the HO layout working on the push button panels to further isolate the DCC from the DC signals.

Also the 12 VDC bus for the layout lighting circuit is being extended to areas that did not have access to it previously. This makes adding lighting to certain areas much easier and keeps everything consistent.

PICK YOUR BRAIN (ANSWER). There were four “belt” railroads around Chicago at one time. The Belt Railway of Chicago, The Indiana Harbor Belt, The B&O Chicago Terminal and The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern. Now for the next part, you could have either of two correct answers. The oldest road created would have been the LaSalle and Chicago Railroad, chartered in 1867 but never built until a group of investors bought dormant charters in 1885 and these purchases eventually turned into the B&O Chicago Terminal. Now the oldest that was actually built was the Chicago & Western Indiana Belt Railway which started construction in 1880. This road eventually became part of the Belt Railway of Chicago.

LAYOUT ISSUES. If you are having problems with the operations of any of the layouts let the key monitor know and let them handle it. Don’t go turning things on and off on your own even though written procedures are available. Also if you notice building issues, unsafe conditions or anything out of the ordinary let the key monitor so it can be documented properly on the daily shift reports.

HO SCALE NEWS. Lighting has been a big item as of late with Shelbina ongoing and now lighting starting to show up in the quarry area.



Above: The quarry building lighting.

Right: The color display under the bridge in Shelbina. The colors change so this is quite an attention getter during Open House.



Also on the HO side the Board approved a track plan for the ore dock area. There have already been some test installations to see how everything will fit. Construction should take off in earnest right after the first of the year.



2019 IN REVIEW. As our 50th Anniversary year comes to a close we'll take a look back on all of the events and report on the condition of the club.

Our membership number has declined slightly to around 140. This is partly due to members retiring and seeking warmer climes and the passing of several members. And even though the cost of everything continues to creep up 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 lots of good food and camaraderie. Paul Jasiczek received the Member of the Year Award for his work on the HO proto sessions and the lighting projects at Shelbina. Andrew Fidone and Ashley Chmura were both elected to another term on the Board, congratulations to them.

The three swap meets netted the club just under \$2,800. It takes a tremendous amount of effort and time to make these swap meets a success. A special nod to Steve Cerka who coordinates the whole thing, Dave Phillips for keeping the kitchen running smoothly and to everyone else who helps out each and every time.

The annual DuPage Division NMRA Show (Great American Train Show) at Lyons Township High School in March was the only public show in the area in 2019 and we were in our usual corner talking with other modelers and the general public. We are planning in being in attendance for the 2020 show so watch for the sign-up sheet.

In April the club cars showed up at our door and started selling right away. So far we've had orders from 17 different states and England. There are still cars available if you or someone you know is interested.

The 50th Anniversary weekend arrived and after weeks of cleaning and fixing by over 20 members we were all ready for the main event. And then the weather decided it had other ideas. Friday afternoon and evening had steady 20 mph winds with 40 mph gusts. A few hardy souls did venture out to visit. Saturday was the charmer. It was sunny, the winds had died down and there was a steady stream of visitors all day. A video of Saturday afternoon can be seen at "youtu.be/SJLZXsyuvq0". Sunday is when nature finally did us in. Colder temperatures and 5 inches of wet slushy snow and the handwriting was on the wall. However, all in all the weekend was a success and club members can look back with pride knowing that their efforts help make it what it was.

Summer rolled around and the N scale layout was the Belle of the Ball. In the May-June issue of "N Scale Railroading" our layout was featured in an excellent article by Andrew Fidone with pictures by Dio Erpete. Then at the end of June came the National N Scale Convention in Rosemont. We had 5 busloads of visitors on Wednesday, the first day of the convention and the response was outstanding.

Things returned to normal after the hectic Spring-Summer schedule. We had a few visitors from the RPM meet in October but again the weather was less than ideal.

Over the course of the year we had visitors from Austria and England. Buttons and Bows Daycare made their annual visit and one scout group came down for an evening.

Even without special events it still takes dedicated people who are willing to give of their own time and effort to keep an organization like ours running smoothly. Key monitors who open and close the club and are there every day whether other members show up or not. The members who show up for work night or take the time to clean the place. The folks who run the weekly open house and have the pleasure of not only keeping everything functioning for the members but then we throw in the general public for giggles.

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, argue with landlords and tend to all the other little daily happenings that keep us running the Club says “Thank You”.

PICK YOUR BRAIN. Here’s an easy one for you: What is the “poop train” (as it relates to the Chicago area)?

HON3 NEWS. The order of the day continues to be scenery work. The areas towards the front of layout and behind what will eventually become the service and yard areas have been receiving the most attention.



OPEN HOUSE NOTES. We need to stop congregating around the desk and sitting on the bench during open house. Visitors may have a hard time getting through the crowd and the key monitor may miss greeting them. Members can use the club room to take a break so leave the bench for others to use.

When chatting with guests please be aware of your train and what it is doing. DCC has created all kinds of new and exciting opportunities for things to go wrong. If you are going to stop your train to talk to guests then pull it into a siding and do not foul the main line.

N SCALE NEWS. The Board approved the completion of the backdrop to hide the plumbing pipes. It will cover the drain lines and there won't be any additional hidden trackage. Because of the semi-permanent covering it will provide access to this plumbing should it ever be needed with minimal disruption to our operations.

There are "special theme" days in the planning for 2020 so stay tuned for further information. Scenery has been progressing nicely. With the level of detail our members are providing you can't hurry this process so just sit tight, your patience will be rewarded.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**