



# ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 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)

**DELAY IN PUBLICATION.** As in the past we waited on sending out this newsletter for a week so we could include the results from the September swap meet.

**VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE POND.** On Tuesday, June 4th we had a visit from Robert and Gerardine Henworth from Solihull in England. Robert is member of the Warley Model Railway Club in Pearsall England. It was nice to chat with modelers from another country.



Tom Fretch and Don Fisher take a few minutes to explain to our guest a few of the unique items found on our layout.

**SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR SEPT 2019**

Concessions	\$282.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1331.00
Club Sales	\$675.00
<b>GROSS SALES</b>	<b>\$2288.00</b>
Church Rental	\$400.00
Table Rental	\$515.00
Food Items	\$250.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$1165.00)</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$1123.00</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 2020.** The contract is signed so we can announce the swap meet dates for 2020. 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 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. 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.** Proto sessions are back starting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. A special Sunday night session will be held on October 6th and then the last session for 2019 will be on November 21st. The first sessions for 2020 are on January 16th, February 20th, March 19th and April 16th. The group meets at 6:45 and then start operations at 7:00 except for the Sunday session that meets at 5:30. If you're interested in being on the proto session notification list e-mail Ashley Chmura at [opssession2012@hotmail.com](mailto:opssession2012@hotmail.com).

**N SCALE NEWS.** On Wednesday June 26th we were host to attendees from the National N Scale Convention being held in Rosemont. Things started happening at around 8:00 am and by the time the last group departed at around 4:30 pm we had been visited by five (5) busloads of guests numbering around 120 people. Needless to say it was a very busy day. Special thanks to all the members who showed up and helped out for the day.



Jim Shilt takes some time explaining the layout to one of many of the convention attendees.

Cameras and video recording devices were the rule of the day for visitors from N Scale Convention.



At the conclusion of the convention in June and opportunity was presented to us to purchase a large quantity of material that was used on a private layout that was being dismantled. This collection included many signals, several buildings and vehicles and detail parts. So watch for things to start showing up on the layout.

**RPM MEET.** The annual RPM (Railroad Prototype Modelers) meet is set for October 24-26 in Lisle and once again we have been asked if we would be open for attendees to visit on Saturday the 26th. The visiting hours have yet to be determined but we will post a notice on the bulletin boards when everything is finalized.

**BUTTONS AND BOWS.** On Monday morning June 10th the club was opened for the annual visit from the Buttons and Bows Preschool. Upwards of 45 youngsters and their adult helpers spent an enjoyable half-hour watching trains run on the HO layout. We are part of their summertime trip to downtown Elmhurst and members always look forward to having the kids come by for a visit.



Youngsters watching colorful passenger trains on the HO layout. Maybe a future modeler is in their midst.

**EMRRC.ORG.** The new club website is up and running. There are still a few areas that are being worked on and since we now have access to the inner workings we'll be able to change it as needed and keep it current. Membership applications and dues payments can be processed through the site also.

The "Members Only" section is accessible but we need members to submit items and ideas. Contact us with inputs for this area. We would like to have videos of clinics, tips and home layouts made available in this section. If you are interested in having access you need to submit your name and a working e-mail address to [emrrc@comcast.net](mailto:emrrc@comcast.net). So far we've got about 70 members listed.

As time progresses you will see the site changing. We have to strike a balance between having a site that is useful for our members but still appealing to the general public.



**HO SCALE NEWS.** If any of you had the opportunity to visit Sioux Falls, South Dakota and had the chance to see their light show then you can relate to what Paul Jasiczek is installing at the falls next to Shelbina. Lights change underneath the bridge providing a multi-color show. While still in need of some fine tuning it does look rather striking. The picture below does not do the scene justice at all.



We're waiting on the track plan for the ore dock area so it can be reviewed and approved. We hope to have this in our hands within the next couple of months so that it can be signed off and the final construction can begin.

Routine maintenance and upkeep is a never ending task. Even something as simple as track cleaning can make a difference in the layout operations. Certain areas on the HO layout are in need of refreshing and minor scenery repairs are also in need of attention. We can always use extra hands on Tuesday nights.

**CLUB ELECTION.** If you are interested in running for the Board of Trustees then you must have your letter / resume posted on the bulletin board by November 15th. There are two (2) trustee positions up for election this year.

**HERITAGE NIGHT.** On September 21st we will be hosting a "Heritage Night" on all of the layouts. Load up your excursion train or any blast from the past and show-off your favorite railroad's heritage. Rumor has it that munchies will be provided.

While we are on the subject of railroad heritage don't forget that the majority of the "fallen flags" as well as roads that are still in operation have historical societies that provide a wealth of information for modeling and prototype operations alike. Membership applications for several of these groups are at the front door and as more become available we will be putting them there also.

**HOn3 NEWS.** As of late the emphasis has been on the lower scenery and putting finishing touches on other items. The scenery crew has been working on the area around the yard and shop stretching back towards the town.

**OPEN HOUSE, AGAIN... WHY DO WE KEEP BRINGING THIS UP EVERYTIME?**

### **BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT.**

That being said let us remember that interacting and being friendly with visitors is paramount. Be helpful and answer any questions.

Keep our eating confined to the club room. Keep the bench open for our guests to use 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.**

**CLEANING.** It's not really that difficult for you to pick up after yourselves and be sure your trash winds up in the can. 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.

And now that Autumn is upon us this includes sweeping up the little yellow monsters that for some unknown reason always wind up downstairs.

**YOUTH GROUPS.** As school begins and scouts and other youth organizations begin their search for outings don't forget the club has evening events for such groups. Flyers are at the front door. For information call Dan Hollis at (708) 269-2503.

**PICK YOUR BRAIN.** Yes, by unpopular demand PYB has returned. And to begin this new incarnation of an old favorite(?) we'll start with an easy one. During the heyday of Chicago railroading there were four (4) so-called "Belt Railroads". Name them. And if you feel really ambitious try this: Including the predecessor roads in the mix, which is the oldest?

**DUES . . . DUES . . . DUES . . .** Why are lists posted reminding members to make sure their dues are paid? Why are postcards sent to members who are behind on their dues as a reminder? Why did the club set up a Pay-Pal dues payment program to make it easier?

The answer is surprisingly easy.... it takes money to run the club. To simplify matters it would suffice to say the club costs \$53 a day to operate. That's \$53 every day of the year, open or closed, warm weather or polar vortex. That puts the total expense at around \$19,680 for the year. This a bare bones number. Rent, utilities, insurance and garbage removal that's all and with the cost of everything on the rise, this number will not be getting any lower.

Aside from the regular monthly bills that come knocking we have the other expenses that need to be addressed. Scenery supplies, light bulbs, throttles, toilet paper, wire, garbage bags, name tags, paper towels, track, vending supplies, screws, freight cars, fire extinguishers, turnout motors, office supplies, couplers, wheelsets, postage. Get the point?

Let us address any concerns you may have...right now the club is in fine financial shape. We still have a nice cash reserve should a situation ever arise. And we intend to keep it that way.

Remember...pay your dues on time.

**WINTER EVENTS.** Are in the process of being planned. We hope that there won't have to be any drastic changes and that everything will go as smoothly as last time.

**THE CLUB FLOOR.** We are looking for suggestions to improve the appearance of our floor. Several methods have already been attempted with different degrees of success. If you have an idea let us know.