



**ELMHURST MODEL
RAILROAD CLUB
NEWSLETTER
Fall / Winter 2021**

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

**WE
DID IT!**

**WE SUCCESSFULLY PULLED OFF
A SWAP MEET ON SEPTEMBER 10TH
WITH MORE SET FOR 2022, SEE THE
STORY INSIDE.**

SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Concessions	No concessions this time
Tables & Admissions	\$1326.00
Club Sales	\$2049.00
GROSS SALES	\$3375.00
Church Rental	\$616.00
Table Rental	\$705.00
Truck Rental	\$405.00
EXPENSES	(\$1726.00)
NET	\$1649.00

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.

PROTO SESSIONS. On September 16th we held our first Proto Session since the whole virus thing began. With a dozen operators on hand a good time was had by all. The last 2 sessions for 2021 are scheduled for October 21st and November 18th. The 2022 dates are being worked on and will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

COVID RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE AND WILL BE ENFORCED. Unfortunately, we have to follow along with whatever the current protocols are regarding exposure prevention. As of this writing masks will continue to be the rule of the day until we are informed otherwise. They are to cover both mouth and nose. If you are so inclined we have facilities for you to wash your hands. We realize that actual "social distancing" would be difficult but we ask that you try to maintain a safe distance whenever and wherever possible.

PROGRAMMING ON THE LAYOUT. We try to keep rules and regulations to a minimum allowing members to be a little more independent but we do have a few absolutes. One them is about programming on the layouts. This is about as big a no-no as you can get. We have 2 test tracks for this purpose and we expect members to use them for that purpose. Our electronics (the "Purcell Boards") are specially-made for our layout and applications. ANY push of a wrong button while programming can take the layout offline and out of service until we determine what happened. It has already happened so it is a safe bet that it may happen again.

PROGRAM ON THE TEST TRACKS ONLY!

SWAP MEET. After an almost 2-year hiatus our ability to have a swap meet was to be the last thing on our to do list to return to everything being normal. And with everything getting back to normal it should be a breeze. **WRONG!** After we got the go ahead to proceed with the swap we contacted our regular table vendor and found out much to our chagrin that they did not have any tables available for that night. So problem number 1 was to find a rental shop that could supply our quantity of tables (65 for those keeping count).

After a few phone calls we did successfully find someone who had tables available BUT their pick up and drop off schedules wouldn't work with the church so we would be responsible for transporting them. So that brought us to problem number 2, securing a rental truck and since the table rental shop wasn't open on the weekend (you heard right) hanging on to the truck and tables until Monday. As luck would have it the U-Haul in Morton Grove was able to meet our truck requirements and give us a little bit of break on the price.

So let's see we have the tables, we have the truck so now we need to get two years worth of donations out of Bob's basement and out of the club room, loaded into the truck and off to the church where it can be unloaded.



Then after we empty the truck the first time we can go and pick up the tables, bring them back to the church, empty the truck a second time and get set up. Pretty simple stuff isn't it.

BUT, you need bodies, a bunch of bodies to help load, unload, stack, unstack, lift, carry and otherwise get everything inside the church and fortunately we had a group of our members give of their time and effort to get all of this work done. More on that later.

So now we have tables, we have a truck, we have stuff to sell, we also have a bunch of tables reserved for other vendors and we had the people on hand ready to make things happen. What could go wrong?

The church called us the week of the swap and said no food sales will be permitted at the church - including the parking lot. This included anything fresh, in bags, prepackaged or in a can. People were allowed to bring in their own food but sales were not allowed.

We also had to: ensure everyone wore a mask, have everyone sign a waiver and have a representative from the church on hand at our expense. Got to love surprises.

But when Friday arrived we were ready. With a truck, tables, items to sell, people, masks, waivers and restaurant lists in hand it was finally show time. And it was quite a show at that.



After the show had wrapped for the night we had the pleasure of doing almost everything all over again only in reverse. We had to load some of the unsold trains in the truck, break down the tables and load them into the truck and finish loading the remainder of the trains. Bob P then took the truck full of tables and trains and parked it at his house. After unloading the trains on Saturday the truck sat until Monday morning when it was driven back to the rental shop. Dan H met him there and the tables were unloaded. Finally the truck was driven back to the U-Haul in Morton Grove and this show was officially in the books.

Admittedly if wasn't for selling all those donated items we would have taken a big-time hit on this event. But we were aware of that possibility and accepted the fact that even if we did lose money we were announcing that our swap meet was back and we were open for business.

Before we conclude this section we absolutely **MUST** make mention of and express our gratitude to our members and others who took vacation days or other time off work and gave their time and their muscle to help set up, take down, carry, load, drag, unload or check-in. Gib A., Steve C., Matt C., Don F., Zach G., Dan H., Karen H., Eric L., Anthony M., Nick N., Russ P., Dave P., Val S., Tim S., Don and Sam S. and Chuck S.

And lastly a huge amount of thanks go to Bob P. and Steve C. for their efforts that went above and beyond. Now we can only hope that the next one in January will be back to "normal".

LAGRANGE NMRA SHOW. We just received notice that the DuPage Division NMRA Show held in LaGrange every year is a go for 2022. It is scheduled for March 26th. We do plan on attending with our little display and spending time with the public. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the club in the future, don't be shy.

C&NW HISTORICAL SOCIETY GET TOGETHER. On Saturday November 20 the C&NW Historical Society will be holding their Chicago Area Get Together. We will be open for them to visit starting at 1:00 until around 9:00 and they have been given the OK to run if they wish. This Society has always been very supportive of our club so let's put on a good show for them.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES. Information and messages are being sent out from the club's address to members. Please send your current e-mail address to: "emrrc@comcast.net". **This will be for club business only!**

ELECTIONS. There is one position up for election on the Board of Trustees this year. If you are interested in running then your letter / resume must be posted on the bulletin board no later than November 15th.

OPEN HOUSE BASICS. There are a few simple and basic rules regarding that need to be addressed. **Key monitors are charged with enforcing these rules.**

Key Monitors: **check and clean the rest room if it's dirty.** I think you all know what we mean so we won't go into detail. Restock paper goods as needed.

For the HO layout train length is restricted to the three (3) longest tracks in the set up yard or the flags along the wall in block 19-20 show the maximum train length allowed. On the N scale the maximum length is the two (2) longest tracks in the set-up yard.

Equipment must be decorated and operating properly. If you have a piece of equipment that malfunctions three (3) times it is to be removed until it can be properly repaired.

Members are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Be helpful and courteous to our visitors. Answer questions and if you don't know the correct answer then refer them to someone who does. Name tags are required. If you don't have one let us know and we'll get one made for you.

Eating is restricted to the Club Room. A candy bar or can of pop is OK around the layouts but be sure to clean up after yourself.

Keep the aisles clear as much as possible. We know they can be tight and congested at times but standing around holding up the wall isn't necessary and makes an already tight situation even tighter.

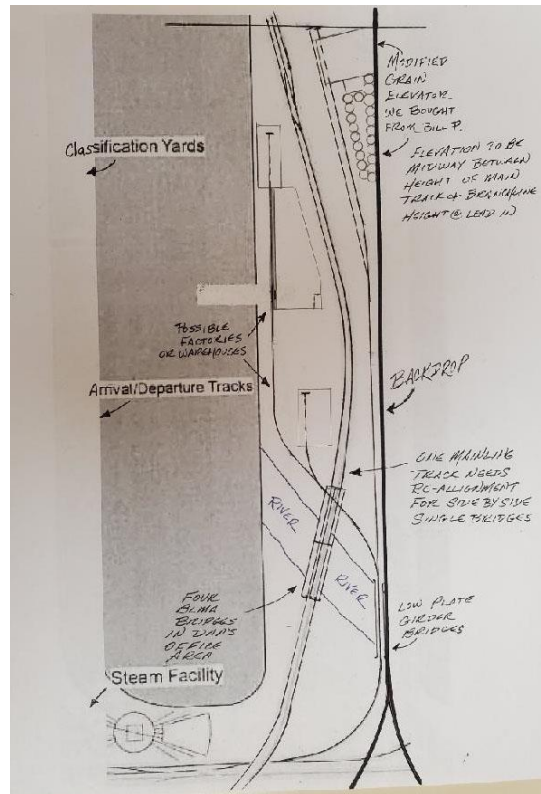
OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS. Sometime back the Board decided to allow members to store their personal trains under the layouts. The criteria is that the containers be marked with the owners name, they must be locked and must be on wheels to facilitate movement when we need to get under the layout. We are asking again for you to restrict yourself to one container. The area is now getting congested and we do not like having to move 10 plastic containers around to fix something under the layout.

If you damage something be it track, scenery, throttles or whatever please report the damage to the key monitor so that they can write it down and we can fix it as soon as possible. We realize accidents happen.

Key monitors take note. Report any damage you may find or any problems that may arise during your time in charge. We cannot fix it if we don't know about it. Also report any shortages of supplies so that we can replace them. Note these items on the shift reports.

The work bench in the club room is for everybody to use. It is **NOT** a cutting, gluing, soldering or painting surface, you can use scrap cardboard or wood for these actions. When you are finished **we expect you to clean up after yourself** and put things away properly.

N SCALE NEWS. Scenery has been continuing along the back wall and on to the second peninsula. The real change will be coming in the next few months in block 4. There will be a slight realignment of track and widening of the spacing to accommodate the installation of four bridges and a lower track with some possible industries.



WORK NIGHTS. With summer in the rearview mirror and outside activities getting curtailed we sure could use some hands taking care of things down here. There are numerous items that need to be repaired, replaced or upgraded. The crew that has been working on it already have been doing an outstanding job but we still have a rather lengthy list to get done. Scenery and other items are heading that list. A lot of the work that needs to be done is not glamorous but it is necessary.

The electronics of our layout are a big area of concern. As noted before the components for our system our custom made for us and not only are they susceptible to damage but with every commercial upgrade we have to make sure everything remains compatible. If you are interested in learning the electronics or if you already have a working knowledge and want to help please let us know.



HO SCALE. A lot of the work that is ongoing involves the electronics, wiring and DCC computer type things, not much to see. So instead here are some pictures of our lighted areas for those of you who don't get the opportunity to come down when they run in the dark.

