



ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

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

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? We bet you've been thinking that we forgot all about you. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Things down at the club have hardly been a beehive of activity but we are still here, the layouts are up and running and we're open for business but it is still members only for a while.

We're doing our best to make the swap meets happen, dates are scheduled but we also have to go along the requests of the host venue so that can change at any time. The LaGrange NMRA Show held annually in March has been cancelled. Youth group programs are still on hold for now. Open House will stay cancelled until conditions are favorable but as soon as they are we will scrub the place down and put the shingle out front.

The Board has been on top of the goings on and has been teleconferencing and meeting when needed to keep everything operating normally. We have lost a number of members and with everything being closed new member recruitment has slowed to a crawl. But as soon as things open up again and we can start to reach out to the public we'll begin actively seeking members again.

We are financially on solid ground. Members have been keeping up with their dues and we've been applying for small business and non-profit grants in an attempt to pick up a few extra dollars until the revenue stream is back to normal.

ELECTION 2021. Only one person submitted a resume for running for the open position on the Board. Congratulations to Nick Nowacki on retaining his seat on the Board for another 5-year term.

FUNFEST 2021. Because the restrictions to occupancy and the loss of the coffee shop it was decided to postpone Funfest until the summer when we can have it outside. The location is still being determined but we'll let you know as soon as everything is finalized.

SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR SEPT 2020

Concessions	\$000.00
Tables & Admissions	\$0000.00
Club Sales	\$000.00
GROSS SALES	\$0000.00

Church Rental	\$000.00
Table Rental	\$000.00
Food Items	\$000.00
EXPENSES	(\$0000.00)

NET **\$0000.00 (at least we didn't lose money)**

CLUB HOURS

Sunday: Noon until 9:00 pm

Open house until 4:00 (not yet)

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

7:00 until 10:00 pm

Friday: 7:00 until 10:00 pm

Open house all night (not yet)

Saturday: 3:00 until 10:00 pm

Tuesday night is work night.

No operation.

THE SWAP MEET SCHEDULE FOR 2021. The swap meet dates for 2021 are as follows: January 8th, May 14th and September 10th. 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 helping out, contact Steve Cerka at (630) 309-8475 and let him know. 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.

Another point on the swap meets. Right now the club room looks like a garage sale waiting to explode. We've had numerous donations to the club and we've run out of other storage space so we're stacking it up in the club room. We really shouldn't have to say this but we will:

Please stay out of the donation pile and leave it alone. Everything there will eventually be put up for sale and you can have a chance to purchase it at that time.

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 2021 this will be January 9th, May 15th and September 11th. 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 2021. Because of the 10-person limit at the club all Proto Sessions are on hold. As soon as we can relax that restriction Ashley will get them rolling again. If you're interested in being on the notification list e-mail Ashley at: opsession2012@hotmail.com.

WORK NIGHT. Tuesday nights are work nights. There are usually people downstairs starting at around 5:00 and going through the evening. We have a lot of things around the club that need to be repaired and just as many upgrades need to be made to the layout. Don't be shy, everybody is welcome and every ounce of effort is appreciated.

THE NEW FOLKS UPSTAIRS. The coffee shop is gone so you coffee drinkers will have to bring your own or we can clean out a spot to install a coffee maker. Hopefully this brings an end to the constant issues we were having with water dripping down from an improperly done plumbing job. The unused plumbing was removed and the ceiling was patched.

The new tenant is the "High Voltage Hair Society" which prides itself being in being a rather unique hair salon servicing an even more unique clientele. Stop in if you may be so inclined.

HON3 NEWS. Wally Stein has been working on the scenery around the set-up area and locomotive shop. He's getting it finished so we can place the buildings and finish the trackwork, install the lighting and wiring.



It may be a mess now but wait until it is finished.

N SCALE NEWS. Val Skawinski and Russell Pearson have been going absolutely bonkers working on the scenery, roads and track work on the N scale layout. The list of what has been done is too long to mention so you'll just have to come down and see for yourself. Jim Shilt has been working on buildings and other structures at home and bringing them down for installation.



HO SCALE NEWS. The biggest things to report on the HO layout are the steel mill extension is ready for the track crew to get in there and start doing their thing and all the new lighting in the passenger terminal and engine servicing area. Scenery that has gone to gray and dust is being cleaned up, repaired and refurbished. The engine house at the Slate Quarry is wrapping up and with the lighting it looks great. A couple of members are working on items from home and then bringing them down for final installation.



Lots of lighting with more to come.

2020 IN REVIEW. New Year's 2020 started in an upbeat manner. Funfest went off without a hitch. Darryl VanNort and Tom Fretch were re-elected to the Board and Russ Pearson was awarded Member of the Year. Our January swap meet was a success netting almost \$900 for the club. In February a group of 3rd graders from Homes School in Oak Park stopped in for a visit while attending the railroad exhibit at the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

After that 2020 went right down the crapper and stayed there....

Even with the viruses, water leaks and floods we have persevered and will continue to do so. It is only due to the determination and efforts of our members that we have survived this disaster of a year and the same two qualities will keep us moving forward until things return to normal.

We know the events of 2020 have affected pretty much all of us in some way, shape or form. For some of us the affects may have been less than favorable and others they may have been just a minor inconvenience. Regardless of how this whole event has played out in your life we extend our best wishes and our hopes for the best. We WILL get through this. See you down at the club soon!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

