



ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

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

RECENT BOARD MEETINGS. Several issues have risen to the surface lately that needed to be addressed by the Board. We are aware that some of the results will not be popular but these were concerns that were brought to our attention and had to be addressed.

- **Dues increase.** With the cost of things going nowhere but up we examined the numbers necessary to maintain operations at their current level and it was determined that a \$5.00 per quarter increase was needed bringing the total to \$300 per year. This has been our first increase since 2015 and since a lot of our capital expenditures are out of the way another should not be needed for several years.
- **Pets in the layout rooms.** It was reported to the Board that critters were running under the layout. We love our pets as much as anyone else but one misplaced wag of a tail and wires can be disconnected or worse. So to keep the playing field level for all parties it was decided that pets are to be in the club room only.
- **Storage totes under the layouts.** The size and number of storage containers under the layouts were bordering on ridiculous. When we originally started to allow this practice there were certain criteria that had to be met. They were as follows:
 1. They cannot be any larger than 36" long, 24 "wide and 26" high.
 2. They must be on wheels so the can be moved for work night.
 3. They must be locked.
 4. The owners name must be clearly visible.

This has not changed. All containers **MUST** meet these criteria. Existing containers that do not meet the size requirements will be grandfathered. Each member is allowed one (1) container.
- **Food.** Any or all leftovers or garbage food items are to be taken out to our dumpster rather than being left in the garbage can in the clubroom or at the back stairs. This is especially important in the warmer months when heat and humidity can lead to an odor problem and an increase in bugs.

SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR JANUARY 2022

Concessions	\$206.00
Tables & Admissions	\$1010.00
Club Sales	\$2829.00
GROSS SALES	\$4045.00
Church Rental	\$659.00
Table Rental	\$595.00
Concessions	\$266.00
EXPENSES	(\$1516.00)
NET	\$2529.00

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.

SWAP MEETS. The remaining swap meets for 2022 are scheduled for May 20th and October 14th. As is usually the case hands and bodies will be needed. If you can help or if you're looking for a table or two give Steve a call at 630-309-8475.

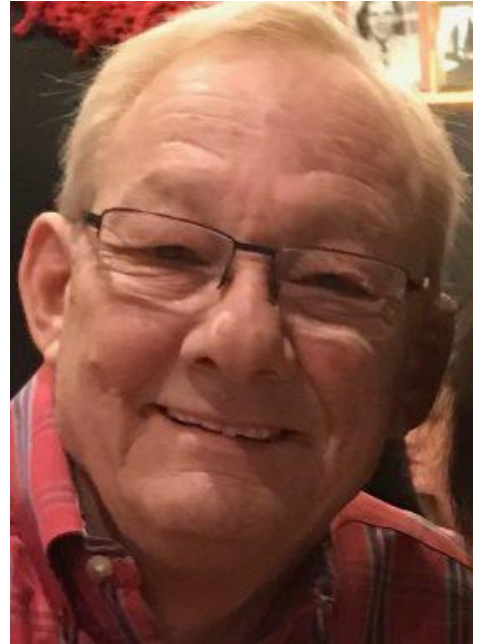
PROTO SESSIONS. The proto session schedule is finalized. They'll be held on March 24th, April 21st, May 19th and June 16th. We'll take couple of months in the summer off and then resume on September 15th, October 20th and wrap up the year on November 17th.

COVID RESTRICTIONS. As it stands right now there are no restrictions on the premises. Wearing masks is an option but it is at the discretion of the wearer. Should this situation change we will inform members and post it at the club.

PROGRAMMING ON THE LAYOUT. We try to keep rules and regulations to a minimum allowing members to be a little more flexible 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 and we expect members to use them for programming. Our electronics (the "Purcell Boards") are specially-made for our layout and applications. A 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 let's not let it happen again.

PROGRAM ON THE TEST TRACKS ONLY!

IN MEMORIAM. Back in November we suddenly lost Wally Stein. Wally was instrumental in the scenery and buildings on both the narrow-gauge and the HO layouts. His skills and talent working on buildings as well as his interesting stories will be missed.



LAGRANGE NMRA SHOW. 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 is posted at the club so don't be shy.

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!**

FUNFEST = SUMMERFEST. For several reasons we have decided to re-locate Funfest to the summertime. The weather, location and participation all had something to do with this decision and we think it will work out for the best. Stay tuned for more details.

KEY MONITORS SHIFT REPORTS. A couple of quick things. First the reports now have a check-off area for the restroom. These were put there as reminders to take a few minutes and perform the duties on the sheet. If the floor is dirty, clean it! If the garbage is ½ full, don't write ½ on the sheet, empty it! The Swifter is hanging on the coat rack and other cleaning supplies are in the room.

Also shift reports will now be put on a clipboard rather than putting them in the mailbox. This should expedite taking action on the problems listed.

DCC QUICKIE. A quick rehashing of some of the ins and outs of the club's DCC operations. We will keep this basic and simple and the leave the techno stuff to those who understand it.

We use Digitrax throttles only. We **DO NOT** support wi-fi or IR (infra-red) throttles and as of right now there are no plans for changes to allow either of these systems to come into use.

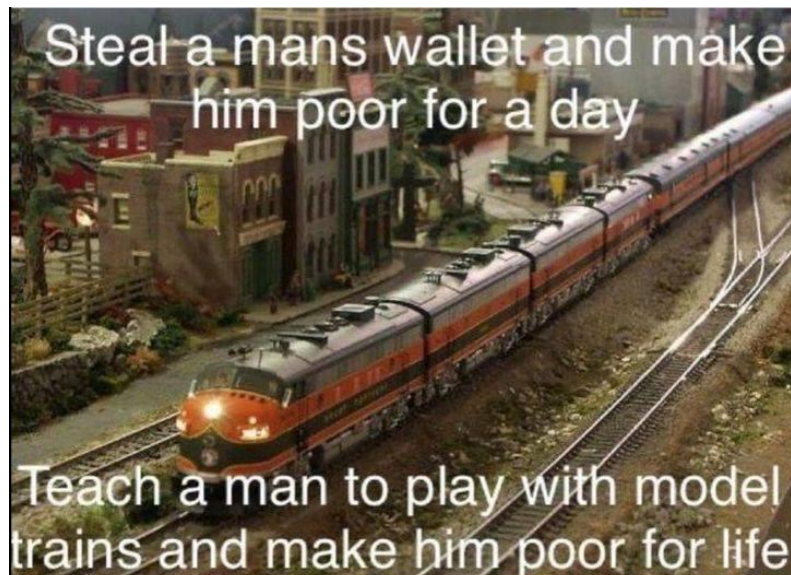
Here's a list of the throttles that are supported by our system (or vice versa, whatever)

UT4	DT500
UT4-R	DT500-D
UT4-D	UT6
DT400	UT6-D
DT400-R	DT602-D
DT402	
DT402-R	
DT402-D	

All DCC addresses must be 31 or higher. If you build a consist be sure break it down and dispatch each address when you're finished.

Always sign in with the key monitor before setting up or acquiring addresses. **Print legibly** on the sign-in sheet. Being able to read addresses that are in use will prevent duplications and potential operating problems.

WORK NIGHTS. Tuesday night is work night. We usually get started around 6:00. Don't be shy, we need hands to take care of the many things that need attention. Electronics are a big concern and if you're interested in learning and assisting with them let us know.



N SCALE. Most of the action on the N scale layout has been confined to the peninsula where the four bridges are going to be installed. They have been working on the rough scenery and benchwork with hopes of moving the one mainline track to allow for the clearances and installing the bridges soon.



Also on the N scale is the new railroad museum between the two peninsulas. Lots of scenery work in that area.



HO SCALE. There have been a lot of new lighting installations on buildings and around the layout. If you're down running and everyone is agreeable kill the room lights and see how it looks.

