



# ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER Summer 2022

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)

**RUMORS AND OTHER FALSEHOODS.** Let's get the unpleasantness out of the way first thing.

Sometimes things get said at the club that are unsubstantiated or inaccurate. These words are picked up and spread around by members and may eventually find their way out of the club and into the rest of the civilized world (as was this most recent case).

We try to provide members with as much information as we can about everything that is important or pertinent to the club and the goings on. The website, the Facebook page, the bulletin board and even this newsletter are all methods we use to disseminate information. If you have questions just get a message to a Board member.

In a nutshell: If you are not 100% certain that something is the truth then don't say anything.

**NOW ON WITH THE SHOW....**

**SUMMERFEST IS JULY 24TH AT THE CLUB FROM NOON UNTIL  
WHENEVER EVER IT ENDS.**

**PROTO SESSIONS.** The last proto session before the summer break is on June 16th and then they will resume on September 15th with another on October 20th and wrap up the year on November 17th. If you are interested in being on the Proto Session notification list contact Ashley at [opssession2012@hotmail.com](mailto:opssession2012@hotmail.com).

**HOLIDAYS.** The club is closed on holidays. Maybe it's time we list which holidays so here goes: New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As a matter of record the club is closed on these days.

## SWAP MEET TOTALS FOR MAY 2022

Concessions	\$196.00
Tables & Admissions	\$975.00
Club Sales	\$4590.00
<b>GROSS SALES</b>	<b>\$5761.00</b>
Church Rental	\$659.00
Truck & Table Rental	\$728.00
Concessions	\$277.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$1664.00)</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$4097.00</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.**

**SWAP MEETS.** The last swap meet for 2022 is on September 9th. 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.

While we're on the subject of swap meets let's take a moment and review a few things. The whole reason behind us sponsoring these swap meets is to raise money for the club. We do that by one of three (3) ways. We sell table space, food and donated or discarded items.

Table space is exactly that, eight (8) foot tables to display and sell items. Fortunately we don't have much to do with this beyond making sure we enough table space for sale. Since we do not have the space to store tables of our own we have no other choice but to rent them.

Food items are donated or purchased for sale to those in attendance. While this is not a particularly profitable part of the event it is a necessary one both for us and for the vendors.

Donated items have made up the lion's share of profit for the past few swap meets. When we receive a call from someone who wishes to get rid of old or otherwise unwanted items we pick them up asking if they want a receipt. Their first stop is a dumpster where the obvious garbage and junk is removed and pitched. Whatever remains is brought down to the club where it is sorted into keep or sell. The sell pile is checked again to see if it is sales worthy. Everything is then cleaned and we make sure it works properly. Locomotives are tested to make sure they operate. Everything is then priced and stored away until the show.

On swap day it's carted off to the church and hopefully sold. Whatever isn't is brought back and waits until next time.

**Any way you slice it, it is a lot of work and we can always use hands to help get it done.**

**THROTTLE ISSUES.** First let us remind you that the club **only** allows the use of Digitrax brand throttles on our layouts. Wi-fi and IR (infra-red) throttles are not permitted. If you recall we gave you a list of the throttles that you can use in the last newsletter.

Now it seems that the only type of throttle that Digitrax is currently selling has a “-D” suffix. This means “duplex” and these radios operate at a different frequency than the older “-R” units. But this also means that they share these frequencies with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and a bunch of other communications devices. Now let’s throw in low ceilings, metal pipes and light fixtures and you have the recipe for a lot of radio interference (also your body can block the signal).

If you are using a duplex (-D) type throttle when you plug in to acquire the locomotive address **leave it plugged in for at least 30 seconds.** This simple act should assure that all of the information necessary is sent back and forth between the layout and your throttle.

We have built a firmware updating station for duplex throttles. Once we have a sufficient number of people trained on its use we’ll be able to upgrade firmware on individual throttles. A sign-up sheet will be available once this is operational.

The electronics people are in the process of installing new components to alleviate the problems but with just a few people doing the work they are rapidly getting bogged down. We need a few more individuals to learn and help with the electronics. If you are interested let a Board member know.

**YOUTH GROUP.** After a few years hiatus courtesy of the Covid issue we finally re-opened with a youth group in April. Even with the club room being a mess we were still able to have a good time. We provide these events not just for club members but for any group that is interested. Just call Dan at 708-269-2503 if you have a youth group that might want to come down.



**N SCALE.** Most of the work is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> peninsula getting ready for the bridge installations. Scenery, track and buildings are all getting worked on.



**HO SCALE.** Most of the work being done on the HO layout has been behind-the-scenes dealing with electronic upgrades.

There has been some new lighting installed around the layout so keep an eye open for that program to continue.



**TUESDAY NIGHT IS WORK NIGHT.** There are people there as early as 5:00. There is always something that needs to be done so don't be shy.