



# ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

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)

#### **CLUB HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Sunday: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm. **Open House** is 1:00 – 4:00.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Friday night is **Open House**.

Saturday: 3:00 pm – 10:00pm.

**Tuesday is work night, there is no operation that night.**

**SWAP MEETS.** We know there are a lot of people asking inquiring about the swap meet status. In a nutshell we had one very good lead but there was an issue with the amount of space we would be needing so that fell through. Then we had another lead but the individual to whom we spoke misquoted the price and the real price was just a tad higher (almost 200%) so we had to scrap that location.

We are still working on finding a location. We had hoped to be back in business in time for a May event but looks highly unlikely right now. If you have any suggestions let us know we are still wide open and following up leads.

**PROTO SESSIONS.** The next Proto Session is set for April 20th. The last two before summer break will be on May 18th and June 15th.

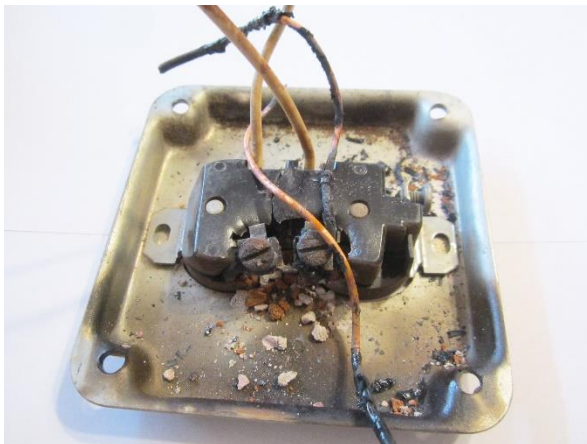
There are some changes in the works as well as some new trains running. These will start to show up at the April 20<sup>th</sup> session. If you are interested in being on the Proto Session notification list contact Ashley at: [opssession2012@hotmail.com](mailto:opssession2012@hotmail.com).

**REMINDERS FOR MEMBERS AND KEY MONITORS.** When you are operating at the club you are doing so at your own risk. The club is not responsible for damage to your personal equipment.

**KEY MONITORS:** Inside the throttle cabinet door is a list of paid members. When a person signs in and you don't know for certain that they are members then check the list. If their name is not on the list then they are not paid members. It's pretty simple. We are still having a problem with former members from years back and members who were recently dropped for non-payment showing up and using the layouts. We will attempt to update the list every week. If you have any questions just call and we'll try to figure out what is going on.

Also during Open House only members are to be operating trains and the equipment must be finished and in good operating condition. Members (those who have them) must be wearing their name tag.

**JANUARY 1ST.** At the end of last year there was a problem with the 110 volt electrical system on the HO layout. We spent the better portion of a Monday opening boxes and tracing wires until we found what you see below.



This receptacle was old, cracked and caused a short. Fortunately the circuit breaker did its job. The wire and components were replaced that afternoon and everything was up and running that evening. This reinforces that key monitors need to document anything and everything on shift reports so that we can stay on top of things.

**APRIL 29th SPECIAL PASSENGER TRAIN NIGHT AND BOOK SALE (AGAIN).** First of all an explanation for the last book sale attempt. The person who is in charge and running the sale got sick a few days before and was not able to attend. So we will try it again on Saturday, April 29th. The lists are still floating around the club. Be sure to them a look and see if there is anything that interests you.

We will also be having passenger train night that night on all of the layouts. Here's the chance to drag out your Daylights, Zephyrs, Limiteds and Expresses (even Amtrak or Metra) and take them for a spin with others.

**LASALLE REBUILD.** The week of January 23 saw the undertaking of a rebuild to LaSalle (Block 2) as well as adding new trackage for ease of access to the area. Work was done during the day and the layout was down only a very short time. The turnout of bodies to help was impressive and it was this response that made it possible to have everything up and running in time for Friday night Open House.



**ELECTRONICS.** Again the electronics team has been making some serious progress on the HO layout. Asides from dealing with the usual bugaboos there have been new installations and upgrades. Unlike scenery and track these improvements and new installations will most likely never be seen or even noticed but they are there and things are improving all the time.

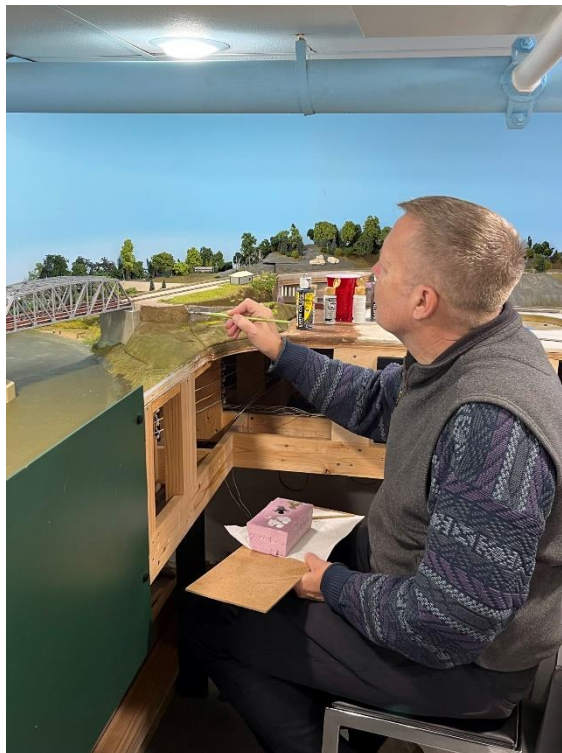
The biggest news is the replacement of one of the DCC2DC boards. This board controls cabs 1,2 and 3 (and 7 if local cab control is needed). The board that was removed will be upgraded.

A few new UR-92s were installed over the yard area. Others had their 110 volt wiring changed so that they are no longer on the room lights and will remain on if the layout “goes dark”.

There has also been a fair amount of work on the relay boards. This will neaten up the wiring and improve the reliability.

**N SCALE.** While scenery has been the order of the day for the last few months there are some things starting to happen with the electronics as well.

Most of the scenery in the Salt Creek area is done but there is still some fine-tuning to be done and this is what takes the most time. Buildings, bridges and other structures need a lot of attention and can be very time-consuming.



Action has been going on with the branchline under the layout with turnout motors getting marked for programming purposes.

**HO SCALE.** Lots of activity with the trackwork and ballasting on the HO. Rail is getting painted and then a ballast crew moves in right behind to finish up.



### **BLURBS.**

Keys and name tags do not grow on trees. When you join you are given a top door key and a name tag. Replacements are now \$5.00 each.

They are called “set-up yards” for a reason. This is where you set up your train. Not on the sidings. Not in the classification yard. Not on the mainline. Set up trains in the set-up yard.

During Open House trains cannot exceed the maximum length. On the HO it’s the flags on the back wall. For the N scale use the longest 2 set up tracks. This includes power. No exceptions.

There will be Summerfest again this year. Date and time to be announced.

Please empty your drink can / cup in the sink before putting it in the garbage can. Too many times the liquid spills out leaving a mess and with summer coming it can be quite unpleasant.

**All DCC addresses MUST be above 30.**