



ELMHURST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

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

ELECTION RESULTS. We are pleased to announce that Ashley Chmura was re-elected for another 5-year term on the Board and Don Fisher was also elected for a five-year term. In the interim Tim Schubert was appointed to fill the remainder of Darryl VanNort's term.

The club sends a huge "thank you" to outgoing Board member Andrew Fidone. Andrew's contributions to both the N scale layout and the club in general went far above and beyond what we could have expected from any member. His input and contributions will be missed at Board meetings but rumor has it he will be staying a member so we hope to have him around for a long time to come.

PROTO SESSIONS. The next Proto Session is on March 21st followed by April 18th, May 16th and then again on June 20th before we break for a summer vacation. Sessions start at 7:00 with a pre-meeting at 6:30.

If you are interested in being on the Proto Session notification list contact Ashley at: opsession2012@hotmail.com.

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.

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.

APPLICATION AND NEW MEMBER PROCESS. There appears to be some confusion as to the application process for new members. While this mostly applies to Key Monitors, other members may be put into this position so in a nutshell here's how it is supposed to be handled.

Be it on-line or on paper a prospective member **MUST** first fill out an application. If it's on paper then it can be deposited in the dues box otherwise the on-line applications are processed elsewhere. The applicant will receive a letter from the Board within a few weeks. This gives us time to make sure that the applicant is not carrying any baggage (so to speak) or if there are questions we can address them. It may seem strange but even in a quaint little hobby like ours there are some people of questionable reputations and we need to head them off.

They will be sent a letter giving them information. When the applicant comes down for training **then and only then are we to accept any form of payment for dues.** They are to be given a new member packet at this time. If we are out then leave a note and we'll get one to them.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR KEY MONITORS. We know this is getting redundant but we need people in these positions to keep everything operating. Our Key Monitor pool is getting very shallow and we need members to step up and start to fill in the gaps. We're only looking for one or two days a month. If we cannot find people to cover these assignments then our only option is to start closing on certain nights and we do not want that to happen.

C&NW HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENT IN CRYSTAL LAKE. On May 19th the C&NW Historical Society is having a meet in Crystal Lake. As in the past we will be running the swap meet at the hotel. In return for our efforts we keep the proceeds. We do need hands to help out with running the event. **If you can help out call Bob Pearson at 847-637-1753** and let him know that you are available.

AGAIN.... THROTTLE DEPOSIT. LET'S CLEAR THIS UP FOR THE LAST TIME. On page 6 of the "Layout Operating Guidelines", which you all should have received, it states that "Members signing out a throttle must leave a **\$5.00 cash deposit** for the throttle with the dispatcher in charge". This is pretty cut and dry, we don't want credit cards, FOID cards, drivers licenses or whatever pocket change you have lying around. There are several reasons that we do it this way. For starters it is meant to remind operators to return their throttle to the key monitor and not go home leaving it lying around. If the operator does not return it then the \$5.00 goes into the cookie jar (thanks in advance for the donation). Secondly in an age of identity theft we do not want to be put in a position to be responsible for anything that may have the potential to lead to such a situation.

Now if maintaining the \$5.00 deposit is proving difficult we do have a few suggestions. If you have a locker or tote keep the money clipped inside. If you use a grey "A-Line" bag or other types of bags then a luggage tag will hold a \$5.00 bill quite nicely. If you use a box then you can tape the money to the inside of the lid. Any way you do it you will always have the required \$5.00 on hand. We do realize that things happen and on a rare waiving this requirement may be in order however this is to be handled on a case-by-case basis by the key monitor in charge.

WORK NIGHTS. Tuesday night is work night. The list of "to do" items keeps growing and number of hands we have "to do" them keeps getting smaller. A lot of these items do not require any special skill or knowledge just a willingness to put in the time and effort.

Electronics people are high on the priority list. If you have a knowledge of electronics we could really use the help. We have lost several members of the electronics team in the last few months and we cannot expect a handful of members to carry the weight. If you are interested in getting on board with this contact Zach Godzicki at: zgodzicki@gmail.com.

This is in red for a reason and is too important to be ignored. Right now the Tuesday night crews are pretty much getting close to the limit. We need workers to step up otherwise our only other option would be to close the club for a few weeks to get everything done at one time the reopen when things are completed.

BLURBS.

With the warmer weather approaching we remind you to take your food trash outside when you leave. This helps reduce the numbers of unwanted visitors and reduces odors. Also empty your drink can / cup in the sink before putting it in the garbage can.

When reaching over to rerail or recouple a train please be aware of the scenery that you are reaching across. There has been an increase in the damage to trees and other items. If you cannot comfortably reach the problem then get some assistance.

CP 2816. If you so inclined to check out a little foreign steam Canadian Pacific Hudson #2816 will be in the area the first week of May. It will tie up in Franklin Park on May 8th.

UP 4014. The Big Boy is on tap for a visit to Chicago this summer. Official details have yet to be announced.

N SCALE. There continues to be a lot of track and wiring activity. Both branchlines on the 2 peninsulas have temporary wiring in place so all of the bugaboos can get worked out before the permanent installations are secured. The candy company siding is now active.

There is a problem with the lead on certain tracks in the setup yard and this is being addressed. Since this is an intermittent problem it will take a little longer to track down.

There is now landscaping around the diesel facility and some of the houses. Streets and retaining walls are being cut and fitted.



HO SCALE. The new backdrop was installed on the back wall.



Ballasting in Block 2 continues.

