

The **SCOOP**

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The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.

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Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

Our regular July meeting will be the first Sunday (7/2) with members usually showing up around 2 pm. In place of the business meeting at 5 pm there will be a clinic on Rock Making & Coloring. It will be held in the Painting Room at the museum, which is just at the bottom of the stairs beyond the bathrooms.

Our next Museum Open House will be Saturday, July 15th, starting at 11 am and ending at 4:30 pm.

A flyer was prepared announcing our intentions to hold a Layout-in-a-day Clinic in September. Jim Basford has begun distributing them to outside locations to see if we generate any public interest. The consensus of the club membership is that unless there is some indication of public interest in advance we do not want to go thru the efforts to prepare for it. Jim will briefly comment further on this before the clinic.

In early June I attended the NMRA Southeastern Region's annual meeting in Memphis. Any club member who is a member of the NMRA is automatically a member of the SER and would find these annual meetings enjoyable and interesting. The associated train show is also pretty good. I spent a full day attending clinics. In addition, half-day classes were held on structure building. The 2007 convention will be organized by the Piedmont Division and held in Cartersville, GA. It's a great chance to make new friends and meet some renowned model railroaders.

Our youngest member, Diego Posada in Alcoa, needs help with starting an HO layout in his basement. Bob Strickland and I visited Diego's home to discuss the possibilities with him and his mother and inventory his materials. They are interested in an L-shaped board made by attaching a 4 x4 board to a 4 x 8 board. The Posadas will clean up and add better lighting in the selected area. When this is completed we could use a few more volunteers to do the layout work. There is room for only 3 to 4 workers at a time. The plan is not to build a complete layout, but to get the track and wiring in place and show Diego basic scenery techniques. He and his family can do the scenic details from that point on. A couple weekend half-day sessions ought to do it. If you are able to help let me know. I have no timing at this point.

Congratulations to Phil Brooks for dominating the last two issues of N Scale Railroading magazine. He had the cover and a major photo article on his Clinchriver RR in the May/June issue and now has an article on building the trestle featured in that article in the July/August issue. His photography alone is worth the price of the magazine. At the recent SER meeting in Memphis the national chairman of the NMRA photo contest committee told me Phil's pictures with the May/June article were the best model railroading photos he had ever seen.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

We will have a HO division meeting on Sunday, July 2, at 4 PM. There is interest by some of the members in rearranging the existing module configuration into a different one. There are several proposed layouts, both of which free up space for an eventual (as yet unplanned) permanent layout. These proposed arrangements will be the main topic of discussion at this meeting. A secondary topic will be the proposal to change the layout height if the modules are rearranged. Since it is the 4th of July weekend, other commitments may prevent members from attending, but input from as many people as possible is desired. The proposals and results of the meeting will be sent to everyone.

The June schedule will be duplicated in July. The first Sunday meeting will be a work/run sessions, with the HO division meeting at 4 pm, and the third Saturday will be an operating session.

We are still meeting every week on Tuesday morning for a work session. I usually arrive around 10, but there are frequently people there before that.

It was also suggested that a different work session day might be better. I would like suggestions from the members about different times, be it on weekends, evening, or alternating days. For instance, meet on a Saturday one week, and then a weekday evening another week.

June saw quite a bit of progress in several areas. Jim Basford has continued work on the unloading dock on the harbor module. All of the track is now down on the module, and it is operational. The new lift bridge is operationally, but some sort of stop for when the bridge is open needs to be installed. I got the narrow gauge track down across the lift bridge, and have done the wiring for the wye. Narrow gauge trains can now run from Raccoon Creeks all the way to the Lumberton log dump.

We had our first summer Saturday meeting, and had an operating session. I have revised the operating session to include the Harbor module. We only had a few members operating, including N scale and large scale members, and completed about one third of the planned operating session. Richard Atwood ran the first Harbor Turn, and unloaded and loaded the car float without any trouble, thanks to all the good work done by the Harbor gang. We ran all day without problems with the DCC.

N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator - hmcelhoe@aol.com
Larry Burkholder (for Bruce)

Work continues on several fronts on the modules. Bob Strickland is expected to have his National Guard facilities ready in time for our invasion of Iran or S. Korea. Under the supervision of Larry Burkholder our town of Bagelton is heavily into urban renewal and Al's Victory gas station expects to have their new fence up any day now. Charlie Womack and his crack construction crew moved the entire L&N station two scale feet closer to the tracks to make way for a sidewalk as part of the main street repaving. Delivery of the hospital's new Life Flight helicopter is anxiously awaited. Of course a whole block of bars, pawn shops, movies, and used car lots are expected to closely follow the opening of the National Guard facilities. At the other end of our wee world, Bruce's new dam successfully prevented the usual spring flooding and is just awaiting final scenic details before the Governor comes for the official dedication. The MOW crew has apparently been on strike, but the dispute is settled and we expect to have the new track alignment at the station fully ballasted and other known track problems repaired soon. There are many other projects waiting for workers, so if you are a member of the

N scale crew and are not already assigned step up and talk to Bruce about how you can help.

Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall

We continue our Wednesday evening work session/chat fests and still make little progress!! Actually the S scale scenery is coming along pretty good. The company housing project (all three houses) now have grass, perhaps the board fence and sidewalks will find their way to the layout soon. Some of the rural areas have begun to take shape and are decorated in foamy pink.

Gary Cameron and Bob Dexter have been working on the old HO "s curve" modules in hope that they will be able to run their On30 equipment. The first go was a rather short haul since the loco pilot managed to bang into all the ground throws, hopefully the throws have been moved away from the rail and things will go well! It should make an interesting switching layout. More later!!

Layout in a Day Clinic - Jim Basford

The Layout in a Day Clinic, scheduled for September 30, is intended to provide a public educational demonstration of all the skills necessary to build a small layout. We will be building a 4'x8' layout complete with track, scenery, buildings, and rolling stock. At the July 2 meeting, we will briefly discuss current status and how best to proceed to have a successful event. Most of the topics identified in previous Scoops now have volunteers who will present them at the clinic. There are still five openings which must be filled in the very near future to allow sufficient preparation time. Please pick out a topic of interest to you.

TRACKWORK

Evaluates the track and turnout market and presents recommendations as to the best brands. Assembles shopping list of roadbed, track, turnouts, rail joiners, switch machines, etc. Procures all track items. Performs all preliminary work (i.e., curving the flex track, upgrading turnouts, etc.) necessary to install trackwork in ~60 minutes. Coordinates track installation at clinic.

BUILDINGS

Works with track and scenery people to identify industries, businesses, houses, etc. Searches literature for best fit to requirements. Demonstrates kit assembly and painting. Prepares locations to accept buildings. Only if necessary, assembles a few buildings beforehand to assure all are completed by the end of the clinic.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

Shows surface preparation, brushing, spraying, and detailing techniques of painting several kinds of materials. Demonstrates several techniques of weathering rolling stock and buildings during clinic. Chalk, air brush, washes, and dry brushing should be covered.

AUTOS, TRUCKS, PEOPLE

Chooses cars, trucks and people appropriate for the industries and buildings chosen. Purchases and installs them on layout.

MAINTENANCE

Presents techniques on keeping layout operating well and looking good, including lubrication, coupler adjustment, track cleaning, dust removal, etc.

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