

The **SCOOP**

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The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.
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Layout in a Day Canceled

The Layout in a Day Clinic, which was scheduled to take place on September 30, has had to be canceled. This Clinic would have demonstrated to the public all the techniques needed to construct an operating model railroad and would have resulted in a complete layout at the end of the Clinic. Unfortunately, after an initial burst of enthusiasm in January, an insufficient number of KAMR members were willing to work hard to bring about a successful project. To those members who did work on the areas of their interest, we owe our thanks.

It is hoped that another activity which could provide the kind of positive public exposure for KAMR that this Clinic would have done will be suggested and that it will receive better support from the KAMR membership.

Thanks.
Jim Basford

Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

The summer is rapidly passing us by and vacations and visits from relatives will soon be memories. It is time to start thinking seriously about model railroading again. I think you will read in the HO Division's report that they are about to launch a major program of modular layout redesign and construction of a permanent layout. Those of you who are HO modelers need to be sure you follow what is going on and to be sure to get your two cents worth in. The Large Scale Division is still hanging on by a thread over at the mall, but a lot of work is underway with the S-scale modular layout. If you haven't stopped by the mall in a while you should do so and see what's up. The Garden Railroad at the museum has been a major success and those of you who haven't yet seen it in operation are really missing something. It is operated one day a month for the museum open house. Check the schedule and come by. The N/Z-scale Division (the Wee Folk) are up to quite a bit scenicing several modules. Since everything is so small you might have missed it. Take a real close look the next time you walk thru the room. The bottom line is that there really is a lot going on with the club and if you haven't been to a meeting in a while you should come over and join the fun.

Mark Furhman has suggested that the club and museum consider decorating the garden railroad for Christmas. We would need to have it ready right after Thanksgiving so that it could be enjoyed at the annual museum fund raising

gala the first Friday in December. I know it is early, but a reasonable amount of work will be necessary to get organized and do it, so let's start thinking about it now and we will discuss it at an up-coming meeting.

I have become aware of a small HO layout in Maryville that is for sale. The owner has died and his son wants to get rid of it. I get these calls almost weekly and I usually give them some suggestions and that's the end of it, but this is a neat detailed layout built around the wall in a 6' x 10' room. I think it could be cut out and reconstructed rather easily. The workmanship is real nice. I have photos that I will bring to the club for anyone who might be interested. A price has not been set.

I spent a day in Philadelphia attending the train show that follows the annual NMRA Convention. This is a great show to attend because not only are many dealers there and a lot of neat layouts on display, but many manufacturers are there highlighting their new products. I didn't think this year's show was not as good as last year's in Cincinnati, nor as well attended, but it was still worth doing. Since Philadelphia is still big on street car type inner-city rail there were a number of not so often seen modular layouts of traction in several different scales. Clif Johnson attended the full convention and Jim Schall was there for several days and I have asked them to share their thoughts on it for the Scoop. Check it out below.

Our next business meeting is Sunday, August 6th. Our last summer Saturday open house will be on the 19th. In September we will go back to our third Sunday schedule.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

We will have a work session at the first Sunday meeting, and a run and/or operating session at the third Saturday meeting. Weekly work sessions have become more fluid. They are not always held on Tuesday, so if you are planning on attending you should contact me about day and time. I have been sending out e-mail notification but that has not been going to everyone as yet.

The response on the proposed module realignment has been very positive from nearly all those who have responded. I have heard from or talked to 16 of the 28 HO division members. It would be nice to hear from the other 12.

There has been a lot of work done on scenery on the harbor module. It is looking very good. The water is no longer plywood, but now has some paint on it, and we can expect swimmers and boaters soon.

There are a number of items that need work before the modules can be moved. We are building a number of low carts - nothing more than a piece of plywood with casters - that will fit under the modules and on which we will put all of the items now stored underneath. This will make access to those items much easier and moving much easier also. We are also adding splice plates to the three sets of modules that will be used. This should make moving them easier and maintain module to module alignment.

During the last third Saturday open house run session, we started having problems with the DCC again - losing control of locomotives and so on, but this time we think that we found the problem. Andrew Cousins has been bringing a passenger train, and one of the trucks on one of the cars developed a 'hot box'. We started having DCC shorting problems, and discovered that one truck was shorting out. It was not a dead short, but varied as the wheels rolled and was getting progressively worse. When Andrew found the bad truck, it was nearly too hot to touch, and we could see sparks flying as it rolled down the track. Our theory now is that this truck was shorting enough before we found it to cause the problems we were seeing with the DCC.

N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator - hmcelhoe@aol.com

Now that I've recovered from vacationing up in Yankee land I guess it's time to buckle down and focus on just keeping up with the wee people. With that said, our remodeling program is slow and steady. Slow is not a bad thing as it allows time to do the quality things that really sets of the scenes on the layout.

Things have been getting done around 'HURTS' or should I say the Harangued Users and rickety Transportation System. This may not be the official name of our layout but I just can't help coming up with these special names for things. The entrance into the armory has its first coat of concrete paint and the vintage tank display areas are taking shape. Bob keeps reminding me to bring in the RR crossing gate and maybe during a lapse out of senility I'll do just that. The gate will act as the security drop bar at the entrance. The dam area received a first coating of concrete to cover the blue and pink foam. The ground foam has been added around the area and is about ready for planting trees. Details on the top of the dam are still to be added and the powerhouse at the base is in the final planning stage.

Upcoming or continuing projects:

- The dam sight
- Armory installation
- Bagelton passenger station upgrade
- Bagelton urban renewal
- Quarry access road upgrade
- Quarryton street installation
- Track buss power feeds
- Finish gluing ballast on industrial module new track

I will close for now by encouraging all of us to please utilize our web site at www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com. I am working with Billy and Tiffany on expanding our web site. This will include an updated home page with selections for layout and club room photos, club store, flea market, and other selections that will also include our current bulletin board. We have much that we can share through this media and have some fun at the same time.