

# *The* **SCOOP**

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The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.  
Editor: Jim Schall, phone - 423 369-2955, email - Schallj@highland.net  
**Website : [knoxmodelrailroaders.com](http://knoxmodelrailroaders.com)**

## **Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President**

December starts with a bang with the museum's annual gala dinner and auction affair on Friday the 1st. We will be operating all our trains at the museum from 6 pm until things quiet down around 9 pm. Let's have a good turn out to run trains for the patrons. You will receive a free dinner.

Of special interest on that night will be the inaugural run of the Christmas Garden Trains. Mark Fuhman, Oscar Lidstrom, and Pete Hoke have been working to get the thousands of lights and special buildings in place. It will be a sight not to be missed. We plan to operate the garden trains each Saturday and Sunday evening in December, except Christmas eve, from 4 to 7 pm. We need a couple members to volunteer for at least one night's operation coverage for each date.

In lieu of our regular December meeting we will hold our club Christmas party on Sunday the 3rd starting at 6 pm. You should have received instructions for the dish you are asked to bring. Following the dinner we will have the announcement of club officers for 2007 and then election of new Board members.

Our regular third Sunday museum open house run will be on Sunday the 17th from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The garden trains will keep running until 7 pm.

I hope everyone has a very nice Christmas and New Year or what ever holiday you celebrate this time of year. We look forward to seeing what great train stuff Santa brings you. If you travel, do so carefully.

### **HO Division - Alex Cameron**

Our next major event is the CMOR World of Trains Gala on Friday, December 1. We will be running trains, and also manning the bar and serving wine at the dinner.

We then have the KAMR Christmas party on the following Sunday, December 3.

I propose to decrease the number of work sessions in December, perhaps to just once a week, but that is subject to change. We will certainly meet on Sunday, December 17 (the regular third Sunday meeting). I will ask Cliff to send out e-mails about the work session schedule.

We have had a productive month, with a fairly steady crew of 5 or 6 at most work sessions. The lower loop is working and had quite a few trains run through it during the Holiday in the Mountain festival. We fixed a problem with the turnout to the staging yard by replacing it and it now seems to be working well. We added a shoofly at the west end of the yard to connect the mainline there to the upper (mine) loop, put in the connecting curve between the Yard and the Lumber modules, and have the track work done connecting the yard to those main line tracks. The Yard has power, and with the completion of the connecting curve we achieved a major milestone of completing the main line track. We can now run a train from the lower loop, through the Harbor module, the Lumber modules, the Yard, and around the upper mine loop, and return. There are some rough spots yet, and the automatic reversing for the mine loop is not installed as of yet. Many thanks to everyone who has shown up and made that possible.

I have suggested that we have a 'Golden Spike' ceremony on Friday night during the Gala to celebrate the main line completion.

And since we can run on the main line, we again have the possibility of having an operating session on the third Sunday if we want to try that.

**N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe**, N Coordinator - [hmcELHOE@aol.com](mailto:hmcELHOE@aol.com)

Guys, it is time for the "World of Trains" Gala on December 1 (Friday evening). We will need our usual contingent of volunteers to manage the bar and run trains. Some of us have adopted a formal attire of sorts that includes our club shirt, kaki pants, and name tag.

Don't forget that we will be having elections as part of our annual Christmas Party. For any N-Scaler that would like to take the role of coordinator please step up to the plate. The club board will recognize that person our group recommends for that role. Unless otherwise notified of a volunteer, I am willing to retain the N-Scale Coordinator throne if you all can handle more of my method of madness.

We also need an N-Scale volunteer to be on the club board. I was asked if I would take that role and responded sure as long as you take over the position of coordinator. A pin makes a pretty loud noise hitting the floor at times. ☺ Joking aside, this is important and is not a big time commitment. One of the main tasks is to select the club officers who handle the majority of the club daily business.

Although we formally have only one meeting in December, the calendar includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday open house and the every weekend running of the outdoor large scale trains complete with all of the holiday decorations. Volunteers are welcome to help from 4 to 7pm on all Saturdays and Sundays of December except Christmas and New Years Eves.

## **Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall**

Yes we are alive and well! Just to prove it we have added (probably) a new member to our large scale crew, Ken Parson from Madisonville (it must be a hot bed of modeling activity.) Ken has visited several times and attended our first open house of the season and sat in on Phil B's weathering clinic which he complimented highly. (Maybe Phil should get recruiting credit instead of the Mall bunch!) Ken recently moved into the area from Indiana and is building an s scale home layout and has been active in the National S Gauge Association.

The open house was a mad house with a lot of visitors (pent up audience?) and not enough club members (it was the beginning of a long holiday week and several of the guys were not able to be there.

## **Activities Calendar**

In an effort to get more of us to use our web site the calendar has been moved to [knoxmodelrailroaders.com](http://knoxmodelrailroaders.com). This should get more of us to the site and hopefully to participate in the exchange of ideas and info that is found there.