

The SCOOP

November (brrr!) 2007

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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 first Sunday meeting in November will be the 4th. The club rooms should be open by 1 pm. There will be a business meeting starting about 4:30 pm.

Our third Sunday open house will be November 18th. The museum is open from 1 to 4 pm, so please arrive early enough to get set up and be running on time.

A reminder. The annual World of Trains museum gala dinner and auction will be Friday, December 7th starting at 6 pm. We need helpers to serve at the bar and wine during dinner. We also need people to cover train operations, as all layouts need to be running. This year I think we will be able to close down the trains, at least the inside layouts, when dinner starts about 7:30 pm. With the garden decorated for Christmas and decent weather, we may need to have it available for viewing after dinner. We'll make a judgment that night. Please mark your calendar and let me know if you plan on being there because the museum will provide a box dinner for all volunteer and I need to give them an approximate count.

Because the gala is not until the 7th, our Christmas party will be held on the 9th to take advantage of the existing Gallery II set-up. I will assume that based on that there will probably not be any formal club meeting on the 2nd, but anyone wanting to come and work on or run trains can do so. If members have any objections to this plan let me know.

We have moved the beginnings of a "Z" scale layout into the N-scale room. We need wiring, scenic work, and some additional track ideas. Anyone who has an interest in Z scale is invited to work on it. With Bob Sanders in Texas for the winter and me seemingly pulled to other things when I am at the club, we need someone to step up and help get it ready. I'd like to have it at least running by the museum gala on December 7th.

It was great to see Mike Lynch back at the club for a couple hours at our open house Sunday following his heart surgery in September. We hope Rick Heller can join us again soon.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Well, the operating session wasn't a complete disaster, so we will try it again: OPERATING SESSION ON THE THIRD SUNDAY!!!! Other than that, here are the dates. Regular club Sunday meeting are on November 4 and November 18 (operating session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on November 10 and 24, starting at 9:30. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on November 1, 8, 15, 23, and 29 starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day.

Work session attendance has been poor, except for the last Saturday, (Oct 27), when we had a good turnout. I am going to continue to schedule a Thursday work session, but as I have said, you need to check with me on a week to week basis. I didn't make every Thursday in October, but did make it this last Thursday.

Progress continues to be slow. Scenery work in the mine area continues, and more work got done there this last Saturday. All of the narrow gauge track connecting the Harbor module with the lumber modules is down, and Richard Atwood has nearly completed the bridge over the creek, so we can nearly run a narrow gauge train from one module to another.

We had a good 'first' operating session on the Third Sunday (October 21), although not as many people turned out as I had hoped. Thanks to those who helped set up for that, and especially to Jim Basford for making identification signs. We ran most of the trains in the first part of the operating session and learned quite a bit. We will make some changes for the next session, one of which will be to station a crew at the Harbor to do the switching there, as it looks as though that is a full time job. We also discovered several operating problems with track and cars, and will try to get those fixed before the next session. It also looks as though we need a switch control panel for Lumberton, and Mike Lynch has started working on that

The next operation session will be a modification of the first, and should be somewhat smoother.

So, when you can, come and see what has been happening. Come run trains, or just hang around.

N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator

We managed to not superglue our tails to the picnic table during a mass tree manufacturing event last month. The weather was great only disrupted with an occasional breeze in the wrong direction just as the spray adhesive left the nozzle. I think everyone would have passed any drug screening if tested.☺ We now have a good (one day) supply of coniferous and deciduous trees to beautify some landscape on the layout.

A carload of n-scaler's braved the long and straight interstate to the train show in Flat Rock, NC. It was another interesting show with a good number of vendors of all scales. It's still amazing that the local n-scale club can have such a drawing. The car rode a bit lower to the ground on the trip back. We missed not seeing Rick Heller this year due to his health issues but we did manage to find one of his favorite eateries again this year. We did come across an interesting concrete business on the south side of Hendersonville. The local plant had two rail spurs into the facility but each was on a different grade. It looked like the high track was for unloading and the low track for loading. Got to get a photo next time in the area.

One addition to the n-scale layout will be a new RR cross buck sign for our geezer gate. The sign is to warn users of the gate. No bells and lights yet but who knows!

We need to assemble a list of n-scale items needed. Things such as buildings, switches, scenery materials, etc., to take advantage of Hobby Town's willingness to offer train merchandise at 10% over cost. So take a few minutes to survey the web sights and bring your ideas to the club gatherings.

On the z-scale note, the layout has been anchored to the walls for stability during its refurbishment. Plans to start updating this layout have not been formalized but volunteers are always welcome.

Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall

Things have been rather quiet on the large scale front. Rick is still out (and not heard from!), Ken Parson has spent a number of weeks winterizing his place in Michigan (?) and Lance and Fred seem to be alternating weeks at the mall. It is a good thing that Brad and Frank are there to keep me entertained otherwise I might I might have to do something on the layout!!

The layout seems to be running pretty reliably of late --- I seem to get a couple laps in every week. (Road testing new equipment, you know!) We have so much parked on the layout that invariably something has to be pulled off the layout to make room for the new stuff but then you time guys would not know about that (right!!.)

Lance and I also went to Flat Rock for the train show and also did the touristy thing by dropping in at the Hendersonville Southern Depot which houses a station full of HO trains. The club has been there for a number of years and has managed to fill up the entire station with trains with the exception of the ticket clerk's office which is their general meeting room. The city wanted to preserve the building and pays for its upkeep while dues and donations pays the electricity and heating for the station. It is classic Southern!

Activities Calendar - Be sure to check it on the web