

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

December is a busy month for everyone and it is no different for our club with something every weekend up to Christmas. I'll list the scheduled activities here, but I encourage you to remind yourself by checking them out on the calendar on our web page.

- Dec. 1 5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation**
- Dec. 2 1 pm+ Club open for 1st Sunday general activities**
5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation
- Dec. 7 6 - 8 pm CMOR Gala club room operations**
6 - 10 pm CMOR Gala garden operations
- Dec. 8 5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation**
- Dec. 9 6 pm+ KAMR Christmas party**
5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation
- Dec. 15 5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation**
- Dec. 16 1 - 4 pm KAMR/CMOR 3rd Sunday open house**
5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation
- Dec. 22 5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation**
- Dec. 23 5 - 8 pm Christmas Garden operation**
- Dec. 30 1 pm+ Club open for 5th Sunday general activities**

Because of our Christmas party on Sunday the 9th we will not have a regular 1st Sunday meeting, but the club will be open for those who want to come a work or run trains. After the Christmas party meal we will convene for a brief business meeting to elect our 2008 Board of Directors.

With regards to the Christmas party, if you indicated you would be coming you should have received a message from Mike Lynch indicating what side dish you are expected to bring. If you have not yet advised us of your attentions and you plan on coming or you do not know what is expected of you please call or email Mike ASAP. The party will be held in one of the museum rooms down the hall from our train wing. I'm not sure which room at this time, but you will have no problem finding it.

This year again, Mark Furfman and his landscaping crew, with a lot of electrical help from Pete Hoke, Clif Johnson, Mike Lynch, Richard Atwood, Reese Henderson, and probably others, have done an over-the-top job of decorating the outside train garden for Christmas operations. Weather permitting (no precipitation); we will operate every Saturday and Sunday evening up until Christmas. WE NEED YOUR HELP! While Mark will probably be there every night, we need two additional members each night to help supervise. We expect as many as 200 visitors

a night including a lot of children with lightning quick hands. So far I have myself and two others who have volunteered for at least one night. If you are available to help on any one or more of the above listed dates I need to hear from you ASAP. All nights are open as of now.

The museum gala dinner and auction is scheduled for Friday, December 7th, from 6 until around 10 pm. We will be operating all our train exhibits. Because the garden is decorated for Christmas we will keep it open until the gala attendees leave around 10 pm (weather permitting), but since almost no one goes back to the train rooms after dinner starts the club rooms will close at 8 pm. Besides train room and garden operators, we need members to help serve wine during dinner. If you are willing to help with this please contact Mike Lynch ASAP. You will be finished serving by 9 pm. If you serve you should wear your club shirt and decent slacks and shoes. No jeans or tenni's. Anyone helping that night will receive a box dinner.

It's 2008 dues time. No better time to pay than at the Christmas party. Bob Strickland will be available to accept your check or cash.

Finally! Although I will see many of you several times throughout the month I want take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have given me as your President and to wish you and your families the best Christmas, Chanukah, or what ever you celebrate this time of year (I hate political correctness), you have ever had.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

I was sad to hear about the death of HO Division member Ed McTavish. He had come to several Thursday work sessions over the last several months, and was good company.

I never seem to get the dates quite right, but will try again this month. Here are the dates. Regular club Sunday meeting on December 2 and December 16 will start about 1:30. Saturday work session will be on December 22, starting at 9:30. No work session on December 8 because of the Gala and KAMR Christmas party. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on December 6, 13, 20, and 27. Starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day. I have scheduled nothing for the last weekend of the year.

The next work session on Sunday, December 2 will be devoted to cleaning up the layout and the layout room in order to make it presentably for the Gala the following Friday night.

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 haven't been making every Thursday.

We had a decent operating session on the Third Sunday (November 18). We didn't run all of the trains on the schedule, but the switching moves of the ones that did run seemed to be better. What we did have trouble with was a lot of basic operation problems – cars derailing and locomotives not wanting to run in the Harbor. We obviously still have work to do in that area in order to get consistent reliable operation. One item to be addressed is to go through all the cars and check for weight, coupler height and operation, wheel gauge, etc.

We will try to have another operating on the third Sunday, December 16, if possible.

So, when you can, come and see what has been happening. Come run trains, or just hang around. Hope to see you at the Christmas Party.

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

Another year has passed under the trestle. Now if we could just get it built!☺

Guys, it is time for the "World of Trains" Gala on December 7 (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 a nametag.

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 assign the 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.

Although we typically have only one gathering in December, the calendar includes a 1st Sunday gathering for final preparations for the World of Trains Gala, the 3rd Sunday open house, and every weekend running of the outdoor large scale trains complete with all of the holiday decorations. Volunteers are welcome to help from 5 to 8pm on all Saturdays and Sundays of December up to Christmas. In addition, December has blessed us with a 5th Sunday. Your current coordinator plans to be there by 1:00 pm and so it's designated as an open clubhouse day.

We have started assembling an N-Scale purchase order with Hobby Town. This is to take advantage of their offer of 10% above cost. If there is anything we need to continue layout improvements please let your coordinator know as soon as possible. To date the list contains people, light and radio towers, water tanks, concrete barriers, fencing, and numerous Peco code 80 switches.

On the z-scale note, our thanks to Larry Burkholder's wife for hemming up a skirt that is now hanging on the layout. Plans to start updating this layout have not been formalized but volunteers and detailing ideas are always welcome.

I will close for now by encouraging all of us to continue utilizing our web site at www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com. Sharing anything about trains (and food) is good!

Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall

Another year has flown by and the layout is not complete but perhaps the goal is not to complete our layouts but to find the fellowship of kindred spirits. (We certainly can find the fellowship part!!) The last couple of meetings seem to have been catching up with where folks have been and how they are doing. Rick is back after a lengthy stay in Cleveland with his father and is back to work and his Chemo sessions -- please keep him in mind.

Gary Cameron and the Johnson City club are getting together a gathering of regional S scalers which seems to be coming along nicely. It is intended to be an informal gathering with a few clinics and several local vendors (Smokey Mt Models, Tomolco S track systems, Sargent Couplers and Turner Models; Asheville, Hendersonville, Knoxville, and Cleveland (TN) respectively. I will pass the info on to Bruce so that he can get it onto our web site for those interested.