

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

February might be a short month, but it will have a little more action for KAMR than usual. Our regular 1st Sunday meeting will be on the 3rd. I don't plan on having a business meeting unless someone thinks we need to discuss something important. It is Super Bowl Sunday and I suspect more than a few of us will want to get home to see the game anyway. Our 3rd Sunday Open House will be on the 17th. Remember that the museum opens at 1 pm, so we need to be there by that time to have things ready to run. Last month no one in HO showed up until almost 1:30.

On Saturday, February 23rd from 10 to 4 the museum will hold its annual International Festival. It is always a fun time and is very well attended. We are expected to have our trains running during the whole event, so plan on being at the club just before 10 am. If the weather permits, we will need the help of a couple Large Scale guys in the garden. There is entertainment, crafts, and foods from a number of countries. Be sure to take a break when you can and check it out and pick up lunch.

The Large Scale Division guys have completed their transition from the mall to our club. Thanks to the HO Division for making a work space for the Large Scale modules. Hopefully we can get a new building up in the next year. The museum is planning to launch a capital campaign to raise about \$3.5 mm. The building will come out of that, so when the campaign gets started in a few months give some thought to supporting it. The museum has been very good to KAMR and our support in this campaign will help us also.

Mark Fuhman has offered to donate the help of his landscaping crew to expand the garden railroad. He will be obtaining dirt from one of his jobs and Queen City Railroad Construction has agreed to donate railroad ties for the retaining wall. We will probably need to help purchase additional fencing and train track. Although this is sort of a Large Scale endeavor, it is the museum's layout and I hope all of us in the club will pitch in and help cover the expenses.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Here are the dates for February, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on February 3 and February 17 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Our one Saturday work session will be on February 9 starting about 9:30. On February 23 is the CMOR International Festival, and we need to be open and running trains that day from 10 AM until 4 PM. Provisional Thursday work sessions will

be on February 7, 14, 21, and 28, starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day.

The Village people came on a Thursday in January instead of on a Saturday, so, as I have said, you need to check with me on a week to week basis to see if there is going to be a Thursday work session. It is a moot point for most of you, as I haven't seen many of the HO members in months.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. Again, I hadn't prepared before hand for the January operating session, but it only took a short time for us to get set up for it. My goal for the February operating session is to start using car cards and waybills, but if that doesn't happen, then we will use the existing operating session. We still haven't run all the trains and if more people wish to participate there are jobs still to be done.

Other progress was slow. The wiring for the narrow gauge section is nearly done, and now it will allow either regular DC or DCC operation. Some work was done on the track in the Harbor area that had been causing problems, and hopefully that is now fixed. Some scenery work has also been done. We have had several people working on the cars, checking weight, coupler height, and so on, and perhaps 10 or 20 of those have now been done. That should help operation.

When you can, come and see what has been happening. Don't forget the International Festival on February 23. Come and runs trains, hang around, and enjoy the Festival.

N/Z-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator

It's another busy month even with the extra day in February. Between our gatherings, work sessions, and the museum's International Festival. The last event always means numerous types of food and deserts – mmm goodies. ☺

N-Scale:

We inched forward a bit more on our many projects. The ordered items from Hobby Town arrived that included a handful of switches, structures, people, vehicles, and other detailing items. The switches are for the logging camp and icing house tracks. An old steel and a modern water tower are now in need of assembly with their assigned locations to be determined.

At our 1st January gathering Billy jumped in to assist with more mountain building on the logging camp addition. Bob continued adding scenery details along the back edge of the military base that is nicely developing into a very plausible transition to the backdrop. Charlie continues detailing the saw mill by grudging up the walls and roof.

Our last open house was a busy one. That is from the viewpoint of visitors. The very cold weather drove families to get their kids out of the house but partake of an indoor activity – our open house. The guests were a much more curious group than usual which was required our time more for dialog than detailing. But this is good!

I was totally sidetracked at our last gathering and never did get around to discussing DCC engines and their programmed addresses. I'll try to bring this up again at our 1st February gathering. I will try to put together a simple spreadsheet to e-mail to you. All I'm seeking are any engine IDs and their programmed address codes for units that you would most likely bring to the club when it's DCC time.

Z-Scale:

The recently orders items included some Z-people. Talk about your wee folks! These little tykes will be used on the Z-Scale layout is just screaming for some attention.

Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall

First and foremost our Large Scale Division would like to thank the HO members for their much appreciated efforts. Our S-scale folks now have floor space at the club for some modules to work on. We really appreciate the support and help from everyone and have made us feel like part of the clan again.

Our Wednesday meetings are still about 5:00 PM for dinner and then going to CMOR for work sessions. We have been "moving" our dinner location each week so please check with one of us to make sure where we are eating that week. In most cases, someone will be at CMOR by 6:00 and we have been ending about 9:00 PM.

We hope to get a couple modules set up in the club area within the next couple weeks. Our education sessions are going well and we should soon be ready to start the glue flowing.

Please keep an eye on our website calendar and show your support to CMOR functions and this month's festival.

Happy Rails!!

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator - hmcelhoe@aol.com

To assist all in the use of the club web site I will be putting together a small seminar that I will present at a near future club gathering. Using our site is pretty easy but as always there is some learning curve to everything. I want everyone to be comfortable with accessing and even posting messages on the site.

Remember that our newsletter is always posted prior to the first Sunday gathering of each month if not by the first day of that month. The calendar is for our community to reference for upcoming events and schedules and for you to add anything related to our hobby you wish to share.

I encourage all to utilizing our web site at www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com.