

# 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

The museum's International Fest was a great success on February 23rd, with the largest crowd ever. Our train rooms and the garden layout were busy essentially all the time. Thanks to all who came and helped run trains and a special thanks to those who stayed afterwards to help take down tables and chairs. The museum staff expressed their thanks to me. I hope those who were there were able to sample some of the excellent entertainment and food. For those of you who missed it, make a point to not let anything get in the way of coming next year.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 2nd. The club should be open starting around 12:30 or 1 pm. I do not plan on having a business meeting, but if anyone has something they think we should discuss let me know.

Our next open house will be Sunday, March 16th. The hours are as usual from 1 to 4 pm.

There are five Sundays in March. We have nothing special planned at this point, but let me know if you want to try something special. Otherwise the club will probably be open from around 12:30 or 1 pm on the 30th.

We're into March already and there are still a number of you who have not paid your dues. If you intend to stay an active member you need to pay by the 2nd. Still a bargain at \$25.

I would like to make 2008 a year where we accomplish some things as a club, rather than just individual Divisions doing their thing:

- First, we need to get the miscellaneous rolling stock sold on Ebay or thru some other venue. It's taking up a lot of space and we're just sitting on money we could put to better use.

- Second, I would like to get the web page improvements in place. As it is there is little to catch the eye of any visitor and, given the activity, it apparently doesn't seem interesting even to most of our own members.

- Third, we need to improve the Scoop. It is pretty boring and doesn't generate enough interest even within our own club for many to make the effort to go on line to read it, let alone a visitor that might chance to read it. It's time to add some color and pictures.

- Fourth, we need to get the rooms straightened up and decorated more. We are getting sloppy and the rooms are an embarrassment when visitors or museum staff come thru.

I know all these things take time and I'm not talking about accomplishing everything over night, but I think it's time to take some pride in our club and move forward.

If you didn't get a card, I want to remind you that there is a pretty good train show being presented by the SER Piedmont Division March 8th and 9th at the Cobb County Civic Center.

### **HO Division – Alex Cameron**

Here are the dates for March, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on March 2 and March 16 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on March 8 and March 22, starting about 9:30.

The Village people have been coming on Thursdays in February, but, as I have said, you still need to check with me on a week to week basis to see if there is going to be a Thursday work session. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on March 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. March has a 5th Sunday. Not sure what will happen then.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. Again, I hadn't prepared before hand for the February operating session, but it only took a short time for us to get set up for it. I still haven't managed to get car cards and waybills done. Maybe for March. There has been one major change. We have added some modules that are HOw6.5. Otherwise know as S gauge. We cleaned out the area where the old mine, bridge, and farm modules were, and the S gaugers have set up a few of their modules so they could work on them.

Scenery progress on the mine area has been progressing steadily. There was an article in a recent Scale Rails about terminating the DCC bus lines, and so we have done that on a few of those, and intend to do the rest as we can. We have no way to check to see if there has been an improvement, but if someone in the club knows where we might borrow an oscilloscope for several days or the weekend, that would be a big help. We continue to attack track areas that have been causing problems, specifically several areas in the Harbor. Quite a few cars have been checked now for weight, coupler height, and so on, and more still need to be done.

The International Festival seems to have been a success, and our operation went fairly smoothly. The main problem we had, which I hadn't really seen before, was with visitors throwing the toggle switches that control the turnouts. There were a numbers of cases where trains ended up going where they shouldn't because of people throwing the switches. This was not just a problem with children, because I saw adults doing the same thing. We will have to either cover them or just turn off switch machine power.

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

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

We survived another CMOR International Festival with all of its crafts, costumes, music, and *FOOD*. Fellow n-scaler Phil Brooks even made a welcome delivery of bagels. It was a great crowd of visitors and some with faster than the speed of light hands but in all well behaved. No damage, no harm done, just the occasional train work crew re-railing a car or three.

### **N-Scale:**

We now have a building burning in Bagelton! No need to worry since the young lady hanging out of the second floor is about to jump into the firemen net. Most likely the welding at the gas station sent a spark onto the building. Larry Burkholder added these animated scenes to our town complete with flashing lights simulating the fire, the welder's torch, and emergency vehicle lights.

The logging camp area is so very slowly emerging from the carvings of the pink foam. The stream bed has been roughed out to include a series of cascading falls. Charlie Womack has started modifying a pair of double track portals for the tunnel entrances into the (pink) mountains. These will require inserts to widen the openings to allow sufficient clearances.

The hill between the army base and Bagelton has a growing stand of trees. Bob Strickland has been doing the landscaping chores to add this scenery break between these to major scenes. The boys really enjoy seeing the military stuff. One recent visitor was even telling his friend about the different copters on the flight line.

Be sure to check out Phil's latest article in N Scale Modeler. The ins and outs of rosin paper and hot glue scenery are described in his latest article.

### **Z-Scale:**

Due to the over curious visitors, we have added a temporary Plexiglas shield across the front of the z-scale layout. The kids just have a hard time not touching things. Hopefully we can setup a more permanent hand deterrent to avoid the touchy feely syndrome.

## **Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt/ Mark Furman**

First, THANK YOU to all who were able to attend the International Festival this year. I think this was their largest gathering yet. Also, thanks to Mark for getting the G scale trains in order for easy setup. There were LOTS of children at the Festival who enjoyed the club's efforts and we had many complements on the club area and layouts.

We are still working on our scratch built styrene buildings on Wednesday nights but hope to start back on the triangle layout soon. There are now four modules in the club area that are waiting for us. We are still looking at May for another gathering of the Blue Ridge S-Scalers at the CMOR. We would like to setup the s scale layout for operations so lots of work to be done.

If you have not been by CMOR lately; Mark Furman and his crew has started the large addition to the garden layout. He has already moved the side fence, added and anchored the ties and has move dirt and brought in additional ballast. Mark has collected enough track for about 3/4 of the way around the new outside loop, however he needs about 30 feet of straight track to finish that loop. Also a box of ten foot curve and 30 more feet of straight will be required to finish the second loop. If anyone would like to contribute to help with this large project, please contact Mark or Larry. The majority of the cost will be for additional fence and track; any contributions or help will be appreciated by all.

Please check the club website for additional activities and upcoming events!!

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

A KAMRI web site use seminar is still in the works for a near future gathering. I would encourage any of you to provide your opinions about our web site and any specific questions that I should cover in this seminar. 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](http://www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com).