

# The SCOOP

MAy 2008

Vol. 22, No. 5

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**

The "pres" has been working at his best efforts in diplomacy the past few weeks and has ap"parent"ly met his match. Larry has been in Cincinnati try to get his parents settled into an assisted living arrangement. Prey for his strength and his patence. (ed.)

## **HO Division – Alex Cameron**

Here are the dates for May, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on May 4 and May 18 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on May 10 and May 24, starting about 9:30. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been fairly constant, 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 or Saturday work session.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. In April, I hadn't prepared before hand for the operating session, but it only took a short time for us to get set up for it. The session went well, with good attendance and nearly all the trains were run.

Scenery progress on the mine area has been progressing steadily, with most of the work in the coke oven area. I was told that the mine tipples will show up in a week or so.

Most the cars have now been checked for weight, coupler height, and so on. What are remaining are the problem cars: ones in which it is difficult to add more weight, like tank cars.

A certain number of the members of the HO division suggested that we remove the narrow gauge 'wart' because they had problems with the tight clearance. (See how nicely I phrased that?) So after a little study, we have done so. The narrow gauge wye will be built in a different location, and the track arrangement in the old 'wart' area has been changed to give a run-around track. Also, nearly all the wiring for the narrow gauge has been completed, and trains have been run from the narrow gauge yard (Raccoon Creek), through 'Rueben' tunnel, across 'Cameron' crossings, and across 'Richard' bridge, all the way down to the lift up access bridge. The narrow gauge wiring allows running both DC and DCC, and on DC there are 3 cabs.

There have been several comments recently about the fact that the present layout is not 'permanent' with some members being surprised that it is not. When we moved the modules in August of 2006 one of the reasons for the move was to give space to work on the permanent layout. We did the move even though there was not a permanent layout design. When we have a permanent design and start working on it, it does not mean that the existing layout is going to be torn down all at once. The idea will be to maintain as much operating continuity as possible. Given our rate of progress, it will be several years before we have to do anything to the existing module arrangement. A number of people have started working on a design, and if you would like to be involved in that you should contact me.

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

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

I shall blame it all on brain damage, or maybe age, it couldn't just be laziness! Shucks! We're just late and that's all there is to it...

#### **N-Scale:**

I'm confused and surprised that one of our fellow n-scalers went over to the Z-side! Oops! I mean he didn't change train scales but he did acquire a new car a Nissan 350-Z!

Our fellow n-scaler Bob Strickland has been putting in some Thursday morning hours at the museum working on the railroad. He has been busy with army base detailing, building and installing a new electrical distribution yard for the power plant, assembling a new water tower for Bagelton, not to mention track maintenance work. Thanks Bob! For you others, when Bob's in town some of us have been breaking away from our jobs to meet him for lunch at the Soup Kitchen in Oak Ridge. ☺

At our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday gathering of May, John Husky and Charlie Womac slung mud on the new peninsula mountain (and a few other places as well!) finally covering much of the pink and blue foam. The mountain has been topped off (finally) and the ceremonial tree was planted at the peak. At our next gathering, the final shaping should be completed and just maybe more mud slinging.

As June approaches we are having more and more conversations about the n-scale convention in Louisville. I hope all can attend as it should be a great opportunity to further drain our wallets. But at least it's a much worthier use of our cash than giving it to the gas companies. ☹

#### **Z-Scale:**

All is still idling in the z-scale arena. It's hoped that we can start working on things soon.

## **Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt**

If you have not been by the club this past month... WHY NOT!?!?!

Things are moving right along with the outside layout expansion. Thanks to Mark Fuhrman and his crew (many thanks) the hard work is done. They are ready to start the track addition, but we need to find funding for the fence. The large scale group has donated \$200.00 to get the ball rolling and the KAMR general fund has also offered some seed money. The initial estimate for fence materials is near \$1,600 so any additional donations will be appreciated. Please spread the word.

The Wednesday night S-Scale group has started modeling "Mount McCold" at the Club and we are making a mess on a regular basis. Come by and check it out.

The S-Spree in Dayton, Ohio was nice and was a great learning experience for my wife and myself. They even asked us to do a clinic at the next S-Spree for chemically sensitive folks since Dot had to put on her mask during the clinic and had alternate suggestions. ;-) We also learned of a low cost dull-coat offering in large cans.

We also drove by the new Entertainment Junction that is under construction at West Chester, Ohio just North of Cincinnati. It is looking great although we were not able to tour the inside at the time we arrived. It is now scheduled to be opened in July but it looks most impressive with the new signs and stuff. I see a road trip with the group in the near future. If anyone is interested in touring it before it is open, please contact me to get the phone number to arrange a private tour.

[http://www.ohiotraveler.com/Venue%20Files/entertainment\\_junction.htm](http://www.ohiotraveler.com/Venue%20Files/entertainment_junction.htm)

Keep 'em rollin'

## **KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe**, Web Site Moderator

Remember that our newsletter is (ALMOST) 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).