

# 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**

Even though it is a holiday weekend, past experience teaches me that the majority of you would vote to still have our regular meeting on Sunday the 6th. So we will. Because there will probably be a sparse turnout and there is nothing pressing that can't be dealt with in this newsletter, there will be no business meeting. If I come up with anything important to tell or ask you I will see that all in attendance hear about it during the day.

Our regular open house meeting will be Sunday, July 20th. I will miss that meeting, as I will be attending a family reunion in Ohio that weekend. Be sure to have your trains ready to run when the museum opens at 1 pm. I have noticed that most of us are not even at the museum until after 1 pm.

Of primary importance this month is our need for volunteers for the CMOR model railroading summer camp starting Monday, July 7th. It will run from 9 to 12 thru Friday. We have 11 or 12 kids signed up and as of this writing I only have two, maybe three, volunteers. We need five or six for sure. If you are available all or part of this time please come in and help. We will again be making T-TRAK modules. Remember, helping the museum with these events is a form of rent payment. Let me know if you can help asap. If you come, try to arrive about 8:45 each day so we can get organized. We will be meeting in the pre-school room down the hall.

Phil Brooks, Charlie Womac, Bob Strickland and I, attended the National N-scale Convention in Louisville, KY, this past weekend. Besides having a chance to meet new and renew old acquaintances, the clinics were for the most part excellent and the associated train show outstanding, especially since the dealers focused on our scale of interest. It was held in conjunction with the "World's Greatest Hobby" manufacturer's sponsored show so we got to see and learn about a number of new N-scale and other offerings.

In addition to the show there was the largest N-Trak modular layout ever assembled. Over 700 modules covered 50,000 sq. ft. of the hall. A train running the full loop took about three hours to complete the circuit. Although there were a few gremlins loose in the system they managed to have trains running most of the time. N-TRAK clubs from as far away as Ottawa, Canada, and Olympia, Washington, were represented. Phil got some great photos, some of which I am sure he will post on our web page for your enjoyment.

In addition to the huge N-TRAK layout there were several layouts of other scales. One in particular had about the finest scenery workmanship I have ever seen on any modules, and it was a Z scale arrangement from Texas. It was absolutely beautiful and ran like a Swiss watch. There will be some photos of it posted on our web site.

The above gathering of the clan emphasizes an important point. A common theme from most of these clubs was that they have no permanent home, so live to have shows to set up at and run. Bring back memories? I think some of us forget, or minimize, the great deal we have with the museum. Many other clubs would sell their soul for such a deal. On the other hand, I'm afraid having such a comfortable situation has made us lazy and complacent. I was a bit embarrassed that we did not offer any of our N modules for this historic event even though we were less than five hours away. If KAMR is to have any relevance in the hobby we need to be involved outside our own little world. I commend the S-scalers for their recent regional meet at the museum. I have had several people outside our club remark to me about the turnout for and quality of the event. All of the Divisions need to step up and be ready for these opportunities to promote our club and the hobby.

### **HO Division – Alex Cameron**

Here are the dates for July, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on July 6 and July 20 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on July 12 and July 26, starting about 9:30. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 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, usually at least 2 but sometimes more. Still, 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 or Saturday work session, or just show up and take your chances.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. The operating session we had in June was good. Most of the trains were run, with a crew in the yard doing classifying. Also, for the first time, I added the narrow gauge to the operating session, and had fun doing that. I found that I had created a nice problem over in Lumberton, because I had to run around my train, and the run around track there will only hold 5 cars, and I had a 9 car train.

Scenery progress on the mine area has been steady, with most of the work in the coke oven area. Some of the track in the dual gauge yard has gotten ballast now. Work has also started on the NG/SG ore transfer trestle. The engine terminal crew has been putting down ties.

The control system for the east end yard throat is complete and installed. I am happy to say that it works as designed, and the display looks good. It is easy to use. First, push the reset button. That clears the system for new inputs. Then, push the button on the track that your train is on, and then push the button

on the track of where you want your train to go, and all the necessary switches are thrown, and the display board show the route selected with a string of LED's. It may be that the hard part will be relating the tracks in the yard to the diagrams. Now we will start working on the one for the east end throat.

At the last operating session, there was a shortage of controllers and locomotives to run. The club does not have enough controllers to supply one to everyone who wants to run, so members need to remember to bring their Digitrax controllers with them. The club has several locomotives, but some are in need of repair and/or decoders. The club was also recently given some good locomotives, and we will keep some of those for the clubs use. The goal is to have about 10 working locomotives at the club. Usually clubs do not own rolling stock, but we have been very fortunate in that we have been given some good stuff, and so can have some for members to use. We have ordered decoders for the locomotives that need them, and will get the others repaired. Members are still encouraged to bring their own locomotives to run as they desire.

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/Z Coordinator**

### **N-Scale:**

I felt quite abandoned by my fellow wee folks but I hold no grudges. The core of the n-scalers ran off (without me) to the National N-Scale Convention in Louisville. They had better be bringing in their treasures for public display if they know what's good for them! I did provide a shopping list but I'm afraid that if the items have been acquired I'm not sure I remembered if I obligated myself to pay for them. ☺

The convention web site has a link to photo albums that anyone could upload to. There are some great shots of the event and worth a little surfing. Copy this link into your browser and enjoy:

<http://gallery.mac.com/pauljdowns#100126>

On the home front, the mountain has a new coat of paint, train tunnel portals circa 1901, a water tower, and a new sooty tunnel interior. The tunnel portals need to be 'framed in' that will allow the decorating/landscaping to begin. The craggy areas of the mountain can now be dabbed with paints to simulate rocky outcrops and the slide area can get some granite type coloring. The greenery is soon to follow.

The modern water tower kit we recently acquired should be an easy build as it's only made of six parts (I peeked). We may want to add a blinking topknot as part of our electronic upgrades. Larry has become our resident n-scale guru of flashing lights and might want to consider this project. I do know that the tower will need painting and signs of pigeon visits as I don't recall seeing pure white painted towers like this.

### **Z-Scale:**

There has been construction progress on the layout! The main siding track into the station has been installed and glued in place. Getting the track laid will allow further landscaping and the placement of the town and industries. Our third Sunday visitors have been very curious about this scale and fascinated with its size. Can't wait to see some moving rolling stock to really open up their eyes.

### **Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt**

Hope this month finds continues on a good note for all. The S group is still working on Mt. McCold on the triangle layout. We have had a “classic night” for repair and advise and with luck, we plan to start going to member layouts for work sessions.

We have one member working on his classic O scale, one working on S scale switch yard and another working on S scale layout. We plan to have the member schedule for the visit date so there are no surprise visits and we stay in good graces with family member.

By the time you read this Scoop, the Summer Camp may be under way. If not, HELP please!!

The Entertrainment Junction should be opening in July so if you are going North, you may want to stop by. The location is just north of Cincinnati Ohio and sounds like a lot of fun. They have a phone number and prices posted on the web at [www.entertrainmentjunction.com](http://www.entertrainmentjunction.com)

Please keep our club members and their families in your thoughts as some continue to work through health issues.

Please look at the new design for the club website and give your feedback.

Keep ‘m rollin’

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

At our last gathering I was asked about adding events to our web site calendar. Please note that any logged in visitor to the web site can post events on the calendar. I encourage you to use this resource. If you are uncomfortable with doing this then just e-mail me the event and it shall be done.

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)