

The SCOOP

August 2008

Vol. 22, No. 8

The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.
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Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

Like it or not, summer is already winding down. School starts next month. In spite of gasoline prices, I hope everyone has had a chance to take a trip and enjoy the outdoors. As summer winds down most of us start gravitating back to our indoor hobbies. So I hope to see more of you at our club meetings. We will have a short business meeting the first Sunday in August (3rd). Our regular open house Sunday will be the 17th.

We had another successful summer camp program with the museum last month. Ten children aged 7 to 12 participated. All said they look forward to doing it again next year. We must be doing something right; five of the ten were repeats from previous years. Some are on their fourth class. Thanks to all the club members who helped. I think we had about eleven total serve all or part of the week. Look for a couple pictures on our web page soon. We will also have a write-up in an upcoming Atlas publication and the next quarterly N-TRAK publication.

The expansion of our garden railroad is being limited by our need to complete the fence around it. We have sufficient track and landscaping will be done, but the fence will cost about \$2500 total. This is our idea to expand the garden, so we are not asking the museum to pay anything. We have a few commitments already and some other possibilities for help, but still need about \$1600 to complete the job. Mark Fuhrman's crew will do the installation. So, we are making the proposal that those who can and are willing buy a section for the fence as follows:

1 Foot of fence	\$20.00
1 6' section of fence	\$120.00 (We need 13 sections)
1 Post	\$30.00 (We need 13 of these)
1 Gate post	\$50.00 (We only need two of these)

We already have an offer to buy the gate at \$450 and the Large Scale Division has donated \$200. I think the club General Fund could donate \$250 if the membership agrees. Therefore, as I said, from the above list we need to get a \$1600 commitment from others. I'd like to have this settled by the end of August, so please give it some thought and send Bob Strickland anything you can afford. We are willing to put a plaque with a name on it if you buy a whole 6' section, so how about your child or grandchild?

Ex-member, Gary Cameron, has advised that he is organizing a "Train Days" in Johnson City for the weekend of September 5, 6, & 7. He would like KAMR to participate in some way, especially in a company store on the 6th. If you have anything to sell or swap you can go up yourself or give it to someone who is going. The displays at the East Tenn. State University museum will be open as well as several historic stations and some other displays in a large room Gary has rented for large scale layouts. On Sunday he plans to have an excursion ride on the old Tweetsie line route. We'll provide more detailed information as we get it.

Those of you who check our web site will have noted that the Great Train Expo has scheduled a show at the Expo Center on Merchants Drive for September 20 & 21. Can't be sure what to expect, but it has to be better than the last show here several years ago. No one has contacted us about layout displays, but we have nothing to offer anyway. That's another subject for club discussion sometime.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

Another month has gone by already! Here are the dates for August, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on August 3 and August 17 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on August 9 and August 23, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on August 7, 14, 21, and 28, starting at 9:30

We have a fifth Sunday in August, and what has been usually happening is we have been having a work session then, and so will do so on August 31.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been fairly constant, usually at least 2 but sometimes more.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. The operating session we had in July was good, although attendance was down. Most of the trains were run, although we didn't have a yard crew this time. I ran the narrow gauge again, and had fun doing that, and am about to expand the operations there. This was the first operating session to use the east end yard throat control system and that seemed to go well.

Scenery progress on the mine area has been progressing steadily, with most of the work in the coke oven area. We now have a coal tipple in the mine area. I found some track problems in the NG section that need to have some attention, and have been working on that. Work continues on the NG/SG ore transfer trestle. The engine terminal crew has been putting down ties and digging holes.

Remember to bring locomotives and controllers for the operation session.

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

N-Scale:

We're approaching a wye in the track! On and off we have discussed building a train show layout that wouldn't be made up of our current club layout. Well now it's time to start the planning. At our 1st Sunday gathering on the 3rd of August around 3pm we will start with our first group discussion on this topic. First item is do we agree to pursue this venture and the second is to develop our targeted goal. The later item is to define our basic required parameters that the design will take aim at. So bring your train brains and let's put some ideas to paper.

The 'mountain' is getting some better definition. The two train tunnel portals are nearly installed. Once these are in place that will open up the use of the trackage (are you ready Greg?) for running trains back through the peninsula. This also will be the kickoff for the beginning some basic landscaping. I suppose the track installation would also be in order.

The lumber mill construction has been taking shape. The log handling conveyor is coming together and as the mountain gets some of its final roughing in the area for this mill will become available for development. Go Charlie go!

While many of us have been busy building, detailing, and what not on the layout, Greg has been burning up the rails. His focus and enjoyment is shuttling cars around the various sidings. In doing so he may become our resident expert in track troubles on the layout. We may just see if he can provide some details on where our problems are and start some track maintenance. All this will help build momentum toward operations.

As with any summertime period, everyone is busy running off for vacations and such. This is a good thing but please remember to include some rail fanning during your adventure. Oh! Take pictures and let's get some posted either here or on our web site to share with all.

Z-Scale:

Summer has also had the very wee folks distracted and only minimal progress is evident. But any progress is positive.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

Summer is going very quick and fall will be here before we know it. The good thing is seeing several members traveling for vacations and other events. The bad thing is we had to cancel some Wednesday meetings because of all the travelling. With luck, we should be ready for lots of fellowship and modeling during the upcoming months at the club.

The Wednesday evening S group plans to continue work on the layout and start working on the hundreds of trees that will be required. The G group is still looking for fence funds for the outside and they did receive a small donation of track and rolling stock.

Fall is just around the corner and with any luck our members who are recovering from health issues will continue on a positive note. There is also a train event brewing in Johnson City on the weekend of September 5th. The "Regional Train Days" has a scheduled buy, sell, swap planned for Saturday with other activities planned. Watch your email for additional information or contact Gary Cameron for specifics.

Keep 'm rollin'

A Note on Smoky Mountain Division of the NMRA Jim Schall

The second meeting of the division was held June 26, at the Bass Pro Shop, Sevierville. The meeting was held following diner/social hour at the BPS restaurant. We had 15 members attending and we were treated to two clinics... Alan Keller presented a clinic on Operations and why and Paul Loucher demonstrated weathering techniques and along with the tools and various colorants one might use.

Our next meeting will be in September but the date is still pending --- hope to see you there!

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

Please note that any logged in visitor to the web site can post forum messages and 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.

Our web site address is: www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com.