

# *The* **SCOOP**

**September 2008**

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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**

Our regular first Sunday meeting will be on September 7th. We will have a short business meeting starting at 4:30 pm.

Our next open house Sunday will be on the 21st. Hours are 1 pm to 4 pm. This will be in conflict with the Great Train Expo Show in Knoxville; where we intend to have a couple tables manned to sell our excess rolling stock. We will need at least three members at the club to cover HO and two to cover N for the open house.

We will have our sales tables operating both Saturday and Sunday at the show. We will need at least two people to man the tables morning and afternoon. The show is open from 10 am to 4 pm both days. It would be nice to have four guys to cover each day, but I suppose we could get by with just three. At least everyone could take a break from the tables and see the show during the day. Please let me know if you can help at the show and which days.

Gary Cameron has organized a Railroad Days in Johnson City for the weekend of September 5, 6, & 7. I have mentioned this before and you should have information about it already. We will be operating a couple sales tables there for our excess equipment from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday the 6th. Gary has also organized a lunch that day for officers of the three East Tennessee MR clubs - KAMR, Crossville, and Mountain Empire. I am looking forward to comparing experiences and trading ideas.

We have collected over \$2300 total towards the expansion of the garden railroad, with about \$1400 of it coming from our club members' personal donations. Thanks to everyone who have contributed to this project so far. If you have not already done so please consider it. We have sufficient money to buy the fence, and it has already been ordered, but there are quite a few other expenses still ahead. We will also be looking for some hands-on help in laying track and other preparations. If you can't afford to donate money we will be happy to accept your donation of time.

At our last business meeting it was agreed that the N Scale Division would begin design and construction of a portable layout to use for shows and public events promoting our club. N scale was chosen because it is small enough to build a reasonable layout that two people could handle and set up. Necessary expenses will be covered by our General Fund. Details of the design and cost projections will be presented for membership comment before actually starting the project.

Earlier this month we sadly learned of the death of Milton Lloyd. The donation of his layout to the museum started our entire program there and gave us a gift impossible to repay. We have made a small donation to the museum in his memory. I am sure the museum will hold some type of memorial also.

## **HO Division – Alex Cameron, Coordinator**

The end of summer approaches. Here are the dates for September, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on September 7 and September 21 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on September 13 and September 27, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on September 4, 11, 18, and 25, starting at 9:30.

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. We didn't operate on August 17, because we were selling some excess stock – mostly locomotives, and that disrupted things. I was surprised by the number we sold, and we collected \$400. That money goes into the club general fund.

The operating session on the third Sunday in September will be using car cards and waybills. Cliff has been building the card holders and has them all installed on the layout, and I finally finished the waybills. We hope to have at least one and maybe more trial operating sessions before the third Sunday in order to debug car movements, and to begin to balance waybill routes and the number of cars. We will thus exchange the problems of setting up before each operating session with the one of keeping waybills and car cards with the cars on the layout.

No dramatic progress in August. Scenery progresses on the mine area and the engine terminal crew continues to work. Work continues on the NG/SG ore transfer trestle. Ruben has been working on the scenery in Raccoon Creek. We (that is the 'royal' we, if you wonder. Mike has been doing most of the work) have been installing decoders in more of the club locomotives, and have a second passenger train assembled.

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 Division - Bruce McElhoe, Coordinator**

### **N-Scale:**

Well we've gone and done it! That is we have jumped on the express to build a show layout. The friendly Wednesday lunch gang has developed a general design of a two module layout. The intent is for these two pieces to clamshell pack for transport, have folding legs, and fit into Larry's MUV. Your truly build up the framework of one module that was displayed at our last gathering. The frame size was 72 inches long by 32 inches deep. At the gathering we attempted to fit the frame in the MUV and found that we either needed a vehicle frame stretcher or a module compressor. Based on this trial fit we determined that we needed to shorten the length by 8 inches. Our original length of 12 feet (2-72 inch modules) is now 10 feet 8 inches (2-64 inch modules).

The goal for the construction of these modules is to combine lightness with strength. This is being accomplished using 1 x 3 inch lumber for the perimeter and center bracing. There is a plywood plate on the top at each end that adds stiffness plus gives a mounting surface for the leg hinges. We will have two layers of 2 inch foam sheathing that will be the base level for mainline trackage. This thickness will allow for a reasonable deep river and other below grade details.

The planned layout will employ a single main with a passing siding along the front and a pass through yard along the back. There will be a spur into the middle area of the modules that will access a number of industries. This trackage will be at a slightly higher elevation than the main line.

I will plan to post a copy of the current track plan in our next Scoop.

**Z-Scale:**

We have seen some progress on the layout. The siding tracks have been fastened down and additional grass scenery has been glued. Things may seem slow due to concurrent projects but it's still progress.

**Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt/Jim Schall, Coordinators**

Where did the Summer go? With the smell of Fall in the air and football games to see it is a wonderful time to be in Tennessee. I hope this month finds everyone well and having a great time playing with trains. If you are “working” on trains, you MUST be going something wrong.

We want to invite all large scale division members to our Wednesday evening gatherings, I think everyone is getting the weekly updates and look forward to seeing some new faces at the club.

There has been a small snag in the outside fence project but Mark Fuhrman has located another supplier in Chattanooga who will direct ship materials. If you have not seen the great donation board at CMOR please take note. Just think, you could have your name or other loved ones immortalized at the club. Please contact Larry if you are interested.

I want to thank all who have donated to the project so far. Amazing how charter and other members of our organization just keep giving of their time and gracious contributions. Thanks much to all who contributed to the project , you are appreciated!

As our outdoor activities slow, our division plans to start some “field trips” with rail fan outings, trips to member layouts for “fun” sessions to help if we can. We also plan to visit Don Niday’s F scale layout soon since he lives just off Pellissippi and Lovell Rd.

Watch your email for continued announcements and PLEASE come and enjoy YOUR club.

Toots and Good Health to ALL!!

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

Note that if you can write and send an e-mail you can just as easily post a message on the web site. One big difference is you don't need to worry about everyone's e-mail address when using the web site to convey your message.

Our web site address is: [www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com](http://www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com).