

The SCOOP

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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

Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

The regular first October meeting will be on the 5th. There will NOT be a business meeting. If anyone has something for the club to discuss please let me know ASAP and we will address it somehow.

The open house Sunday will be the 19th starting at 1 pm. Please try to get to the museum by at least 12:45 to get trains up and running.

A special thanks goes to Mark Furchman for the work he and his crew did in installing the train garden fence and most of the track environment, including some decorative landscaping. Thanks also to all of you who made a contribution to the fence fund. Mark will be calling on us to give some time to help lay track soon. We need to have the expansion up and running and looking nice for the museum gala on December 5th.

Those of you who get to the museum have had to notice the blue train sitting in the Hands-on room. It is a donation from Books-A-Million in Oak Ridge. It is designed to hold children's books, with several bench seats representing train cars for kids to sit in and read. We need books. If you have any children's books involving trains you don't need we would appreciate your donation. They should be suitable for children from toddler to about 12 years old.

The museum board has set up committees to address the design of exhibits for the upcoming capital campaign. One such committee, headed by me, is for a building addition to display large-scale trains and the fire truck. Members of our Large Scale Division have been charged with the task of developing a description and ballpark cost estimate for what they would like to have in their half of the proposed 70' x 45' building. To justify the expense of this area, the board has specified that any exhibit must include an interactive layout or display for museum visitors to enjoy on a daily basis like the Lloydstown HO display. It should also offer an educational component.

I've been told that our various efforts at selling excess rolling stock have been very successful, with over \$1500 being added to the club's treasury. There are still boxes of kits and RTR items left, so let Alex Cameron know if you are interested. If there is no more club interest we will explore selling them on E-Bay or to a dealer.

Once again, please mark your calendar for the CMOR Gala on Friday, December 5th, starting at 6 pm. We need volunteers for running trains, bartending, and serving wine during the meal. We will also need help setting up tables and decorating on Thursday the 4th. Of course, everyone is invited to attend the gala if they wish. Tickets are \$90 per person, with most of it tax deductible. Your wife will love you for it. It's a great evening and a great cause. If you want to attend let me know. We get a lot from the museum so try to support it any way you can.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

It is past the equinox now. Here are the dates for October, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on October 5 and October 19 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on October 11 and October 25, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, starting at 9:30.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been unchanged with the usual attendees.

I sent out an e-mail to all members inquiring about interest in additional operating sessions. I only had one positive response, so we will continue to just have one formal operating session on the third Sunday. We operated in September. It was the first session using car card and way bills in which most of the members participated. It was fairly chaotic, but mostly successful. We didn't run all the trains, but not sure we could have handled the additional complexity. As people become more familiar with the way bills, and the changes in trains that are run, I would imagine that the sessions will become smoother. Curt and I have been operating at some other times during the week, but if you want to participate in that you will have to contact me, because we don't have a set time to do that.

We have done well in selling the club excess inventory. I don't have the total for all the sales, but at the train show in Knoxville in September we cleared \$796.25. My thanks to all the members who manned our tables on Saturday and Sunday, and also to all the members who bought stuff. Special thanks to Tom for all his work on the inventory.

Dick Brion bought some Central Valley switch (turnout) kits for the engine terminal, and now we can't locate them. We had thought that they were in the desk, but they have now disappeared. If anyone knows of their whereabouts, please contact Dick.

No dramatic progress in September either. 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.

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 -

hmcclhoe@aol.com

N-Scale:

We will be discussing and hopefully approving the pursuit of building a two module portable show layout. My impression is the club has been very positive with the concept to have a detailed portable layout that two persons can easily transport and setup without any effort. There have already been donations toward acquiring rolling stock and structures. If anyone has any reservations or better yet constructive comments toward the success of this project I would encourage you to attend our upcoming first Sunday club meeting. A tentative track plan has been posted on our web site as well as a photo of the first of two module frames for your review.

I hope all of you made it to the train show in Knoxville. I do know that some of us tried our best to ensure some of the n-scale vendors covered their travel costs. Two of our

favorite vendors, Neal's and Trainmasters were in town and I for one enjoyed spending time with them (and buying from them).

It's official! Phil Brooks actually have a layout because I saw it and actually ran a train. I wasn't sure up to that point since all I had seen to date were pictures in magazines. With his photo shopping trickery (ability) I wasn't all together sure. Saturday after the train show, Phil, Neal, the Trainmaster guys, my wife, and I enjoyed a good dinner together. This was followed with a trip over to Phil's to scope out his layout and run trains. Fun was had by all although my wife and I had to bail out early. Phil, I think we need an open house/train party so you better start negotiating with your wife for permission.

Work has started on sprucing up the old Lavin layout. The goal is to cosmetically upgrade this four module layout and donate it with some ready to run rolling stock as an auction item at the next CMOR Gala this fall. The plan is for it to be a complete ready to run layout.

Here is the status of some of our ongoing construction projects:

- The mountain on the loop module is ready for landscaping (finally).
- A marina near the power plant is in the early stages of construction (surprise- I bet you didn't see that one coming).
- The new lumber company mill on the loop module has just received its first load of stacked logs.
- Initial design discussions have been initiated concerning an airport runway that will be on the hill between the army base and the brewery.

Z-Scale:

Nothing new to report here this month as efforts is focused on the n-scale projects at this time.

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt

This month there will be lots of activity in the Large Scale Division. If you have not been by to see the large addition to the garden layout you need to. Mark and his crew have done a wonderful job with the design and now the fence. We still need funds to help offset this expense.

Also, we MUST get work sessions organized to get the additional G scale track installed and ready to run. December will get here very fast so PLEASE contact Mark Fuhrman via email member2103@aol.com or telephone 865-679-2604 so we can get ready to show-off our expansion for Christmas..... Better yet, come to the meetings.

The folks at CMOR have requested us to develop a descriptive plan for the potential new 70' x 45' building for the old fire truck AND a large scale display with interactive stations for the children by October 10th. We had our first brain storming session on Wednesday and another one is planned for next Wednesday 10/7. This project should include the entire club for input and ideas. Please give us your ideas and help to create something that will complement our efforts. We want to make a "classic toy" display with toys and trains from an earlier time with some of the features offered by American Flyer or Lionel in either S or O scale that bring back memories. (Perhaps mechanical windup toys, Lincoln logs, Tinkertoys, Erector set stuff that shaped the future engineers, architects and tradesman of the '30s thru the50's. ed.)

Since our earliest association with CMOR, the museum has requested that we develop hands-on activities for children--perfectly understandable considering the theme of the

museum. We came up with is push buttons on the Lloyd layout and Bruce spearheaded the cool locomotive cab. Evidently, the museum is not satisfied with our efforts to date because they are telling the large-scale group we have to justify the expense of the building based on interactive exhibits for children. The LS group is excited about developing such exhibits, but we need the whole club's help. Members of the LS group were strong participants in the work that made the layout areas for the HO and N divisions possible. We ask that those of you who already have layout areas to help your fellow KAMR members achieve their goals too. At this stage, if you have ideas for hands-on or other interactive exhibits please let us know so we can try to incorporate them into our proposal.

Happy Rails and keep on chuggin'

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

Don't forget to check our web site from time to time. As always, I do encourage all to utilize this resource to convey club and railroading information.

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