

# 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**

Our regular first November meeting will be on Sunday, November 2nd. We will have a short business meeting starting at 4:30. The Open House Sunday is November 16th. In both cases the club rooms should be open by 12:30 pm.

The museum is having a big celebration on Saturday, November 8th from 10 am to 3 pm for the grand opening of their new/refurbished Appalachian exhibit. They have asked if we could have our trains running also. The exhibit is at the other far end of the building, so I don't know how many people will wander down our way. I may suggest we just have the Garden Railroad running. I'll have more info and we can discuss it at our business meeting. In any case, you might want to have your family come to enjoy it. There will be Appalachian crafts, music, and food as well as costumed guides and interactive exhibits all day long.

Thanks to a small crew of large-scale workers we were able to get two new loops laid and wired in the garden expansion on Sunday, October 19th. By the start of the open house at 1 pm Mark Furhman had two trains running. You need to take a look at the expansion if you haven't seen it yet.

Sticking with the Garden Railroad, Mark has informed me that he will have his crew prepare it for the Christmas show again this year, but because he will also be setting up a really big Christmas layout near the UT gardens on Neyland Drive, he will not be available to help man our display nights during December and his trains as well as some of his decorated buildings will also not be available. This means club members will have to step up a little more to cover the Saturday and Sunday run nights. We could also use some help with a few decorated buildings or building fronts. If any of you have any G scale buildings we could borrow and string some lights on let me know ASAP. We could also make up a few false front buildings with colored or white lights since it is dark and the whole building doesn't show up that well any way. There are a number of places on the layout where the fronts would fit well. We could also use a lighted passenger train. We need to get started on this right away. Everything needs to be up and running by the Gala December 5th. This has become a popular display in Oak Ridge, with up to 200 visitors on some nights. We cannot let it deteriorate from last year.

A reminder that, as stated above, the museum Gala is Friday, December 5th, and we need volunteers to run trains, bartend, and serve wine at the dinner. Of course, it would be great if someone other than just me actually attended the gala as a paying guest. The tickets are \$90 per person, with \$50 of it tax deductible. It's for a great cause as you know. Four couples would fill a table and your wives would love you for it. How about three more of you joining me?

Work continues on restoration of the Lavin N-scale layout that we plan to donate to the museum to auction off at the Gala. Thanks to Bob Strickland and Ken Klipple for their help. One more module to go, some building work, and probably a little track repairs and the four module layout will be ready. We've been working on Thursdays and Sundays, but if you want to help during the week call me first to be sure we plan on being there. Things happen.

## **HO Division – Alex Cameron**

Daylight slaving, oops, saving time ends November 1. Here are the dates for November, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on November 2 and November 16 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on November 8 and November 22, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on November 6, 13, and 20, starting at 9:30. November 27 is National Overeat Day, otherwise known as Thanksgiving Day, and we will not have a work session then. There is a 5th Sunday, November 30 and that will be a run/work day.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been unchanged with a cast of thousands (actually, the usual attendees.)

The October operating session went fairly well. Still didn't run all the trains, but did get a passenger train run in this session. Several of the local freights took a long time to complete their run. We changed the way that the harbor switcher works, by having to assist the local freights in Raccoon Creek with their switching, as well as doing the harbor switching. We will see how that job develops.

We are about to move to the next stage of selling club excess inventory, which will probably be on e-bay. I went through what we still had to sell and pulled out 10 or 15 hoppers, with the intent of increasing the coal hauling on the railroad, since we have several large coal mines. The hoppers will have to be worked on as they need new trucks/wheels, couplers, and more weight.

No dramatic changes in October either. Scenery progresses on the mine area and the engine terminal crew continues to work. The NG/SG ore transfer trestle is ready for rail. We are going to use code 40. And we are debating about the bridge to go over the road and connected to the ramp that Ruben has built.

We now have a computer. It is sitting on the desk with the Zephyr. Thanks to Bob Redlinger for that. Curt has put Decoder Pro on it, and we have used that to read several of the club locomotives and record that information. It is available for any club member to use with their decoder equipped locomotives, and there is a lot of disk space, so you can save a copy of the decoder file on that disk if you wish. We don't have it connected to the Children's Museum's network yet, but are working on that.

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:**

The traveling layout is a go to pursue construction! With approval in hand the second module frame was been built. There is still some fine tuning of the backboard height and subsequent mounting to finish. The modules were setup at our last open house to provide attending club members a chance to check things out. Next on the list of construction will be to attach the metal channel along the front edge which will be the receptacle for the other modules backboard when they are clam shelled together. Once the four inches of foam sheathing are mounted it will be time for the real fun to begin. Our bagel man (Phil) is vacationing down at Mickey's World in Florida but on return will be ordering the required track, switches, and roadbed as needed.

At our last gathering we completed planting grass on the loop mountain. It sure is a far cry from the blue and pink foam layering we've been looking at for months. The next step will be to enhance the ground cover and start planting trees and roughing in the creek bed. Right in there somewhere will be the building of a trestle and track laying. I'm excited!

This turkey month there will be a train show down in Norcross Georgia (N. Atlanta). It's the same organization that put on the show in Knoxville recently. There are some great train shops that carry lots of n-scale stuff such as Trainmasters so this could be a costly but fruitful event.

Work continues on sprucing up the old Lavin layout. Larry Burkholder and Bob Strickland have been coming in fairly regularly on Thursdays to work on the railroad. They have been making great progress dressing things up. We will be donating this layout (with engine, cars, and transformer) as an auction item at the CMOR Gala scheduled for December 5, 2008.

In our upcoming year we are planning to take Phil's two modules to Nashville and join up with the local N-Trak club to participate in a train show. I have forgotten which show but it's either the Great Train Expo on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> or the World's Greatest Hobby On Tour, February 21 and 22. I'm sure we will have left over funds available to do some post holiday shopping at either of these shows!

### **Z-Scale:**

Nothing new to report on the very wee scale of events this time.

## **Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt**

This year is going by very quickly and before we know it the holidays are here. Many thanks to everyone who has made the G scale layout project possible. Mark and his crew, Larry and many others have given lots of time and donations to make the expansion possible. THANK YOU!!

Please plan to help with the holiday weekend operations this year. Mark has been commissioned to display ten G scale loops on the UT campus this holiday season and will not be available to donate his time and efforts as on years past. If everyone pitches in for the operation hours, everyone can enjoy running trains and having fun. Any suggestions for schedule posting and contact management will be appreciated.

The Wednesday night bunch has visited Peter Achly's home layout several Wednesdays recently and have enjoyed the kibitzing and finding Peter's buried treasures. He is in the process of putting together a large Lionel layout in his basement (and wine cellar.) We will continue working on Mt. McCold and the sections of the triangle layout located on the club area. We have looked at re-positioning the layout in the area but have not come up with any better locations but we will soon have a skirt to hide our clutter. Daylight slaving oops saving time ends. Here are the dates for November, 2008. Regular club Sunday meeting on November 2 and November 16 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on November 8 and November 22, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on November 6, 13, and 20, starting at 9:30. November 27 is National Overeat Day, otherwise known as Thanksgiving Day, and we will not have a work session then. There is a 5th Sunday, November 30 and that will be a run/work day.

With the possibility of getting a permanent location for an O scale layout in the potential addition to CMOR, we voted to purchase a complete K-Line layout with track and transformer. Our thoughts are we could set the O scale on a small 4x4 or even on the carpet for Open House and other events until the annex is built.

There are lots of exciting things getting ready to happen so please visit your website often and attend the club meetings and operation sessions.

We all have a lot to be thankful for!

### **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](http://www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com).