

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 : www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com

Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and has recovered from over eating. You need to make space for our big Christmas feast on Sunday the 7th. The program starts at 6 pm with a happy hour or so, then dinner. If you haven't already done so, please contact Mike Lynch (tvilmike@bellsouth.net) and let him know if you are coming and if you are bringing anyone. All are welcome. If you are coming please let Mike also know what you will bring to share - Salad, side, or dessert. Meats and beverages will be provided. Thanks to Mike, his wife Mary Ellen, and the others who have taken responsibility for the party.

Of course, before the Christmas party comes the museum's fund raising gala on Friday the 5th starting at 6 pm. We are expected to run trains from 6 to ~7:30 pm. We also man the bar and serve wine during the dinner. At this point about fifteen of you have indicated your willingness to help. Everyone who is there will receive dinner. We're trying to work it out so you can have the same meal the gala patrons get, but if not you'll still get a sandwich and sides. Thanks to those who have offered to help. Dress code is club shirt if you have one and khakis or decent trousers. No blue jeans.

There will be no regular business meeting on the 7th, but there will be election of officers and two new Board members right after dinner. Anyone interested in running for President, Secretary, or Treasurer needs to any board member or Larry Burkholder before or at the party. We also need one HO and one N scale representative to replace Richard Atwood and Phil Brooks on the Board. As of this writing I have only heard from one HO person willing to serve on the Board. If you are in the HO or N divisions and are interested in one of these Board positions please let me or any of the Board members know before or at the party.

The Lavin N-scale layout has been refurbished and trains run, so it is ready for the Gala auction, thanks to Bob Strickland and Ken Klipple for their extensive time making this happen. Let's hope someone at the auction appreciates the work and quality and offers a big bid. I'll post a couple pictures of it on our web page.

Following Gala night, the Christmas Garden Railroad will be running every Saturday and Sunday evening thru from 5 to 8 pm thru the end of December. We need at least two and preferably three club members there each night. Last year we had as many as 200 visitors some nights. Thanks to Brad Tutt for taking responsibility for getting members scheduled. Please contact Brad (btutt@infiniteoptions.net) if you are willing to help and see where we still need coverage. You will need to be there by 4:30 to set up and stay to put things away afterwards.

Time to remind you that it is not too early to pay 2009 dues, still only \$25/year. Those not paid by the first meeting in March will be removed from our books.

I hope all of you have a merry Christmas and happy New Year and that Santa brings you lots of railroad stuff you can bring in to share with the club.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

Remember to tell Santa that you want trains for Christmas!!! Here are the dates for December, 2008. The CMOR Gala is on Friday, December 5. The KAMR club Christmas party is on the first Sunday, December 7. December 16 will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on December 13 and December 27, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on December 4, 11, and 18, starting at 9:30. No work session on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day.

Remember to bring locomotives and controllers for the operation session.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been unchanged with the usual attendees. No dramatic changes in November. Scenery progresses on the mine area and the engine terminal crew continues to work. We have been trying to clean up some for the coming Gala.

The November operating session was fairly chaotic, because I threw a monkey wrench into the works, and changed what we had been doing. Operating on a suggestion by Curt, we are now treating the staging yard as both Cincinnati and Chattanooga, and that changed some of the local freights quite a bit. I also thought it would be a good idea to have more coal traffic, so was trying to put those changes in place also. It went fairly well considering that I didn't explain myself very well, and some of the details weren't well thought out beforehand. I hope the next session will be better.

The computer now has internet access, thanks to the work of Ken and Curt.

Brian now has 7 or 8 boxes of the club excess inventory which he will be selling on e-bay.

When you can, come and see what has been happening. Come and run trains, or just hang around. Hope to see you at the club Christmas party.

N/Z-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe

N-Scale:

I can't believe we're in the holiday times again. The really meaningful elections are almost here and the pollsters are lurking for the latest scale dirt on who is being railroaded. You all need to come for our annual venue of feasting and political maneuvering.

Major progress on the traveling layout is being made as you read this. Both module frames have been completed complete with backdrops installed. The base 2-inch sheet of foam is now glued in place and the 2nd layer is sized and ready for installation. Access portals have been carved through the foam to provide an organized and protected pathway for the wiring. All of the code 55 track and switches and roadbed are now in our possession. Once the two base foam layers are installed the two modules will be ready for laying out the track right-of-ways followed soon with track installation. I plan to pass off the responsibility of the modules into Phil's capable hands for the start of the track installation. Hopefully this can take place prior to the first of the New Year.

Landscaping the loop mountain continues with small shrubberies next on the agenda. This includes roughing out the creek bed with gravel, rocks and fallen tree limbs and such. Bridge building is fast approaching that will include track laying. One of the most interesting features will be the curved trestle. This will be a spindly scratch built structure that should appear to be a bit undersized to support a train. One thing for certain, greenery looks a whole lot better than pink and blue foam board!

At our last gathering, some of the holiday spirit is starting to show. The layout is now adorned with Christmas lights and a scale Yule tree or three have shown up around the layout. More holiday scale scenes will be showing up prior to the upcoming CMOR Gala.

Z-Scale:

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

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt

What a year to be thankful for. The relocation of the mall gang back into the club area with welcome arms, lots of effort on the HO and N layouts, Lavin layout preparation for auction, major efforts by lots of folks to raise funds with the selling of excessive rolling stock and major additions to the garden layout. We all should be proud of our efforts and hope to continue the great progress on behalf of the club.

Special thanks should go to Ken Klipple, Mark Fuhrman, and Larry Burkholder for their multiple efforts for the good of the club. Ken has become a very active member and has been willing to help with the Wi-Fi service, layout construction on Lavin N-layout and garden scale and many other projects. Mark, once again, came through on the garden layout fence, earth moving, and layout construction and planning with his own crew and many thanks. And Larry continues to provide everything from donations of money, and hours of effort and co-ordination between the club and museum. We have been lucky to have a President like Larry.

Additional thanks to our retiring board members Richard Atwood and Phil Brooks for a job well done. Without efforts from all club members, we could not enjoy our hobby that is appreciated by many folks. Please consider placing your name into the nomination pool with Larry prior to the Christmas Party on December the 7th if you are willing to help our club grow.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to another great year of fellowship and progress.

Happy rails to all, and to all a good toot!!

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe

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.