

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

As we start a new year, I hope everyone had a very enjoyable holiday, that 2008 ended on a good note for you, and that we all enjoy peace, health, and prosperity in 2009. Thanks to everyone who contributed time and treasure to make our club a better place this past year. A special thanks to all of you who gave an extra measure to support the programs and events of the Children's Museum. We added a number of new members this past year and with their added help, 2009 should be an even better year for KAMR.

Our Christmas party on December 7th was a great success with about fifty members and spouses in attendance. Thanks to all who provided great vittles, especially Mike and Mary Ellen Lynch for the ham and barbecue and the beer. Thanks also to Rick Heller for providing the soft drinks.

Following the Christmas party the membership elected two new Board members. Charlie Womac replaces Phil Brooks as an N-scale representative and Pete Hoke replaces Richard Atwood as an HO representative. Board members are elected for two year periods. KAMR Board members for 2009 are:

Dick Brion - HO
Pete Hoke - HO
Jonathan Fortune - N
Charlie Womac - N
Jim Schall - Large Scale (At Large)

Apparently by default, your Board has seen fit to keep club officers the same for 2009:
Larry Burkholder - President
Jim Schall - Secretary
Bob Strickland - Treasurer.

Some Board members are talking about adding a VP position. This will require a change in our by-laws, but there are a number of other changes we should make in our by-laws. If anyone would like to review the by-laws or has suggestions for changes please let one of our Board members know. By-laws are approved by the membership.

Our first meeting of 2009 will be Sunday, January 4th. We will have a brief business meeting starting around 4:30 pm. Our regular museum open house meeting will be on Sunday, the 18th. In both cases the club rooms should be open by at least 1 pm.

Thanks to a significant donation by Rick Heller, funds from our own club and CMOR, by the time you read this we may have a new HVAC unit warming the N-scale, Lloydstown, and Hands-on rooms. None too soon, with a lot of cold weather yet to come. It's real hard putting N-scale trains on the track wearing mittens.

Brian Woodroof reports that he has sold about three of the ten cases he has of our excess equipment on E-bay and recently transferred \$250 to our General Fund. We certainly appreciate the time and effort he is putting into this project.

For those of you who haven't heard, the Lavin layout that Bob Strickland, Ken Klipple, and I refurbished and the club donated to the Children's Museum for their Gala auction sold for \$1000 (a good deal for the museum and for the purchaser, Len Hart, a residential developer in Oak Ridge.) Part of the deal included KAMR assistance in setting the layout up where ever he decides to place it.

We haven't had any clinics in quite awhile. If anyone has something they would like to learn more about that they think would be of interest to the membership in general, please let me know and we will find someone who can give a clinic on the subject. We haven't had a club field trip in many years also. Let's give some thought to that.

If you are a new member, remember that we encourage you to buy a club shirt to wear at public club functions. A short-sleeve knit and a long-sleeve cotton/poly blend are available. Both are hunter green with our club logo. See Bobby Nier to purchase one. This should also be a reminder to all our membership that you are expected to wear your shirts for the third Sunday open house and special events.

Remember that 2009 dues are due now and are still only \$25 per year. The first meeting in March is the very generous cut off. To make life easier on our Treasurer, please try to get your money in as soon as possible.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

Happy New Year. I hope everyone got trains for Christmas! The days are getting longer now. Here are the dates for January, 2009. Regular club Sunday will meet on the first Sunday, January 4. The third Sunday, January 18, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on January 10 and January 24, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on January 8, 15, 22, and 29, starting at 9:30. No work session on Thursday, January 1, New Years Day.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been somewhat sparse toward the end of the month because of the holidays but with the usual attendees.

I think that the CMOR Gala went very well, as did the KAMR Christmas party; many thanks to all who worked on those.

The December operating session was improved over November, although we didn't have very many people attending. All the trains were not run, and we still haven't done the passenger schedule. We had quite a few problems with motive power, showing that we still have a lot of work to do to get the layout to operate reliably for an operating session.

Brian has been selling excess inventory on E-Bay, and is doing very well on that.

The main change that has occurred – and I hope will be done by January 1, is that we have changed the west end yard throat. (The work is in progress as I write this several days before Christmas) We have had a design for that for a long time, and now with the

different operating scheme and advancing work on the engine terminal, it was time (or past time) to do it.

Remember to bring locomotives and controllers for the operating session.

When you can, come and see what has been happening. Come and runs trains, or just hang around. Come and show us your Christmas present.

N/Z-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator -

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Another year has rolled down the hump yard. More miles have been logged on our trains. Our modeled empire has been upgraded in too many ways to list here. I would like to thank all of you that have long endured the never ending task of 'building' a railroad. Our efforts are paying off with every passing comment of amazement from visitors.

In a look down the tracks I do see some focus on railroading and not just construction jobs. We will have a new portable layout. I do see having heat in our division train room. ☺ We will be participating in regional train shows starting with the World's Greatest Hobby show in Nashville in February.

Now that I've been re-railroaded as the N-Scale Coordinator for yet another year, it's probably time to fine tune some of our various paths. First on the agenda will be to coordinate preparing for the Nashville show. We are planning to take Phil's two modules currently residing in the peninsula. We should schedule a pre-road trip checkup to tweak what needs tweaking. I do know a power feed is needed to the spur at the fuel unloading area. This track also needs an end of track device. It wouldn't hurt to dust and remove cobwebs as well.

One item that we may want to consider is an automatic train trap that will block the tracks or kill power at the geezer gate when raised. We have had some VERY close calls recently that could have qualified as a major financial disaster.

Other 2009 targets:

- Room décor – add posters, paintings, murals, signs, shadow boxes, etc.
- Housekeeping – time to get rid of the junk and reorganize the stored stuff under the layout. Possibly move items under the Lloyd Layout.
- Room lighting – start changing the fluorescent bulbs with daylight type to improve color balance in the room.
- DCC – hookup the DCC network
- Track work – finish installing both the logging and ice house spurs.

So what do you think? All of these items are doable and we are capable. I know, maybe we need a bit of additional incentive. Hey Phil, can you bring some extra bagels?

Z-Scale:

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

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt

I hope everyone had a great holiday and look forward to another year of enjoyment with trains. Remember "show and tell" on Wednesday nights so you can share your new

treasures with other club members. If it is too big, we can come to it on a future field trip too.

I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the garden scale layout during December. Your efforts are very much appreciated since this is one of the most visible club contributions during the year to CMOR. We are looking for your comments and input as we attempt to make plans for improvement for next year. We hope to remove lots of power cords, level tracks and add fixed lighting to mention a few of the ideas so far. If we get our ideas together now before we forget them, we can schedule projects for the year.

I have been using the KAMR website calendar to post details for Wednesday meetings and meal locations. Please visit the website often for club announcements and to check meeting agenda and locations.

Looking forward to 2009 and I hope to see you at the club often.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator -
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We have a new year and all of you can help add interest to others with your model railroading prowess. Don't be shy and give posting a try. So don't forget to check our web site from time to time.

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