

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

Hopefully February is our last cold and dreary month, but it is still a good time to stay inside and enjoy model railroading.

Our regular meeting will be Sunday the 1st. We will not have a business meeting because of the Super Bowl, but everyone needs to be aware that the museum will hold its annual International Festival on Saturday, February 21st from 10 am to 4 pm. We will be expected to run trains all day, including the Garden, so you need you to let your Division Coordinator know on the 1st if you can help. This is a very well attended festival with lots of children, so we will need at least three HO and two each in N and the Garden to monitor the layouts at all times. Please plan to be up and running by 10 am. Please also remember to wear your KAMR shirts. If you don't have a shirt, please see Bobby Nier. He has some of all sizes. All members are expected to have at least one to wear for public events.

Our museum open house Sunday is the 15th from 1 pm to 4 pm. As usual, someone will probably be there before 12:30 pm. We need trains running by 1 pm.

The World's Greatest Hobby Train Show will be at the Nashville Convention Center Saturday and Sunday, the 14th and 15th, from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. If you've never gone to this particular show you really need to try and make it. Next to the NMRA National Show it is the best thing going. They only hold it four times around the U.S. each year and most of the MR manufacturers have booths there. Phil Brooks and I will be transporting two N-scale modules down on Friday to include in a large N-Trak layout and will stay the weekend. Take your wife with you on Saturday for a Valentine's Day treat.

Some of you have still not paid your dues and February is the last month to get it done before you are dropped. Give or send your \$25 to Bob Strickland.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

The days are getting longer.

Here are the dates for February, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, February 1. The third Sunday, February 15, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on February 7 and February 21, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on February 5, 12, 19, and 26, starting at 9:30.

The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been sparse. Maybe caused by the holidays. It has been down to the hard core attendees.

The January operating session was well attended, but somewhat chaotic again. I finally realized that we needed to change the order in which trains are run, and next time will run the local freights first, and run the thru freights later. This should decrease the congestion in the yard, and even out the load on the yard operator.

Brian has sold more excess inventory on E-Bay, and has turned in another \$400 to the club. Well done!!!!

I am happy to report that the west end yard throat is in and functional. It seems to be working as designed, with only one minor design flaw. Although all the switches have Tortoises installed, all of them are not powered yet, so some have to be thrown by hand. Many thanks to Jim Basford and Curt Goff for their work on that.

Curt and I have been operating fairly routinely on Tuesday morning. Anyone who would like to come and operate at that time is welcome to do so. I haven't put it in the schedule because we schedule it on a session to session basis.

And for those who want to know what they can work on when they come to the club, I do have a project list, which I will post at the club and try to get on the web site. Many members already know what they want to work on when they get to the club, or already have projects. These projects range for the simple (fixing track problems or doing wiring), the not so simple (removing duplicate freight car numbers), to the complex, (redesigning the Grain Coop so that the grain elevator is not at the edge of the layout). Talk to me if there is something you would like to work on.

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 -

We are starting out with a hit-the-ground running busy month for us N-Scalers. Our first Sunday gathering will include packing up the two modules that we are taking to the Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour (WGH) train show in Nashville. This show runs Saturday the 14th through and Sunday the 15th. This will be our main opportunity to dig out all of the needed stuff for taking these modules such as the DCC cables and such. Larry and Phil will be the transporters and caretakers of the modules. Hopefully, all can take a day or weekend trip to attend the show.

Our 3rd Sunday gathering and open house is concurrent with the WGH in Nashville, so we will need learn how not to take the spur out onto the peninsula. ☺ I would hate to hear that dreadful sound of splat, crinkle, tinkle... With the two modules missing we have lost a big section of under layout hideout space. Therefore we should take some time during our 1st Sunday gathering and stash those items in under undercover locations.

Right on the heels of the WGH, the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge is holding its annual International Festival on Saturday the 21st. That means trying to get the two show modules plugged back in for the festival. We need to see who and how we can get this done during non-normal 'office hours'. And we will always need an extra hand or two for running and trains and watching little errant fingers.

Just running a reminder of 2009 target resolutions:

- Room décor – add posters, paintings, murals, signs, shadow boxes, etc.
- House keeping – 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.

Z-Scale:

There's nothing new to report on the very wee scale of events this time. I'm being a bit repetitious but what do I know, it's still winter out there.

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt

The crew continues to meet on Wednesday evenings and we pretty much have gotten the Garden Railroad squared away. Ken has several to do items for us to work on outside when the weather improves as well as additional repairs to the rolling stock.

This past Wednesday Lance McC and a visitor, Brian McWilliams, worked the electrics of a small animated display while the rest of the crew discussed how to replace plastic AF wheel sets with cast-off metal hightail wheel sets. (Much of the 1/64 rolling stock comes with both hi-rail and scale wheel sets so dealers can stock one kit to entertain both groups of modelers.) Since most of our group are scale oriented there are wheels available to upgrade the poor rolling and out of gauge Flyer wheels with something considerably better.

This Saturday a group of us will travel to Johnson City to attend a ET&WNC high rail meet and visit our old buddy Gary Cameron. He is involved with the Atlantic Coast S Guagers, a group who support Flyer and hightail activities. For most of us “trains is trains” and we are ready to go play!!

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.