

# 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**

The regular March meetings will be on Sundays, the 1st and 15th. The 1st is our general get together at about 1 pm and will be followed by a short business meeting beginning around 4:15 pm. The 15th is our regular open house Sunday. The club rooms will be open around 12:30 pm and the open house goes until 4 pm. Be sure to wear your club shirts for the open house.

The club participated in the World's Greatest Hobby show in Nashville the weekend of February 14th and 15th by taking two of Phil Brooks's' N-scale modules down to be part of a sixty module layout. Although several clubs participated, the majority of the modules were provided by the Nashville N-Trak club and the Kentucky Society of N-Scalers out of Louisville, KY.

Jim Schall and Corky Ford helped man the National S Gauge Association booth with a team of guys from Nashville (Knoxville area has at least 8 members in the Association; Nashville 3.) The booth was well visited and a number of local guys came by. A number of club members were seen visiting the show. If they were like me, we definitely did our part to stimulate the economy.

Our support of the museum's International Fest was much appreciated by the museum staff and Board. Thanks to all of our members who came to help run trains, especially Ken Klipple, Pete Hoke, and Clif Johnson who braved relatively cold temperatures to run the garden railroad all day. Thanks also to those club members who helped set up tables the Thursday before the event. The festival was a big success, with representatives from twenty countries manning booths offering native foods, crafts, and literature. Numerous dancers and musicians entertained all day. If you weren't there you missed a really great show.

The museum is making plans for their summer camps and will need a date from us for our MR camp. I'm thinking the week of June 29th. We need at least 5 - 6 volunteers each morning for the week. Those of you who are available in the mornings from 9 to 12 each day please consider helping and look at your schedule to see if that week looks good. Let me know if you are available that week or if you would like to help, but have a conflict that week. If we have a lot of conflicts we can change the date, but I am not available the weeks of July 6th or 13th.

## **HO Division - Alex Cameron**

The equinox approaches.

Here are the dates for March, 2009. Easy this month, all I had to do was change the month. Our regular club Sunday meeting will be on the first Sunday, March 1. The third Sunday, March 15, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on March 7 and March 21, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on March 5, 12, 19, and 26, starting at 9:30. There is a fifth Sunday this month, and that will be a work

session. (The attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays has been sparse. It has been down to the hard core attendees.)

The February operating session was sparsely attended. We didn't have enough people for two man crews on the local freights. It went smoother since we ran the local freights first.

Brian has sold more excess inventory on E-Bay, and has turned in more money. Again well done!!!! Are club members buying stuff on E-bay?

On the west end yard throat, we now have all the Tortoises installed, and controlled by toggle switches. It requires some thought to set the switches correctly. That will all be greatly simplified when the control system is done. Jim Basford put in a temporary track for the yard switching lead, and we still have a temporary engine terminal track, and that has helped the yard operation.

Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM.

The CMOR International fest on February 24 was well attended and we got quite a bit of traffic to look at the railroad. We had some problems with small hands wanting to touch cars, throw switches (even though I had hidden most of the turnout toggle switch panels behind the green cloth) and fiddle with throttles. Thanks to all the HO division members who came and ran trains and talked to the public.

I have posted the HO division project list (incomplete) on a clip board near the layout. I still haven't gotten it on the KAMR web site.

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:**

If you didn't make it to the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour train show in Nashville, you missed a great showing of our (Phil Brooks) pair of modules in the large N-Trak layout. Be sure to check out his link to photos through his posting on our club web site. My wife and I attended Saturday and it was elbow, to elbow people. This is good for our hobby but tough on trying to casually shop at the vendors. Still there were treasure to find and I did manage to support some of my favorite shops.

The International Festival was again a busy day. Phil and Larry Burkholder did manage to get the modules back from Nashville and positioned to be reconnected with our layout. Yours truly did get things plugged and wired and bolted and clamped, and hammered, and chiseled back together. We had a couple of our typical faster than the speed of light pinkies but all in all things ran very well. Larry and I were accompanied by Charlie Womac, who brought his fiancé and her daughter, and Brian West who provided much needed moral support and supervision.

If you didn't notice yet, we have added some wall art to our club room. Larry and Bob Strickland took some time on a recent Thursday to hang train pictures and railroad logos of some of our favorites. I encourage more of this as it does add more pizzazz to the room.

I hate to admit it but I almost ran a train through the open geezer gate (again). This time it was while going in the counter clock wise direction. The only thing that stopped the train was the open bridge span and the curtain that acted like a road block. Looks like I'm now in the market for some automatic crossing barriers. I'm open to discussion on any idiot proof ideas that are simple, functional, and resilient. This old self proclaimed idiot has said enough.

AN electrical issue did crop up on our layout. The crossover between the #1 and #2 tracks that's located between the river and the geezer gate can cause a short if one switch is thrown. It sounds like the electrical gap(s) in the crossover track has failed. This should be checked out at our earliest convenience.

Don't forget to refer to the club calendar! We have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in March.

### **Z-Scale:**

Not much to report this month. A replacement plexiglass shield was installed that covers the entire front opening on the module.

### **Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt**

We have been busy working on vintage repairs, visits to member layouts and great sessions on Wednesday evenings. We welcomed another new member and keep growing in numbers.

Spring will soon be here and we will be scheduling weekend work sessions for garden layout maintenance. Please check your club website for additional information.

Several members went to Johnson City to check out the organizational meeting for the Atlantic Coast S Gaugers. The group plans to have future gatherings with member's modules. If interested contact Gary Cameron or ask one of the other Large Scale members for specifications. This is not S Scale; this is a Flyer/High-rail group but could be a great time for classic operators and fellowship.

Thanks to all who were able to help with the CMOR International Festival and please, visit the website and enjoy you escape time with distant whistles.

Jim Schall attended the World's greatest Hobby Show, Feb 14, in Nashville and worked the National S Scale Association booth with a couple of guys from the Nashville area. He reported that he now understands why American Flyer are called "flyers" in many circles!! The guys in Nashville are highrainers and Flyer freaks and after the third time they had one of their Flyers fly off the track it dawned on Jim what the "Flyer" connection is. While the show is unique in that major manufacturers attend with truly impressive displays; the number of vendors was marginal at best.

### **KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator - hmcELHOE@aol.com**

I'm glad to see some additional action on our forum. Keep it coming our viewer's need to know what's happening. So don't be shy and give posting a try. And don't forget to check our web site from time to time.

Our web site address is: [www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com](http://www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com).