

The SCOOP

April 2009

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Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, president

The club meetings this month will be Sunday, April 5th and Sunday, April 19th. As usual, the club rooms should be open by 12:30 pm. There will be a business meeting starting about 4:30 pm on the 5th.

Mark Fuhrman has informed me that the Large Scale Division will be meeting in the Garden on the 5th around 1 pm to clean-up the grounds, repair ballast, and add a new track loop. Everyone is invited to join in.

Ken Klipple is preparing a project plan to help the museum finish the pottery kiln room in the basement. We need to seal up a part of the outside wall where there used to be windows. Ken would like to have a few volunteers on a Saturday to get it done. There are already pottery classes going on and the lady in charge cannot use her kiln until we get the room finished. This outside wall is a critical step. Ken will give us more details at our business meeting on the 5th.

Richard Brion has informed me that the club board is reworking our by-laws. He will present these changes for discussion at our business meeting on the 5th. The plan is to let the membership review the new by-laws during April and vote on them at our first meeting in May. Your input will be helpful.

On Friday, April 17th, the museum will be holding a "Celebration of the Young Child" event. About 500 young children are expected. Every year, weather permitting, we run the garden railroad. If the weather is bad we run one of the inside set-ups. The time is from 9 am to 12 pm. I will not be available this year due to some minor surgery scheduled the day before. I need at least two individuals to cover this event. Please let me know if you can be there.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Days getting longer -- spring is here -- ignoring for the moment Dogwood, Blackberry, etc., winter.

Here are the dates for April, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, April 5. The third Sunday, April 19, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on April 11 and April 25, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, starting at 9:30.

The attendance on Thursdays has been better, as two new members have started attending. Saturdays has been the hardcore attendees.

The March operating session was well attended. We had enough people for two man crews on the local freights, and even ran a passenger train. Again, we ran the local freights first.

We had people coming out of the woodwork on the first Sunday, and with more people on Thursday, we have been working through some of my projects at a good rate. Most of the extra work has been going to fixing various car and track operating problems. Ruben and Pete have started working on the mountain in the NE corner. We decided that all of the Cotton Belt hoppers that I had set aside for the layout would require too much work to make operational, so I am working on getting hoppers from other sources.

Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM.

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 operating 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/Z Coordinator

N-Scale:

I think it's finally spring so that means TRAINS right!

At our last gathering we did some brainstorming on installing some passive but automatic safety device that would stop trains from falling into the abyss when the geezer gate is left open. Well I'm the first to admit that we haven't gotten anything on the drawing board yet but it shall happen hopefully before the big crash. We need to rattle our brain cells a bit more.

The forest is growing on the loop module but only if we can control the clear cutting operations by the Strickland Logging Company. ☺ With some of the scenery in place it's now time to get the rails installed. We just might have some of this done by the first Sunday of April.

Take notice that our heliport has approach lighting in place now to help our air cavalry guys find the runway. Bob Strickland has continued to add details and mini scenes to the army post. Looking good!

We still have 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. We will need to cut new insulating gaps in at least one of the crossover rails and install a plastic plug into the cut. Maybe I can remember to bring the Dremel tool to our next gathering.

I believe that in the spirit of spring we should consider a tree building session. We have the twigs and foliage materials but need to take inventory of the spray

adhesive. This would be an outdoor event due to a few fumes but we all could use a little sun at the picnic table.

Z-Scale:

Some additional scenery material has been applied and fast approaching getting the last sections of track laid. Still don't have a loop ready for running the very wee units but we'll get there.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

At last Spring is here and that means good news and bad news. The good news is we can work outside on the garden layout. The bad news is yard work and other outdoor activities will cut into our inside layout therapy hours.

We have moved another section of the S scale triangle layout into the club area. Since we stalled on Mount McCold, I guess the elevation too high so some ;-), we will move our efforts to lower ground.

Check the club calendar for upcoming events as we will be scheduling work session on the garden layout. Please remember, the garden layout is CMOR property and KAMR is responsible to its maintenance. This is not a large scale project, rather a club responsibility, so please help when you can.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElroy, Web Site Moderator

Remember that our newsletter is (ALMOST) always posted prior to the first Sunday gathering of each month if not by the first day of that month. The calendar is for our community to reference for upcoming events and schedules and for you to add anything related to our hobby you wish to share.