

# 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

Our next open house is Sunday, May 17th starting just before 1 pm and running until at least 4 pm.

Thanks to Jim Schall, Oscar Lidstrom, Jim Basford, and Clif Johnson for coming out to help me set up and run the garden railroad during the Celebration of the Young Child morning at the museum Friday, April 24th. We had a couple hundred pre-school children come through.

I am concerned that our areas are beginning to look a bit trashy again. We have the public thru and it reflects on our club to have all the junk and trash lying around. Let's take some time before our next open house to clean up the area and move any unnecessary stuff to the basement or dumpster. If the big building remnants on the table in the N-scale room don't get some attention soon they need to go away. Rather than just laying them out and hoping someone will pick them up to repair, let's go thru them and divvy up the ones worth saving at our next Sunday meeting.

There will be some extra membership lists on the badge box in the N-scale room for anyone who didn't or couldn't print one out yet.

## HO Division – Alex Cameron

The Return of RaccoonZilla!! Attacks destroy South Wyeth Manufacturing!!

Here are the dates for May, 2009. May 17, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on May 9 and May 23, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on May 7, 14, 21, and 28 starting at 9:30.

The attendance on Thursdays has been about average. Saturdays has been the hardcore attendees.

The April operating session was well attended. We made a change in the locals that are run, and split each one into two parts. Now, the Grain Coop has been split from the Harbor local, South Wyeth has been split from Raccoon Creek, and Upper and Lower Sea Side have been split from Lumberton. This has helped, as each local is not quite so overwhelming. We had enough people for two man crews on the local freights.

The big news for the month was the return of RaccoonZilla! Curt and I were operating on Tuesday, and shortly after noon a large (30lb? – I didn't weigh him) raccoon fell through the suspended ceiling right over South Wyeth Manufacturing. Curt was close by and was eye-to-eye with RaccoonZilla. Fortunately, he ran and hid behind the indicator panel for the lower loop switches. We informed the museum staff, and they

soon had 'Critter Getter' there to remove the beast. Critter Getter said that we should disinfect anywhere RaccoonZilla had been because of urine and feces, and so on the next Thursday work session we spent most of the time cleaning up the damage, removing ceiling debris, the remains of South Wyeth Manufacturing, and so on. Since then, Critter Getter has trapped more critters at the museum.

We decided at that time, since the ceiling was open, to add some more lighting in that area, (an item on the project list) and are now doing that, along with covering any potential critter access holes that we could find.

Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM and keeping an eye on the ceiling!!

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 Coordinator -**

### **N-Scale:**

I think I'm in a rut for some reason. All I seem to do is worry about my next project that is hanging out there. Yet, I'm still buried in ballast, stumps, creek bed, and old coal covered tracks from an abandoned tipple. Is that the light at the end of the tunnel or is it just a highballing extra running late at my expense...

Bob Strickland has continued to add details and improvements around the layout. His mid-week visits have given him the opportunity to work on improving some of the grade crossings on the industrial modules and to upgrade the old gravel roads feeding these local industries. Seems some government stimulus money may allow for some paving work in this area.

A few months back I took a series of photos of the layout modules. These shots were taken looking straight down from the ceiling. This was an experiment to see if these pictures could be melded into a photo collage of the entire layout. The results were promising but for the next round I will use the highest digital resolution. The plan is to have these posted on our web site for viewing and possibly have hot-keys that could be clicked on to view close-ups of specific scenes. I've mentioned this before but I'm finding myself a bit more motivated lately. Or it could be that I was downwind when fertilizing the yard recently.

I'm sorry to say this but we still have that electrical issue with the crossover between tracks 1 and 2 between the river and the geezer gate. I can't seem to remember to bring the Dremel and cutting wheel. Any volunteers out there who can share the needed tools?

Did you know that we have three Sunday gatherings in May! I encourage all to attend and know that it's healthy to overdose yourself with extended train exposure without physical harm. The jury is still out on mental issues.

### **Z-Scale:**

Work on the Z-scale layout is progressing well. Most of the ballasting is completed and electrical drops have been added to the main line and two isolated sidings. A power center has been added to the layout case. Power is up on the mainline, but very tiny

gremlins seem to be interfering with powering the sidings. They will be dealt with soon. We expect to have something running by the next open house.

### **Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt**

Lots of action on the large scale front.

The garden layout was up and running one day last week for the “Celebration of the Young Child” and it behaved very nicely thanks to Mark F and his track crew(s). After all this rain we may be reballasting for a while as will the prototype roads.

We had a successful S scale gathering on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a number of out-of-town guests. Some of our local guys could not attend because of conflicts but several guys came up from Atlanta and rounded out the group. The clinics were great and everyone came away with new ideas for the hobby. An interesting clinic was describing the residing of passenger cars with laser cut sides (S scale has one manufacturer of p cars and is limited to one prototype RR.) The sides are laser cut from 0.020 styrene plotted from proto information that the buyer supplies. Certainly makes for an interesting cottage industry.

We have several projects that we are working including garden track maintenance, scenery work on the triangle layout and starting to think about a portable layout that we could set up for open house for O and maybe S.

Our attendance has been outstanding on Wednesday evenings so come in a visit some time. We always have something going and classic repairs are always a fun topic.

Watch your club calendar for scheduled events and keep your rail in the right priority!

### **KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator**

We’re puttering along with a few posting a month but that’s OK. Folks are logging on to check things out and that’s what the site is for. Be sure to check on our ongoing train auction listing as there needs to be homes for this orphaned equipment.

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