

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

June and warm weather are here. It's going to be tougher to schedule trains in between all the travel and visitors, but there is work to be done in all divisions and the MR summer camp is this month, so join the fun every chance you can.

Unless one of the division coordinators or the Board has a need for one, there will be no business meeting after our June 7th regular session. In line with my opening paragraph, I will be in Florida that day. My wife and I will be visiting relatives who have the nerve and stamina to stay in Florida all summer, but over the weekend of the 12th - 14th we will be attending the SER Annual Meeting in Pensacola.

Our regular open house meeting will be 1 to 4 pm on the 21st. Our May open house session had a special treat with the garden railroaders displaying a number of new and special trains, including Mark Fuhrman's G-scale live steam engine and Cary Clark's long CSX container train.

As mentioned above, our model railroad summer camp runs from June 22nd thru the 26th. Classes start at 9 am and end at noon. We will again help the kids build T-Trak modules. We expect ten to twelve children in the camp, age's eight to twelve. So far I've only had a couple of you say you can help. We always seem to end up with sufficient help, but it would be nice to know in advance how many club members to expect so I can advise the museum how many of their volunteers we might need.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

June already!

Here are the dates for June, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, June 7. The third Sunday, June 21, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on June 13 and June 27, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on June 4, 11, 18 and 25 starting at 9:30.

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

The May operating session was well attended, and was the best operating session that we have had. We didn't make any changes from April. We had enough people for two man crews on most of the local freights. All of the trains were run, including the locals, coal trains, and the through freights. It went so well that if we have enough people in June that we will add in passenger trains.

The new lights are installed at the east end of the layout room. It made a big difference at the staging yard, South Wyeth, and the lower loop area. Many thanks to Pete for installing those lights.

We have been repairing minor operating problems as we encounter them. Ruben and Pete have been working on what we are now calling Raccoon Mountain.

Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM.

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-Scalers we have a problem! Apparently someone or something let the smoke out of our DCC booster.

At our May 3rd Sunday gathering we actually setup the layout for DCC operations. Everything went mostly according to design. Our initial trial power up sequence proved unsuccessful. No problem, just a trip to Radio Shack to buy a fresh internal battery for the booster. It seems we haven't had the black box out of storage since our club met in the church. I'm not going to speculate how many years that has been. Anyway, after battery installation and with some difficulty, we did manage to (very) briefly obtain and run an engine via DCC a few feet. However the stars didn't seem to be lined up correctly. The throttle would not function correctly and we kept loosing access to the engine. We tried a second throttle without success and even moved the connections to a test loop, nada, zip, and zilch. Alas, we concluded that somehow and at sometime in the past while stored away the electrical smoke escaped from the booster. We never could troubleshoot the actual problem other than isolating it to the DCC booster.

So our first DCC endeavor since moving into the museum was for not. We have sent the booster to Digitrax for repairs. On the bright side, when we receive the repaired unit it should take but a few minutes to convert from DC to DCC operations. I still sort of wish we had seen the smoke escaping from the booster. At least it would have saved a few hours of troubleshooting.

A railroad construction note to say that the crossover track short recently discovered has been repaired. The application of a cutting disc, small piece of plastic, and superglue and there you have it. This is the crossover from main 1 to 2 located between the geezer gate and the river.

On a personal note, our fellow N-Scaler Charlie Womac recently got married. We wish him and his new bride a long and happy life. Oh! Charlie, now that we're close to having DCC operations, you will need to get a decoder in your shay as soon as possible. ☺

Z-Scale:

Work on the Z-scale layout is progressing well. We now have Z-Scale trains operating. Visitors at the last open house were quite fascinated by the size. Work continues with scenery and road construction. Be sure to give Larry Burkholder a thumb's up for his efforts to get things rolling.

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt

What a great start to the summer! We had a fantastic turnout for Open House in May with Mark and the G Boys bringing lots of rolling stock and even live steam for our visitors to enjoy. The garden layout is looking great with some minor leveling needing to be done but the new additions are wonderful and with luck, scheduled operating sessions will be scheduled in the future.

We got the S scale triangle layout ORGANIZED in the basement storage racks but there is still a lot of organization that could happen but much improved since last month. With lots of effort from Ken and his troops the CMOR kiln is now operational.

We kept the four modules that we are working on up in the club area and there is enough area to claim your stake and let your imagination run free. I have claimed the corner for a fall tobacco barn and small orchard with cider stand with Jim and Frank. We have been playing with lots of foam and there are plenty of materials for trees and such for all to enjoy on Wednesday evenings. Scratch building, scenery, creek section and ground cover to name a few are all there for you to take charge and run with.

Check the club calendar for events and make certain to enjoy your passion and your club.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator -

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I'm planning to update some of the 'sticky' posts by adding our membership application form and a schematic of the N-Scale layout. If you have any other suggestions along these lines drop me a note.

Don't be a stranger. Be sure to surf our web site at: www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com.