

The **SCOOP**

August 2009

Vol. 23, No. 8

The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.
Editor: Jim Schall, phone - 423 369-2955, email - Schallj@highland.net
Website : knoxmodelrailroaders.com

Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

The regular August Sunday meetings will be the 2nd and the 16th. We will have a short business meeting on the 2nd starting at 4:30 pm.

The garden railroad has experienced a series of malfunctions due to over use and the lower quality of some of the items we received from the DIY show. No complaints, but it is time to replace a few things. Since the garden and equipment belongs to the museum and we all know that the museum has no extra money for it, we will need to consider how much the club can help. Mark Fuhman and Ken Klipple can give us a report on what is needed at our business meeting. The garden railroad is probably our most popular railroad attraction.

Don Loy has informed me that he will shortly be stepping down as our librarian. We appreciate the great work he has done in organizing it. He is now cataloging it on a CD. We need someone to volunteer to take over this job. If you think you might be interested, talk to Don about what is involved. Please let me know if you are willing to take it on.

HO Division – Alex Cameron, HO Coordinator

Here are the dates for August, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, August 2. The third Sunday, August 16, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on August 8 and August 22, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on August 6, 13, 20, and 27 starting at 9:30. We have a fifth Sunday in August, the 30, and that will be work Sunday.

We had a lot of people for the July operating session. Two man crews for most of the trains. It was a bit chaotic but fun. All of the trains were run although we still haven't run passenger trains. Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM. The attendance on Thursdays has been about average. Saturdays has been the hardcore attendees.

Work continues on the mountain in the corner, the rebuild of South Wyeth and the engine terminal. Track work in South Wyeth still has to be completed. I have a dual-gauge switch jig from Fast Tracks, and have used it to build 2 dual gauge switches for Lumberton, and we are installing those. I also built a standard gauge switch using a Fast Tracks jig which has now been installed in South Wyeth. We have been operating over that one, and have had no problems at all with it thus far.

We continue to work on operating problems as we encounter them. Achieving a reliable roster of locomotives is one area that needs work. 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

Our venture into DCC is continuing. Modifications to the peninsula reversing loop now works correctly. We still have some tweaks to wiring under the 'T' module but they should be minor. In the end, operations in and out of the peninsula under DCC power will be much easier. The only requirement will be to have the switches properly aligned.

We have been successful in reprogramming our n-scale fleet with unique address codes. These codes with ownership and engine details are being listed in our DCC logbook. This should help operators with engine identification that will avoid duplication of address codes on the layout at any given time.

Fellow n-scaler Charlie Womac was able to find time to escape from his busy new home life and bride to join us at our last gathering. He jumped right in on his ongoing construction of the lumber mill on the loop module.

Larry Burkholder brought in a DCC auto reversing module that we could use on the layout if necessary. At the time we were unsure if it was needed until after we rewired the current device on this section. The jury is still out until we complete the wiring changes for this section of the layout.

Z-Scale:

Stay tuned. The Z report will be added as the news copy hits the desk.

Large Scale Rails – Brad Tutt, Large Scale Coordinator

Lots of summer fun for all I hope. The Large Scale Division is happy to announce our newest member John Bridgeforth to the club. John has many different interests including a home G scale layout and is a welcomed asset to the club.

Several members have been missing in action during the past month with out of town guests and travel. Planning continues on an O/S layout for a presentation to CMOR that could be re-located into a future location. We are planning a multi-scale classic layout for Lionel and American Flyer. Not sure but we would like to use proto-type three rail and code 125 for S Scale that would permit AF and scale operations with changeable power source.

We are in the dream state on the O/S layout at this time but if anyone has any “pie in the sky” suggestions, please contact the group. If planned correctly, all club members could have a place to operate any classic toy or scale trains.

We have also started a dinner location rotation for the Wednesday gatherings.

Be sure to check the club calendar and remember there is a business meeting on Sunday the 2nd. We are also having a planning a work session in the garden on the 2nd.

Get involved and enjoy.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

We want apologizing for the tardiness of this newsletter. Mid-summer distractions, vacations, weddings, etc., have taken priority with our time. As always please remember that our web site forum is to communicate ideas, share information, sell, buy, trade, and any other events train related.

Don't forget! Our web site address is: www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com.