

The SCOOP

September 2009

Vol. 23, No. 9

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 September club meetings will be Sunday the 6th and Sunday the 20th. There will be a short business meeting on the 6th starting at 4:30 pm.

Also on the 6th there will be a special "ground breaking" ceremony for the environmental garden started in back of the museum. The ceremony will start at 11 am and go until about 1 pm. It is open to the public and you are welcome to attend if you want. In any case, please plan on parking in front of the museum if you arrive before 1 pm.

As part of the ceremony the garden railroad will be running. It is probable that a brief walk-thru of the inside club areas will also take place. Those of you who are at the club during the week need to be sure that you keep the areas tidy and empty trash cans if they are full. We do not need to run the inside layouts, but if you are there and want to run go ahead.

The museum is holding a fundraising "Trivia" contest on Thursday, October 8th. Adult teams of up to eight members are being formed to participate at \$50 per team member. The doors open at 6 pm with a BBQ dinner available for purchase. The contest will start at 7 pm. Ten rounds of ten questions each will be held. Prizes will be given to each member of the winning and second place teams. A flier with more details is on the bulletin board. I would like to see KAMR field a team of at least four members. We'll discuss it further at our business meeting, but if are interested please let me know. The sign-up deadline is October 1st.

HO Division – Alex Cameron Here are the dates for September, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, September 6. The third Sunday, September 20, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on September 12 and September 26, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on September 3, 10, 17, and 24 starting at 9:30.

The attendance on Thursdays has been about average. Saturdays has been the hardcore attendees. We only had a few for the August operating session, but enough for two man crews for most of the trains, and we did run all of the trains. It went fairly smoothly. All of the trains were run and we did run a passenger train, although not on any schedule.

Work continues on the mountain in the corner, and the engine terminal. Track work in South Wyeth has been completed and most of the electrical drops are in. It is complete enough that we will include it in the next operating session. South Wyeth now has three industries. South Wyeth manufacturing (although we need a building for that – anyone

want to do it?), a team track, and the Tapco power plant, which is from one of the old wye modules. We continue to work on operating problems as we encounter them. Achieving a reliable roster of locomotives is one area that needs work.

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 -

Our commitment to DCC capability is still improving but not at the demise of analog running. The peninsula section is fully operational with a new and improved reversing section. No more rotary selection switches to deal with. Just keep the switches aligned correctly and run trains anywhere. We were able to use existing wiring and electronics to make it all work.

Bob Strickland has been sneaking in during the week and changing the mine siding from a stub track to a through section. He is also adding a short storage track off this siding as well. This will add additional operations capability off the #3 mainline.

Work has started on installing the siding into the icing house. We've got to keep the beer cold! This siding will also have a spur into a "to be named business." This will add another rare opportunity for operations off the #1 mainline.

We are slowly getting club members decoder equipped engines programmed with unique 2-digit addresses. Most of us still had our units on factory settings. We are keeping a logbook at the club that has a record of each engine to minimize confusion beyond what we normally deal with as we learn the DCC ropes.

October is coming fast and that means it's time to think about regional train shows. The French Broad e'N'pire N-track Club will be holding their autumn show on October 10th in Henderson, NC. This is a one-day (Saturday) show from 10 am to 4 pm. We've had some good carpool trips over in the past and found some fine treasures and a good eating establishment (remember, we're n-scalers and we know our food). Additional show details will be posted on the web site soon.

Z-Scale:

Stay tuned. The Z report will be added upon receipt.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

Our group has had better attendance this month and lots of action items for all. We are still working on our presentation to CMOR for possible O/S layout area. We would like to get our presentation ready for the board by next month for approval.

We also have planned to build a large scale test track to enable testing and repair area for multiple gauges and power. Current plan is for and 8' straight with non-power ends for G, O (3-rail), and S (code 135 for AF, hi-rail and scale) track with easy power connection for AC, DC, DCC. If ANY club member has 2-rail O or other requirements, please contact the Large Scale Division ASAP so your track can be incorporated into the test track design.

We are continue to meet on Wednesday evenings with lots of delightful conversation but need to have the ability to focus on a layout for construction and display. We have several items in the club for use operation but now need to have a place to operate, display and educate our guests.

Stay tune for more activity and work sessions on the website.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator -

I know it's either summer, school starting, vacations, or preparing for football season. Things have been kind of slow on the web front lately. 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.