

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 regular first Sunday meeting in October is the 4th, the third Sunday open house is the 18th. Both sessions run from 1 PM to 4 - 4:30 PM, although there is usually someone there earlier. We will have a short business meeting at 4:15 PM. Those of you who just come for the meeting note the earlier time. The museum closes at 4 PM, so we can start right after that.

As you should all know by now, we lost a good member and excellent modeler in late September with the passing of Lew Hedrick. I was pleased to see a few from the club at his memorial service. As is our custom now, a \$50 donation was made to the Children's Museum in Lew's name.

We need to be thinking about how you can help at the museum gala on December 4th. We, of course, run all our trains from about 5:30 to 7:30 PM and need to cover that. Some of you have volunteered for bar duty and for serving wine at the meal. We will need that again. All of you there that night will receive a good meal. We'd like to nail these positions down in October so the museum knows what to expect.

I recently examined an HO collection in Lenoir City that had quite a few good quality engines and cars, as well as a lot of track and accessories. All are in boxes and packed in three plastic storage boxes. There is no layout. The engines, a mixture of steam and diesel are "Southern". Many of the cars are Athearn. I told the people to itemize what they have and I would show club members. They might also try E-bay, but they would need help. This is for the most part very good quality. Anyone interested in seeing what they have in advance can contact me and I can put you in touch with them.

Our Large Scale Division has given me a plan to present to the museum board that calls for constructing a layout in a corner of the Hands-on room. We will discuss it at our business meeting and I will bring it before the board at our October meeting on the 22nd. I will need more input to paint the most attractive picture for the board.

The Large Scale Division has a four or five battery-powered "G" scale train sets available for \$50. The sets include an old style steam engine, two cars, a caboose, and an oval of plastic track. I think the engine has sounds and one of the sets has a remote control. They'd make great Christmas gifts for a grandson. If anyone is interested get in touch with me or Brad Tutt.

Our shirt supplier can supply ball-type hats with our KAMR logo embroidered for \$7.95. With tax we will probably pay about \$10. These are nice quality hats in a dark green like our shirts. So far I have thirteen of you saying you want one, so I told the supplier to make twenty-five. I am sure after people see them others will want one. The hats were on sale, with only fifty pieces available, so probably when these twenty-five are sold there won't be any more or they will be a lot more expensive.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

The sad news of the last several weeks was the death of Lew Hedrick. He was very active in the club for a number of years, and during the last several of those he and I were HO co-coordinators. He did a lot for the club, and we are still benefiting from the results of his work. He was very organized and developed a number of procedures for the startup, shutdown, and operation of the Digitrax DCC system. He also put in all the main line when we developed the harbor modules, and did a redesign of the yard modules to include a passenger terminal, back when the modules were still in the double track circle 'show' configuration. The passenger stations in Knoxville and Raccoon Creek were built by him. He also laid a lot of the track in the old staging yard, and designed and built the diode matrix systems to control the turnouts at both ends. He and I also developed the operating scheme for the old module system, with Lew doing most of the work by developing the switch list that we used at that time. He particularly enjoyed bringing his 3 sound equipped 2-8-0's and running those double or triple headed. He will be missed.

Here are the dates for October, 2009. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, October 4. The third Sunday, October 18, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on October 10 and October 24, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 starting at 9:30.

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

We had good attendance for the September operating session, with two crews for most of the trains, and we ran all of the trains. The last several months the operating sessions have been going quite well. It must be about time to complicate things again by putting a scheduled passenger train into the mix.

Work continues on the mountain in the corner, and the engine terminal. Mike L. finished the detector board for all the location sensors under the mountain, and we have been trying to get that installed and working. We hope to use blinking yellow LED's for indicators, which should contrast with the red and green ones used for the turnouts.

We have been operating into South Wyeth with only minor problems.

Several people have been looking at passenger and freight car and checking couplers height and coupler operation. 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.

N/Z-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator

We had another day of DCC running during the 3rd Sunday gathering of September. Miscellaneous maneuvering around the layout pointed out additional maintenance issues that need addressing. These issues are primarily with power routing to some sidings. Most are easy fixes such as cutting power gaps in the rails in a few locations and adding electrical drops between the mains and the associated sidings. No big deal!

Bob Strickland continues to sneak in during the week and has finished the mine/quarry siding from a stub track to a through section. This effort included adding

a short storage track off this siding. This adds additional operations capability off the #3 mainline. The new tracks passed DCC compliance compatibility (train ran OK here).

The peninsula DCC compatibility still has issues coming of either the #2 or #3 mains. It appears that the #2 wye tracks are dead and the #3 wye tracks may have a polarity issue. The first issue should be fixable by just moving a couple of wires on a terminal block under this module. The second issue may be as simple as moving the Cinch-Jones connector feeding the peninsula from the #3 main pig yard jumper over to the quarry module jumper that should flip the polarity of the feed. This action is not in stone but will be the first trial effort.

Greg Wroblicky brought in his new UT-4R throttle and newly DCC'ed FT's for running on the club layout. Unfortunately, the throttle was DOA and would only work when plugged in. But it's a warranty issue and was able to ship it back to the supplier for exchange. On the up side the FT's worked flawlessly and demonstrated that Greg has achieved the elevated class of master decoder installer unless otherwise electronically stumped.

Don't forget that October is here 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

Attendance had been great and we have several active projects at the club. Brian has been working very hard re-working his 1935 layout for display at Hobby Town USA during December. If you have not seen this layout, it will be on display the 4th through 6th and is great for kids of ALL ages with lots of features that he and his father created and is very unique display.

The multi-scale test track project is progressing slowly. Our S scale track inventory is lower than we thought and will either purchase 2 additional sections of flex track or use American Flyer track.

The display for the Knox Heritage – Evening at the Station is ready to go for October 9th with a large G module and other items from Mark and we have multiple scales for a nice static display. This is a win/win project for club exposure at the L&N and thanks to Peter for his great work.

With luck, we should get placed onto the CMOR agenda this month for the O/S expansion request also. Check the club calendar and enjoy you club.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

Fall is upon us and I know there are numerous train shows around. I try to post information on these shows as I here about them. Please pitch in and post show schedules that you may be aware of. As always please remember that our web site forum is to communicate ideas, share information, sell, buy, trade, and any other events train related.

Dr. Clyde Lewis "Lew" Hedrick Jr.

Retired nuclear physicist

Dr. Clyde Lewis "Lew" Hedrick Jr., 69, of Oak Ridge, passed away on Sept. 19, 2009, at his home. He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on Oct. 14, 1939, to parents Clyde Lewis and Elsie Jean Coward Hedrick. Dr. Hedrick retired from ORNL, MSRE as a nuclear physicist. He was a veteran with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Lew was a member of First United Methodist Church where he had been a member since 1970, being very involved, serving on the administration board and the garden committee as well as teaching Sunday school classes and being a children's choir assistant.

He was a member of the Knox Area Railroad Modeler's Club, working with projects at the Children's Museum, as well as being a member of the Concord Yacht Sailing Club. He served as treasurer of Grigsby Gates Condo Association for three years. In the '70s, he was instrumental in the early recycling program in Oak Ridge, as well as directing the construction of the children's playground at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. From 1982 to 1986, Lew was very active with the Girl Scout programs. For four years, he provided computer programming, 2004 to 2008, for Delta Kappi Gamma, an Oak Ridge Teachers Honorary Society.

Dr. Hedrick's life career was greatly influenced by his parents who were both math teachers and by his grandfather, Dr. Earl Raymond Hedrick, who was a professor and provost of UCLA and was so honored as having a building named after him, Hedrick Hall.

Dr. Hedrick received his associate's degree at Pasadena City College and his bachelor's, master's and PhD degree in Theoretical Plasma Physics, UCLA. In 1963, while attending an Alumni Association, Lew met Bonnie and they were later married in 1963.

Dr. Hedrick's employment consisted of being a physicist, 1960-65, U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station (Pasadena Annex); 1965-70, University of California, Los Angeles, Physics Teaching and Research Assistant; 1970-95, Theoretical Physicist; Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Fusion Energy Division, and 1995, retiring in 2001, Engineering Analyst, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems.

His survivors include his wife of 46 years, Bonnie Lee Hedrick of Oak Ridge; daughter, Patricia Lee Baker and husband, Dr. Chuck Baker, of Clinton; son, Jeff Hedrick of Knoxville; brother, John Hedrick of Dallas, Texas; and grandchildren, Aiden Thomas Baker and Avery Grace Baker.