

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

It always seems to be a struggle to collect, but our official dues paid membership as of the first of May is sixty, slightly more than last year at this time. We lost a couple and we gained a few new faces. Welcome to our new members, most of who seem to be large scalers. I think Brad and the guys are soliciting out on street corners. Good work. Everyone should have received a copy of the latest membership list. If you need a copy, I will have a few hard copies at the club's first Sunday meeting.

Our regular Sunday meetings this month fall on the 2nd and the 16th. There will be no business meeting on the 2nd.

A reminder that there will be a Railgrass (whatever that means) train event in Kingsport the weekend of May 7/8/9. An email was sent giving details. I had hoped to have our new traveling layout ready for it, but it will not be ready. Thanks to everyone who made trees for it so far. We do hope to have a couple tables manned to sell some of our excess equipment and duplicate library books. We need a couple people to join me on the 8th to cover this.

The "Celebration of the Young Child" event at the museum on April 23rd was a great success, with close to 200 children involved and well over a hundred visiting our Garden Railroad. Thanks to Jim Basford, Mike Colloton, Jim Osburn, and a future Large Scale member Russ Harden for helping me set up and police the area during the event.

It's a little early, but mark your calendar to save the week of July 12th to help with our annual museum Model Railroad Summer Camp program. We need coverage from 9 am to noon Monday thru Friday. We need at least six club members each day to supervise up to twelve kids aged 8 to 12. Even if you can only come one or two days, plan to do so. The more we have the better it goes.

HO Division - Alex Cameron, HO Coordinator

The Raccoon Returns!!

Here are the dates for May, 2010. Regular club Sunday meeting is on the first Sunday, May 2. The third Sunday, May 16, will be an operating session, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on May 8 and May 22, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on May 6, 13, 20, and 27 starting at 9:30. We have a fifth Sunday in May, and that will be a work/run

day. The attendance on Thursdays has been up and down and the attendance on the work Saturdays is still low.

The raccoon returned. This happened sometime between the operating session on Sunday, April 18, and our Tuesday AM operating session on April 20. Several people mentioned to me that they heard noise in the overhead on Sunday afternoon, but I didn't follow up on that. It is probably just as well, because we may have then had a scared raccoon running around the railroad room. As it was, the raccoon fell through the ceiling in the same place as before, over South Wyeth. Fortunately, there was no damage beyond a number of cars knocked over. It looked as though the raccoon ran all over the layout, and even into the N scale side, looking for a way to get out. There were paw prints on the wall in many locations, but we didn't see any excrement. It looks as though it made its escape by climbing up the pole by the staging yard. We found a large hole in the wall between the HO room and the Lloyd layout room, and Pete Hoke patched that. We were overly cautious and cleaned up the paw prints any place we saw them by cleaning with bleach.

We had good attendance for the April operating session. We ran one man crews on most of the trains. Again, it was a smooth operating session, with nearly all the trains run. Lumberton can be a problem on the narrow gauge if there are too many cars. The passing siding there is short, and the track across the lift bridge is also short, making running around cars difficult if there are too many of them.

Several people have suggested to me over the last year or so that it might be better to have our operating session on the first Sunday instead of on the third Sunday. On the first Sunday, the visitors would not be disrupting the operation, and so we would not have that distraction. And then on the third Sunday, we would just run trains, and could then pay more attention to any visitor with questions, and so on. The down side is that we would then lose one monthly day to work on the layout. While some work could continue on the third Sunday, many projects that would interfere with the running of trains could not be done. I would appreciate feedback on this, one way or the other.

We have seen some unexplained operating problems in the Harbor section and have been trying to explain them. We have several locomotives that slow down and/or stop at several places there, and we haven't been able to determine if it is locomotive related or layout related. We have added drops in several places on the harbor module.

Curt and I are still operating on Tuesday AM, and frequently have been having others join us.

Remember to bring locomotives and controllers for the operating session.

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

Every time I look around there seems like there is so much to do yet we have accomplished so much. The show layout is now a fixture of the n-scale room. This will allow all to lend a hand with its development. We're still sorting out some of the lay of the land that will define road and structure locations. This in turn will allow ground contouring and river bank development. Some of you have already pitched in and provided a good start to the many trees that will be needed. Between Bob, Larry, and Phil we have a growing assemblage of structures ready for installation. At our next gathering, I hope more of the roughing out of the landscape can be completed that will allow some of the beginnings of applying color and texturing.

Thanks to Charlie Womack, the much needed log trestle is under construction on the spur out to the logging area of the loop module. Note that he is using real logs (from bushes in his yard) as building material. You should see his n-scale chain saw at work!

Yours truly installed a power supply and scissors crossing control switch at our last gathering. This crossing is now fully controlled with just a flick of the switch that simultaneously throws all four points together. You just have to watch your step for a while until we can set up a more permanent electrical feed to the power supply.

A side note to the suggestion for show layout rolling stock. The wheels will need to have a profile compatible with the Atlas code 55 track. The current standard Micro-Trains style trucks and pizza cutter flanged wheels will sound like n-scale automatic weapons rolling down the tracks. We are investigating using the soon to be released MT wheels that have a lower flange profile but not as low as their earlier low-pro type items.

Other items being considering is re-locating the library in the common area between the HO and N rooms over into the n-scale room. This could allow an area for the large scale guys to setup an S/O layout. The library shelves would be located along the wall between the hands on area door and the refrigerator.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

Where did the month go? We are still growing as our Large Scale Division has over doubled in just 3 years. Our newest paid member is Bill Lee who has been into our hobby for many years. He would like to do "something different" and has joined the LSD which will be a great addition to our group. He has bench work experience and we have lots coming soon with luck.

We have had several guests this month and we have repaired some classic toys from the 40s and 50s. Kind of neat working on items that our old eyes can see that were made to be repaired. (Although the locos are older than the eyes repairing them! Ed.)

Lots of project in the works but our progress has been slow. We have made several track plans trying to come up with some place for our members to

operate. Our scale does not help with the limited space options we have but we continue to plan for the future. We have also made many trees for the N layout to help Phil and the boys get it ready to travel.

Several train related events are coming up very soon so make sure to watch the club calendar and come to the meetings to make sure you get the most from KAMR. Your attendance and support is important to you and the club.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

There are a number of fun things happening this month. Note the following train items coming up:

- The Mid-South Live Steamers are having their spring fling at the end of the month starting April 28 through May 1 in Columbia, TN.
- The 2010 N-Scale National Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, June 22-26.
- The 2010 NTRAK National Show will be held in Danville, Virginia, September 24-26.

Be sure to check the web site calendar for additional information and links. 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.knoxmodellrailroaders.com.