

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's already hot enough to be mid-Summer, so come to the air conditioned club and enjoy the trains. Our June business meeting will follow our Sunday the 6th session at about 4:15 pm. Our regular monthly open house will be on Sunday the 20th from 1 to 4 pm.

There has been some discussion about the HO Division running an operating session during the open house. Intense involvement in operations can detract from our goal of interacting with the visitors and kids. On the other hand, it is the only good day to do it and visitors could benefit from learning about railroad operations. It seems to me the solution would be to have one or two more social members designated to roam around the room to interact with visitors and explain what is going on.

The Children's Museum is kicking off its summer camp sessions with a party Saturday, June 12th from 10 am to 1 pm. There will be lots of attractions and activities for the children to enjoy and, of course, they would like our club to have trains running. With so much going on it is unlikely that children will spend a lot of time looking at trains, so I think just having the garden trains running should be sufficient. I will not be available that day. We will need two or three members to set up and run the four tracks.

As a follow-on to the above paragraph, remember to mark your calendar for our Model Railroad Summer Camp, July 12th - 16th, 9 am to noon. We need as many helpers as can come each day. If you can't make every day please come the days you can. I'll be checking with everyone to work out a schedule.

My wife and I attended the NMRA Southeastern Region's annual meeting in May in Birmingham. Several of our club members who are NMRA members were there also. It was a good meeting with several good clinics, a nice train show, and fourteen home layouts to tour. I took in three of them. Non-rail spouse events were better than usual. I look forward to the meetings every year to reunite with other model railroaders and learn new things about the hobby. If you are not a NMRA member you should give serious consideration to joining. Our Smoky Mountain Division meets quarterly at the Bass Pro Shop off I-40 Exit 407. Come to a meeting and see what we are doing as well as meet some serious modelers from outside our club. Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 17th at 7:15 pm, although most of us meet at 6 pm in their restaurant for dinner first. Our guest at this meeting is scheduled to be Brent Lambert, the head of the NMRA library in the Chattanooga headquarters. This is a great resource available to NMRA members that is seriously under-utilized.

SHOW LAYOUT - Bruce McElhoe

The portable n-scale show layout is slowly becoming a railroad. The tracks and switches are in plus track wiring and DCC connections have been installed. The

installation has been fully tested by running engines over 100% of the layout. A few rough connections and some dirty track were taken care of.

Decorating the layout has started with the help of many. The backdrops have been painted with sky/clouds. The tracks have been 'aged' with some airbrush work (we now need to re-clean the tracks). The safety rails on the two train bridges have been installed (code 40 rails = eye squinting tiny stuff). The locations of roads, buildings, and other structures have been roughed out. Ground contouring has started to ensure no plywood plains and all areas will show natural slope/drainage. Some of the road ditching has been cut and locations of drainage conduits prepared. Some of the roughed in areas have had their first coating of ground cover paint that is a remarkable visual transition from pink foam to earth color.

Other construction activities include numerous folks making trees and puff balls, building construction such as the engine maintenance facility and a truck transfer warehouse. The town area is being designed to include a highway bridge over the mainline track. The land is being contoured to accommodate the bridge, track cut, and retaining walls.

We still have some contouring details to work out as well as needing to fine tune all structure locations but things are moving forward with every ones help and support.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Operating session is the first Sunday, June 6 this month.

Here are the dates for June, 2010. Regular club Sunday meeting is on the first Sunday, June 6, which will also be the operating session. The third Sunday, June 16, will be a run session, since it is still the regular open house for CMOR. We will start about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on June 12 and June 26, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on June 3, 10, 17, and 24 starting at 9:30. The attendance on Thursdays has been down and the attendance on the work Saturdays is still low.

We had good attendance for the May 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. Remember, the June operating session is on the first Sunday this month. We will just run trains on the third Sunday, with work limited to that which does not disturb running. So, this would be a good chance to bring that locomotive or train that you would like to run.

Work on the scenery on the mountain continues, but work on the engine terminal has effectively come to a stop. I have a 70 foot turntable that we are installing in Raccoon Creek. I still have to add 2 more rails to the turntable itself to make it dual gauge, and then build 2 'draw rails' to convert the 3 rail dual gauge to 4 rail dual gauge.

One of the unexplained operating problems in the Harbor section was identified and fixed. The Southern E6 was derailing on the curve between Lumerton and the Harbor, but it was not until it got to a crossover in the Harbor what it would stop.

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, which is the first Sunday this month. Have I mentioned that enough?

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

Suddenly there seems to be a shortage of hobby time allocations or is it conflict of interest between the 'honey do' and the 'I wanna do' lists? Most of us have been sidetracked from our tinkering on our club layout to work on the new show layout. So, some of the ongoing projects such as the log trestle, icing house siding, lumber mill, and others have been idled. Fortunately this has no impact on running trains or issues with any of the tracks.

Thanks to Larry Burkholder, our no-name town now has its own tenement community and occupants, street vendors and shoppers, Folks visiting the overlook parks, and train buffs checking out the engine exhibit.

With many of us putting time on the show layout, some of the ongoing projects such as the log trestle, icing house siding, lumber mill, and others have been idled. Fortunately this has no impact on running trains or issues with any of the tracks.

There have been discussions to relocated book shelves into the N-Scale room. This will not impact our area except for needing to relocate some pictures to other locations. This is a step toward making space available for an indoor large scale area. More trains = More fun!

Z-Scale:

For the near future the zscale layout is considered done. Siding details such as structures, fencing, and landscaping have been installed. The layout has been running hanks free fairly well during our KAMRI open houses on the 3rd Sunday's. Visitors look at it and give the OMG comments or expression at how tiny it is. Then we hit them with discussions of the 1/400 scale trains that are becoming available. ☺

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

(Borrowed from an email Brad sent to LSD members.) ed.

I talked to one of our members yesterday and he, like others, feel KAMR LSD is going nowhere. I think he maybe right.

After talking to many of our members, the space that is proposed is not what the division membership wants. I know that it is all the club has to offer but members are not interested in a switching layout, they want a place to run and enjoy their trains. We WILL be smaller next year with some members leaving. Cold, hard facts but the reality is setting in and we will not be able to keep members who want to operate S and O.

Maybe we should suggest that the club form a "Grant Committee" to look into funding options for the club, but that will never work since large scale is the only one without space and I do not have time.

KAMRI Web Site - Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator -

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

- The North Carolina Transportation Museum will host their annual Rail Days will be held at the Southern Railway Spencer Shops in Spencer, NC, June 12-13.
- The 2010 N-Scale National Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, June 22-26.

- The 75th NMRA National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI, July 11-18.
- 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.knoxmodelrailroaders.com.