

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

August already!! We're heading into fall soon and the shorter and colder days (a bit hard to think of this when we're still in the 90's) are more conducive to model railroading. With summer vacations also coming to an end I hope to see more of you around the club.

Our next meeting is Sunday, August 1st. There will be a short business meeting starting around 4:15 pm. Our open house Sunday is on the 15th. Please try to be up and running before 1 pm.

The museum is holding a "Kids Go Green" Environmental Garden & Learning Center kick-off party on Friday, August 6th. It runs from 6 to 8 pm. This is a big deal event, with a number of dignitaries and local supporters invited. It is open to the general public at a cost of \$8 each. There will be entertainment and food. As is usual, our club will support the event by running the garden railroad. Help is needed. Let me know if you can make it. We'll discuss our plans more at the business meeting this Sunday.

The MR Summer Camp we conducted in July was its usual roaring success. Fourteen kids participated. This year's group seemed to me to be the best behaved and most competent bunch we have ever worked with. Everything got finished on time and ran well. A big thank you from me and the museum to all of you who helped this year. Most of the kids said they wanted to come back next year, so rest up and get ready.

The HO Division voted to accept the modifications to their long-range layout plans to allow space for the Large Scale Division to set up a temporary work area. Thanks needs to be given to the Large Scale guys who moved the library and started organizing the area.

There is the need for us to move our storage items from the back basement room into the area where the fire truck is being stored. This entails a lot of disposal of junk, both ours and the museums, to make the necessary room. Several of the Large Scale guys have been working to this end already, but there is still a lot to do. I will be calling for a couple Saturday work sessions this month to get things done.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Here are the dates for August, 2010. The third Sunday, August 15 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 August 7 and August 21, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on August 5, 12, 19, and 26 starting at 9:30. We have a fifth Sunday in August, the 29th and that will be a work/run day. The attendance on Thursdays has been better, with more faces showing up. Saturdays has been down to just 3 or 4 people.

We had fair attendance for the July operating session even though it was on the 4th. We ran one man crews on most of the trains. The third Sunday open house was better attended, with a number of people showing up to run trains. That part seems to be going well, so at moment I think we will continue to operate on the first Sunday, and run on the third Sunday.

The large scale group has been moving the club library, and they have now moved the S scale modules from in front of the windows. Several of us spend several work sessions reorganizing the stuff under the layout, and now all of the 'classes' of goods are together. We have sections for the club library, electrical items, buildings, and rolling stock. Most of the tools and building materials are now under the harbor module, with more work needed to organize that. This has decreased the visual 'clutter' somewhat.

Curt and I have working on getting more of the narrow gauge on the mountain operating, and with the completion of some wiring, have now run a narrow gauge locomotive through the tunnel there, even though the loop itself is not complete. That requires a custom narrow gauge curved switch, which I have started on. Pete is still working on the mountain connecting Lumberton with the Harbor, and is putting in a prison. Mike L has nearly completed the testing of the NX interlocking system for the west end yard throat.

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, and for the run session which is on the third Sunday.

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

Another late night editorial but between the summer heat and home improvements model railroading seems to have slipped back a notch or two.

The population of the wee people has been pulled in every direction this summer that has limited our activities this last month. Thanks to Larry Burkholder, our protective wraparound plastic shield on the logging/loop module is taking shape. Once painted to cover the 'pink' geology and installed, we will no longer have accidental tree mowing via stray elbows. This will also act as a catcher's mitt in the event a derailment occurs on the new trestle.

Following the CMOR board decision, the club library has been relocated into the n-scale room. A few pictures had to be relocated but overall there isn't any issue with aisle space. I hope our floor replacement work during the past remodeling effort holds up!

I have taken the responsibility of assembling a portable power supply/control unit box that will be used for both our main n-scale layout as well as the new portable layout. This box will contain the main power supply, DCC booster, and all other power distribution needs. In an attempt to keep a clean look I've been trying to obtain a panel mount recessed mail receptacle. This is not a common item but it has been suggested to check with RV or camper conversion outlets.

The status of our ongoing layout improvement projects is they will always be still 'ongoing'. I'd hate to ever be finished with a layout. ☺

Z-Scale:

All quiet on the western front for this reporting period.

SHOW LAYOUT

Work on the portable n-scale show layout is progressing. Ground cover has been expanding across the layout thanks to weekday visits by Bob Strickland. We now have around 80% of the layout covered with grass, bushes, and a few trees. The only areas not covered are the town and highway bridge locations.

The approaches' to the highway bridge that crosses over the track continues to come together. All retaining walls have been installed on both sides of the track and given a base coat of concrete paint. N-scale cork has been used to form the highway sub roadbed and provide the slope down into the town area. An assortment of bridge parts has been accumulated and construction will be starting soon. However, weathering of the retaining walls, ditch details, and track ballasting comes first.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt (and Jim Schall)

Things are starting to happen in the LS group. We have been able to relocate the Library set of magazines to the N scale side and have been sorting out scenic materials and building material we think will be useful on any future layout. Our next big move will be in the basement, moving the S scale modules and whatever keepsers the HO and S guys have and the racks from the back of the basement to a more central storage area. We have several attempts but the CMOR ladies manage to get their stuff into what we thought was to be our designated storage area. Bad enough playing musical modules but the ladies have added another twist to the move. Oh well next week we will try again!!

After all the moving then will come some discussions on what can/will do with our designated space, more than likely some kind of switching layout S scale oriented but all that is open to discussion --- could be interesting!

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

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.

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

- The **2010 NTRAK National Show** will be held in Danville, Virginia, September 24-26.

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