

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 this month will be on the 3rd at our usual 1 to 4+ pm hours. We are changing the protocol starting this month by switching our business meeting to the third Sunday meeting. We will follow this pattern from now on unless there are too many objections. The thinking is that we might get more members attending because the open house seems to draw more members, especially Large Scale folk.

The third Sunday open house will be on the 17th from 1 to 4 pm. A business meeting will follow at 4:15 pm.

I have been contacted by a Boy Scout Master, Dave Johnson, from Knoxville's inner city asking if we would conduct a Railroad Merit Badge class for his troop. I have wanted to restart this program because I think it is an essential part of what we should be doing, giving to the community and promoting the hobby. The problem is that Mr. Johnson wants us to do it on Saturday, December 4th, the day after the CMOR Gala. His troop will be camping at Haw Ridge for that weekend. I told him I thought we could do it, but would check with our members to see if they are willing to give it that day. If we do it, and I think we should, we could contact other troops in the area to get more participants. He expects to have 5 - 6 scouts take it. He would also like someone to come to a scout meeting before the event to talk about the program to generate interest. They meet on the last Tuesday of every month. Anyone interested in helping and available that day should get in touch with me asap. We'll need some time to plan the activities to get everything done in one day.

Since I mentioned it above, you are reminded that the museum's fund raising gala will be held on Friday, December 3rd. Be sure to mark your calendar. We will run trains from 6 until about 7:30 pm, then you will be given dinner. The theme this year is India so the meal will be something in that category. Of course, we will need the usual volunteers for serving wines and manning the bar. I'll be asking for volunteers a little later.

A silent and live auction is also connected with the Gala. If any of you have anything of reasonable value and in very good condition that you do not need anymore and you would consider offering it for the auction please let me know asap. We are not looking for train items, but rather things of general interest to the public. I am the Auction Committee chairman and we are beginning to gather items now.

Ken Klipple has put out a call for help repairing and sprucing up the garden railroad. He is asking anyone who can make it to be at the museum this Sunday at 1 pm. Bring gloves and a rake and/or shovel.

We are planning on having our Christmas Garden again this year, running it every Saturday and Sunday night in December plus the Friday of the Gala. Help will be needed to get things ready and to man the evenings from 5 to 8 pm. Ken Klipple will provide more information about needs and a signup sheet for coverage. It's can be a very enjoyable evening and I'd like to see some fresh faces helping with coverage. Some of us are working it two and three nights to make up for your lack of volunteering. This is a "club" responsibility.

With winter coming and more members expected to be coming to the club, I would like to get some programs scheduled. Please give me any suggestion you might have for interesting presentations/clinics.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Operating session is the first Sunday, October 3, this month.

Here are the dates for October, 2010. Regular club Sunday meeting is now on the third Sunday, October 17 after the museum closes. Our operating session will remain on the first Sunday. The third Sunday, October 17 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 October 9 and October 23, starting about 9:30. Thursday work sessions will be on October 7, 14, 21, and 28 starting at 9:30. We have a fifth Sunday in October, the 31st and that will be a work/run day. The attendance on Thursdays has gone back down.

We had good attendance for the September operating session. We ran one or two man crews on the trains. I have made one change for the September operating session and have added a 'stock' extra. It just switches all the locations that get stock cars. We will see how that goes. I have also added a third local passenger train that just meets the existing local at Knoxville. 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

Curt and I continued working on the mountain narrow gauge. I built a curved narrow gauge turnout that would complete that loop, but had to tear it out because I goofed and had the diverging route at about 15 inch radius. That is too small for the K27. Pete is still working on the mountain connecting Lumberton with the Harbor, and has installed the prison. Mike L has nearly completed the testing of the NX interlocking system for the west end yard throat. I have been using the extra hands that have shown up to work on some of the items on my long project list.

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

The wee people population has been growing with a number of new members joining our ranks. Welcome!

Layout upgrades may seem to move slowly but we do keep at it. A list of needed switches has been put together to purchase. Their installation will eliminate the outside mainline as a continuous loop. This will also allow using sections of the (ex)mainline for local sidings and passing tracks. The first phase would be to install a switch at the exit of the yard/corner modules that would join the outer main with the middle main. This would effectively isolate the outer main such that sidings on this track would only be accessed from existing switches on the industrial modules. Basically, the outer track would in effect become a kind of short line spur.

During our last open house gathering we had some DCC issues. I know it was mostly due to my lack of knowledge when attempting to change an address code of an engine. We also had some difficulty obtaining address '00' to run a non-decoder engine using the DT-100 throttle. These issues were overcome after some trial and error and actually looking at a guidance document! I guess it's a case of a little to much layout work and not enough layout running...

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt

The Large Scale Division has been getting great attendance on Wednesday evenings. We are still running clinics as requested by our members, electronics went well and we are now conducting airbrush clinics.

We still are looking for suggestions for a place to operate something larger that toy loops within our division footprint. Any ideas that will fit into the space would be appreciated. The best ideas our group has come up with are small switch layouts but this option will not give our guests much to look at and operation for children would be limited. If you have ideas, please share since we do not want to occupy the valuable space with nothing of interest to guests and membership.

Sunday the 3rd is a scheduled work session for maintenance on the Garden Layout so come help if you can. Mark, Ken and the boys plan to start about 1 so bring your tools for some fun.

Keep 'em rollin',

SHOW LAYOUT - Bruce McElhoe

We're still making progress on the show layout. Most of the basic landscaping has been applied. Very little 'pink' ground remains as more grass, gravel, and pavement is laid. Some additional structures have been selected for purchase

as well as some end of track barricades. We even stated to write things down that we need them. It seems we've been having some data base troubles (or is it short and long term memory issues?).

The master control (tool) box is slowly coming together as well. The "LocoNet" connection panel has been installed on one end of the box. This has two connections ports for both plugging both the layout network and a throttle as needed. How to mount the power supply and DCC booster in the box semi-permanently had been troublesome until a great suggestion to use Velcro. This will allow quick change out of components but also securely hold things in place during transit.

KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe

Things have been pretty darn slow regarding web site development. I'm blaming it on sun spots and the HOT summer weather. Now that fall is upon us we shall nudge forward with a site improvement effort.