

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

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. Let me start my last *Scoop* as club President by thanking all of you for making the job pretty much stress free and enjoyable. Thanks too to everyone who offered help when needed. I've enjoyed the years, but think it is time to inject new blood into the position. I will remain as active in the club as I have been and, if the new President so desires, will be pleased to continue as the club's liaison with the museum.

Our only regular meeting in December will be the open house on the 19th starting around 1 pm and going until we feel like quitting after the museum closes at 4 pm.

The club Christmas party will be on Sunday the 5th starting at 6 pm. There is no charge, but you are asked to bring a side dish according to the schedule you received by email. Wives, children, and significant others are invited. Please try to be early as we will have to set up the tables and the food before the 6 pm start. If you are bringing a hot item please bring a warming tray if you have one. Meat (ham & chicken barbecue) and beverages (water, soft drinks, coffee, beer, & wine) will be provided. Special thanks to Bobby Nier for bringing the drinks and ice, Charlie Womac for getting the paper goods and utensils, Dick Brion for bringing the ham, and Mike Lynch for bringing the barbecue and beer. There will be election of officers following dinner.

The museum Gala is Friday the 3rd starting at 6 pm. We need help with running trains (inside and out), manning the bar, and serving wine at the dinner. Everyone who participates will be treated to dinner. If you plan on helping be at the club by 5:30 pm. Club shirts and decent looking pants are the dress code, especially if you are helping with the gala serving and bar. The gala patrons will be eating by 7:15 pm, at which time the trains can be shut down. Your dinner will be served after the patrons are served, around 8 pm.

The train garden is again being decorated for Christmas. Hours are 5 to 8 pm every Saturday and Sunday in December. We may run Christmas and New Year's night if we can get volunteers for those nights. We would like three individuals to man it each night. This is a big deal and becoming more popular in Oak Ridge. So we need every member to do his part (this not just a Large Scale Division responsibility but an entire club activity.) There is a signup sheet at the club, but you can let me know what dates you are willing to help as well. Big thanks to Mark Fuhrman and his crew for doing the garden lighting and Ken Klipple for organizing the trains and the building lighting.

With the construction of the garden in the back we will be permanently forced to park in the front of the building near the garden railroad. A gate will be put in the side fence by the porch stairs off the double doors into the Hands-on Room. For those of you who have club keys, the same key will open the train garden double door and the Lloyd door into the HO room as well as the rear door we used to use. The door locks have already been changed and access now can be had thru the gate on the front fence. It is locked with a chain and combination lock which will be open whenever anyone is working at the club.

The plan is to have a gravel pad put outside the rear doors for use in unloading things you don't want to carry from the front or for anyone who can't negotiate the steps up to the porch out front. This is not meant to be a regular parking area and will have to be accessed across the grass from the corner by the stop sign. You can use this grassy area now, but try not to hit the trees, which will be removed at some point.

Dues for 2011 are due!

Have a merry Christmas and great New Year! I hope all of you get a lot of new model railroad stuff to show off next year.

HO Division - Alex Cameron, HO Coordinator

CMOR Gala is Friday, December 3. Come Help!!

KAMR Christmas Party is on the first Sunday, December 5. As a result, there will NOT be an operating session in December.

Here are the dates for December, 2010. The regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, December 3 will be the KAMR Christmas party. So, no operating session. The third Sunday, December 19 will be a run session, since it is still the regular open house for CMOR. We will start about 1:30. There will be one Saturday work sessions on December 11. There will not be a work session on the next usual Saturday, because that is December 25, Christmas Day. Thursday work sessions will be on December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 starting at 9:30.

The first Thursday work session in December will be devoted to cleanup of the layout room, as the CMOR Gala is the next night. Come and help with the Gala on Friday night. We need people to run trains, serve drinks at the bar before dinner, and to serve wine at dinner. Food will be provided.

We had good attendance for the November operating session. We ran one or two man crews on the trains. "Murphy" paid us a visit, and we had a lot of control problems - loss of control and so on. The reason for that is not entirely clear. 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.

Most of the work in the last month has been devoted to maintenance. We have had several places where trains were stalling, and have found that we still have places without drops. That is, we have been depending upon rail joiners to

provide circuit continuity. We have thus added more drops at Hoods and Lumberton.

We looked at the control problems from the operating session, and could not reproduce it the following Tuesday. We did find that the second UR91 radio receiver was not receiving radio signals. It turns out that when a UR91 is added to the Loconet system, that it does not automatically start working if the Loconet ID is not the default '0'. After we initiated the second UR91, it started receiving radio signals. The Loconet ID for our system is set at '5'. I have no idea if this was the problem during the operating session or not.

The other major project we have started on is to develop some different techniques to use on the permanent layout. There are a number of problems with the traditional egg crate framing and cookie cutter sub roadbed. We have built a section of bench work using plywood Ibeams, which will act like L-girder bench work, but allowing longer spans without legs. I am hopeful that it will be quite rigid. On top of that bench work we are going to build two circles of sub roadbed using a spline technique. We have settled on using strips of Masonite for the spline, and will try several thicknesses of those. We will build the two circles at different elevations and connect them via two turnouts. This will show us how to build sub roadbed for turnouts, and both vertical and horizontal transitions. We will try using both regular glue and hot glue for the spline.

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 will be in January), and for the run session which is on the third Sunday.

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

Another year has flown by. We've tackled a number of refurbishment projects on the layout and are still pursuing others. Our ranks grew with the addition of new members. We've mastered (???) the art of employing DCC during all of our testing and running sessions. We even had a corn field meeting that definitely sows you should really pay attention when two trains go in opposite directions and are using the same mainline. Some of our wee folks have had other distractions that have kept them from model railroading this year but that hasn't diminished their desire to participate when they can which is great!

Work to isolate the outside mainline continued. The first hurdle has been completed with the installation of a switch that joins the outside to middle mains as you exit the yard area going counterclockwise. This one switch has changed the layout into a two track main with a branch line (former outside main) connecting the ice house area to the industrial area where it ties into the two mainlines. The new switch performed without a snap during the November open house. Next effort is to install the mirror image connection at the other end to the yard.

Some of you may have noticed from e-mail traffic that I will be passing the N-Scale Coordinator baton for the upcoming new year. I've enjoyed these many

years nudging our group and the layout upgrades in what I hope all see as a positive direction. It's always good to change the formula from time to time. Keeps things from getting stale and what fun it shall be to have a new leader to blame, I mean welcome into the lead of our great bunch of folks.

Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt, Large Scale Coordinator

An update will be provided as it becomes available.

SHOW LAYOUT - Bruce McElhoe, Task Lead

The construction of the master control (tool) box has been finished. All components for powering and controlling the layout are internal with flush mount plug-ins for all connections between the box and the layout. You can also select between the 3 amp internal and any external power supply with a flip of a switch. The box is currently being used for powering the n-scale layout using the external power supply. No smoke was released during construction and testing (darn).

Layout landscaping is still progressing with additional ground foam, painting, and road building. Additional buildings previously obtained are currently under construction and existing building are locations are being readied.

KAMRI Web Site - Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

The Yule season is now upon us. Therefore it's always important to share any great tips on where the best prices for that model train gotta-have. Please post any items of interest or train shows that might interest others.