

The **SCOOP**

August 2011

Vol. 25 No. 8

The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.
Editor: Jim Schall, phone - 423 369-2955, email - Schallj@highland.net
Website: knoxmodelrailroaders.com

August Activities

- **August 7** (1st Sunday): KAMRI regular club gathering.
- **August 21** (3rd Sunday): KAMRI open house followed by the regular business meeting starting about 4:15. Possible agenda items:
 - New member intro's
 - Member photos?
 - TV install and electrical upgrade status

Conductor's Comments -Bruce McElhoe, President

The summer doldrums continue. No train shows, no 'I've got to have it' new releases, and it's way too hot to enjoy the outdoors. I guess all that's left is to enjoy the air conditioned train room!

I want to thank all of you volunteers that made the CMOR summer camp another great success. Larry Burkholder stated the class went so well that the attendees completed all projects ahead of schedule. The final included connecting all modules together and train did run.

During our club meeting, a floor vote approved purchasing necessary electrical supplies to complete planned outlet installations. These modifications will both add to and correct some wiring issues. Brad Tutt and Ken Klipple have taken the lead on this project. This includes installing a TV shelf up on the wall next to the HO-scale room exit door.

We also discussed KAMRI club room access. Some of our new members as well as prospective members have had difficulty finding their way in for our 1st and 3rd Sunday gatherings. Note that our primary entry is through the N-Scale room exterior door. The caboose access door should be considered a secondary entryway. Remember to tell invited guests and new members accordingly. I don't want to have another person coming to a gathering and can't find a way in. We do have a magnetic club sign that we will start placing on the outside of the entry door. We are also considering putting a sign on the garden railroad gate that gives guidance toward the N-scale entry door.

We will continue discussing plans to take our traveling layout to two fall events this year. We have been invited to the Railgrass Fall Festival in Johnson City, TN, September 17-18. And, the French Broad e'N'Pire club has asked if we would like to participate in their Autumn Rails show October 8.

HO Division – Alex Cameron

Here are the dates for August, 2011. Regular club Sunday meeting is on the first Sunday, August 7 which will be an operating session. The third Sunday, August 21 will be a run session, since it is still the regular open house for CMOR. We will start about 1:00. There will be Saturday work sessions on August 13 and 27. Thursday work sessions will be on August 4, 11, 18, and 25 starting at 9:30.

We did operate in July with only a crew of 4. I guess our fireworks weren't spectacular enough. We ran many of the trains. The third Sunday open house was well attended with some new members showing up. Remember to watch those visitors during the open house!

The Club DCS100 replaced by Digitrax has been operating flawlessly.

Work session attendance has continued low in July. We still spend a lot of time on maintenance. We have been building Fast Track switches for some of the projects.

Here are more changes to the basic operating standards.

1) We are using a 4 cycle car card system. Each freight car, and passenger head end car has a car card associated with it. Each car card list the car's road name, number, type of car and car length. Each car card has a pocket in it to hold a 4 cycle waybill.

2) Some cars, which also operate as a 'block' of cars, do not have a car card for each individual car. At the moment, all of those cars are hoppers, and instead, there is a 'Hopper Block' car card, which list the type of cars in each hopper block. Other than that, the car card is treated as a regular car card. Hopper block car cards are used to govern the movement of the hoppers to and from the large coal tipple, the coal dock in the harbor, and the Chattanooga coal drag. They also govern the movement of hoppers between Hoods and South Wyeth.

3) Each 'Town' has a name. Currently the towns are (from North to South) South Wyeth, Raccoon Creek, Hoods, Beaver, Knoxville, Lumberton, Upper Seaside, Lower Seaside, Harbor, and Grain Coop. These locations are switched by freight train locals and by passenger trains where there is a passenger station. Each town has a car card box. Each box has 3 sections, labeled: Set out, Hold, and Pickup. When a freight train switches a town, after the cars are spotted at their correct industries, the car cards are placed in the Set Out section. The car cards in the Hold section are left alone, and any cars in the pickup section are placed in the train to be returned to Knoxville.

4) A waybill is the document that says where each car is to go. This is usually some industrial location. It also lists where the car is coming from and the contents. Each waybill also list the type of car it belongs to, and it has four sections, labeled 1, 2, 3 & 4. When a waybill is put in a car card, only one of the sections is visible, and that is the current routing for the associated car.

5) Each train that operates has a train card that gives the basic instruction about where that trains is to go, and what it is supposed to do.

6) All the switching jobs that leave the yard (Knoxville) are turns. That means that they go to the location that they are to switch, and then retrace their route back to Knoxville. That means that all the trains need to have the locomotive and caboose swap ends. This should be kept in mind when planning switching moves. This also means that steam locomotives will be running tender first when returning to Knoxville. The only location to turn a locomotive other than at Knoxville is on the short turntable in Raccoon Creek. For operation purposes, the two reversing loops don't exist.

7) When a train leaves to switch a location, along with the train card, there will be a car card for each car in the train. The "To:" section of the waybill shows where that car is to be placed.

8) When switching a location, the "From:" section of the way bills in the pick-up box show where those cars are to be found. All of the cars in the pick-up box are to be returned to Knoxville. There are exceptions. The Lumberton turn may have cars that are to be left at Upper Sea Side, and the Upper Sea Side turn may have cars for Lumberton. The Raccoon Creek turn may have cars for South Wyeth, and the Hoods/South Wyeth turn may have cars for Raccoon Creek. The Harbor turn may have cars for the Grain Coop, and the Grain Coop turn may have cars for the harbor car float. The Hoods/South Wyeth turn has cars that shuttle between Hoods and South Wyeth. All other cars for other destinations are to be returned to Knoxville.

9) In all cases, if a car is a 'hold' car (its car card is in the hold box, not the pickup box) that car may be moved to accomplish the switching, but must be returned to its original location when switching is completed. Any car that is set out should be placed behind any car that is a hold. This makes it easy to pick up that car at the next operation session.

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 first Sunday operating session, and for the third Sunday run session.

N/Z-Scale Activities - Larry Burkholder, N Coordinator -

Progress towards operations continues slowly. A list of car types needed to service the layout industries has been developed and is being refined. An inventory of existing cars on the layout has begun. Several operating routing methods are being analyzed; with the "tab-on-car" system appearing to have advantages for our small scale where having to read actual car numbers, required for the card system, is difficult. A meeting of N-scale members will be held during our regular first Sunday session to finalize the plan and organize the first operating session.

A local group of entrepreneurs has announced that they will be building a cattle lot and slaughter house in the West End Industrial Complex of our layout. This industry will bring much needed jobs and add to the operating enjoyment of the layout. Space for this new industry was obtained by the gracious agreement of Schall Printing to move their operations to another location in the complex. Work should be completed on both industries by mid-August.

By the third Sunday in August it is our intention to have the traveling layout finished enough to attempt the first closing of the crate. It is hoped that this major earth movement does not affect too many areas of the layout and require major reconstruction.

Not much new to report on the Z layout. All locomotives had their wheels cleaned and now operate much better.

The Division wishes to introduce several new members who have joined over the past few months but have not been recognized - Bob Mugge, Jim Caprio, Jim Grossen, and Loren Kneeland. We welcome you and appreciate the major contributions to the Division several of you have already made. With the beginning of operations on the layout it is hoped that many of our somewhat inactive members will start coming more regularly and join in the fun.

Large Scale Rails - Lance McCold In the Garden - Ken Klipple

Due to heat, wet, vacations and other trepidations recently there has not be a lot a work in the garden, however things are about to change. Landon has been working on the double crossover to allow switching between the Red and Blue loops, hand laying track on a Large Scale. To prepare for new crossover and continue improvements to the layout, there will be a **work session on Sunday, August 7th**. We have a substantial amount of general maintenance including tract work to do, but our primary goal is to complete the sixth loop on the west end of the layout. Donuts and coffee should be available around 8:00 AM. We want to get done before the heat of the day.

Future Regional Items of Interest:

- **August 6-7:** Greenburg's Toy and Train Show, Timonium, MD
- **August 13:** 41st Atlanta Train Show, Norcross, GA
- **August 27-28:** Greenburg's Toy and Train Show, Chantilly, VA
- **September 7-10:** National Narrow Gauge Convention, Hickory, NC
- **September 17-18:** Railgrass Fall Festival, Johnson City, TN
- **September 22-24:** Mid-South Live Steamers Fall Meet, Columbia, TN
- **October 8:** French Broad e'N'pire Autumn Rails, Hendersonville, NC

Some Important Links:

Searchable online KAMRI library.

[<http://connect.collectorz.com/users/kamr/books>]

2012 NMRA Southeastern Region Convention. "Tracks to the Smokys"

[www.tface.org/2012.htm]

KAMRI Web Site - Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator

All quiet on the internet front.