

# *The* **SCOOP**

**January 2008**

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

## **Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President**

I hope all of you had a great Christmas and that Santa brought you all the toys you ask for.

Well, another year is behind us and I think we probably accomplished more than we think. I'll let the Division Coordinators list their groups' progress in 2007, but overall I feel we did ok. We held our own on membership, although average attendance at meetings was down. We had a few clinics, which were well received. As President, I am particularly pleased that the club continues to respond well to special needs of the museum. Coverage for open houses, special events like the International Fest and Gala, the model railroading summer camp, and the month-long Christmas Garden was good and did not require a lot of coaxing. A big thanks to all of you who gave your time so freely.

In 2008 our emphasis should be on making the club as interesting to as wide a membership as possible. Put out the welcome mat and get more members involved in our construction and scenicing work by listing tasks to be done and approaching everyone for volunteers. Offer support/training to those members who might feel intimidated. In each division there are a handful of very active participants and I feel many of the remaining members may not feel comfortable trying to break into the "groups". I also think we need to make sure everyone has time to do things they would like to do in their division: by that I mean - offer sufficient free running time, help them learn new skills, and gain their input into division operations. I know it is normal for membership to fluctuate and for members' interests to rise and fall, but if we make sure our club offers something for most members and involve as many as possible in our activities we should be fine.

The Christmas Garden was again a terrific success thanks to all who helped cover the run sessions and those who got the electrical power organized in time. Of course, we owe almost all of it to Mark Furhman and his company's crew for setting it up taking it down. Mark was also there almost every evening.

We had a very nice club Christmas party December 9th with about fifty attendees. Thanks to Mike Lynch, his wife Mary Ellen, and others unknown to me for organizing it this year. After dinner we had election of the 2008 Board of Directors. Each member's term is two years. This year the Board consists of:

Chairman -	Richard Atwood (HO 2007)
HO Rep -	Richard Brion (2008)
N Rep -	Phil Brooks (2007)
N Rep -	Jonathan Fortune (2008)
Large Scale -	Jim Schall (2008)

The Board then appointed officers:

President - Larry Burkholder  
Treasure - Bob Strictland  
Secretary - Jim Schall

Division Coordinators for 2008 are:

HO - Alex Cameron  
N - Bruce McElhoe  
Large - Brad Tutt

The only down notes for the year were the passing of one of our members, Ed McTavish, and the closing down of our large scale operations at the OR Mall because of construction. Hopefully all of you maintain good health and we can get something organized this year to make a space for the large scale guys.

Our next business meeting will be Sunday, January 6th. As usual the club doors will be open by at least 1 pm and the meeting will start around 4:45 pm. The next open house is on the 20th from 1 to 4 pm.

For those who haven't yet paid, 2008 dues are still \$25 and need to be paid by March 1st.

## **HO Division – Alex Cameron**

A new year!!!

I am going to continue the same basic schedule for 2008, as it seems to be working fairly well. Here are the dates for January, 2008. (First I had to go find my 2008 NMRA calendar!) Regular club Sunday meetings on January 6 and January 20 (operation session), starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on January 12 and 26, starting at 9:30. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day.

I am going to continue to schedule a Thursday work session, but as I have said, you need to check with me on a week to week basis. My attendance in December was poor on Thursdays.

We will continue to have an operating session on the third Sunday. I hadn't prepared before hand for the December operating session, but it only took a short time for us to get set up for it. The operating session went fairly smoothly and was our best yet because people have been learning the various jobs. We still haven't run all the trains, however, and if more people wish to participate there are jobs still to be done.

We continue to have problems in certain areas with derailments. We examined some of those at the last work session, and fixed one or two of them. Cars are one part of it and this year we need to check all of the rolling stock for wheels, gauge, coupler height, and so on. However, we also found that there are still track problems in the harbor. We found tight track gauge in several places, including on one switch leading to the car float.

So, when you can, come and see what has been happening. Come run trains, or just hang around.

## **N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator -**

hmcclhoe@aol.com

First I would like to wish all a Happy New Year! And I would like to thank all who have selected me for another year of coordinating. Be it by default or another railroading doesn't matter as I will gladly continue what I hope is a positively social and fun path for the N/Z-Scale division of our club.

### **N-Scale:**

2007 has closed with a long list of accomplishments. It hasn't mattered if these were the obvious large additions to the layout or the subtle but just as important details. Our layout continues to improve both visually and operationally. The track additions are enhancing the opportunity for more switching action and operational aspects. The details get the wow comments from visitors.

The upcoming year will bring with it more efforts to complete the major layout construction projects. The logging peninsula and the brewery/icing facility modules are the top priority landscaping jobs at hand. Detail work will continue with Bagelton, the military base, and the town with no name (between the quarry and the industrial modules.

We have not had any form of operating sessions in a number of years. This is a concern I have had for some time. I shall try to push the completion of the new spurs to give a needed boost and variety of traffic destinations. This should give us the basis for planning a future operating session. We deserve to have the opportunity to act like confused and lost engineers!

### **Z-Scale:**

The Z-Scale layout is just screaming for some attention. Visitors do notice this layout and are fascinated by these tiny trains. Plans to start updating this layout have not been formalized but volunteers and detailing ideas are always welcome. The first priority will be to complete the track installation and wiring that will allow running these trains.

## **Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall/Brad Tutt**

The Club and Museum owe Mark Furman and his crew a large **thank you** for a job well done on the recent garden railroad lighting and decorating job. I got to spend an evening with Mark and the lights; and I was thoroughly in awe of his work --- it was truly magical!! If you have not been to the lighting or worked (standing around chatting with folks from far and near (I spoke with a couple from London, England, the night I was there)) you really have missed some of Christmas's excitement. Parents literally have to drag the kids away from the place.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we got our marching orders from the Mall, "be out by the 23<sup>rd</sup>"; rather short notice which gave us only a few days to muster a group to pull things down and pack up all our stuff. Gary let us know on the 12<sup>th</sup> and we were able to get all the S scale stuff packed up and off to the respective homes that evening. We came in the following Tuesday and broke down the S layout and the Flyer layout and began packing up some of the Lionel display material. On our last Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, we moved the S modules into the storage area at the Museum and packed a small rental truck with a lot of things that Gary hopes to display at the Johnson City (ETSU) Train Museum.

The large scale guys wish to thank all those that came by to help facilitate our move. Thank you... Jim Basford, Richard Brion, Clif Johnson, Brian West, and Corky Ford

and our crew... Gary Cameron, Brad Tutt, Frank Daniels, Lance McCold, John Amburgey, Fred Tolhurst, Rick Heller and Jim Schall.

Our move brought up some interesting questions that have puzzled us and might highlight a few concerns in the clubs accounting/inventory procedures. Is there a tracking procedure for donations? Can the individual divisions determine the keeping or disposing of donated material and what about material that has been loaned to the club for display purposes? Who makes the call to return or dispose of unwanted material? Sounds like the board ought to consider formulation of some guide lines or a procedure.

One of the potential problems is finding a place to get the big HO layout (the Kleaver layout on loan from UT) setup for display or having its loan status transferred to the ETSU group. Gary Cameron would like to get the layout to Johnson City. The donation from UT was "provide space to display" and I think KAMR needs to protect the layout and keep it in Knoxville area or get a release to send it to ETSU!

The S scalers/large scalers future agenda includes: discussing space for the Scale layout to be setup; cataloging what belongs to each group (assets) and organizing them; pay Lance for layout ends that we let Gary have; discuss the purchase of the scale layout from Jim and Lance; discuss DCC for the scale layout; and make additional "field trips" (visit several local layouts and revisit a few others)

**KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe**, Web Site Moderator - [hmcclhoe@aol.com](mailto:hmcclhoe@aol.com)

Our club web site is a tool for all to share anything about trains, train events, train travels, train rumors, and even food. ☺ Our newsletter is always posted prior to the first Sunday gathering of each month if not by the first day of that month. The calendar is for our community to reference for upcoming events and schedules and for you to add anything related to our hobby you wish to share.

One of the great things about this site is you don't need to keep track of individual e-mail addressed of everyone via mass mailings. Just post your message here and it's readily available to all that visit this site. The more information posted here the more interest others will have in our club and hopefully will also contribute and possible attend our gatherings.

Posting is easy and tutorials are available on this site. And if you still have questions about anything related to this site or are having difficulties with your login just e-mail me directly.

I encourage all to utilizing our web site at [www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com](http://www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com).

## **Activities Calendar**

**Jan 19-20** The Great Train Expo; North Atlanta Trade Center, Norcross, GA  
(This show tends to be a little of all things but also a whole lot of nothing: it is a good place to stop before going to Train Master Hobbies.)