

# The **SCOOP**

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The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.  
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## **Conductor's Comments - Bruce McElhoe,**

I don't know about all of you but I'm tired. February was a busy month for me not to mention the club. I became a grandparent for the first time and have been regularly side tracked on the home front. But all is good! And now I'll be off to Seattle for my dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. This means I will miss our first Sunday gathering. Can you take the pressure?

I want to thank everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to help with the Children's Museum International Festival. The rare winter visit by mild weather brought out a good crowd of folks that expressed their amazement of what we've built.

I would also like to thank Larry Burkholder and Bob Strickland for their work in both organizing our train library but also setting up the on-line searchable inventory. Club members were sent instructions and the web link for using this new resource. The instructions also include directions for checking out items. As my time permits, the following link to this search engine will be posted on our web site:

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

March event calendar:

- Mar. 6 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday): Regular club gathering.
- Mar 20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday): Club open house followed by the regular business meeting starting about 4:15.
- Mar. 19/20: Piedmont Division SER hosts their 2011 Model Train Show in Atlanta, GA. [<http://www.themodeltrainshow.com>]

**Note:** Always remember that the last to leave must ensure that all is unplugged, turned off, closed up, shut down, and locked up! This includes soldering irons, lights, blinds, doors, and electrical panels.

**Another Note: 2011 DUES ARE DUE.** Please submit \$25 to Bob Strickland. We only accept payment the old fashioned way, by cash or by check made out to KAMRI.© You can pay during any of our club gatherings or just drop it in the mail.

## **HO Division - Alex Cameron**

I think that everyone knows by now that Frank Daniels died. He was an enthusiastic operator during the HO division operation sessions. He will be missed.

Here are the dates for March, 2011. The regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, March 6 will be an operating session. The third Sunday, March 20 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 March 12 and 26. Thursday work sessions will be on March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 starting at 9:30.

We did operate in February with a small dedicated crew. We ran most of the trains. The CMOR International Fest on Saturday, February 19 was very well attended. Many thanks to all the HO division members who helped with and enjoyed the festival. Thanks to Bob Redlinger, we had two train cameras operating on the layout, and they were very popular. We had a lot of visitors from the Festival. And the third Sunday open house was also well attended by visitors, with a few dedication HO division members operating trains for that.

Work session attendance has improved somewhat in February. With the major CMOR events out of the way, we have been able to start working on some of the projects that have been neglected for the last few months. The narrow gauge ore transfer trestle now has railings on it, and a test showed that the approximately 8 percent grade was a little too steep to push cars up, so we have extended the slope, and the resulting 5 percent grade looks manageable. We are now trying to get that finalized so that we can get track on that.

We have had our usual number of maintenance items that have needed to be addressed, but all in all, the operation of the layout has been fairly good the last few months.

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 March 6), and for the run session which is on the third Sunday, March 20.

### **N/Z-Scale Activities - Larry Burkholder, N/Z coordinator**

I want to start with offer my thanks to the N-Scale members who turned out to support the museums International Fest. The day was pretty much uneventful except for a few complications when some of the members tried running several trains in opposite directions. The need for several more run-arounds was quickly discovered if we are to have successful operating sessions. The large number of members wanting to run trains also pointed out our need to get our operations program underway. With only room for three or four trains to run around our loops, we need to have more opportunities for members to participate. Work towards preparing the layout for operations continues with the installation of three of the five switches required and removal of some of the #1 main line to allow room for additional industrial sidings.

### **Museum Liaison Report - Larry Burkholder**

Our support of the International Fest helped to make it a grand success. A record crowd of over 2000 attended.

Work on the new museum offices continues, with the end almost in sight. Doors are in place and the last of the crown molding has been installed and painted. That completes all the painting. All that remains is to sand and refinish the floors. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this effort.

The museum's Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st, starting with a volunteer dinner at 6 pm. Prior to that, but connected to it will be a Youth Advisory Council session. The museum has asked if from 5 to 6 pm a representative from our club could speak with the children about model railroading and also give a tour of the club and have the garden railroad operating.

### **Library Book Search Program - Larry Burkholder**

The cataloging of all the KAMR Library book and video holdings has been completed and a procedure for using the "Connect.CollectorZ" search program has been sent out to all the members. A new book/video check out procedure was also introduced and explained. The internet link and use procedure is also being put on our web page. The first official search was successfully done to find a book on the history of Lionel trains for Mark Fuhrman. Three choices were found and he picked the one that fit his interest based on the book information shown.

### **Large Scale Rails - Lance McCold**

#### **In the Garden**

With good weather for the CMOR International Fest and the Open House, we had lots of visitors both Saturday and Sunday. For most of both days club members enjoyed running their equipment resulting in a large variety of rolling stock for visitors to view.

We had so much fun; the garden crew has decided to try for more Saturday runs this year. Our first run is scheduled for 10:00 AM, Saturday April 2nd.

#### **For your calendar:**

TCA Volunteer State Chapter Meet, Saturday, March 12, 9 am to 1 pm.  
Holiday Inn Select, 304 N Cedar Bluff, Knoxville.  
(Typically mostly O, some S)  
Admittance \$7

### **KAMRI Web Site – Bruce McElhoe, Web Site Moderator**

The internet may move a nearly the speed of light but my moderating abilities keep hitting snags and distractions. However, I do have a goal to add some updates to the site by adding some specific links. First and foremost is our KAMRI library inventory site link. This will aid club members in finding the perfect piece of information to satisfy their railroading interests. We'll get there!

