

# The SCOOP

January 2011

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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 - Bruce McElhoe, President**

Another holiday season is quickly passing into the history books. Snow, sleet, wind, bitter temperatures, and the now arriving shopping bills are now upon us. But the bottom line is the hope that all have had a most enjoyable and rewarding time. Oh! And I hope each of your pikes received some of those much needed gifts.

### **KAMRI January business calendar:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Jan. 2): Regular club gathering with a special (short) business meeting starting about 4:15 for confirmation vote of selected Coordinators.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Jan 16): Club open house followed by the regular business meeting starting about 4:15.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Jan 30): Club gathering.

Having been duly selected, the club officers and Board members for 2011 are listed below. As noted above, voting will be held by each division to confirm the selected individuals as Coordinators. During our November business meeting, a vote to eliminate one of the vice-president (VP) positions was held. The results of the vote approved the motion and therefore our club will have one VP for the upcoming year.

President - Bruce McElhoe

VP - Curt Goff

Secretary - Jim Schall

Treasurer - Bob Strickland

HO Coordinator - Alex Cameron

N/Z Coordinator - Larry Burkholder

Large Scale Coordinator - Lance McCold

### KAMRI Board Members

HO Rep - Dick Brion

HO Rep - Pete Hoke

N/Z Rep - Phil Brooks

N/Z Rep - Charlie Womack

Large Rep - Jim Schall

There are no special events on our or the museum's calendar in January, but in February the museum will host their International Festival. We will be expected to have our club open for visitors. It will be a Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 10 to 4. The special schools performance will be on the 18th (Friday) at 10 AM with guest Sean McCollough - Cultures of the World. I'll check on any needs for KAMRI volunteers. Saturday's featured performers will be Coyote Run, with additional entertainment provided by Brandon Beavers and Kukuly Uriarte, Tenpenny Rappers Sword Dancers, Chinese dancers, and classical Indian folk dancers.

As always, the Christmas Train Garden seemed to be well received again. We all owe Ken Klipple a big thank you for taking the lead into making this year's garden another great success. Thanks also to all of you who braved the cold nights to operate the garden. It's a lot of work setting up and taking down everything each night. We need more of you to help out next year. I am sure Ken and can use a lot of help taking down the lights. We will advise you when he wants to schedule a work session.

Thanks to all of you who helped with the museum's gala last month.

One final note, **2011 DUES ARE DUE**. \$25 to Bob Strickland ASAP.

### **Special Library News - Larry Burkholder**

Although Bob Strickland is our Librarian, I would like to mention a task that is underway to make our library more user friendly. Bob and I have been loading information about all the books in our library (not the magazines) into an Internet program called "ConnectCollectorZ". This is an online program that will allow anyone, not just club members, to search our library holdings by title, author, and key words. So far we have entered over 450 books and have probably 100 more to go, about two more weeks of elapsed time. When we have everything entered and have corrected any bugs we will provide instructions on how to use the system.

### **HO Division Report - Alex Cameron, Coordinator**

Many thanks to all who came and helped with the CMOR Gala in December by tending bar, serving wine at dinner, and running trains. Your help was much appreciated. We had more people than the previous year, and they seemed thirstier than usual as all the wine was drunk, and only a little beer was left.

And a reminder to all those who come to the club, Curt and I found the door unlocked on one Tuesday morning in December. The computer in the HO room was also on, as was a soldering iron on the work bench. The Children's Museum is not in the best part of Oak Ridge, and I ask that all members, with or without keys, to be semi-paranoid when you leave the club, and make sure everything is turned off and that all the doors are locked. We have been lucky up to now.

Here are the dates for January, 2010. Regular club Sunday meeting on the first Sunday, January 2 which will be an operating session (for those not watching football). The third Sunday, January 16 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 January 8 and 22. Thursday work sessions will be on January 6, 13, 20, and 27 starting at 9:30.

We did not have an operating session in December, because that was the date of the CMOR Christmas party. All those who attended had a good time at that. The third Sunday open house was well attended, with a number of people showing up to run trains and we had quite a few visitors also. 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, clean up for the Gala, and maintenance on the Lloyd layout. There are still a few other items on the Lloyd layout that need to be completed.

We still have several places where trains were stalling on the club layout, and those will be addressed as manpower is available

We have completed a section of bench work using plywood I-beams, which act like L-girder bench work. It seems to be quite rigid. We have cut strips of Amazonite for spine roadbed, and have been looking at how that will be assembled. We discovered that the Amazonite that I bought from Home Depot, which I thought was 1/4 inch, is actually 3/16 inch. That means that more strips are required to get the desired width of 2 inches. We will try to find 1/4 inch Amazonite before we continue with that. 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 January 2), and for the run session which is on the third Sunday

### **N/Z-Scale Division Report - Larry Burkholder, Coordinator**

Congratulations to our former Division Coordinator, Bruce McElhoe, on being elected club President. I have not "officially" been elected to replace him, but someone has to write this column so I am taking a crack at it.

First, I hope everyone had good holidays and that you got a lot of great train stuff. Be sure to bring it in for show-and-tell.

We have the necessary materials to rework our number one mainline and develop a layout better designed for operations. The initial work has begun, but primary focus has been on completing the traveling layout before we get side-tracked too much on the big layout. Bruce has posted some update photos of the traveling layout on our web site. Since only a couple of people can work on the traveling layout at one time and since we now have several more Division members who seem to want to be actively involved in the Division, I intend to develop a priority list of action items needed so that those who show up to work can see where attention is needed and get at it without a lot of consultation. Anyone that has an idea about something they think should be done or they would like to work on please let me know.

### **CMOR News - Larry Burkholder, Museum Liaison**

Since I am still on the museum board and have regular contact with the staff I have agreed to act as the liaison between our club and the museum. I will pass on information I feel is of interest to everyone thru this column each month. Of course, I will discuss information of importance to the club and/or the museum with the appropriate members and staff on a timely manner as needed.

Currently, two items I know of general interest are the results of the Gala and our parking situation. Unfortunately, the museum bookkeeper has been on vacation most of December so there are no profit results for the Gala. I do know that the gross take from the evening was about \$62,000. We all expect

that we will do at least as well as last year when the museum realized a profit of about \$32,000.

As for our parking, work will continue when the weather cooperates. There will not be parking in the rear for us anymore. Everyone will park in the front lot by the train garden. Most of the front lot has been given a first coat of asphalt. A new entrance gate for us will be installed in the garden railroad fence next to the deck stairs by the caboose. The new gate should be installed this month. Those of you who have a key to the rear club door can use that same key to open the double doors by the caboose and the door into the HO room from the Lloyd Layout area. There are also plans to spread some gravel in the back grass area by our rear club doors so that anyone who can't physically get up the garden stairs or who has something heavy or awkward to unload can park in the back. There will only be room for three cars or so.

The next museum event that our club will participate in will be their International Festival in late February. This is an all day Saturday train-running event. I'll have more information in the February Scoop.

Several club members have been working to build a new office complex for the museum Director and her assistant in the front area of the museum. Walls are in place, dry wall has been taped and needs only a little more sanding in a couple areas, and painting has begun. We can always use more help so when the call goes out please don't hesitate to show up.

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

An update will be provided as it becomes available.

### **Show Layout Report - Bruce McElhoe, Task Lead**

A couple of photos of structures are posted on the web site which are giving the layout some character. The town is slowly taking shape with the sidewalks roughed in. 2011 will be the year to get on the road with the layout. The primary order of business is to get all of the scenery roughed in and structures in place. From that point on we can focus on getting the trains running. Detailing will always be an ongoing activity.

### **Regional Items of Interest: January**

- The 40th Atlanta Model Train and Railroadiana show will be held Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the **North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA, 30093.**

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

A new year is upon us. Please post any items of interest or train shows that might interest others. Or just e-mail any items you would like posted to me at: hmcclhoe@aol.com