

# The **SCOOP**

**November 2010**

**Vol. 24, No. 11**

The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.

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

Our regular meetings in November are Sunday, the 7th, for a work and trains and Sunday the 14th for Open House and a business meeting. Our regular times of 1 to 4:30 pm will apply, with the business meeting on the 21st starting at 4:15 pm.

The museum Gala is Friday, December 3rd. I will need a count by our business meeting on November 14th of who from our club will participate either in running trains, manning the bar, or serving wine at the dinner. Trains will run from 6 pm until about 7:30 pm. A dinner will be served to all who are in attendance. The theme of the gala this year is India. Food will be westernized Indian. An option to the formal dinner is a box dinner of a sandwich, chips, etcetera. We'll vote on the 21st to see which way we go so we can let the caterer know and not have a mixture of things to serve. I'll get more info on the box lunch alternative before the meeting. You can still have wine or beer if you want it.

We will need to get the Garden Railroad decorated for Christmas prior to the museum Gala on December 3rd. With Thanksgiving coming we will want to get into that early this month. Ken Klipple has handled coordination of this in the past and hopefully can tell us what needs to be done by when. Mark Fuhrman says his crew will string the lights on the shrubs and cabooses. I'll take care of getting the wreath for the cabooses.

We accomplished a lot on October 28th, when a half dozen of us built wall sections in an area the museum to create some new offices for them. Mary Ann, the museum Director, was very pleased with and amazed at what we got accomplished and wants to thank all who helped. I also want to thank all of you for answering the call. After the electricians get finished and it is inspected we will have another session to put up dry wall and doors. I'll send out the word.

A further word related to the office project mentioned above, I, and most of our members who were on board before the museum entered our lives, see such work as the least we can do to pay back the museum for what they gave us and still give us. Before that the entire club found themselves in the same situation the Large Scale Division finds themselves today, a place to meet and store our stuff, but no space to do anything with trains. For essentially only sweat equity we got a first class club location and a supportive host. The museum gained a lot also, as attendance has been enhanced a lot by the presence of our trains

and the Lloyd Layout. A true win-win situation. On an on-going basis, the museum contributes at least \$2000/yr in utility costs for our club area. In addition, when we are operating for the benefit of the museum at open house, festivals, and the gala, we are covered by museum liability insurance. For this we pay nothing monetarily. The Crossville club, for example, pays about \$800/month for their club space in the mall there and have to have it open to the public every weekend compared to our once a month. Organizations that rent the museum's gym pay \$35/hour. Those of you who feel the museum is asking too much of us need to talk to those who were there before the dawn.

Our club Christmas party is always the first meeting in December, this year the 5th. We need volunteers to handle the meat dishes, beverages, assigning side dishes & desserts, getting plates & utensils, and getting table decorations. We'll discuss it at the meeting on the 14th, but let me know if you are willing to help.

At the Christmas party the membership will elect new Board members and the Board will announce who is going to be the officers for 2011. If you are interested in being on our Board or being an officer next year please let me, Curt, or a Board member know **asap**.

### **HO Division - Alex Cameron**

An update will be provided as it becomes available.

### **N/Z-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe**

We've done it now! The first step to move from a three track main to a two track main has been started. A new switch has been installed that routes the #1 (outside) main into the #2 (middle) main just next to the ice house. Still some installation and power drops to be completed but trains can run through on the #2 main. The next item will be a similar switch installation at the other end of the main yard next to the pig yard.

On your next visit you may notice a bit brighter room lighting. At our last gathering we replaced some burned out bulbs with daylight style units. It's a start to transition from the more traditional blue tinted type to the daylight type. This should help to brighten up the colors of the layout better.

The wee people population has been growing with a number of new members joining our ranks. Welcome!

### **Large Scale Rails - Brad Tutt From the Garden**

It is that time of year again. The Gala and the opening weekend for the Christmas In the Garden display is just two week away, and as always there is still a great deal of preparation to be done. The list is on the clipboard in the HO area. Please sign up for some tasks and for operating some of the Saturday and Sunday evenings. An update will be provided as it becomes available.

### **SHOW LAYOUT – Bruce McElhoe**

Please take a moment and check out how the layout is coming along. We removed all of the construction clutter off and it was amazing how much larger the layout appears. We've almost completed the base scenery of all surfaces. Most of the roads and parking areas have been roughed in. We still have some building construction going on not to mention needing about 300 trees (grab out of the air estimate) of various sizes.

Work is progressing on the master control (tool) box. The power supply has been mounted such that it can be readily removed as needed. Receptacles for plugging in track power leads have been installed. The DCC booster has been 'borrowed' to initiate its installation such that it will also be easily removable. Most of this work should be completed this month.

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

We're getting into that season again. However, that doesn't mean we should neglect letting folks know a bit of what's going on around the club. Please post any items of interest or train shows that might interest others.