



# THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

## NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road (the old REA/Magnum Building) in Dover, DE. From Route 13, go west on Scarborough Road about two miles and the building is on the right. From Dover, off Route 8, take Saulsbury Road north, which turns into McKee Road, and the building is on the left next to Kenton Child Care Center. Come early and run some trains.

## (Interim) PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

July is usually a quiet month for the FSMRRC. Broiling heat and humidity makes most work projects unappetizing and reduces energy levels almost to the vanishing point. This July has been different, however. There haven't been that many really hot days and no prolonged drought so it's shaping up to be a fairly mild summer so far. Consequently we have been able to accomplish some worthwhile projects. Paul Buckley has completed one of his two projected Time-Saver modules. Jim Thompson and Reggie Finch were able to give the lawnmower tractor a complete tune-up, overhaul the mowing deck and replace the cutting blades. Henry Kramer helped several members install and test DCC decoders in their locomotives and Jeff Shockley did an excellent job of keeping up with the grass cutting which was especially important given the plentiful rainfall we've been experiencing. Coupled with Richard Stockslager's construction of the new staircase leading to the south parking lot in June, this adds up to a pretty productive summer.

And we also got in some travel. On July 20th five members and two wives headed for New Freedom, PA to ride the Civil War Train, a full scale replica of the train that took Abraham Lincoln to Gettysburg to deliver his famous address commemorating the Union victory in July, 1863. The ornate 4-4-0 that pulls the train features knuckle couplers, a classic steam airbrake system and burns used automotive crankcase oil for fuel. Other than that it's a faithful reproduction of Civil War Era railroad motive power and tows three authentic coaches along a nine mile portion of the Pennsylvania Railroad's old Northern Central Branch between Baltimore and York. Personally, I'd never

seen one of these old-time engines operate except in movies. I was impressed by how visually pleasing they were with all the polished brass, varnished cab joinery and bright enamel paintwork. With tall drivers and very simple running gear the engine glided gracefully along with a minimum of effort, a very different experience for those of us accustomed to watching modern steam giants. The only thing big about this baby was the sound the whistle made. It could have been a K-4 on that account!

Now for a peek at the immediate future. The day after the August meeting Myrna and I will depart on our long-anticipated combination road trip/Alaska cruise and we will be gone for about four weeks. During that time our esteemed vice-president, Les Souder, will be the "go to" guy in overall charge of club activities. He will mainly be concerned with organizing the annual club trip to English's Hobby Supply Co. in Montoursville, PA. Otherwise the Thursday night operating sessions will go on as usual. Meanwhile, club elections to permanently fill our officer billets will be held in October so be thinking about who you want to nominate. As a courtesy, I would suggest that you consult with your nominee before you put his name forward.

### **James Valle, Interim President**

Hi fellow members of FSMRRC. I have not been very diligent in coming to the club as I really get tired by the time I have to leave. I cut out a lot of other evening sessions and meetings also. I'll be out for a little while longer as I recuperate from my shoulder surgery. I won't be able to drive for awhile. So, I wanted to let you know that I haven't given up on model railroading or club activities although it's been tough trying to tie all this in with my current schedule. If I were working, I'd find the time!

Regards to all, **Ralph Pfannenstiel**

### **The Boy Scout Merit Badge Program**

The next Boy Scout Merit Badge Program will be held Saturday, October 11, 2014 at Jarrell Station, 1282 McKee Road, Dover from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For questions or to register call: 302-480-2116 or 302-653-8096 or email: cubbie109@yahoo.com

### **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

**August 2-3, 2014 – Greenberg's Toy and Train Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds. 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 10am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday \$8.00, good for both days, kids under 12 FREE, Sunday \$8.00 kids under 12 FREE

**The First State  
Model Railroad Club**

*presents*

**Railroad Merit Badge Day**

Saturday October 11, 2014

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**1282 McKee Road**

**Dover, DE 19904**

**For questions or to register call:**

**302-480-2116**

**302-653-8096**

or **email: cubbie109@yahoo.com**

**Class limited to 30 scouts each**