



## **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

### **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:**

First of all, I hope that every member of the FSMRRC had a happy and rewarding Easter Season! Our March activity schedule was chock full of activities including three back-to-back set-up shows and the final installation of the Agricultural Museum's demonstration layout. Jim Thompson will provide a detailed account of this very successful activity. I would like, however, to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members that helped out with this strenuous cycle of events.

And, the fun ain't over yet. Coming up this weekend we have our quadrennial expedition to the Great Scale Train Show at Timonium. One party will be going over on Saturday, April 11th and a follow-up group will attend on Sunday, April 12th. Both groups will depart from the clubhouse at 7:00 AM on their respective days. We will sort things out at our regular Thursday evening work session. As soon as this is behind us we will be getting set up for our spring Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge class. Preparations will take place on Thursday evening, April 16 and the scouts will arrive on Saturday Morning, April 18th and remain until mid-afternoon. We will discuss final plans for this activity at our regular business meeting on the 14th. After this activity has been concluded we will be getting ready for a two-day open house to coincide with Old Dover Days. We will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd and 3rd. Our final scheduled item will be a set-up at the Clayton Fire Hall in June to help commemorate their Railroad Days Town Festival. This will involve as much as possible of our original heavyweight layout. It's going to be a one day affair and we're hoping for an all-hands effort as this is going to take some really hard work to pull off successfully.

Meanwhile there are shop projects to keep us busy. The campaign to bring our donated club rolling stock up to NMRA standards is progressing satisfactorily. This involves seeing to it that approximately ninety cars are weighted to the accepted formula, equipped with properly mounted Kaydee couplers, have free rolling trucks and RP 25 contoured wheels and are structurally complete. Cars that for some reason cannot be brought up to standards in all respects will be dealt with on an individual basis. Along with this effort

we need to complete track laying and wiring on the new lift gate module for the DCC layout. When this is complete the stress on our backs and knees will become largely a thing of the past and none too soon at that!

Finally, on the matter of club finances, we have reconsidered the original projections presented at the previous meeting and have printed a revised projection that is much more favorable. This is the forerunner of our first formal budget for the club that we have ever attempted. We hope that by budgeting and sticking to the resulting allocations we can get away from operating at a deficit and put ourselves on a sound fiscal basis without adding to the financial burden on the membership. Come to the April meeting to learn more about this vital and fascinating topic! Jim Valle, President

## **DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM LAYOUT:**

Well, April 4, 2015, marked the Golden Spike for the Delaware Agricultural Museum project. The last farm of 12 was laid by ten members of the First State Model Railroad Club. Numerous projects were being accomplished as installation of the last farm took place, including final scenery and replacing magic eye to turn trains on and off for a specific time. There are still some minor things to be accomplished, such as more tractors, trucks, vehicles and people. This was the last work party to complete the project. Now the Ag Museum has to install the glass protector. We can still do minor touch-ups and changes once the glass is installed, as it is about 18 inches in height. Di Rafter, the project coordinator, is on leave and will fill us in on the festivities they have in mind. A full report on the project will be written up by next meeting. A video was taken by Henry Kramer and posted on U-Tube. It can be seen at <http://youtube/nymg3xnflg>. Jim Thompson

## **TRAIN SHOWS:**

**April 11, 2014 - Delaware Train Show.** Nur Shrine Center, 198 North duPont Hwy., New Castle, DE. 9am – 2pm. Admission: \$4.00; \$10.00 8:00am Early Bird Buyer. Kids under 12 FREE

**April 11-12, 2015 - Great Scale Model Train Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds. 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday \$9.00, good for both days, kids under 15 FREE, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15 FREE.

**April 18, 2015 - Boy Scouts of America Railroad Merit Badge Day.** Sponsored by the **First State Model Railroad Club**. 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 3pm. Open to 30 scouts. Admission FREE. Contact via e-mail: [cubbie109@yahoo.com](mailto:cubbie109@yahoo.com).

**May 2, 2015 – Spring-Fling Toy and Train Show.** Sponsored by the Delaware Seaside Railroad Club at Roxana Firehouse, 35943 Zion Church Road, Frankford, DE. 9am – 4pm. Admission: \$4.00, kids 10 and under FREE.

**June 20-21, 2015 - Great Scale Model Train Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds. 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$9.00, good for both days, kids under 15 FREE, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15 FREE.

**Do you have something you would like to share with the members of FSMRRC? If so, please submit them to [stockslager@gmail.com](mailto:stockslager@gmail.com) by the end of each month.**