



# **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

## **WHAT IS AN ARDUINO?**

Last month Buzz and I attended an Arduino clinic for beginners that was sponsored by the NMRA's Chesapeake Division. At this clinic we learned what an Arduino is and some of the things it can do. For those who don't know, an Arduino is an inexpensive programmable microprocessor that can sense and control physical devices. A basic Arduino UNO costs \$3.46 and can be used to sense and control just about anything you can think of. There are dozens of sensing and controlling devices that have been created to work with Arduinos. Sensing devices include IR and collision control sensors, light and sound sensors, temperature and humidity sensors, push button and rotary control sensors and many more. Controlling devices include standard LEDs, servo motors (that could be used on turnouts), relays, LCD screens, 8 segment LED displays and many more.

Several weeks ago Richard Stockslager asked if I could program an Arduino to randomly turn on and off the six LEDs that he was installing in a building he was constructing for his "G" Scale railroad layout. This was my first attempt to program an Arduino and after some trial and error I was able to write a program that accomplished the task. If you are working on a project that could benefit from using an Arduino I am willing to help with your project.

**Henry Kramer**

## **WEBSITE UPDATES ([www.fsmrrc.org](http://www.fsmrrc.org))**

In addition to the business meeting minutes and treasurer's reports, since last month several other items have been added to the "Members Only" portion of our website. A reprint of the wonderful article that appeared in the *Delaware News Journal* about February's Wilmington (Chase Center) Train Show has been added. Our club and one of

its members were prominently mentioned so if you missed the article stop by our website to give it a read. Additionally, Paul Roy was kind enough to allow me to borrow, scan and post an article on the "Green Mountain Gateway" from the June 1957 issue of Railroad Magazine. This is a must read if you are interested in the history of the Rutland.

Finally, as I am sure you know, membership dues were due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Any member that has not paid their dues by April's business meeting will have their "Members Only" website privilege suspended until they have paid. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning our website please let me know.

**Henry Kramer**

## **JUST DO IT!**

After a very frustrating work session where nothing seemed to go right, I came across this web post and it put what I was feeling into perspective and figured other members could also benefit from reading it. It was posted by GregW66 on *Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine* and can be found at <https://shar.es/1Y4Wgd>.

I have heard many times that the younger you are, the more apt you are to quickly be able to understand a new technology. This is because the young learn things experientially. They learn by doing. Hand a child a tablet and they will tap and swipe until they get the thing doing what they want. As older folks are hesitant, not wanting to "break" anything, we look for lists of instructions so we don't go wrong.

A friend of mine is starting a layout. He is in his 70s and this is his first layout. He has read and read the magazines and planned and planned until he has filled reams of paper. He doesn't want to do anything wrong. This slows his progress to an almost frustrating level. We, (another friend and I) have encouraged him and laid out his next steps. Behind his back we wonder if he will ever run a train.

But then I look to my own projects. I am at a standstill with one because I need to do a small amount of painting. I removed some lettering and I need to touch up some paint and decal. I am frozen with "what ifs". What if the paint doesn't match, what if I ruin the decal, what if I mess up the flat finish sealing the decal?

15 Years ago I would have, and frequently did, just do it. I had confidence that I could achieve what I wanted. Often I did. But now, I am full of trepidation. It's just plastic and paint. What could go wrong?

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**April 3, 2016 – National Collectors Club Presents the Montvale Train and Toy Show,** St., Joseph High School, Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ. 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$7.00, children under 10 FREE.

**April 6, 2016 –Delmarva Train People meeting at 7 pm at the Greensboro, MD Library.** Rob Hambright has another really cool demonstration planned for everyone. Don't forget about the White Elephant table if you want to try and sell something to your fellow club members. If you are looking to give something away for free, there is a table for that as well. Also Robert Burton wanted me to remind everyone that it's time to change out the display case again. Please bring something train related, that you can share with the visitors to the library. ANY ITEMS NOT TAKEN OUT WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF BY AUCTIONEER JIM THOMPSON AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

**April 9-10, 2016 – Great Scale Model Train Show,** Maryland State Fair 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$9.00, good for both days, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15, FREE when accompanied by a paid adult.

**April 23, 2016 – Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Class, hosted by the First State Model Railroad Club,** 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 3pm. Admission: Free. Contact 302-423-2912 or 302-653-8096 for questions or to register. To register online, go to [www.fsmrrc.org](http://www.fsmrrc.org), click on “Up Coming Events” and follow the “Boy Scout Merit Badge” link.

**April 24, 2016 – The Toms River Train & Toy Show.** Elks Lodge 1875, 600 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ, 9am – 2pm. Admission: \$5.00, children Under 10 FREE.

**May 7-8, 2016 – FSMRRC WILL HAVE OPEN HOUSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL DOVER DAYS CELEBRATION.**

**May 17, 2016 – Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet.** Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown, PA. 10am – 3pm. Admission: Admission \$5.00, Children 12 under FREE.

**May 22, 2016 – The Brick Train Show.** Brick Elks Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick NJ. 9am – 4pm. Admission: \$6.00, children under 10, Free. Children and adult door prizes, operating layouts, fine refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor.

## **Stewartstown Railroad 2016 Season Begins**

All Aboard! The 2016 Ride Season starts this weekend, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Stewartstown, PA. Come on out for your chance to ride in our Pennsylvania Caboose, our newly-outfitted Union Pacific Caboose, and later this summer, our 1920's Reading Passenger coach. All will be pulled by Mighty Mo, our 1943 Plymouth locomotive. We'll also be offering rides in our motorcars – small four, six or eight person motorized cars that let you feel the wind in your hair and the sun on your face.

The season consists of regularly scheduled rides and tours, as well as special events. Special events during the 2016 season will include Mother's Day Rides, Father's Day Rides, Fall Foliage Rides, Veteran's Day Rides, and as always – our Santa Trains.

Rides begin at the Stewartstown Station, in Stewartstown, PA, just five mile off of Interstate 83. Full schedule information, departure times and pricing can be found at the Stewartstown Railroad Website:

[www.stewartstownrailroadcompany.com](http://www.stewartstownrailroadcompany.com)

We hope to see you there! Thank you for your time, **Dee Trahey**

**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.**

**REMINDER: ANNUAL DUES OF \$60 WERE DUE AS OF THE FIRST OF MARCH 2016.**