



## **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 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 Dover's Children's Village Too (formerly Kenton Child Care Center). Come early and run some trains.

### **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:**

The month of November passed by so quickly it seemed like December arrived on roller skates. That's because we were really busy from the time of our open house on the 8th to our set-up in Laurel just before Thanksgiving. In between those two gigs we took a road trip to Magnolia, NJ and did a set-up for a small train show in their new civic center.

All of these activities were well supported by our membership. We ran a lot of trains and collected a nice bit of cash to add to our rather depleted treasury. In between all of these activities we also managed to make considerable progress constructing farm modules for the Agricultural Museum project. These included some very impressive buildings fabricated by Earl Brooks and some great scenicing by Henry Kramer and his crew. Henry has committed to ramrodding the Ag Museum project and having the whole job complete by the spring of 2015. This may seem ambitious but if we all pitch in and support him we can get it done and it will be off our plate. To demonstrate our progress to date a team led by Jim Thompson has reconstituted the track work and we will set up our currently completed farms and run the layout during the Museum's Farmers' Christmas celebration from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on December 6th. We will discuss the details at our Thursday work session on the 4th.

During our November meeting we concluded our regular business by conducting a fairly long discussion about ownership of modules on both the old and new modular layouts. In the end we determined that existing modules are indeed private property and can only be altered or revised if the original owners consent. We also decided to reconfigure the arrangement of the two layouts in the Train Hall. For the immediate future we will place them side by side giving each one an equal share of space. This

will somewhat reduce the size of the DC layout but will provide more needed space for the DCC layout to be expanded. It is hoped that this arrangement will meet the needs of all of our members who operate trains at the clubhouse.

And now for December's activities. Jim Thompson has negotiated with Roma Restaurant to provide us with a banquet room on Tuesday, December 16th to accommodate our annual Christmas party and gift exchange. After some deliberation the club's officers determined that it would be more advantageous to hold our regular business meeting on Tuesday, December 9th, separate from the party. That way we can conduct our routine business without delaying dinner and all the fun surrounding the gift exchange. The main order of business at the 12/9 meeting will be further planning for the Springfield trip and discussing set-ups for February 21 (Smyrna High School) and March 7 (Sudlersville Train Show). Meanwhile we will hold our regular work sessions of Thursdays, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18th. Both Christmas and New Year's fall on the two following Thursdays overriding work sessions on those days. Consequently we may want to plan work sessions for Tuesdays so as not to lose so much work time. We'll discuss this at our meeting on Dec. 9th. Please plan to attend this meeting if at all possible as we will be departing from our regular routines during December and we want everyone to know what's going on and participate, especially in those activities that include spouses.

Jim Valle, President

**NOTE**

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The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will hold their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at Roma Restaurant on Bay Road just off Exit 97 off Route 1. Food will be ordered off the menu. There will be a Christmas Present Exchange for guys and girls. The guys should bring a train-related gift such as books, coffee mugs, train cars, engines or structures. The girls should bring an appropriate gift to exchange. The gift should not be too expensive and should be wrapped in Christmas paper. Call Carolyn Thompson for seating. (302) 697-6769.

The Springfield Trip is right around the corner. The dates are January 23-24-25, 2015. That is a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will be finalizing the trip this month with tickets to the show for Saturday and Sunday, the rooms at the Sheraton Monarch Place and travel arrangements. The price is \$170.00 each or \$320.00 per couple. This amount includes travel, room and show tickets. Paul Roy is planning Saturday night's banquet meal. He has the menu, so get with him for prearranged Saturday meals. Meal costs are on the individual. The men will be at the show on Saturday and the ladies usually go to Yankee Candle. More will be discussed at the December meeting. Get up with Jim Thompson or Dick Lush if you wish to participate and contact Paul Roy for the Saturday night meal.

The Magnolia, NJ show set-up arranged by Henry Kramer was a great success with 8 members participating in the show. They were Richard Stockslager, Jim Valle, Kevin Herrmann, Greg Eroe, Henry Kramer, Dick Lush, Joe Sudler and Jim Thompson. It was 80 miles from Dover, with Jim Thompson pulling the trailer. The trailer was set by the north door and we just walked in a few steps for set up and tear down. It was an easy set-up and tear down, taking only 30 minutes each way. Trains ran all day, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. with no problems. Everyone seems to like the DCC system. We collected \$100.00 for the day.

The next show was one week later at Laurel, Delaware with Jim Thompson coordinating with Barry Munoz from the Lions Club. Les Souder pulled the trailer to Laurel and as usual we got lost, putting us about 5-10 minutes late. Set-up at the South door went smoothly with about nine members setting up the layout. However, things did not go right at first, as the space wasn't big enough for our layout. Then Les said "Let's put it caddy wumpus", and we did, and sure enough, everything worked out right. Special thanks to Jim Valle, Dick Lush, Robbie Robinson, Henry Kramer, Les Souder, Reggie Finch, Kevin Herrmann, Joe Sudler and Jim Thompson. Also noted, Gary Bryant added moral support. A check was presented to Jim Thompson from Barry Munoz for \$150.00 and a special thanks. They are looking forward to future setups.

Jim Thompson

## **TRAIN SHOWS**

December 1, 2014 – January 25, 2015 – Holiday Festival of Trains at the B&O Museum in Ellicott City, MD. Wed-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. New this year is a custom-built 360 degree LEGO model train layout.

December 2, 2014 -- January 8, 2015 – Eagle Line Model Railroad Display, 12169 Ober Lane, Ridgely, MD. 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Tue. and Thurs. (closed Christmas Day). Free admission. Santa will be guest of honor on Dec. 23.

December 6-7, 2014 -- Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093. [www.greenbergshows.com](http://www.greenbergshows.com)

December 6-7, 13-14, 2014 – Queen Anne's Railroad Society/MESL will hold their Festival of Trains at the Kent Narrows Outlet Stores, 51 Piney Narrows Rd., Chester, MD. 12 noon-5 p.m.

December 13, 2014 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Train & Toy Show, Denton Vol. Fire Co., Caroline County 4-H Park, 8230 Detour Rd., Denton, MD (just off Rt. 16 Harmony Rd.) Info: Ron Wieber 443-744-0356, [www-fundraising@dentonvfc.com](mailto:www-fundraising@dentonvfc.com)

December 13-14, 2014 – Greenberg’s Train & Toy Show. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

January 17, 2015 – Philadelphia Div. of the NMRA will be holding a joint meeting with NJ Div. at the HADDON Township High School, 406 Memorial Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108 at 9 a.m.

January 24-25, 2015 – Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show. Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA. Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. \$14 per day. Parking \$5 per day. Some **FSMRRC** members will be attending. Details at 12/9 meeting.

January 31, 2015 – Great Scale Model Train Show at Timonium, MD. **FSMRRC** members wishing to attend should meet at Jarrell Station, 1282 McKee Rd., Dover, DE at 7 a.m.

February 21, 2015 – “I Love Smyrna High School Day.” **FSMRRC** will set up display, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 7, 2015 – Sudlersville, MD Train Show. Volunteer Fire Company, 203 N. Church St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5 admission. **FSMRRC** will set up display. Info: Kurt 302-270-4786, [sudlersvillemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sudlersvillemuseum@gmail.com)

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.

**WISHING ALL OF YOU A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**