



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

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, December 13, at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Well, Christmas is almost here and our busy season is almost at an end. Our December open house was far from being successful but our Bellevue show has been good even with low visitor turnout for that event. Our train display has been the hit of the show. We still have two more weekends to run trains up there. I would like to take this time to thank all those who worked on the Bellevue layout and those who set it up and those who have worked weekends there as well as those who will work the next two weekends. Could not have done this without all that help. We made a contact Sunday to possibly do a display for Delaware Historical Society next December. We invited her to come down to our open house in January to see what we can offer. Will just have to wait and see if she shows up. She wants something to show Delaware railroading and told her we had something to fill that bill.

The old DCC layout is up and running, but it took a lot of hard work for everyone involved to get it running. We have a lot to discuss at our next two meetings so be sure to be there.

Can someone help with getting our next two open houses in January more advertising on radio, in the paper and flyers around town? I thought it had been taken care of but with the low turnout last weekend it was not. Some members must have ideas or contacts and know what needs to be done, so in the words of the famous "Larry the Cable Guy" 'Git 'er' done. Let's all pitch in and let's get the word out for January. It's never too late.

REMINDER: Our FSMRRC Christmas Dinner/Party will be Tuesday, December 6, at 6 p.m. at Roma Restaurant. Exchange gifts will be the

highlight of the evening. We will discuss the pros and cons of this event at the December 13 meeting.

I'd like to wish everyone a very merry, and safe, Christmas and a great new year. Hopefully next year we can keep every one of our members out of the hospital and in good, well at least better, health than last year.

Happy railroading. **Sam Eaton, President**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Now-December 31 – Gallery Exhibit: SAFETY FIRST! The Evolution of Railroading Safety Practices. Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg, PA. Hours: through December 31: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday, Noon-5pm. Admission: Adult (12 – 64) \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (3 – 11) \$8, Age 2 and under FREE.

December 6 – FSMRRC CHRISTMAS PARTY at Roma Restaurant, Dover. Gift exchange included. 6 p.m.

December 10 - Denton Fire Company Train & Toy Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Denton Fire House, Denton, Maryland

December 10-11 - Queen Anne's Railroad Society, FESTIVAL OF TRAINS, Noon to 5:00 p.m. both days, Kent Narrows Outlet Stores, Chester, Maryland

December 11 - Earleigh Heights Family Train & Toy Show, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire House, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Severna Park, Maryland

December 11, January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5 – Frederick County Society of Model Engineers open house, www.fcsme.com

December 17 - Arbutus Train & Toy Show, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Arbutus Volunteer Fire Hall, Arbutus, Maryland

January 7-8 - FSMRRC Holiday Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE 19904.

January 14-15 - FSMRRC Holiday Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE 19904.

‘T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

‘Twas the night before Christmas and all through my pike,
Not a steamer was stirring, not even a Mike.
My yard tracks invitingly empty and bare,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The diesels were nestled all snug in their sheds,
While visions of DCC danced in their heads.
While I, in my blue-and-white engineer’s cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter’s nap.

When down in the train room there rose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the basement I flew like an ace,
Tripped over the cat and fell flat on my face.

I stifled a curse meant for Chessie (the cat),
And I muttered to no one, “I meant to do that.”
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But an HO-scale sleigh and eight Preiser reindeer.

With an engineer driving, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid that GG-1’s onward they came,
And he blew a steam whistle and called them by name.

“On Athearn! On Lionel, Kato and Walthers!
On Kadee and Micro-Trains, Atlas and others!
To the top of the mountains of Hydrocal plaster,
Now dash away, dash away, dash away faster!”

As dry leaves that behind a new Genesis fly
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So in through the window the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of trains and St. Nicholas too.

And then, on my roundhouse, I saw on the roof
The prints in the dust of each HO-scale hoof.
As I drew a deep breath and was turning around
From beneath the benchwork St. Nick came with a bound.

He was dressed like an engineer from head to foot,
And his clothes had that fine smell of ashes and soot.
A bundle of trains he had flung on his back
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes – just like marker lights! Dimples, how merry!
His cheeks like a Warbonnet; nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
And his beard was so white; it would please Phoebe Snow.

He puffed on a pipe as he refilled its bowl
And the smoke, it smelled just like bituminous coal.
He had a broad face and a belly (I found)
That shook like a tank car with wheels out-of-round.

He was chubby and plump and I wanted to shout,
“Yes! The man’s got a route the UP can’t buy out!”
A wink of his eye as he passed near the door
Soon gave me to know I’d have freight cars galore.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work.
He filled all my yard tracks, then turned with a jerk.
And leaving an airbrush he’d found on eBay
And giving a nod, he returned to his sleigh.

He pumped up the brakes, blew two blasts on his whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight.
“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! KEEP ‘EM ROLLING!
GOOD NIGHT!”