



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at the home of Paul and Lena Roy, 95 River Run Blvd., Felton, DE. From Dover, go south on Route 13 to Canterbury. Turn left onto Canterbury Road (Route 15). Go 5.1 miles to Coursey's Point and turn left at Crossbucks into development. Paul's house is the second on the left. If lost, call 302-289-3560.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

Another Springfield trip was a huge success. It all started Friday at 8:30 A.M. at Les' with Paul and Lena Roy riding with Les and Ann Souder. Richard and Joyce Stockslager rode with Jim and Carolyn Thompson and Dick Lush drove Ralph Pfannenstiel and, yes, John Gray drove up from Ocean Springs, MS. to join the Club for the trip. Jim Valle drove to Paul and Paula Buckley's where Bill and Kathleen Schrodel were to pick them up for the trip. From there all cars were to meet at the first rest stop on the New Jersey Turnpike for breakfast. The next stop was the last rest stop on the Garden State Parkway for lunch. Then, all were to meet at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch where rooms were pre-arranged, with arrival time around 4:00 P.M. All went well, and we had time to rest and unpack before dinner. Arrangements were made at Bernie's Dining Depot thanks to a recommendation from Pete Nickerson, who lives 2-3 hours away. Pete was waiting for the group when we arrived around 6:00 P.M. A room was set aside for our group. The food was outstanding, with a prime rib, about 12 inches in diameter and about 6 inches tall called the Conductor for about \$35.00. No one purchased that prime rib, but John Gray purchased the smaller one (regular cut) that was about 9 inches in diameter and 3 inches tall. He was asking everyone if they wanted to try it. See photo of meal at meeting. From there, we had a photo op outside the Dining Car. See photo at meeting. From there, it was back to the Hotel for a good night's sleep as Saturday was going to be a busy day.

On Saturday, all the men were to assemble in the lobby of the hotel at 6:30 A.M. to drive to breakfast at IHOP run by Bob Evans. As the ten of us were going down the stairs to the parking garage, Jim Valle took a nose dive down 7 stairs. He said he was okay but busted his lip and had blood all over his face. He got cleaned up and said he was okay, so off we went to IHOP. There was special seating arranged as always at IHOP and food orders were placed after greetings. After breakfast, Pete Nickerson picked up the tab for all of the FSMRRC members present. Pete has done this for a number of years and we are very grateful for his generosity. A big thanks to Pete, but he must stop spoiling us.

Pete underwent left knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, Feb. 4. We wish him a speedy recovery and successful rehab.

From there, we ventured to the Big E, The Amhearst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show at the Eastern States Exposition. There are four big buildings: The Better Living Center, Young Building, Stroh Building and the Mallery Complex. With about 400 exhibitors and about 30 layouts in the 4 buildings, there is well over a third of a million square feet or over 8 acres of trains, trains and more trains. We were all to meet at the Mallery Complex at 4:00 P.M. to return to the hotel. There were numerous trips back and forth to the cars to secure our purchases and allow empty hands for more purchases. Most members had their lists and were on a mission to find the items they wanted. All met at the Mallery Building around 4:00 P.M. for return to the hotel. Bill Schrodel mentioned he had lost his wallet. He went to the information/office to report it lost and they asked him to describe it and then they handed it over to him. Someone had found it and turned it in at the office. There are still some honest people left in this world, 11,000 of them at the Model Railroad show.

While the men were at the Train Show, the ladies gathered at 9:00 A.M. and had headed out for breakfast and then on to Yankee Candle, where there are millions of candles, but much, much more. There is the Black Forest, Santa's Workshop, the Kitchen Shop and more. It seems to have a lot to offer. They got misplaced looking for breakfast and stumbled upon the Dam Cafe again. It has good food and is a delightful little internet cafe for breakfast. Then on to Yankee Candle where they shopped for two or three hours and then had lunch. It began to snow as they entered the restaurant for lunch. After lunch, they shopped just a little bit longer and then to the car to return to the hotel. Kathleen was driving and did a fabulous job getting them back safely. However, I hear she has already volunteered someone else to drive next year.

We were to have dinner at 6:00 P.M., but it was pushed back to 7:00 P.M. at the request of PICKS. So everyone met at Jim and Carolyn Thompson's room for cheese, crackers, wine, etc. At 7:00 P.M. we all met at PICKS Restaurant for dinner. Kurt Schwaninger met us for dinner, since he had arrived on Wednesday for classes and clinics. He said he will give us some of the information on the classes he attended. Especially interesting is the one on 3D Printers. We all enjoyed our meals which took 2-3 hours. I think we are looking for somewhere close to the hotel, but less time consuming for next year. Your input is desirable.

Sunday morning everyone (guys and gals) were to meet in the lobby at 7:30 A.M. to go to breakfast at IHOP. As usual, we were met and greeted and a special section set up for us. Les Souder had suggested a PRR Dinner Plate for Bob Evans to display as there are plates all around the room. Les presented the plate to Bob shortly after arrival. See photo at meeting. Food and service was excellent. After breakfast, the ladies returned to the hotel and the guys went back to the show. The men were to meet back at the Mallery building at 11:45 A.M. to return to the hotel. Well, as usual, Paul Buckley was nowhere to be found at 11:45 A.M. or at 12:00 Noon, or at 12:15 P.M. I had a mutiny on my hands. Some of the cars left the show and headed back to the hotel (without Paul). I had to run through the buildings hunting for Paul. I finally found him, and away we went. I have numerous suggestions on retrieving Paul for next year, as we have had the same problem for several years. We left the hotel about 1:30 P.M. to drive to Delaware. As usual, we stopped at the first rest area on the Parkway for food and relief. The next stop was for dinner at the Cracker Barrel in Pennsville, NJ, just before crossing the Delaware Memorial Bridge. A fine meal was had and away we went. We arrived home around 8:00 P.M., which means we made really good time. As you can see, it is a fast weekend and a lot to take in. Plans are already in the making for next year, so let your desires be known and jump onboard.

The next outing was the Timonium Show, one week after the Big E Springfield Show, with four cars leaving Dover. It is always a good show. Two cars left from the building at 7:00 A.M. for the trip to Elkton (Benzin, Robbie, Valle, Roy) (Les, Thompson, Murphy, Pfannenstiel, Herrmann) picking up Henry in Elkton. Also driving was Burton with Stockslager. And I saw Kurt Schwaninger with Gary Bryant at the show. Dover was well represented. Good deals were had by all.

The next project for the Club is two set-ups. One is on February 22, 2014, at Smyrna High School for a celebration. The second set-up is at the Chase Center River Walk in Wilmington, DE. Jim Valle has details and will elaborate at the meeting. NOTE: The Shore Line Garden Railroad Club will also have a layout at Smyrna.

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Program is scheduled for April 12, 2014 and April 19, 2014. (Both Weekends). Jeff Shockley, Paul Buckley and Dick Lush are the points of contact for the project. Get with them for help and support.

The AG Museum project will be discussed with updates at the meeting.

I was notified today by Bill Benzin, as I was finishing this newsletter, that long-time member, Jim Reed, passed away on January 28, 2014. A celebration of Jim's life will be held on February 8, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at the Reformation Lutheran Church, 613 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, DE. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made in memory of Jim to the AMC Museum Foundation, Inc., 1301 Heritage Road, Dover AFB, DE. 19902.

See you at the meeting on February 11. Jim Thompson, President

UPCOMING SHOWS:

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| Feb. 22, 2014 | Smyrna High School, Smyrna, DE. Club Set-up.
POC: Jim Valle 302-678-0283. |
| Feb. 22-23, 2014 | Spring Thaw, Allentown Fairgrounds Agricultural Hall, 302 N. 17 th St.,
Allentown, PA, POC: Bob 610-821-7886. |
| Mar. 15-16, 2014 | Chase Center River Walk, Wilmington, DE. Club Set-up.
POC: Jim Valle 302-678-0283. |
| Mar. 23, 2014 | Arbutus Train Show, Arbutus Fire Hall, MD. POC: Sunny 410-465-3782. |
| Mar. 23, 2014 | Carbon Model R/R Society Spring Train Meet, Palmerton Area High School,
3533 Firelane Rd., Palmerton, PA. POC: 610-826-6636 (After 6 P.M.) |
| Apr. 4, 2014 | Nur Temple Shrine Ctr. Rt. 13, New Castle, DE. POC: Brent 302-222-3030. |
| Apr. 12-13, 2014 | Timonium Cow Palace, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.
POC: Howard 410-730-1036. |
| Apr. 12 & 19, 2014 | Boy Scout Merit Badge Project, POC: Shockley, Buckley, Lush. |
| May 10, 2014 | Sudlersville Train Show POC: Kurt 302-270-4786. |

**The First State
Model Railroad Club**

presents

Railroad Merit Badge Day

2 classes available

Saturday April 12, 2014

Saturday April 19, 2014

9:00am – 3:00pm

1282 McKee Road

Dover, DE

For questions or to register:

302-653-8096 Smyrna/New Castle County

302-480-2116 Dover/Kent County

302-424-3656 Milford/Sussex County

email: cubbie109@yahoo.com

Class limited to 30 scouts each