



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

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:**

May was a pretty busy month and June just might be a little quieter. The First State Model Railroad Club has two items on its schedule for the month. First there is the set-up of our old modular layout at the Clayton Firehouse on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, in support of their annual town festival. We will be taking with us primarily the modules that are active in the Clubhouse train hall and perhaps a few more should we decide to include them. Loading will take place on Thursday, the 11th. Next is the Timonium Scale Train Show which is scheduled for the weekend of June 20 - 21st. Bearing in mind that Sunday is Father's Day, we will decide which day to mount our club expedition at our regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9th.

At our May meeting we spent some time discussing financial and budgetary matters. After reviewing our financial outlays and practices over the last several years, I have suggested that we need to pay closer attention to our costs and expenditures. To that end I have proposed the following guidelines based on a projected income of \$4,400.00:

Layout materials:	\$100.00
Building maintenance:	\$ 500.00
Taxes and Insurance:	\$2,300.00
Propane gas:	\$950.00
Electric and water:	<u>\$550.00</u>
 TOTAL;	 \$4,400.00

As previously stated these figures are estimates based on previous years outlays. Taxes, insurance and utilities are costs that must be met although we can economize on utilities somewhat by exercising more care in how we heat, cool and burn our lights. What we spend on layout materials is discretionary and we can probably reduce or eliminate this sum by using stuff we have on hand and in storage, especially scenic items. Personally, I think that our days of doing heavy repairs and renovations on the Clubhouse are behind

us and our only real obligation here is to keep the grass cut. Funds in this category are mainly for gas and maintenance on the lawnmower. I have suggested that for planning purposes our fiscal year should run from October 1 to September 30 each year. That way each October after we have cleared our taxes we can start over with fund raising, planning, and see what needs attention and tightening up. Since October is also when we hold our elections for officers, we may experience a change in leadership and they will have a opportunity to devise their own plans and budget.

Ancillary to our discussion of monetary issues, there was some commentary on the financial impact of our DCC modular layout on the club's finances. We began planning and construction of DCC modules in 2011 and several were built in 2012. Our first set up at a train show was March 2013. So far we have built a total of eighteen (18) DCC modules at an average cost of \$60.00 each for lumber, foam, wire and plugs. That comes to \$1,080.00 spread out over four years and six months. To date we have recouped \$555.00 through the sale of nine (9) modules to persons who have or plan to develop them and we have earned another \$ 900.00 from the seven train shows we have taken them to. Consequently the DCC layout has retired its costs and is earning profits for the club. Although we didn't make it entirely clear to the membership that modules are private property when we started construction and we were in a hurry to get them up and running for our show obligations, a consensus has emerged that this is the case. If those persons who have sponsored a DCC module will complete a purchase at some point the financial picture with regards to the DCC layout will become even more favorable and we will move to 100% private ownership. We can assume that the DCC control equipment, valued at approximately \$350.00 has been paid for out of the club treasury and is club property.

Finally, the project to fine tune our donated layout cars is just about to wind down. Many club members have put in time on this activity and the results have been gratifying. We can now run longer trains with greater reliability and better operation all around. Perhaps our next step is to decide if we want to do some weathering or keep them pristine. If anyone has a suggestion for a follow-up project, don't hesitate to mention it to me!

Jim Valle, President

## **UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS:**

**June 13, 2015 – Clayton Railroad Days, Clayton, DE. 9-2. FSMRRC WILL SET UP OLD LAYOUT.**

**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.

**July 26, 2015 – Mill Creek and Lycoming Summer Train Meet.** Pennsdale Civic Center. 261 Village Road, Pennsdale, PA. 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$4.00, kids under 12 FREE.

**October 10, 2015 –** This will be our next Boy Scout Railroad Badge day at **FSMRRC.**

**November 14, 2015 – FSMRRC set-up at Magnolia, NJ.**

## **GARDEN RAILROAD OPEN HOUSES**

If you would like to visit some G-Scale Garden Railroad layouts please check out the following website: <http://www.gardenropenhouse.com> This website originally started out to promote "G-Day" in the four-state area of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey as garden railroaders opened their layouts to visits by the public. In helping to promote the hobby, Karen Darling has decided to open this site up to use by anyone in the United States.

You are welcome to visit the layouts and see firsthand how the hobbies of gardening and model railroading can be combined. There is usually no charge but we do ask you to keep children under control at all times. While many open house sites are included for the next few months, of special interest to our members might be the following “local” ones.

Open Houses Scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2015

**KEN DONAHOE, Donahoe Garden Railroad, 2642 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19802, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.** The Donahoe Garden Railroad winds around a large front yard containing many actual railroad crossing gates, signals, and signs. The tracks are built on a sturdy concrete foundation and are surrounded with lots of landscaping. This year a large garden pond has been built and tracks are expanding into the area. From Newark: Take I-95 to Route 202 North. Shortly after the exit, turn right onto Foulk Road. Take Foulk Road 4.5 miles and look on the right for the railroad crossing sign. From points north: Take I-95 to the Naamans Road West exit. Drive 2.5 miles on RT 92 (Naamans Road) to Foulk Road (Rt 261). Turn right on Foulk Road. In 1/2 mile, look for the

railroad crossing sign on the right.

GARY & CAROL SMITH, Frog Hollow Railroad, 207 Heronwood Lane, Milton, DE 19968, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. This unique battery powered garden railroad features all buildings and railroad stock made by the homeowners. The railroad is based off of a crazed bunch of frogs taking over the railroad. Lots of miss adventures abound. Come have a laugh or two. Frog Hollow Railroad is located just north of Lewes, Delaware off of Delaware Route 1, take Cave Neck Road west for about 1 mile, turn left into Heronwood, follow Heronwood Drive to the tee, turn left, onto Heronwood Lane, follow the road to the cul-de-sac across from the boat ramp and Frog Hollow Railroad is located on the property with the 2 story light green house on the left.

MIKE & CLAUDIA LEISTER, Delaware Division of the Western Maryland Railway, 1466 McGinnis Pond Road, Magnolia DE 19962, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. (Also open Sun., June 21, 2015) Mike and Claudia Leister operate the "Delaware Division of the Western Maryland Railway". Steam and diesel trains have a Western Maryland theme. The railroad features four separate lines which allows multiple trains to run at the same time. It is located in a woodlands and has multiple heights to add interest and must be viewed from multiple angles to see all that is going on. There is a waterfall, a truss bridge, a mountain tunnel and a small village. One short line switch engine hauling a consist of flat cars is available to be run by children over eight. Or just sit on the porch of a Western Maryland Freight Depot and watch it all go by. Just north of Frederica Delaware from US Route 113, take Barrett's Chapel road west for about 3 miles, turn right on McGinnis Pond Rd., proceed .7 mile and turn right into the drive. There are signs out front.

CARL & FLORENCE HOFFMAN, DELAWARE CENTRAL, 18 Cedarfield Road, Magnolia, DE 19962, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Carl and Florence Hoffman operate the "Central Delaware Railroad" near Magnolia in Kent County, Delaware. This railroad is battery powered and began operation in 2002. The Hoffman's railroad has a large bridge made of concrete which crosses a large river and many other must see features. Most of the structures were built by the Hoffman's including all of the switches. From the North Take DE 1 south to first right exit past Dover Air Force Base, Trapshooters Rd. to Barkers Landing Rd. to Magnolia, straight through traffic light on Walnut St. that becomes Irish Hill Rd., Left on Lexington Mill Rd., Left on Cedarfield Rd. Take third driveway on left. Follow blue loco signs. From the South on DE 1 south of Dover Air Force Base, turn left on Barretts Chapel Rd. at Barretts Chapel Cemetary. Proceed 3 miles to McGinnis Pond Rd, turn right onto McGinnis Pond Rd. and go 1/4 mile to Lexington Mill Rd., turn right, continue 0.3 mile onto Cedarfield Rd., take third driveway on left. Follow blue loco signs.

TINA & ED PORTER, 24820 Rivers Edge Road, Millsboro, DE 19966, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. The Fire Mountain Rail Road is an outdoor layout consisting of 4 separate tracks. Two loops and two point to point. There is about 400 feet of track circling the pond with 3 tracks running through tunnels under the waterfall. The layout is track-powered and controlled by DCC (Digital Command Control). Houses, people, animals and cars give interest to the scenes around the track. Like most railroads there is always something new or something under construction. From the North Take Route 1. Follow DE-5 S/Federal St South. Turn left onto E Stonewater Creek Rd. Turn right onto Shoreline Dr. Take the 1st right onto Harbor Cove Dr. Turn left onto Rivers Edge Rd. We are the 6th house past Shore Road on the right. From the South using US 13: Going North on US13. Turn right onto MD-54 E/Rd 419/E Line Rd/Maryland Delaware Line Rd. Turn left onto DE-26 E/DE-54 E. Continue onto DE-24 E and follow through Millsboro to Long Neck. Turn Left at Rt 5, Indian Mission road. Turn right onto E Stonewater Creek Rd. Follow as above. From the South on US 113 Turn right onto DE-24 E and follow through Millsboro to Long Neck. Turn Left at Rt 5, Indian Mission road. Turn right onto E Stonewater Creek Rd. Turn right onto Shoreline Dr. Follow as above.

HOLLIS AND MARY NOEL, Centerville Special, 18272 Progress School Road, Bridgeville, DE 11932, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. The Centerville Special (Noel) Garden Railroad, first ran August 2007, is a retirement project that is and will continue to be a work in progress. Ask any gardener and they will tell you that you are always changing and creating. Our garden railroad is a raised bed with a modified rectangle shape approx. 26' long and 16' wide. Aristocraft diesels run on the 58' outer loop with a consist of freight cars. The smaller loop is constructed through a tunnel along the rocky hill of dwarf Alberta spruce, thyme, ajuga, and lavender. See the hens and chickens peeking threw the rocks. An LGB Steam Engine headed freight travels along the inner loop. Plans are in the works for a third loop on top of the mountain. From Route 13 North, make left on 18 west (IG Burton Chrysler, Jeep Dealer on corner). Go 3.6 miles to stop sign. Make RIGHT on Federalsburg Road towards Bridgeville. Make 1st LEFT - Progress School Road. Travel 1.2 miles Home on left at intersection of Progress School Rd and Rabbit Run Rd.

**REMEMBER JUNE 14 IS FLAG DAY. DISPLAY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG PROUDLY.**

**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.**