



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 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:

March came in like a lion skidding on a sheet of ice. Hopefully we won't be doing any skidding ourselves as we head for the two remaining set-up shows we have on our calendar. These are the Sudlersville Fire House Show on March 7th and the Chase Center Greenberg Show in Wilmington on March 14 - 15. In between we will be holding our monthly business meeting on Tuesday March 10th at the clubhouse at 7:30 PM. This makes for a busy time of it and to add still more fun and games we will be finishing up on our Agricultural Museum project on Thursday evenings as we strive for completion before spring arrives on the 21st.

Actually, the prospects for concluding the Ag. Museum project on time and under budget appear to be excellent. On Saturday February 21st a large work party met at the museum and enjoyed a long uninterrupted work session during which we fastened down all but two of the twelve projected scenes and filled in around them with trees, shrubbery and structures. The results were highly professional-looking and will reflect very well on our club for as long as the exhibit lasts. Once the electrical work is completed and the scenes are protected by a plexiglass barrier all that will remain is to select locos and rolling stock reflective of Delmarva railroading and the project is complete. As president I want to extend a heartfelt thanks and well-done to all the members who put in their time and effort to make this happen and especially those who worked to construct individual modules or participated as part of a task group.

So what's next? Little by little the means to tackle our rolling stock fine tuning project are being assembled. Kurt Schwaninger has contributed a roller coaster-like apparatus for testing the rolling quality of trucks. Les Souder presented a box of regulation car weights and Henry Kramer brought in a measuring scale and coupler alignment gauge. Testing and tuning eighty or ninety pieces of club rolling stock ought to keep us busy for at least a little while. In addition to this, as a result of our investigations into the arena of FreeMo modular railroading, there is now scope for the construction of additional modules to adhere to this concept while still retaining the ability to interface with our existing lightweight layout. Combining these with DCC will allow for all kinds of operational activity both in-house and at shows.

Speaking of shows, the set up Smyrna High School was very well attended and successful. This was our second time sharing a room with the Shore Line Garden Railroad Club and they turned out to be a fine group of men and women with whom we have some overlapping membership. It is to be hoped that we can find additional activities to share in the future.

Jim Valle, President

SYMPATHY: We extend our sincere sympathy to Boyce Failing on the death of his wife, Margaret, on Sat., Feb. 14, after a short illness. Five of our members attended her service at Holy Cross on Feb. 19.

TRAIN SHOWS:

March 7, 2015 – 2nd Annual Sudlersville Toy & Train Show. 203 N. Church St., Sudlersville, MD. 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under 15 FREE, with a paying adult. Early buyer entry at 9:00am, admission: \$10.00. **FSMRRC will set up display.** Info: Kurt 302-270-4786, sudlersvillemuseum@gmail.com

March 14-15, 2015 – Greenberg's Train & Toy Show. Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison St, Wilmington, DE. 10am – 4pm, both days. Admission: \$8.00, kids 12 & under FREE. **FSMRRC will set up display.**

March 27-28, 2015 – East Coast Large Scale Train Show. York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA. Friday: 9am – 6pm. Saturday: 9am – 4pm. Admission: Two-Day Ticket Adult – \$18, children under 12 FREE. One-Day Ticket Adult – \$10, Children under 12 FREE.

April 11, 2014 - Delaware Train Show. Nur Shrine Center, 198 North duPont Hwy., New Castle, DE. 9am – 2pm. Admission: \$4.00; \$10.00 8:00am Early Bird Buyer. Kids under 12 FREE

UPCOMING EVENT OF INTEREST:

April 18, 2015 - Boy Scouts of America Railroad Merit Badge Day. Sponsored by the First State Model Railroad Club. 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 3pm. Open to 30 scouts. Admission FREE. Contact via e-mail: cubbie109@yahoo.com. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS EVENT.**

REMINDER:

DUES OF \$60 PER YEAR WERE DUE AND PAYABLE BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DUES TO TREASURER RICHARD STOCKSLAGER TO GET YOUR UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP CARD.

Do you have something you would like to share with the members of FSMRRC? If so, please submit them to stockslager@gmail.com by the end of each month.