



**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER
MAY 2017**

NEXT MEETING:

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

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Well we made it thru April. **This weekend we will be open for Old Dover Days.** Hope to see some you there this weekend. We have heard that they would like us to come back to Bellevue this year. Less weekends than last year. I still think we should ask for the same amount. We will discuss this at our next meeting. Things seem to be going well but we still have a lot to talk about at our next meeting. So for now I will keep you wanting to know what's going on and cut this short. To hear more, see you at the next meeting.

Happy model railroading 'til then. **Sam Eaton, President**

First State Model Railroad Club Hosts 30th Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Class

The First State Model Railroad Club hosted their 30th class for the Railroading Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts of America. Four scouts (two from Troop 123, St. Georges, DE and two from Troop 52, West Chester, PA) attended. The class started off by observing a moment of silence in memory of the FSMRRC's founder and first President, Jim Valle. Jim had attended the classes from the very beginning and helped the scouts in constructing their railcar models. We were then led by scouts with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Law, and the Scout Oath.

They were then in "class" with Paul Buckley teaching them all about various aspects of railroading, including the different types of railcars, the difference between the different gauges and scales of model railroad equipment, how a steam and a diesel engine operates, and Operation Lifesaver. Henry Kramer then

explained the similarities and differences of how a DC and DCC layout is wired, how they work, and the changing technology of model railroading.

After a short lunch break, the scouts then had the chance to operate a “Timesaver” layout, to simulate how to move different railcars around a railyard. They also were able to construct an HO model railcar, donated by the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

At the closing ceremony, the boys were given their completed “blue card”, signifying they had finished all the requirements for the merit badge, a copy of *Model Railroader* and *Classic Toy Trains* magazines, donated by the club, and the railcar they had built during the class. All the scouts said they were glad they enrolled in the class and will tell other scouts about their experience.

Since the club started our Railroading Merit Badge Project, we have now awarded 368 badges. I would like to thank Paul Buckley, Sam Eaton, Henry Kramer, Les Souder, Bill Spanarelli, and Joe Sudler for taking time out of their Saturday to help with the class. The next class has tentatively been scheduled for March 10, 2018.

Jeff Shockley

THANKS

A special “Thank You” to former FSMRRC member Bill Kite for his recent donation of many, many train books from his father’s collection. It was good to see Bill recently when he attended the memorial service for Jim Valle.

Paul Buckley

DUES ARE PAST DUE!!!! IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD UP TO DATE? YOU CAN SEND YOUR DUES (\$60.00 PER YEAR) TO BUZZ MATTHEWS AT 505 EAGLE NEST DR., CAMDEN, DE 19934.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 6, 2017 – The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown PA. 10am-3pm. Admission: 10am–3pm. Admission \$5.00, Children 12 under FREE. Now ONE DAY ALL Scales. More vendors and items to buy.

May 6, 2017 – Spring-Fling Toy and Train Show. Roxana Fire House, 35943 Zion Church Road, Roxana, DE, 9am-3pm. Admission \$5.00, Children 10 and under FREE.

May 6-7, 2017 – FSMRRC OPEN HOUSE AT 1292 McKEE ROAD, DOVER, DURING OLD DOVER DAYS. SATURDAY 9-4; SUNDAY 10-3. Operating HO Layouts, White Elephant Table.

May 13, 2017 – TCA-Atlantic Division Train Show. Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall (Penns Landing Caterers), 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. TCA Members: 8am-1pm. Public: 9am-1pm. Family admission: \$5.00 (two adults and children, 12 and under.) For information: Bob Lubronski, (856) 608-9265.

June 17-18, 2017 – The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$9.00 for both days, \$8.00 for Sunday only. Children up to 15 FREE with a paid adult.

June 21-25, 2017 – 25th National N-Scale Convention. Sheraton Pittsburgh at Station Square Hotel, 300 W. Station Square Dr., Pittsburgh, PA. For info go to: <https://www.nationalscaleconvention.com>

June 22-25, 2017 – 49th O-Scale National Convention. Sponsored by Southern New England Model Railroad Club, Holiday Inn Springfield East, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd., Enfield, CT. For info go to: www.SNEMRRC.org

June 24-July 2, 2017 – 63rd TCA National Convention. Wyndham Grand Downtown Hotel, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA. For info go to: <http://www.tcaconvention.org>

July 10-15, 2017 – 33rd Garden Railway National Convention, hosted by the Tulsa Garden Railway Club. Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center, 6808 South 107th East Ave., Tulsa, OK. 1pm-6pm, Saturday, July 15, Vendor Hall open to public, 9am-2pm.

July 15, 2017 – 4th Annual Lycoming Summer Train Meet. Pennsdale Civic Center, 261 Village Rd., Pennsdale, PA. 9am-4pm. Admission: \$5.00. July 30-August 6, 2017 – NMRA National Convention. The Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL.

INTERESTING ARTICLE ABOUT SOMEONE’S VISIT TO THE AMHERST TRAIN SHOW IN SPRINGFIELD, MA. (COPIED FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELMARVA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB’S “DELMARVA TIMETABLE”). (FSMRRC got a mention. Something to think about for future trips.)

Report on the 2017 Big E Train Show by John Huntzinger. In late January, a train buddy from Bowers Beach and I went up to the Big E Train Show held annually in Springfield, MA. We went up on the Wednesday before the show (which is on Saturday and Sunday) so we could take part in a series of clinics put on by the Amherst Railway Society (\$92/person which included admission to both days of the show and breakfasts for four days and lunches for two days) and free shuttle bus to/from the show hotel to the show. We stayed at the show hotel and split that bill. The list of the 2017 clinics is on the show’s webpage (www.railroadhobbyshow.com/clinics). The clinics are organized and many are taught by Fran and Miles Hale (NMRA MMR), both noted clinicians. Ones I attended (and enjoyed) included Hands-On Building a Building, LED Lighting, Learning How to Program a Pic Axe Micro Controller, a Hands-On Learning How to Use the Free Sketch-Up CAD program, a discussion by the new model company, ScaleTrains.com, on how they research and manufacture (in China) their line of engines and cars. Other clinics included how to weather cars, how to install WOW Sound Decoders (and get a 50% off coupon!), and Delaware model maker Mike Baker (Nick & Nora Designs) how to build and paint craftsman structures. We went out Thursday and Friday nights with fellow modelers to two fine German restaurants where the food and friendship was equally fine. The Big E Train Show is the premier train show in at least North America. It's over 5 ACRES in five separate buildings. This year the weather was very cooperative--cool but not cold nor wet. The scales ranged from 1:1 (they had an Edaville Narrow Gauge steam engine fired up outside, the first Mount Washington Cog Railway engine “Peppersass” on display inside). Also inside, were live steam, G, HO, N, and Z scale layouts (plural). They were intermixed with the vendors and manufacturers. There was new stuff, old stuff, and custom stuff along with historical societies. I only got through three buildings and part of the fourth the first day. Sunday I got to the second largest building and partially back to the others. I found that it wasn't feasible to try and comparison shop--there was too much space to cover. My train buddy and I agreed that we had a great time and plan to do it again. The pre-show clinics were a veritable bargain (he learned enough tricks to be able to avoid having to buy some items, which in a way paid for his trip. Want to try it? The **1st State Model Railroad Club** goes up Friday, stays two nights in the show hotel and then comes back on Sunday. Going with a train buddy cuts your costs and makes the trip go faster. What did it cost? The clinics were \$92/person (included show entrance fees), the hotel was half of \$520 (plus tax) (5 nights--we shared a room) \$352 plus meals (lunch & dinner) and driving expenses. If you go just for the show it'll cost you \$14/person/day, onsite parking is \$5/day, plus hotel, meals, and driving expenses.