

## **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

### **NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:**

Well we made it back from Springfield all in one piece. I think everyone had a good time and some of us found some great deals. Remember we are going to the Timonium show on Saturday Feb 3. Meet at the club at 7:00.

We will be taking down the DCC layout Thursday night Feb. 1st to take to the Dover Library next Thursday night. So, Thursday, February 8, we will meet at the Dover Library and set up the DCC layout. We will NOT be at the club house that night. Then Friday, February 9, we will be running trains at 10:30 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. We need to be there at least a half-hour before these times to get things ready. We will start taking down the layout around 7:30 p.m. Friday night.

Would anyone be interested in learning how to build a wooden structure? It's been suggested that we buy some simple wooden buildings and get together some Thursday night and show members how to work with wooden buildings. If you are interested in this idea, please let me know. We estimate the cost of these building to be around \$20.00.

Our next meeting will be February 13 at 7:30 p.m. We need to discuss the future of our club and how to get there. Hope to see everyone there.

**Sam Eaton, President**

**REMINDER: FSMRRC DUES ARE DUE (\$60/YR) BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.**

## **FSMRRC SPRINGFIELD TRIP:**

This year's Amherst Society Railroad Hobby Show, held at the Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA. Saturday, January 27, 2018 and Sunday, January 28, 2018 was a great success. On Friday, January 26, 2018, at about 8:30 A.M. Bill and Kathleen Schrodel, joined by Myrna Valle, departed their home to pick up Paul and Paula Buckley and head to the first stop on the Jersey Turnpike where the rest would join them. From Dover, Jim and Carolyn Thompson picked up Sam Eaton and Carol Young and proceeded to Les and Ann Souder's. There they met up with Les and Ann and Paul and Lena Roy and their daughter Laura Lee who rode together. Also there was John Gray, up from Mississippi, who drove Dick Lush and Ralph Pfannenstiel. We all left Les' around 8:40 A. M. to head to the rest stop on the Turnpike to also meet up with Schrodel's group. We also made one stop on the Garden State Parkway then headed on to the Sheraton Monarch Hotel in Springfield, MA. We arrived around 4:30 P.M. Rooms were all set up in advance and check-in went very smoothly. Henry Kramer now lives only about two hours away and joined us for the weekend. However, we missed Cecilia. At about 6:00 P.M. all 18 of us proceeded to the Cracker Barrel in North Holyoke, MA. Dinner was good and we actually got to sit closer and more together than usual. Everyone, tired and looking forward to a good night's sleep, returned to the hotel.

Saturday morning, the guys were up and ready early and met for a buffet breakfast in the hotel at 7:00 A.M. This is a free buffet on the third floor. Excellent. Tickets are provided at check-in for the buffet. The guys departed the hotel for the show at 8:15 A.M. Arm bands were passed out thanks to Joyce Stockslager who takes care of them each year in advance for us. And amazingly, none were lost this year. The Show with over 400 vendors, 428 to be exact, and 35 layouts in four buildings was fantastic as always. The buildings are The Better Living Center, the biggest of the buildings, The Mallory Complex, The Young Building and the smallest, The Stroh Building. The Show doesn't open until 9:00 A.M. but you have to arrive early to get a good parking spot or you may be out in the 'North Forty'.

The girls, this year 8 of them, Paula Buckley, Carol Young, Lena Roy and her daughter Laura Lee, Kathleen Schrodel, Ann Souder, Myrna Valle and Carolyn Thompson, joined by Lena's friend Patsy all gathered for breakfast at the hotel at 8:00 A.M. and then in two cars took off for Yankee Candle. Shortly after arriving at Yankee Candle, Lena lost Laura Lee and was looking for her and had her paged. However, Laura Lee was having a fine time shopping. The girls had a fine time and brought back lots of goodies from Yankee Candle.

The guys were told to meet at the Mallory Complex at 4:00 P.M. for return to the hotel. It's hard to see everything in the four buildings in the nine hours we were there. You need a game plan or pair up with someone who knows their way around. We talked to numerous vendors who were willing to visit us for demos. Nick and Nora Designs are one such vendor who models some of Delaware structures. Soundtraxx was willing to come down and do an engine sound system with us. Two of our DC Transformers don't work. They are (MRC's) Model Rectifier

Corp and Doug Vizthum, Customer Service Associate, who said he will repair them or give us a trade-in of up to \$160.00 each. New ones cost around \$268.00 each. Looks like a road trip to Edison, N.J. may be on the horizon. Numerous guys had bags with them after a long day at the show. All met at the Mallory Complex at 4:00 P.M. for the departure to the hotel.

Plans were pre-arranged for dinner for 20 plus people at Picks Restaurant in the hotel. It was nice because we did not have to leave the hotel, get lost trying to find a restaurant, and find a place where 20 people could sit together and enjoy the food and company. Our plans were for 6:00 P.M. Prior to dinner a few people gathered in the pub for a drink, then off to dinner. The room was all set up. Kurt Schwaninger was to have dinner with us, but I haven't seen him yet. Dinner was great. Lots of conversations and good food and then around 9:00 P.M. everyone departed to their rooms for a good night's sleep.

Sunday, the guys and girls all got up and went to breakfast together around 8:00 A.M. A large breakfast buffet was set up for us again. Around 9:30 A.M. the guys set out for the show which opened at 10:00 A.M. Parking is slow because several thousand cars are trying to make their way in to the show. On Sunday, you need to look for things you wanted or visit vendors or layouts you didn't see. We all depart for the hotel about 12 noon. The girls usually have the bags downstairs so departure is easy and quick. Carolyn Thompson had the rooms all paid for and checked out so there was no hassle there. However, they did have to do each room individually, one by one. We departed the hotel about 12:30 -12:45 P.M. Henry Kramer planned on spending the day there. Les led the way with Thompsons and Schrodels behind. We made our normal stop on the Parkway but then decided to go to Famous Dave's for dinner. Led by Club President Sam Eaton we found our way to Dave's. Food was outstanding and plans for another trip there have been mentioned. By the way, John Gray, Dick Lush and Ralph Pfannenstiel did stop at Cracker Barrel. It was a great weekend and plans are underway for next year. Plan ahead and join the party.

### **Jim Thompson, Vice President**

### **PICTURE ALBUM:**

A couple weeks ago Ed Chippie gave me about 6 packs of pictures of the first Club layout set-ups from Al Szikszay. The first is 18 photos of the first set-up at the Delaware Ag Museum in December, 1985. In the pictures are Jim Thompson, Doug Judy, Herb Gampp, and Jim Runk. The second set of 18 photos is of a trip to B & O Museum in July 1986 with large group photo and old photos of Jim Valle, Jim Thompson, Doug and Lonnie Judy, Sam Cammisa and son and Paul Buckley's son.

Next is set of 24 pictures of the Wilmington and Western Railroad where the Club rented the Doodle Bug in November, 1986. The next set of 17 photos is of the New Castle Show outside under tents. It was said at that time that they spent \$700.00 just for the tents in case it rained. Old photos of Bill Kight, George Bissel, Robbie Robinson and a young John Gray. Next is

New Castle Separation Day in June, 1987, under tents with Jim Valle, Darrel Schrecengost and a young Ed Chippie. Next are 21 photos of another Separation Day under tents in June 1988 with group photo of John Gray, Bill Benzin, Lonnie Judy, Jim Valle, Bill Kight, George Bissel, Doug Judy, Jim Runk, Les Souder, Herb Gampp, Pete Kramer and Jim Thompson. Also is Lee Riley and Angelo Deleso. Other photos are in the book, but I thought you might like to see early years of FSMRRC. Thanks to Al Szikszay. The photo album is 9 by 13 inches and red in color with a photo of Club shirt in center. It is now at the Station for all to look through.

**Jim Thompson, V.P.**

### **HEATER:**

The heater project which has gone very well has so far raised about \$2,100.00 of the \$2,880.00 needed. There are still about four more pledges out there yet to come in. If you would like to jump in and have not done so, the pledges are \$50.00 and \$100.00, with \$50.00 being matched by Ben Twilley and Myrna Valle. Again, thanks a Thousand.

**Jim Thompson, V.P.**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

This meeting, February 13, I am hoping to have Club member, little Kenny Haltom, 11 years old, demonstrate his 3D printer he got for Christmas. He hopes to have it make a steam locomotive while the meeting is going on so you can watch and ask questions when finished. It should take about 40 minutes. See you there.

**Jim Thompson, V.P.**

**ANOTHER REMINDER: Eat at Texas Roadhouse, Camden, DE on Tuesday, February 27, from 4-10 p.m. and 10% of your bill will be donated to FMRRC. Calling Ahead to get your name on the waiting list is usually very helpful. This is an easy way to earn funds for the club but also to let the public know about our organization. Use the attached flyers for you and your friends. Spread the word – the more flyers that are used the more we will receive and it doesn't cost you any extra. Contact Jeff Shockley for more information and about how you can be of assistance.**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**February 3-4, 2018 – The Great Scale Model Train Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD (Cow Palace). 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. **Update:** This show will also include a sale of Howard Zane's vast collection of brass trains and custom-built structures at staggering price reductions about 25% to 50% and MORE. We will leave from the station at 7 a.m. for anyone wanting to go along.

**February 4, 2018 – National Collectors Club presents The Brick Train Show.** Brick Elks Lodge, Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick NJ. 9am-2pm. Admission: \$6.00, kids under 10 FREE. Operating layouts, refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor on premises.

**February 24, 2018 – 25th Annual Seaford Volunteer Fire Dept. Toy and Train Show.** King and Cannon Sts., Seaford, DE. 9am-3pm.

**February 27, 2018 – Dine at Texas Roadhouse, Camden, DE to support FSMRRC fundraiser, 4-10 p.m. See flyer on next page.**

**March 24, 2018 – Spring Hartly Train Show.** Hartly Fire House, Arthursville Rd. (DE Rt. 11) and Hartly Rd. (DE Rt. 44), Hartly, DE. 9am-3pm. Admission: \$4, spouse \$3, kids under 12 FREE with adult. Breakfast and lunch furnished by the fire company auxiliary. Door prizes every hour.

## **FSMRRC OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: SAM EATON

SECRETARY: JEFF SHOCKLEY

VICE PRESIDENT: JIM THOMPSON

TREASURER: BUZZ MATTHEWS

**FSMRRC PHYSICAL ADDRESS:** 1282 McKEE RD., DOVER, DE 19904 (no mail received at this address)

**FSMRRC MAILING ADDRESS:** 505 EAGLE NEST DR., CAMDEN, DE 19934 **OR** P. O. BOX 16, PORT PENN, DE 19731

**DON'T FORGET: FEBRUARY 14 IS VALENTINE'S DAY – SHOW YOUR LOVE TO YOUR FAVORITE PERSON.**



**First State Model Railroad Club  
Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

(coupon valid 4pm - 10pm)

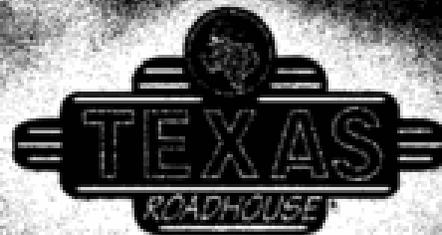
**Texas Roadhouse  
will Donate**

**10%**

Of your check to your  
Organization!



4568 S. Dupont Hwy  
Camden, DE 19934  
(302)698-4268



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