



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

**DECEMBER 2018**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE. **NOTE: date change from regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.**

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

Well we are almost through our busy season. The open house is over and by the time you read this the Christmas layout should be set up and working at Rockwood. The dates for the Rockwood display are Nov. 30 and December 1 from 4:00 – 9:00; December 2, 9:00 – 3:00; and the last date is December 12 from 5:00 – 9:00 for the ‘sip and sing’. For that event the wives are welcome to attend. The address for Rockwood Park is 610 Shipley Road, Wilmington, DE 19809. For those who signed up to go to Rockwood on the 10<sup>th</sup>, as of this writing, may not be needed, so check with me or come to the December meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> to find out for sure.

Our open house last weekend was the best we ever had; in fact it was better than the last 3 open houses combined. We had 177 visitors. I’d like to thank all those who helped get ready for the open house, all those who were there to help greet visitors, those who sold food (and brought food to sell) and those who ran trains. If you want to know how much we made in donations you will have to come to the meeting next Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30 to find out. I’m not telling ‘til then.

Don’t forget our Christmas Party this year is December 11 at 6:00 at Roma Restaurant. Bring your wives and a gift to exchange. No, Jeff you can’t exchange your wife for a gift. Seriously, no wives will be exchanged – only gifts!

I would also like to thank all those who came in and worked on the Christmas display and were there to help set up the DC and DCC layouts. My faith in the membership has greatly improved. You all stepped up and came to the plate to pull it all together. If we can work like this in the future, I see only good things coming from our club.

It is with sad regrets that we mourn the passing of two of our members in November: John Murphy on 11/8/18 and David McWethy on 11/17/18. Please remember their families in your prayers. See Jim Thompson's eulogy elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope to see everyone on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>. It should be fun and interesting at both events. Till then happy model railroading.

**Sam Eaton, President**

## **NOVEMBER OPEN HOUSE REPORT**

The club held its National Model Railroad Month Open House on November 24-25, from 9am-4pm at the Jarrell Station clubhouse. I have to believe that this year was the best one yet, or at least in a long time.

On Saturday, Sam Eaton, Ralph Pfannenstiel and I were in the front room to greet the guests as they arrived. Larry Wheeler and Daniel Murphy were stationed outside selling hot dogs and other goodies. Les Souder and Joe Sudler were running trains on the DCC layout while Jim Thompson and Dick Lush did the same on the DC layout. Ed Chippie was answering questions asked by the visitors.

WJBR radio came down to play music, not a live broadcast, from 12-2. They had prizes to give away if you played their "Plinko" game.

As the guests arrived, we asked them to sign the guest book and then we gave them our 'schpiel' about the Raffle Tickets. I even said that if they bought \$20 worth of tickets all they would have to do is put their info on the first ticket and I would fill out the rest....3 people took the offer. I don't know the exact count, but MANY tickets were sold.

We also talked about the train cars we had for sale, of which many kids walked out with a car or two.

Saturday's weather started out as nice, a little on the cool side, but nice. At 2:00, just as the radio station was finished packing up, and the hot dogs ran out, it started to rain. Talk about perfect timing.

At several points on Saturday, the train room (Jim Valle Room) was crowded with people looking over the layouts. At the end of the day, we saw why. We had 116 guests!!!

On Sunday, I arrived at about 10:30 after church. Attendance was sporadic until about 11:30. The best thing was that those that came by were willing to buy tickets. Paul Roy was there to help greet the folks and sell raffle tickets.

At the end of the day we had another 61 people registered in the guest book. For a total of 177 for the weekend.

As far as how the word got out, most of the people we asked said they heard about the open house through the Delaware State News, with Facebook and the flyers following. So, it shows that our advertising is working.

The only damper on the weekend, was that Saturday was also the funeral of David McWethy. Several members left to represent the club.

I want to thank everyone that came out to help with the Open House. I apologize if I didn't mention you by name here, but your help was very much appreciated.

**Jeff Shockley, Secretary**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

This year's Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at Roma Restaurant, 3 President Drive, Dover, DE. at 6:00 P.M. If you did not notice, this is usually the meeting night. Remember, guys bring a gift for a guy and ladies bring a gift for a lady. Food orders will take place, then the gift exchange will begin. It usually takes about 45 minutes for the gift exchange and then food begins to arrive. As always, gifts may move back and forth. Expect a great time and lots of fun and good food as always.

**SPRINGFIELD TRIP** (article repeated at request of Jim Thompson – be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible)

Dick Lush called last week and said a friend called him and said there were no rooms for Friday night available at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch in Springfield, MA for the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show on January 25 (Friday). The Show runs January 25 (Friday), January 26 (Saturday) and January 27 (Sunday), 2019. My wheels of motion started turning and making my usual phone calls. Well, it paid off as I got the right contacts and I have 8 rooms reserved at the Sheraton Monarch (our usual hotel) for Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and departing Sunday. All is fine but the price went up 12%. King Rooms (with one bed) are \$110.00 and Queen Rooms (with two beds) are \$130.00 per night. Those figures are without the taxes. I will figure out the price by November. I also have to get Joyce Stockslager to order the arm bands. The price of arm bands went up last year and they didn't ask for additional money but I will get it right this year, so there will be a slight price increase. Last year it was \$320.00 for couples with King bed and \$350.00 for couples with Queen beds and singles were \$170.00. This year it looks like \$350.00 for couples with King bed and \$380.00 for couples with Queen beds and \$200.00 for singles for 2 nights at the hotel plus hotel parking (for the cars that are going), armbands and payment toward gas for the trip. Last year we were \$40.00 in the red when all was done and that can't happen this year. Give me a Yes or No for going as soon as possible. I also need someone

to find a place to eat Saturday night at 6:00 P.M. All else will be basically the same.

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

**TRIBUTE TO DAVID DEAN McWETHY (4/8/39-11/17/18)** given by Jim Thompson at the repast following the Memorial Service for David.

“We are here to honor David McWethy. David has been a member of The First State Model Railroad Club for many years and a friend to us all. Shortly after David joined the Club we lost our regular meeting place at the Wyoming Train Station which we had restored.

As President, I had to do something. We needed another meeting place. So I asked members who had layouts if they would host meetings in their homes and then we could see their layouts.

It went over well and we had 14 individuals with layouts who volunteered to hold meetings. Paul Buckley, Reverend Drummer, Jim DiDonato, Tim Kaden, Ed Kline, Jim Reed, Paul Roy, Les Souder, Richard Stockslager, Jim Thompson, Eddie Tunstall, Jim Valle, Paul Vogel and David McWethy.

But David had no active layout set up. But he insisted he had a program for our meeting. Our first meeting at David and Carol's home was very interesting. He had a quiz for us of about 10 questions. And he gave us 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Well, most of us did not know the answers, so at the end of the 10 minutes, it was time for review. We asked David for the answers. He didn't have the answers either. They were questions he wanted answers to and thought we could provide them to him. Well, thank goodness, Jim Valle, Les Souder and Ed Chippie had most of the answers. We were pretty impressed with David using the quiz to get the answers. He enlightened us all. This is where the question “What does David have to share?” started. Carol had a great spread of food and drink after the meeting. Then we went to the basement for David to share his train collection and operating train components.

David always picked March or April for his meeting date. We had a lighted Cross Bucks at the home for the meeting which showed members the house. We usually had 20 -30 members attend.

Well, in life we have earth and heaven and there is a crossing when our time here is done. On train tracks there is the crossing. When the train is arriving you will hear 2 long blasts of the horn, 1 short blast and 1 long blast again. Listen. With that please let us pray.”

### **Jim Thompson**

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

**2018. If your dues are not current, please send or give them to Treasurer Matthews.**

**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 is received at this address)**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**November 30, December 1-2, and 12, 2018 – FSMRRC to set up and run trains at Rockwood Park, Wilmington, DE**

**December 1-2, 2018 -- Greensboro Model Train Show & Exhibit, 9:00am-3:00pm on Sat - Vendors and Layouts; 10:00am-3:00pm on Sun - Layouts only. New Greensboro Fire House, Greensboro, MD.**

**December 1-2, 2018 – Greenberg’s Great Train and Toy Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. 10am-4pm both days. Adult Admission is \$10 Saturday or \$9 Sunday, Kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket. **FREE PARKING.** Show Features: 550+ Tables of Trains for Sale, 150+ Exhibitors from Across the Country, Huge Operating Model Train Displays, Riding Train for Kids and Adults, Interactive Slot Car Racetrack, Free Workshops and Demonstrations, Free Door Prize Giveaways, Train Doctor - On-Site Train Repairs, Free Test Track - Test Run Your Trains at the Show.

**December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 2018 – Patcong Valley Model Railroad Club Open House.** 1308 Harding Hwy., Richland, NJ. 10am-4pm. FREE parking and admission. Donations appreciated.

**December 1-2, 2018; January 5-6, 2018; January 12-13, 2019 – Delmarva Model Railroad Club’s 33rd Annual Open House.** Camelot Hall (2nd Floor, NO elevator), 103-E State Street, Delmar, DE. Saturday: 11am-4pm, Sunday: Noon-4pm. 9 layouts featuring 10 different gauges from Z Scale to G Scale. Refreshments, White Elephant table, Raffle ticket sales, free parking and admission.

**December 8, 2018 – Philadelphia Chapter PRRT&HS.** Drexel Hill Methodist Church. 600

Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill, PA. 10:30am-3pm. □ 10:30am – Doors Open. □ 11:00am – Modelers Meeting □ 11:30am – Dining Car. □ 1:00pm – Business Meeting. Delmarva Timetable News of the Delmarva Model Railroad Club Website: <http://delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org/> □ 1:30p – Presentation.

**December 8, 2018 – Music City Chapter Train Collectors Association 25th Annual Christmas Train Show.** Fairgrounds Nashville, Creative Arts Building, 500 Wedgewood Ave, Nashville, TN. 9am-4pm. Admission \$7, Children under 13, FREE. Parking \$5. Show Highlights: Operating train layouts will be in action throughout the show. Over 200 tables of new and antique toy and model trains. Test track available. Trains from all major brand names such as Lionel and MTH and others in all gauges. Parts and appraisals available. Door prizes awarded during the entire show (must be present to win). Non electrical floor layout area for small children to get that “hands on” experience. 5 New train sets will be awarded in a children only drawing (do not have to be present to win). Snack Bar will be open and serving hot dogs, cheeseburgers, fries and cold drinks at great prices.

**December 9, 2018 - Earleigh Heights Family Train & Toy Show,** 9am-2pm, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire House, Severna Park, Maryland.

**December 11, 2018 – FSMRRC Christmas Party, Roma Restaurant, Dover, DE, 6 p.m.**

**December 15, 2018 – 5th Annual Brunswick Toy, Train & Collectible Show and Sale.** Brunswick Volunteer Fire Co., 1500 Volunteer Drive, Brunswick MD. 9am-3pm. For details please contact Louis Di Girolamo, via email: [digirolamo74@yahoo.com](mailto:digirolamo74@yahoo.com) or 732-600-9059.

**December 15, 2018 - Arbutus Train and Toy Show,** 9:00am-1:00pm, Arbutus Fire Hall, Arbutus, MD.

