



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

As I sit here and write this article, I have just sent out an email (well Joyce actually forwarded my email) canceling the work night for Thursday night due to the cold weather. I have been outside today and it's already cold, at least to me, and it's only 34 degrees. Tomorrow the forecast high will be 22 degrees. So tomorrow I am going to start a fire in my fireplace and sit here and enjoy it.

Speaking of starting a fire, we need to get the layout ready to take to Wilmington on the 16th and 17th of February so let's get fired up and fix any items on the DCC layout that don't look right. I am really excited about going this year since we have not been there for two years. We need to put on a good show so we can be invited back again. Remember, if you are not running a train, and even if you are, engage (talk to) the people visiting our display. Talk about the trains, the club and ask if they have any questions about the hobby; remember the hobby is model trains which mean fun and it's the world's greatest hobby. Talk us and the hobby up. I just hope the weather holds out and we don't get a snow storm that weekend. I have found out we can go up Friday the 15th between 2:00 and 7:30 to set up. That will allow us more time and not have to be rushed Saturday and leave at zero dark thirty or rush though breakfast. Also, please let me know if you want to run trains that weekend. I like to allow as many members to run trains as we can. Remember, only members in good standing will be allowed to run trains so make sure your 2018 and 2019 dues are paid in full.

A group of us are still working on plans to redo one of the modules on the DCC layout. So, if you are interested in helping just jump right in there and give us your ideas. Also, for those who do not know, we are working with Ralph to help him get a layout up and running. The first thing we need to help him with is to select a railroad plan. He has some ideas of what he wants. We now have to take those ideas and help him develop them. He wants an 11' by 6' layout. Again,

if you want to help him just jump in there with your ideas. If I'm not around, check in with Buzz for module help and Ralph if you want to help him with his layout.

Besides the train show in Wilmington on the 16th and 17th we have Smyrna High School on the February 23rd, which is the weekend after the Wilmington show. Don't forget we have the scout merit badge class March 9 and the St. Georges show on March 23rd. If you'd like to help with the merit badge class, please contact Jeff or Paul and ask what you can help with.

I hope all of you who went to the Amherst show had a great time and got great deals. I can't wait to read Paul's article on that event, as I'm sure all of you are.

As you can see, the next few months are going to be busy and I hope everyone will help with these events. Again, have a good month and be safe and well out there.

Sam Eaton, President

FSMRRC SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS TRIP 2019:

The annual Amherst Society Railroad Hobby Show was held at the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA, on Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27, 2019. Despite a late change in the show coordinator, from Jim Thompson to Paul Roy, the event was a huge success. Ultimately, Jim and Carolyn were not able to make the trip and were missed. The group of ten left early on Friday, with a total of three vehicles: Paul and Lena Roy and Lauralee Plaisted, Felton; Les and Ann Souder and Myrna Valle, Dover; Paul and Paula Buckley, Smyrna; Buzz Matthews, Camden; and John Grey, who came all the way from Mississippi. After a couple of stops on the New Jersey Turnpike and lunch on the Garden State Parkway, we headed for Springfield. We arrived at the Sheraton Monarch Hotel at 4:00 pm. The hotel now has new door locks. All one needs to do is to swipe the key card on the designated area for entry. Isn't modern technology wonderful! As we were checking in, Henry Kramer arrived from New York to join. At 6:30 pm, we departed to the Cracker Barrel, North Holyoke for dinner and then back to the hotel for some needed rest and a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning the men met for a delicious and generous hotel buffet breakfast – a perfect start to another adventure at the train show! We departed for the show at 8:30 pm, and with Steam Whistle and Diesel Horns sounding at 9:00 am sharp, doors opened and the great train adventure 2019 commenced!

After breakfast at the hotel, the ladies, Lena, Lauralee, Ann, Paula, and Myrna, departed for Yankee Candle, with Ann as the driver. Lena reported that all had a great time and made some interesting purchases.

At the show, all the men split up in search of good deals. Judging from the bags I saw, we all made some good buys. I found one of two items that were on top of my list, which was the latest

version of the Tank Train cars painted in white. The Omya paint over cars by Athearn have not been released yet. However, I did find some additional nice stuff. I also picked up Bill Benzin's order. Thanks Bill for letting me keep the change! Just kidding! We departed from the Mallory Complex at 4:30 and headed for the hotel to rest up before going out for dinner.

One observation I should mention: It seemed to me that there were less vendors and more layouts this year.

This trip we were looking for a different culinary adventure for our Saturday evening meal. So I challenged Ann and Les to research some area restaurants, and that they did! After discussing options at our "Trivia Night" before the event, present participating parties (Souders, Roys and Myrna) agreed on "The Munich Haus" as being the best choice. A reservation was then made, but the earliest available was at 8:00 pm. The late seating, however, turned out to be more than worthwhile! The restaurant was great! As soon as I walked in, I knew we had made the right choice. It was packed and full of music and cheer! We were seated in a semi-private area and the service and food were excellent! The German décor and ambiance included waitresses dressed in German Bavarian style attire and a delightful accordion-playing gentleman, wearing a hat that looked like a mug of beer. He gave us a special performance right at our table – all of us were singing and swaying to the music – and complimented it with conversation and jokes. This wonderful experience also brought back such fond memories to Paul Buckley and me of our time in Germany long ago. The Munich Haus was a wonderful experience and it's a keeper. If we make the journey next year, we will make earlier reservations.

Sunday started with all enjoying breakfast at the hotel buffet. I must comment on its excellent quality. The food is great with plenty of choices and, best of all, it's all you can eat!

At around 9:30 am, the men departed for the show. Some visited areas they didn't get to on Saturday (Saturdays are very crowded) and some went back to various vendors to purchase items they had spotted on Saturday, but at the time couldn't make up their minds to buy. We departed the show at around noon. The Gals were ready for us, complete with bags, at the hotel lobby. We all departed at 1:00 pm for home. Thankfully, Sunday traffic was good. We made the usual rest stop on the Garden State Parkway and then at the Cracker Barrel in Pennsville, New Jersey for dinner. After a great meal and adventure, we all said our goodbyes and departed for home. We couldn't have asked for better weather or a better trip. Speaking for myself, I'm ready to do it again next year!

I need to thank some folks: Jim Thompson, who started the planning and assisted in correcting the hotel reservations; Joyce Stockslager for taking care of the arm bands for us; Buzz Mathews for keeping track of the finances; and, of course, all who participated in this trip. Your amiable cooperation created, without a doubt, a smoother and more pleasant journey. I can't say enough about the camaraderie among all of us! Of all the clubs and organizations I belong to, The FSMRRC is the best! We all have a great rapport with one another and have a great time on all the different activities we do.

Paul Roy, Show Coordinator

**REMINDER: FSMRRC DUES ARE DUE (\$60/YR) BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 2019.
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:

February 2, 2019 – Toms River Train and Toy Show. Elks Lodge, Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ. 9a-2p. 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. Children and adult door prizes.

February 2-3, 2019 – The Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD (Cow Palace). Saturday: 9a-5p, Sunday: 10a-4p. Admission: \$9.00 for both days, \$8.00 for Sunday only. Children up to 15 FREE with a paid adult.

February 9, 2019 – Antietam Station Model Railroad Sale. Washington County Agricultural Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Sharpsburg, MD – 6.5 miles south of I-70, Exit 29 on MD Rt. 65. 9a-2p. For details please visit: <http://www.antietamstation.com/hEvents.htm>.

February 9-10, 16-17, 2019 – Burlington County Model Railroad Club Open House. Basement – Burlington County Footlighters Playhouse, 898 Pomona Rd., Cinnaminson, NJ. Noon-5p each day. For details please call 856733-0010 or visit www.facebook.com.bsmrc.

February 16-17, 2019 – Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show. Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE. 9a-4p both days. Admission: \$10 Saturday, \$9 Sunday – on-site ticket sales cash only. Kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket. Hundreds of tables of trains for Sale, exhibitors from across the country, riding train for kids and adults, huge operating model train displays, free workshops and demonstrations, interactive slot car racetrack, free test track – test run your trains at the show, free door prize giveaways.

February 23, 2019 – 26th Annual Seaford Volunteer Fire Dept. Toy and Train Show. King and Cannon Sts., Seaford, DE. 9a-3p. Tables and displays on both floors.

February 23-24, 2019 – Allentown Train Meet Associates presents 2019 Spring Thaw Train Meet. Allentown Fairgrounds Agricultural Hall, 302 N. 17th St., Allentown, PA (GPS address: 1930 W. Liberty St.) Saturday: 9a–4pm, Sunday 9m–3p. Admission: \$8.00. Kids under 12 FREE. Free parking, operating layouts, manufacturers and displays, train races, test track.

February 24, 2019 – 2019 TCA Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis (WB&A) Chapter Train Meet. Annapolis Elks Lodge, 2 Pythian Dr., Edgewater, MD. Opens 10a. For more info please visit: <http://wba-tca-eastern.org> or contact Nada Boswell, wba.boswell@gmail.com or call 571445-3662.

March 2-3, 2019 – Roundhouse Model Train Show. B&O Railroad Museum-Baldwin Roundhouse, 901 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD. 10a-4p Saturday, 11a-4p Sunday. Tickets available at the museum entrance. Cosponsored by the B&O Railroad Museum & Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show. Thousands of model trains on exhibit and for sale, exhibitors from across the country, operating and interactive model train displays, train rides on the “Mile One Express”, car house tours, the nation's best collection of 19th century trains, model trains kids can run, operating train layouts, huge model railroad marketplace, interactive exhibits for kids.

March 3, 2019 – TCA-Atlantic Division Spring Fever Train Show. Penn’s Landing Caterers, (Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall), 1301 S., Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. 9a1p, (TCA members 8a-1p). Admission: \$5 family, 2 adults and children 12 and under. Food by Chef Chris Rodgers, door prizes for adults and children, new & used trains & accessories, operating train layouts, collectibles, repair parts available, train doctor, test track.

March 23, 2019 – Spring Hartly Train Show. 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.

