



**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020**

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station, 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

Fun time has come and gone. Springfield was a blast as you can tell by Thompson's epistle below. Those of us who went won't forget it for a while. Now we have some shows to complete. Chase (Wilmington, 2/15-16) has come up along with two fast shows: one at Dover Library (?) and the other at Smyrna High School (2/22). Chase (Greenberg) is a paying commitment with a problem: one of our members has a 60th anniversary the same day and some of our members are committed to attending a dinner in Baltimore and can't make Saturday at Chase, but will arrive Sunday to help take down. Trailer hauling has been arranged, so that helps out. But we need other members to step up and help set up and run their trains on Saturday and Sunday. If you can help, please do.

Come to the meeting on 2/11/2020 to find out about a new idea Thompson and have come up with. Hopefully you will be interested in this as you will learn new ideas about modeling. And those programs should be hands-on, so be prepared to learn.

If you have any ideas for programs you would like to see done, please let myself or Thompson know. After all, this is your club and you should have a voice in it. It's a way we all learn and friendships develop.

Les Souder, President

**SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST RAILWAY SOCIETY RAILROAD
HOBBY SHOW TRIP:**

This year's show was the weekend of January 25 and 26, 2020, and was a great success with 19 individuals attending from the club. It all started back in September when we reserved 8 rooms. Early reservations was a big deal. Just ask Kurt Schwaninger, because he tried to reserve a room

in December and there were none to be had, unless you paid double the price, which he did. Kurt goes up on Wednesday to attend classes on Thursday and Friday. The rooms for the Club cost about \$1,800.00 for seven rooms for two nights. For the past three years breakfast has been included. The club used to have a room reserved at Bob Evans each year for Saturday and Sunday breakfast and it would normally cost around \$300.00 that was paid by the individual members. This year we had four cars headed north from Dover, Delaware to Springfield, MA. Transportation is included and drivers are reimbursed for gas. Arm bands for the show are ordered in advance so you don't have to stand in line each day to get in to the show. The price of the arm bands is about \$325.00. So you see, a package deal for couples at \$380.00 and individuals at \$200.00 is a great deal. The price may go up next year because of rising room rates and gas. Let's hope not.

The first part of the trip starts at Les' on Friday morning at 8:00 A.M., departing at 8:30 A.M. and the first stop is at the Fenwick Rest area around 9:30-9:45 A.M. The second stop is lunch at 12:00 on the Garden State Parkway. We usually get to the Sheraton Monarch Springfield around 4:00 P.M. Parking is usually difficult until later in the evening, but we can hopefully find a spot in the underground parking. At 6:30 P.M. we caravan to Cracker Barrel about seven miles north in Holyoke. It's hard to seat 18 people together so we normally end up with tables of 4, 5 or 6. This year our table of 6 never got served until everyone else was done and had left to return to the hotel. They were not happy. The next thing is a good night's sleep. The rooms are excellent. The hotel is rated an A+. All rooms were double with queen beds. For the first time in 14 years everyone had rooms on the same floor which was very nice. Everyone was on the 5th floor and you could just walk over and tap on their door.

The guys met Saturday morning at 7:00 A.M. in the Mahogany Room on the second floor for breakfast, which is a full breakfast, very well done. After breakfast the guys all departed at 8:15 A.M. for the show at the Eastern States Exposition Complex that is about three miles from the hotel. The show starts at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday and parking is a premium, so we have to get there early. Parking cost is \$5.00 a car.

Arm bands are distributed at breakfast: Saturday is red and Sunday is blue. The complex features four buildings, the Stroh Building, the Young Building, the Mallory Complex and the Better Living Center. With over 34 layouts and 380 vendors, manufacturers and distributors, there is a lot to see. It is a long day, with trains to see, lots of questions to ask and plenty of purchases to be made. Members like Les Souder, Paul Roy, John Gray and Cabbage Brown all have lists of items to be purchased. Then there are people like Dick Lush, Sam Eaton, Jim Thompson, Buzz Matthews, Henry Kramer and Charlie and Matt Carrico who came without a specific list but wanted to see new items and layouts and possibly make a few purchases. Well, Saturday went well but was a very long day. We were to meet at the Stroh Building at 4:00 P.M. to return to the Hotel.

The ladies had breakfast around 8:30-9:00 A.M. and then departed for Yankee Candle about 30 miles north of Springfield. All six ladies in Les' car with Ann doing a fine job driving. There

were lots of things to see and purchase for the ladies. This is not just a candle store, they have everything: home goods, food items, clothes, jewelry, items for the yard, anything you can imagine. The girls shopped, had a light lunch and decided to gather their purchases and depart for the hotel around 3:00 P.M. It was a fabulous day.

Then to top off a great day, our dinner plans, made in advance by Paul Roy, were at a wonderful German restaurant named the Munich Haus Restaurant in Chicopee, MA. Paul spent a lot of time setting up the reservation for the 16 of us, which paid off. We had two tables next to each other. It was extremely noisy, but that's the way these restaurants are. The highlight of the evening, along with the great food, was a 90 year old gentleman singing and playing the accordion. He sang numerous songs, including "Happy Birthday" to Buzz and Thompson. I even saw Paul Roy come over and sing with him on several songs. What a delightful evening. Thompson's meal was Lichtn Schnsoap and Goulash and Carolyn's meal was Roast Braten with salad and two L-Erdingers (that's beer). We got back to the hotel about 9:00 P.M. for a good night's sleep.

Sunday morning started all over again, with breakfast at 8:00 A.M. for the entire group. Then the guys departed for the show at about 9:15 A.M. Everyone went to pick out the things they wanted but didn't get yesterday. Of the tens of thousands of engines there, Les wanted a particular one. Would you believe it was gone!!!! But he found a replacement that was even better. There are numbers on the poles holding the building up, and you better write the number down if you plan on finding the item later. We all gathered around noon to return to the hotel. The ladies had bags packed and cars were loaded. Carolyn had checked out the hotel rooms for everyone, putting the bill on Jim's credit card. We departed for Dover around 1:00 P.M.

We were to meet at Cracker Barrel in Pennsville, N.J. for dinner. But some of us went to Famous Dave's in Christiana, DE, or Famous Amos as Les calls it. The food was great with lots of choices and lots of sauces. Ask Matt on Thursday night if you can see the picture of Les with the hat on as Famous Dave's Pig. Well, all had a great time and got home around 8:30-9:30 P.M. We are already talking about next year's trip. So, consider making plans and joining the club members for a great weekend. Let us know if you are interested.

Jim Thompson, Vice President

"NEW" MEMBER

Welcome to H. Cabbage Brown as a paid member. Cabbage has been an honorary member for many years and has gotten back into model railroading. His address is: 3263 Upper King Rd., Dover, DE 19904, email: cabbage8@comcast.net.

33rd MERIT BADGE CLASS – March 14, 2020

Our 33rd Merit Badge Class will be held from 9am -3pm on Saturday, March 14, at the clubhouse (1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE). Any help from club members would be appreciated.

We will need help with the car kit construction and helping the scouts at the Timesaver modules. Paul might need one person to help monitor the scouts during the lecture portion. Boy Scouts of America require two-deep leadership for all scout functions. This means there must be at least two members at each station for the duration of the class.

Advertising has been through the website and Facebook posts on the Club's page, and various scouting pages of troops that have visited our class before: the Two Bays, Tri County, Sussex, Iron Hill and Powder Mill districts and DelMarVA Council pages and flyers that were distributed to the Two Bays roundtables for troops and packs. The flyers will be distributed to the roundtables again in February.

I made several changes this year:

- ALL scouts MUST pre-register through the website. This change was made to assure that we have enough car kits ready for the number of scouts that sign up.
- NO walk-ins will be accepted. This was made so that the class can start on time and not have to wait until all the registration information is collected on any late arrivals.
- A deadline of one week prior to the class (March 7) was set up to allow for a final count and give us the time to get things organized and setup in the clubhouse before the class starts.

So far, we have had three scouts sign up, two from Pennsylvania and one from Delaware. Registration usually starts slow but, if history tells us anything, it will start to pick up around mid-February.

If you have any time to spare on March 14, please consider helping us with this activity. You can stay for an hour or two, or the whole time. ANY help would be appreciated.

Jeff Shockley, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 15-16, 2020 – Greenberg's Great Train and Toy Show, Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison St., Wilmington, DE. 10a-4p both days. FREE PARKING. Adult Admission is \$10 Saturday or \$9 Sunday. Kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket. **Show Features:** • Hundreds Tables of Trains for Sale • Exhibitors from Across the Country • Huge Operating Model Train Displays • Free Workshops and Demonstrations • Free Test Track - Test Run Your Trains at the Show • Free Door Prize Giveaways. **FSMRRC TO SET UP DISPLAY.**

February 22, 2020 – “I Love Smyrna School District Day” at Smyrna High School. FSMRRC and Shore Line Model Railroad Club will have layouts set up. This is a community-wide event that encompasses all aspects of life in the Smyrna School District with displays and performances by all school groups in the district and many groups/organizations in and around Smyrna.

February 22, 2020 - – Seaford Volunteer Fire Company Train and Toy Show, Seaford Volunteer Fire Company, King & Cannon St., Seaford, DE 9a-3p. Model train displays will be available for viewing. Also on hand will be a large number of vendors selling model train and toy items. Breakfast and lunch foods will be available for sale

February 23, 2020 - WB&A Chapter Toy Train Show, 10am to 3pm, Annapolis Elks Lodge, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD

March 13-14, 2020 – East Coast Large Scale Train Show, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-4pm. www.eclsts.com

March 14, 2020 – 33rd BSA Merit Badge Class. First State Model Railroad Club, 1282 McKee Rd., Dover, DE, 9a-3p. Admission: FREE. Class is OPEN to all level of Scouts, BSA or GSA, seating limit is 30. Go to <https://www.fsmrrc.org/scouting-meritbadge.html> and follow the links. A Confirmation email will be sent within 48 hours. **FSMRRC MEMBERS NEEDED FOR ASSISTANCE. CONTACT JEFF SHOCKLEY.**

March 21, 2020 – 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 Fire Company auxiliary. Door prizes every hour.

March 28, 2020 - Nur Shrine Temple Train Show, Nur Shrine Center 198 S. Dupont Hwy, New Castle, DE <http://www.toyshows.org>

REMINDER: FSMRRC DUES ARE DUE (\$60/YR) BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 2020. If your dues are not current, please send or give them to Treasurer Paul Roy.

FSMRRC OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: LES SOUDER

SECRETARY: JEFF SHOCKLEY

VICE PRESIDENT: JIM THOMPSON

TREASURER: PAUL ROY

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

FSMRRC MAILING ADDRESS:

Les Souder, 508 N. East Ave., Dover, DE 19901-3915 OR

Paul Roy, 95 River Run Blvd., Felton, DE 19943-6600

