

THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The month of September featured two expeditions by members of the FSMRRC. First there was our annual trip to Montoursville, PA to visit English's Model Railroad Supply's retail store. Leaving Dover at 7:00 AM on Saturday the 12th we first drove to Gettysburg to visit Tommy Gilbert's venerable hobby store on Water Street. Here we found a wide variety of hobby related merchandise including a large selection of brass locomotives of various makes and ages. After a lunch stop near Enola we arrived at English's and proceeded to shop for parts, rolling stock, DCC throttles and other items too numerous to mention. After closing time we proceeded to Scranton, PA and found our motel and a convenient diner to round out the day. Sunday morning we headed for Steamtown shortly after breakfast. We had hoped to see Nickle Plate #765 but, with the cancellation of her excursion to Nicholson to celebrate the centennial of Tunkhannok Viaduct, she had departed for her home base in the Midwest. We spent the day seeing the sights, taking tours of the shop areas, and riding the train about half-way up the hill and back again. As evening came we departed and came back to Dover with a dinner stop of the Cracker Barrel near King of Prussia. Four of us went this time and, though the weather was a bit gloomy, we had a very enjoyable time.

Our next trip included three members who travelled to Fredericksburg, VA to attend the Mid-Atlantic Prototype Modelers Meet which was spread out over three days from the 25th to the 27th.

Although there was a roomful of vendors present, the main activity of this event was the various workshops and seminars put on by some truly expert model railroaders. Subjects covered included highly detailed weathering techniques, scratch-building of rolling stock and structures, construction of dioramas utilizing Gatorboard, operating trains by the Book of Rules, how to get pictures and articles published and other interesting subjects. Those of us who attended picked up a lot of ideas that may have some utility as we move ahead with our fall and winter activities.

Speaking of which, October promises to be an eventful time for our club. We will be hosting the Boy Scout merit badge class on the 10th with set-up and preparation on the evening of the 8th. As of this writing ten scouts are expected to attend, not a big number but one that allows us to give each boy a lot of individual attention and high quality instruction. On the 13th we will have our regular business meeting which will feature our annual election of officers. Be sure to turn out and vote for the candidate of your choice! Finally we will be setting up our lightweight modules at the Great Scale Train Show at Timonium. This is our first time exhibiting at this quadrennial event, easily the largest and best model train show in the Mid-Atlantic region. We will depart for the show from the clubhouse very early on the 24th and return on the 25th. We will be conducting a hands-on demo of DCC operation and manning a sales table in addition to running trains so we can use all the help we can get. Planning for this activity will take place during the business meeting on the 13th.

We will end the month of October with a one-day set-up at the Laurel, DE Fire House Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 31st.

After October comes November which is officially Model Railroading Month. We will start the month off with an open house on the 7th and a set-up at Magnolia, NJ on the 14th. Finally, we will be hosting another open house between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is, admittedly, a very busy schedule but it promises to generate some much needed revenue for the club's treasury. It will be especially welcome since our tax bill has gone up considerably this year.



Finally, as my term as president of the FSMRRC comes to an end, I would like to thank all the members who helped out with the many and varied tasks that are necessary to make our club a functioning entity. With this kind of support and cooperation serving as president is a pleasure (mostly). I'm sure the next slate of officers will enjoy the same level of support that I received and I wish them the best of luck.

Jim Valle, President

Trip to English Model Railroad Supply & Steamtown, September 12-13, 2015

Day 1 – The Trip Up

Our trip started on Saturday at 6am. Jim Valle and Paul Roy met Les Souder at his house and away they went. They stopped for breakfast at the Golden Corral in Elkton where Henry Kramer joined the group. After the usual hearty breakfast off we went. Paul had the honor of driving the first leg of the trip to our first stop; Tommy Gilbert's Hobby Shop in Gettysburg, PA. As we approached Baltimore it started to rain and did not let up for most of our trip on Saturday. We reached Tommy Gilbert's at around 10:30am. When we arrived, Tommy was there to greet us and gave an interesting talk on the store's history.

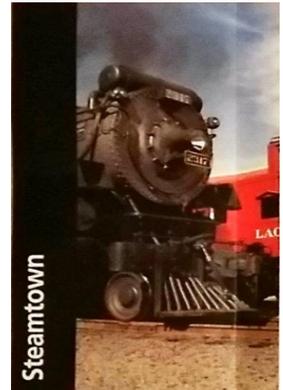
Although smaller than expected Tommy Gilbert's was very interesting and we all managed to pick up several items. After an hour at the store we started off on our trek to English Model Railroad Supply in Montoursville, PA. We journeyed up the west side of the Susquehanna River, passing the Statue of Liberty of PA and glimpsing Norfolk Southern's Enola yard. Just past the yard we stopped at the Marysville Diner where we had a very leisurely lunch.

After leaving the Marysville Diner we drove another hour and a half and finally reached English's around 3:30pm. This gave us only an hour and a half to shop because they close at 5pm. We all made good use of the time and purchased many items. We left English's promptly at 5pm and drove another two hours to the Econo Lodge in Clarks Summit where we spent the night. After checking in at the hotel we walked over to the Gourmet Family Restaurant that was right next to the hotel for dinner. Along the way we met a couple from Manchester England whose husband was interested in model trains. After finishing dinner we remained at our tables and talked about the proposed new expansion modules for the DCC layout. Since it was past the restaurant's closing time we decided to call it a night and went back to the hotel for the night.



Day 2 – Steamtown

The next morning came early for Paul and Les. Apparently they stayed up until 1am watching the movie Troy on TV. We gathered at the Hotel's lobby and made the decision that the Hotel's breakfast was not going to be adequate for a full day at Steamtown so we decided to walk back over to Gourmet Family Restaurant for a hearty breakfast. Depending on where you looked they advertised either 46 or 49 different omelets. There were actually 48 listed on the menu and of course Jim ordered one that was not on the menu. He ordered a "Greek" omelet consisting of tomatoes, olives, peppers and feta cheese. The waitress accommodated Jim's order without comment. By



9am we had finished breakfast, checked out of the hotel and traveled the short distance to Steamtown. Les had a National Parks tour card that allowed all of us entry to the site for free. We spent the next 6 hours wandering the grounds. We all went on the locomotive shop tour where we were shown their current restoration projects. In addition, all but Les went on the "Nay Aug Gorge Limited" train ride. This short 3-mile, 30-minute round trip ride crosses the Lackawanna River and passes the historic Radisson at Lackawanna Station hotel (former DL&W Railroad passenger station and offices), before stopping along the former Pocono Mainline to the 755-foot Nay Aug Tunnel. We all took many interesting pictures (these have been posted and can be seen at <https://goo.gl/ke8Z5q>).

Unfortunately there was more to see than what we had time for. At 3pm we finally decided to leave for home. Traffic was light and we made excellent time. We stopped at

Cracker Barrel in Norristown for dinner. At around 6:30pm Henry was dropped off at the Delaware Hospitality Center on I-95, and the remaining members of the expedition continued on to Dover.

Henry Kramer, Secretary

Use Your Smart Phone as a Throttle on the DCC Layout

If you don't have a DCC throttle you can now use your smart phone as a throttle on our DCC layout. If you have an Android device and wish to use it as a throttle, you need to download and run the Engine Driver app. This is a free app from the Google Play Store. To use your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch as a throttle, you need to download and run the WiThrottle app. The basic application is available as a free download from the iTunes store.

Once you configure your Android or Apple device, for it to work as a throttle I will need to configure my computer as a communications server so it will act as an interface between your device and the DCC layout. I believe this option may be useful when we take our layout on the road.

If you are interested in configuring your smart phone to control your DCC engine please let me know and I will be happy to set up my computer as the communications server.

Henry Kramer, Secretary

SCOUT MERIT BADGE:

I just wanted to let you know that, as of Tues., Oct 6, there are 10 scouts registered for the Merit Badge class on **this Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** There are 20 boxcar kits at the club and Don Jennings has said that he will be bringing some with him from Cary, NC.

For those members who don't know, this will be the club's 23th class since we started the Merit Badge project in 2003 and we have awarded 324 merit badges in total. The club has also been recognized by the Mid-Eastern Division of the NMRA and the Two Bays District of the Delmarva Council of BSA for our time and efforts in giving these classes. As far as I have researched it, 1,086 Railroading merit badges have been awarded by BSA since 2003. That means that almost 30% of those have come from this club.

If you can, I encourage you to attend the class, even if you can't stay the whole day.

Jeff Shockley

SHIRTS: The Club has a few extra Club shirts for sale. The shirts are Port Authority blue, short sleeve, with Club logo stitching in yellow. We have sizes 1XL and 2XL shirts. They are \$30.60 each. See Les Souder or Jim Thompson.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 10, 2015 – Boy Scouts of America Railroad Merit Badge Day, sponsored by **The First State Model Railroad Club**, 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE, 9am–3pm. Open to 30 scouts. Admission FREE. Contact via e-mail: cubbie109@yahoo.com.

October 22-25, 2015 – NMRA Mid-East Region Convention, The Hotel ML, 915 Route 73, Mount Laurel, NJ.

October 24, 2015 – Delaware Train Show, Nur Shrine Center, 198 South DuPont Highway (Route 13), New Castle, DE, 9am–2pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under the age of 12 are free, \$10.00 Early Buyers 8:00am admission.

October 24-25, 2015 – Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am–4pm, Sunday: 10am–4pm. Admission: Saturday \$9.00, good for both days, kids under 15 FREE, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15 FREE. **FSMRRC set-up.**

October 31, 2015 – Laurel, DE Train Show, FSMRRC set-up.

Model Railroad Month Open House Schedule (November 2015) (go to: <http://www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com/index.html> for the complete schedule)

November 1, 2015 - 38th Annual Gaithersburg Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 501 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD. No other information available at this time.

November 1, 2015 – Scranton Model Train Show. Radisson at Lackawanna Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA. 9am - 2pm. For additional information contact: Scranton Hobby, 517 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA, (570) 342-1963.

November 7-8 – First State Model Railroad Club OPEN HOUSE, 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 4pm. Contact: Jim Valle, 302-678-0283.

November 7-8, 2015 - 31st Annual Model Train & Railroadiana Show and Sale, Jim Graham Building, at corner of Blue Ridge Rd. and Hillsborough Street, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. 9am – 5pm. Admission: \$8.00 (covers both days), kids under 10 FREE with paying adult.

November 7-8, & 14-15, 2015 – Pat Mulrooney, OPEN HOUSE, 206 Stoever Dr., New Holland, PA, 11am – 4pm. Contact: 717-419-6880.

November 14, 2015 – FSMRRC set-up at Magnolia, NJ.

November 14-15, 2015 – Allentown Train Meet Associates' First Frost™ Train Meet, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall (Agri-Plex), 302 North 17th Street, Allentown, PA. Saturday: 9am – 4pm, Sunday: 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$7.00 each day, kids under 12 FREE, with paying adult.

November 22, 2015 – Paul Roy OPEN HOUSE, 95 River Run Boulevard, Felton, DE 19943. 10am – 4pm. Contact: 302-289-3560.

November 28-29, 2015 – Delmarva Model Railroad Club's 30th Annual Holiday Open House, 103 E. State Street, Delmar, DE. Saturday: 11am – 4pm. Sunday: Noon – 4pm. Free parking and admission. Layouts in Z Scale, N Scale modular, N Scale, HO Scale, S Scale, O Gauge, Standard Gauge, and G Scale. White Elephant table, Refreshments, and Train Videos.

November 28-29, 2015 – Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, New Jersey Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. 10:00am – 4pm both days. Admission: \$9.00 (good for both days), kids under 12 FREE.

December ??, 2015 – FSMRRC CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE??? IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW A.S.A.P.

Do you have something you would like to share with the members of FSMRRC? If so, please submit them to stockslager@gmail.com by the end of each month.