



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road (the old REA/Magnum Building) in Dover, DE. From Route 13, go west on Scarborough Road about two miles and the building is on the right. From Dover, off Route 8, take Saulsbury Road north, which turns into McKee Road, and the building is on the left next to Kenton Child Care Center. Come early and run some trains. If lost, call 302-222-7552.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

The Chase River Walk Show at Wilmington on Saturday/Sunday, March 15-16, 2014 was a super show. Les and I picked up the trailer at 7:30 A.M. with numerous cars convoying from the station. We picked up additional vehicles on the way up to Wilmington with arrival time at 8:30 A.M. Numerous members were at the site and the trailer was unloaded, layout set-up and trains running at about 9:00 A.M. The DCC walk around system was set up with 5 trains running Saturday. Kevin Herrmann had an Amtrak unit with several C32-8W pulling it. Les Souder had a long coal train with 2 F7's doing all the work. Dick Lush had a C-430 and MP15 engine swapping out on a freight train pushing the camera engine and Larry Wheeler had three of Kevin's C40-8W engines pulling Larry's auto racks. All was done with DCC walk around controllers. It was very impressive to see no one tied down to a transformer.

Sunday, we were to meet at the building at 7:30 A.M. with departure to IHOP on N. DuPont Hwy. in New Castle, DE. for breakfast at 8:00 A.M. From breakfast we departed to the Chase Center. Our trailer was positioned for easy departure from set-up on Sunday and gave Les a good packing spot. The show didn't open until 10:00 A.M., so we had plenty of time to set up trains for the day. It was a great run day with Kevin running his C38-8W Amtrak units, Larry Wheeler running a Santa Fe C48-8W Auto racks, John Murphy was running his Lehigh Valley coal train, Jim Valle was running Jim Thompson's PRR Bud cars with camera engine in front. Dick Lush was running his GEP7 grain train with Jim's camera train at times. Joe Sudler and his grandson, Tyler, were plugged in to the DCC outlet as his Amtrak Bachmann unit kept dropping the code from the walk-arounds. As you can see, a lot of members were getting acquainted to the ease of the DCC system. John Murphy said he has ordered a controller of his own, as the hand-held units belonged to Les Souder and Jim Thompson. Thanks to all for a super run weekend. Talking to office personnel, we were told there were 70 vendors and 5 layouts. We were paid \$100.00 for the weekend. We don't take in as much as we did with the old layout because of size.

On Thursday, the trailer was unloaded and the layout set up. Kevin Herrmann took his 2 modules home to get detailed. I was hoping to set the layout up with one wide and three long to show how the layout can be set up in different configurations and a DCC work section was being planned out. Well, too late, as I arrived the two spare modules were put in place, one with track and the other to be laid. The track was laid the next Thursday and I still hope to have Kevin, Les, Dick Lush, Joe Sudler, John Murphy and Jim Valle running DCC as they seemed to enjoy it.

The Boy Scout Project has Jeff Shockley, Paul Buckley and Dick Lush working out details for the two weekends. Jeff Shockley needs a head count for train cars and Dick Lush is laying track for demos. Paul Buckley will be out of town, but will be back for Saturday's lectures. The layout will probably have to be put up in the trailer bay for Boy Scout set-up.

The Dover Days Weekend of 3-4 May is right around the corner and plans need to be made.

The AG Museum project needs to take off soon, as Earl Brooks has completed the first Jester Farm site. Robert Burton plans on the second site with Richard Stockslager working on Fifer's apple and peach farm site. Jim Thompson is working on the old Collins farm. Jim Valle has mentioned the new spray paint for ballast on tracks. This would be a perfect project for the AG Museum track which has been partially taken up. A Saturday needs to be set up for this project and get the layout back together.

The Building Board is coming along fine with John Gray doing his usual donation. Thanks, John.

Dues are due, so see Richard Stockslager and get up to date and make bookkeeping easy.

Our hearts go out to Reggie Finch with the passing of his wife, Gladys. Reggie and Gladys were married for 48 years. A special thanks to all who showed up for the memorial service. It shows a great support for our members and our Club family.

Last, as of the meeting on April 8, 2014, I, James Thompson, feel it is time for some other Club member to be the President and I am stepping down at this time. I have prospective candidates in mind for the prestigious position. I cannot thank you enough for the years of support we have had, but I want to spend more time with my wife and grandchildren. Life is precious and short. Spend more time with your family.

See you at the April 8 meeting. Jim Thompson, President

UPCOMING SHOWS:

April 12-13, 2014 Timonium Cow Palace, Timonium, MD. POC: Howard 410-730-1036.

April 12 & 19, 2014 Boy Scout Merit Badge Project, POC: Shockley, Buckley & Lush.

May 10, 2014 Sudlersville Train Show, Sudlersville, MD. POC: Kurt 302-270-4786.