

First State Model Railroad Club
Minutes of Meeting
October 14, 2014

October's business meeting was held at the Jarrell Clubhouse. The meeting was called to order by Club President Jim Valle at 7:30pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by club Secretary Henry Kramer. Upon a motion by Dick Lush, seconded by Jim Thompson, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Richard Stockslager. He noted an opening balance of \$2,849.79 in the club's account. Receipts totaled \$300.00 and disbursements amounted to \$1,484.32 (\$1,278.43 went to our Kent County tax bill); leaving a closing balance of \$1,665.47. There was some discussion concerning if our club could qualify for school tax relief. Since our tax bill is based on Dr. Jarrell's tax obligation, the general consensus was that the probability is slim to none. Paul Roy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by John Murphy and the report was accepted.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Class:

- Jeff Shockley gave a recap of the October 11th Boy Scout Merit Badge Class. 15 scouts representing 7 troops from Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania attended. Jeff thanked the 8 club members that helped out. In addition to Jeff, the members that assisted were Paul Buckley, Earl Brooks, Reggie Finch, Joe Sudler, Henry Kramer, Jim Valle and John Murphy. Additionally, Don Jennings, representing the Mid-East Region of the MNRA, drove up from Cary, NC to help out at our event. In appreciation of his assistance with our merit badge classes, Jim Valle named Don Jennings an Honorary member of our club. This Honorary membership was confirmed by acclamation.
- We had 1 "glitch" in our program. There were not enough knuckle couplers in the model kits. We had to use the Accu-Rail 2-piece couplers that were included in the kit boxes. Paul Buckley used his supply of knuckle couplers to replace those that were not in the boxes.
- At the conclusion of the class, Mike Price, Scoutmaster of Troop 1 in Lewes, DE, donated 4 Railroading merit badge books to the club. Mike also sent the club an email stating: *"Thank you all, from Troop 1. We had a wonderful time at the merit badge class. All the scouts said it was not only fun but informative. They kept repeating '4 foot, 8½ inches' every time we saw railroad tracks."*
- This was the 24th class sponsored by the club since we started the Merit Badge Program in 2003. We have awarded 318 merit badges in that 11-year span. Jeff informed the club that he is already planning our next merit badge class and is looking at April 11, 2015.

Presidential Remarks:

- Jim Valle reported that the Magnolia NJ Train Show went well with \$100.00 going into the club treasury.
- Jim also reported that the Laurel Train Show also went well, once we figured out how to fit the layout in the area provided for us. \$150.00 went into the club's treasury.
- Member attendance for both shows turned out strong.
- Jim Thompson and Jim Valle ran trains for the Farmer's Christmas on the layout at the Agricultural Museum. Visitors were pleased with the farms that were finished.

Upcoming Trips and Events:

- October 25, 2014 – Great Scale Train Show at Timonium, MD. Members wishing to attend should meet at the clubhouse at 7:00am.
- November 8, 2014 – On this date our Club will be participating in the NMRA's National Model Railroad Month by hosting an Open House from 9:00am-3:00pm. Richard Stockslager will also have his layout open from 9:00am-3:00pm.
- November 15, 2014 – We will be taking our DCC layout and participating in the Magnolia, NJ Train Show (from 9:00am-3:00pm). It will be held at their new Community Center. We will be the only HO

layout. Magnolia, NJ is approximately 80 miles (1½ hour drive) from Dover. We will leave the clubhouse at 6:30am and intend to stop for breakfast along the way to Magnolia.

- November 22, 2014 – We will be taking our DCC layout and participating in the Model Train Show at Laurel, DE Fire Hall (from 9:00am-3:00pm). We will be leaving the clubhouse at 7:00am.
- Although the likelihood is low, Jim Valle will be applying for a slot at the Greenberg Train & Toy Show on December 13-14, 2014 at Oaks, PA. If our bid is not accepted, Jeff Shockley suggested we could participate in “The Great Cookie Walk” in Dover. This is a fund raiser for St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church. Although we would not get an honorarium, we would be able to have a donation barrel.
- Paul Roy asked if the club was going to sponsor another trip to Springfield, MA. The show would be held on January 24-25, 2015. As in the past, wives would be invited to attend this event. Six of the members who attended the meeting expressed interest in attending this event. Jim Thompson volunteered to be the “trip planner”.

Agricultural Museum:

- David McWethy asked for an update on the Agricultural Museum project. Two of the twelve modules are complete and there does not seem to be much enthusiasm among the membership to complete this project. Gary Bryant stressed that the club accepted money from the Ag Museum and we need to either finish the project or return their \$1,000.00 down payment.

New Items:

- Kurt Schwaninger informed the club members that Kent County Parks & Recreation will be offering several adult evening courses that might be of interest to members. Course flyers are available at the front of our meeting room.
- Kurt also informed the club membership that on October 23rd there will be a public auction of a 2-foot narrow gauge railroad.
- Richard Stockslager suggested we should install a night light over the garage door. The estimated cost of this project is \$150.00. Jim Thompson made a motion to authorize funds for this project and Bill Benzin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Officer Elections:

- Per our By-Laws: *”Elections shall be held each year during the month of October for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. ...Elections shall be by acclamation or majority vote at the regular business meeting of the organization.”*
- Jim Valle presented his vision concerning what our club should be working toward. Jim’s vision sparked a considerable amount of discussion. Many members commented on various parts of the vision. Finally, a member re-nominated Jim for the office of President. Kevin Herrmann was nominated for Vice President. Les Souder informed the membership that he would decline being re-nominated. Henry Kramer was re-nominated as Secretary. Richard Stockslager was re-nominated as Treasurer. Other members were nominated for various offices, but all declined. Finally, the nomination process was ended and all the officers were elected by acclamation. Many thanks to Gary Bryant for guiding the club through the election process.
- After the election, David McWethy commented that the club needed a Sargent-at-Arms to keep the membership in line and suggested that Reggie Finch would be perfect for the position. All agreed.

At 9:19pm Dick Lush made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Sudler and the meeting was ended.

A ticket for the 50/50 raffle was drawn. The total pot was \$19.00 and Earl Brooks had the winning ticket. Earl donated his half to the club. Thank you, Earl.

Respectively submitted,
Henry Kramer, Secretary