

First State Model Railroad Club
Minutes of Meeting
November 11, 2014

December'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 Gary Bryant, seconded by Dick Lush, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Richard Stockslager. He noted an opening balance of \$1,665.47 in the club's account. Receipts totaled \$529.00 (including Paul Roy's donation to the Building Fund) and disbursements amounted to \$995.07; leaving a closing balance of \$1,199.40. The Agricultural Museum fund is now down to \$151.93 and included in the club's balance. Earl Brooks made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Paul Roy and was accepted.

Presidential Remarks:

- The October 25th trip to the Timonium trains show went well.
- Our November 8th Open House also went well. Approximately 30 people stopped by to view our layout and we received \$35.00 in donations. The members brought and ran some nice equipment Thanks to all that supported this event.
- Sam Eaton was introduced as our newest member.
- Contacted Frank from Greenberg's Train and Toy Show concerning displaying at their December show in Oaks, PA and was told that the show is full. Also submitted an application to their Chase show in March 2015 and was given a "Status Pending" reply. This is normal and we should find out if our application is accepted early next year.
- Thanks to Earl Brooks, Joe Sudler and Henry Kramer for moving forward on the Agricultural Museum modules. Henry stated that his goal is to have all the modules finished by Q1 of 2015.

Upcoming Trips and Events:

- November 15, 2014 – Magnolia, NJ Train Show (from 9am-3pm). We will leave the clubhouse at 6:30am and intend to stop for breakfast along the way to Magnolia.
- November 22, 2014 – Model Train Show at Laurel, DE Fire Hall (from 9am-3pm). We will be leaving the clubhouse at 7am.
- December 6, 2014 – Farmer's Christmas at the Agricultural Museum. This event will be from 1pm-5pm and according to their website: *"Come see a real woodworker, a blacksmith hard at work pounding hot metal, a person making a rag rug on the largest loom you've ever seen. Listen to carolers in our St. Thomas Church, watch a live woodstove cooking demonstration in a real Summer Kitchen and listen to ghost stories in our Loockerman Landing Train Station. There will be lots of holiday crafts that children and make and take home, historical craft demonstrations inside and holiday music. Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a warm cup of mulled cider. Great fun for kids! Members come for free. Non-members pay museum admission."* On November 28th a delegation of members will be going to the Agricultural Museum to rewire our layout and get it ready for display (their normal operation hours here 10am-3pm,)
- December 13, 2014 – "The Great Cookie Walk" in Dover. This is a fundraiser for St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Although we will not be getting an honorarium, we will be able to have a donation barrel.
- December 16, 2014 – will be a change to our traditional club Christmas Party. Rather than being a combined business meeting/party at Jim Valle's house, we will be having it a week later (December 16th) at Roma Restaurant (their website is www.romadover.com). December's business meeting will still be held on the second Tuesday (December 9th) at the clubhouse.
- Also in December, we will be inviting the residents from Westminster Village Assisted Living Center to view our layout. The date for this event is to be determined.

- January 24-25, 2015 – Springfield, MA Migration, Paul Roy has been looking for a restaurant for dinner on Saturday night. He proposed Schermerhorn's in Holyoke, MA (their website is www.schermhornseasfood.com). The trip will be from Friday, January 23rd to Sunday, January 25th and we will be staying at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Plaza Hotel (their website is www.sheratonspringfield.com). The wives will spend Saturday shopping at Yankee Candle (www.yankeecandle.com). The trip cost will be \$170.00 for an individual or \$320.00 per couple. Seven members expressed interest in attending this event. We will need to finalize planning and collect all money at the next business meeting.
- Future Boy Scout Merit Badge Classes: Although Jeff Shockley was unable to attend the meeting, he submitted a report that informed the membership that he suggests April 11 & October 10, 2015 for next year's merit badge classes. In addition he also would like to suggest April 9 & October 8, 2016 for future dates.

Other Business:

- In honor of Veterans Day, Paul Buckley brought in a train display for the head table (see picture).



- Jim Thompson reported that the wheels of out lawn mower fell off and he needed to purchase some parts to repair it. The cost of the parts were \$38.84.
- Robert Burton brought in a flyer for the Queen Anne's Railroad Society's "Festival of Trains". It will be held on December 6th & 7th and December 13th & 14th from Noon-5pm. Admission is free.
- Jim Thompson read a prepared speech concerning his dissatisfaction concerning recent work being done on several DC modules. Jim's presentation included an interesting history of how the modules were built and who actually owns them. After his presentation a passionate discussion ensued. Discussed topic include were
 - Club rules on module ownership
 - Establishing written club standards
 - Opportunities to build new modules
- Jim Valle once again explained his views concerning what needs to be done. Times change, circumstances change and the flaws that we have been dealing with for 28 years and the old modules need to be fixed and brought up to current standards. We need to move forward. Do we want to have a layout that only allows member to run "round & round" or do we also want to do switching? The old modules were never built for operations.
- A suggestion was made to rearrange the layouts in a side-by-side orientation. It was pointed out that this realignment may solve many of our issues. By slightly decreasing the size of the DC layout we would be able to place out layouts side-by-side. This would allow the members to "run" on the DC layout and five other members an opportunity to design and build switching modules for the DCC layout. A rough diagram was sketched and there was a general consensus that we should give this play a try. Les Souder made a motion to reorient our layouts and was seconded by Jim Thompson. The motion was passed.

At 9:14pm John Murphy made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Lush and the meeting was ended.

Respectively submitted,
Henry Kramer, Secretary