



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, August 9, at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

I'd like to thank everyone for showing up at last month's meeting. It was one our largest attended meetings. Well it looks like a long hot summer and we don't have any events going on until October. October and November and December are going to be very busy this year with shows and open houses. Starting with October 22nd, which is our Clayton show as well as the merit badge class. They will both be held at the Clayton fire hall. We will need all hands on deck the Thursday night before to help take down the DC layout and load up the trailer. I hope all who can attend the Clayton show will be there to help us setup.

Be sure to read about our trip to Coopersburg on July 24th. We all had a great time, even the wives. Thompson has written an article in this newsletter that explains all that we saw there.

Hope all of you will have a great summer and that it's not too hot for you. See you at the **next meeting on August 9th at 7:30.**

Sam Eaton, President

THE NMRA STANDARDS AND CLEARANCE GAUGE:

Many of our members are already familiar with the NMRA Standards and Clearance gauge. This gauge helps you to make adjustments to rolling

Specially made for modelers who need a little extra clearance.

The NMRA Standards and Clearance Gauges in On30, HO, and N.

When you're running On30 or Post-1982 N or HO scale equipment, you need a clearance gauge to match. That's why we developed special gauges that make layout building easier.

Each comes with a separate, metal Mark IV standards gauge to measure wheels and track plus a plastic clearance gauge made especially for the Mark IV gauge. Just pop the steel gauge on to one side to measure, pop it on to the other side to store it.

It's what the big guys use.

Special price for NMRA Members
HO & N: \$12 / On30: \$16
Shipping and handling \$2.00 (please check appropriate boxes)
The Standard Clearance Gauge, Standard and Publications

Order by Web: www.nmra.org
Mail: P.O. Box 1328
Sandy, Utah, UT 84084
Phone: (423) 892-2846
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stock and track to end annoying derailments. It will check for accurate track and switch dimensions, wheel spacing, flange depth, tire width and wobble. It also allows you to check for structure clearance so trains can pass without hitting tunnel portals, station platforms, scenery, etc. This stainless steel precision measuring instrument is available at many locations and includes instructions.

However, what some people may have missed is that the NMRA has modified their clearance standards to account for the larger post-1983 rolling stock. To accommodate this new standard they have come out with a plastic clearance gauge insert that will go around the old Mark IV standards gauge. This insert is designed to measure the clearance of structures, scenery or other trackside objects to insure that the right-of-way is wide enough for modern equipment.

The HO scale steel gauge and plastic insert are available for NMRA members for \$12 (plus \$2 for shipping and handling).

Henry Kramer

COOPERSBURG, PA. TRIP:

Another great Club excursion was accomplished on Sunday, July 24, 2016, when eleven individuals met at the building for a 10:00 A.M. departure to Coopersburg, PA. Taking part in the trip was Les and Ann Souder, Paul and Lena Roy, Jim and Carolyn Thompson and Richard Stockslager in one car and Jim and Myrna Valle and Sam Eaton and Carol Young were in the other car. It was a two-hour drive with the first stop for lunch about an hour into the trip at Cracker Barrel. It was lunch time and the place was packed and our wait was about an hour-plus, so after some shopping we decided not to wait any longer and took off for Coopersburg. We stopped at a Burger King outside Coopersburg for a little lunch to hold us over.

We arrived at the Coopersburg Borough Building at 111 N. Main and State Streets, Coopersburg, PA. The layout is in the basement of the building. We were greeted by Ray Kertesz who narrated the tour and layout for us. David Long was explaining the electrical and computer operations. Two large 50-inch TVs were hooked up to the layout by a new EGG which can be purchased from Raspberry Pi.org. It costs about \$35.00, has 10 watts and is well worth it. When plugged in it explains itself on the TV screen with follow me instructions.

The layout is a Big “E” put in a room about the same size as our room. It is a multi-level HO scale, DCC controlled walk-around layout. It took them five years to get to this point. With all the main line track and turnouts, trains can operate on each of the three levels. There is a large helix for trains to get from one level to the

other. There is also a 1.8% grade from one level to the other. This is one point we were concerned with as our Horseshoe Curve layout plan is also a 1.8% grade.

I noticed Jim Valle taking pictures and noticed the start of his drawings. I saw Paul Roy noting the scenery and ballasting track. Richard Stockslager was taking notes on the construction work and materials needed. Jim Thompson was noting the grades and scenery. Les Souder was taking note of the whole project and the work involved. Sam Eaton was very inquisitive on the workings of the DCC System and the computer working system which works off the JMRI converted to Lennex, through the new EGG system. A note: The club has a 45-member limit and the dues are \$15.00 per month for 12 months which equals \$180.00 per member per year.

On the way home the ladies wanted to stop for a nice meal, so we all stopped at the Big Fish Grill on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. The food was great and everyone had a great time. This was a great day trip and wish more members were present. Maybe next time.

Jim Thompson



UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 6-7, 2016 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. Maryland State Fair, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. 10am-4pm. Free Parking. Admission: \$7.00, kids 11 and Under are admitted FREE and do NOT need a ticket.

August 13-14, 2016 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. New Jersey Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. 10am-4pm. Free Parking. Admission: \$7.00, kids 11 and under are admitted FREE and do not need a ticket.

August 20-21, 2016 – 12th Annual "N-Scale Weekend" Model Train Show. Jaffa Shrine Center Broad Ave. & 22nd Street, Altoona, PA. Saturday: 10am-5pm, Sunday: 9am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 are admitted FREE with an adult. For more info e-mail: weekendnscale@yahoo.com.

August 20-21, 2016 – Model Railroading Day. Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg, PA. 9:00am-5:00pm. Admission: Adult (ages 12-64) – \$10, Seniors (65+) – \$9, Youth (3–11) – \$8, Age 2 and under FREE. Self-guided tours in Rolling Stock Hall, Second Floor Exhibit Gallery, Stewart Junction Railway Education Center, Outdoor Train Yard and Model Railroads.

August 21, 2016 – The Shore Line Garden Railroad Club is carpooling to New Freedom, PA to ride the **Hanover Junction train** and have dinner. If you are interested in joining with this group please contact Richard Stockslager, Paul Buckley or Bill Schrodell a.s.a.p.

August 26, 2016: Gallery exhibition of the Charles Phillips photographic collection. Wilmington & Western Railroad, Greenbank Station. 2201 Newport Gap Pike (Route 41 North), Wilmington, DE. Fifty enlarged, archive photographs of the Red Clay Valley in 1895. Most of these images have never been seen by the general public. Train Departure: 6:00pm. Fares: Adults - \$20, Seniors (60+) - \$20, Children (2-12) - \$20, Children under 2 – FREE. HRCV Members save \$2 on each ticket. Greenbank Station to WWRR Business Office.

August 27-September 4, 2016 – Day Out with Thomas. Strasburg Railroad. 301 Gap Rd., Ronks, PA. Trains depart every half hour during the times: August 27: 9:45am–2:45pm, August 28: 10:15am– 2:15pm, August 29: 10:15am–1:15pm, August 30: 10:15am–1:15pm, August 31: 10:15am–1:15pm, September 1, 2016: 10:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. September 2: 10:15am–1:15pm, September 3: 9:45am – 2:45pm, September 4: 10:15am–1:45pm. Regular Tickets: Thomas Train – \$21 – Ages 2 and up. (Under 2 ride free but must sit on a lap) includes Thomas train ride and all activities. Percy Package – \$27 – Ages 2 and up. (Under 2 ride free but must sit on a lap) includes Thomas Train ride, Percy Train ride and all activities.

September 10, 2016 – The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown PA. 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 FREE.

September 17-18, 2016 -- The Great Train Show. North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC. 10am-4pm. Admission: \$9.00 for a One-Day Ticket, \$10.00 for a Two-Day Ticket, children 11 and under FREE and do not need a ticket. FREE parking.

September 24, 2016 – Indian Summer Toy and Train Show. Roxana Fire House, 35943 Zion Church Road, Frankford, DE. 9:00am-3:00pm. Admission \$5.00. Children 10 and under FREE.

September 25, 2016 – TCA Atlantic Division Fall Train Show. Plumbers' Union Hall, 2791 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA. Members: 8:00am-12:30, Public: 9:00am-12:30pm. Admission: \$5.00 (two adults and all children 12 and under.)

October 29, 2016 – Delaware Train Show. Nur Shrine Center, 198 South DuPont Highway (Route 13), New Castle, DE. 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under the age of 12 are free, \$10.00 Early Buyers 8:00am Admission.

October 29-30, 2016 – The Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD (Cow Palace). Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$9.00 for both days, \$8.00 for Sunday only. Children up to 15 FREE with a paid adult.

Now-December 31, 2016 – Gallery Exhibit: SAFETY FIRST! The Evolution of Railroading Safety Practices. Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg, PA. Hours: through October 31: Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday: Noon-5:00pm. November 1-December 31: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday, Noon-5pm. Admission: Adult (12 – 64) \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (3 – 11) \$8, Age 2 and under FREE

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.

Circle Word Puzzle – Steam Locomotive Components

I subscribe to the on-line magazine from *All Scale Rails*. This is a free on-line magazine and you can sign up for a subscription at www.allscaleraills.com. In their July/August 2016 issue #9 I came across an interesting circle word puzzle that I thought others may enjoy. The answers will be posted in the member's only section of our website.

Steam Locomotive Components

R X S X X E C Z I R A V O E M M X A K B E M B E
V E K G R O X L E O A S V P S U F I H P B X O P
D M V G N U B K F L O L H I P K O R E B U F D I
Q S L E R I N E V G A X F P F F C P K K T U R P
S T T I L U R E K V K I X T A N C U F K R N I D
V I U E B E G P G O R O T A I N A M R C E H V N
G W D L A E L N S E M D V O C S H P N C L O I A
Z T A E A M I T B F H S H C U O I O X B I U N S
C O T R R T D O T N A N L I E Z F L P E O H G U
C Q D Z F O X O C O S E S T A C R M P P B C W Q
W B G I X J D W M A R Y L T Q U V S A A E H H Z
Y E N M I H C S F E C H E E M O D D N A S R E A
Q S B A S F P E P G X V T P F Z N Y I H L E E Q
R R P I L O T T R U C K H L G N R S O A R L L I
O U E V M Y R E A C H R O D K R L E T F W I C B
T X R D V J Z I F Q A C M H W I A S J Y Q O Q L
Y C R A N K K Q L R E T A E H R E P U S Y B K A
W I L Z N E L D Y S R H G O F D R I F W C G A S
X V S L F C T F W R Y H Z J E W R O S Z C F G T
E Z P Q P F D R U C L Y M P V D O W E X F N R P
S M A E B G N I S I L A U Q E E I R A Z R P R I
Z B J T V L T G R C L I B E P A A M I B I M X P
C E M U T R A I L I N G T R U C K B V H D S X E
Y N S R R W Q K C P J O Z G T O T A O G R S N L

Air Pump
Ashpan Hopper
Blast Pipe
Boiler
Boiler Tube
Chimney
Coal Bunker
Driving Wheel
Equalising Beams

Firebox
Leaf Springs
Pedestal
Petticoat Pipe
Pilot Truck
Reach Rod
Safety Valve
Sand Dome
Sand Pipe

Side Rods
Smokebox
Snifting Valve
Steam Dome
Superheater
Tender
Trottle Level
Trailing Truck
Valve Gear

Answers will be appearing a little later on All Scale Rails website in the circle word index.