



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

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 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 Dover's Children's Village Too (formerly Kenton Child Care Center). Come early and run some trains.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

First of all let me join with all the offices of the FSMRRC is wishing the members and their families a very happy and prosperous 2015! I believe we can look forward to many interesting and exciting activities and adventures during the next twelve months. Jim Thompson has covered the upcoming trip to Springfield to attend the massive Amherst Society Train Show and reprised our very successful Christmas party at Roma Restaurant. He has worked hard on both these events and we owe him our sincere thanks for a job well done.

Another activity that has been shaping up nicely is the rapid progress being made on the Agricultural Museum layout. Henry Kramer and his loyal crew have accomplished a great deal of really high quality work as they strive to complete twelve farm scenes by next spring and get the double track line ready for operation. I especially appreciate the efforts of Earl Brooks, Reggie Finch, Joe Sudler, Sam Eaton and Bill Benzin in pushing this project forward at a brisk pace that should see it completed on time and under budget. It is interesting to note that as these guys tackle one farm after another they are gaining knowledge and expertise that allows them to go faster and faster so that each new scene shapes up sooner than the previous one. The skills thus gained should also be applicable to their home layouts and/or to fabricating new modules for club use.

In addition to the Ag Museum project, we have some other activities to consider for 2015. One pressing requirement is to start replenishing our treasury in anticipation of meeting our tax obligations which occur in late summer. We need to have

approximately \$3,000 on hand to satisfy city and county levies. Next, we might consider some group field trips. The expedition to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio was very successful for the participants and we could do more of that sort of thing provided the members can come up with suggestions and ideas along those lines. Our clubhouse is in pretty good shape but there are some alterations and betterment projects that can be undertaken to improve conditions in the storage rooms. We might also plan to get rid of the old furnace which would clean up and make available yet another room that would come in handy as we look for additional storage space.

Finally, don't forget our upcoming schedule of set-ups for the DCC layout. We'll be going to Smyrna High School in February and to the Chase Center and the Sudlersville Train Show in March. I'd like to see as many members as possible participate in these events and definitely bring trains to run.

Jim Valle, President

CHRISTMAS PARTY – ROMA

This year's Christmas Party for the train club had a completely different twist. For the past number of years it has been hosted by Jim and Myrna Valle at their home. Jim and Myrna have graciously opened up their home to us, placing the burden of work on them. It was mentioned by a club member “Why don't we go out for some fine dining and party?” The first place that entered my mind was Roma because it is one of Jim and Myrna's favorite places in Dover. The wheels got in motion and Carolyn called Roma for dates available. The meeting night was not available, but the following Tuesday night was available. It all worked out and we had our Christmas Party at Roma on Tuesday, December 16.

With over fifteen couples and numerous singles, we had about forty people in attendance. It all started around 6:00 P.M. with meet and greet time. The ladies' gifts were placed on a table on the right side of the room and the guys' gifts were placed on a table to the left side. No confusion there! All were seated and the invocation was given by Earl Brooks. Food was ordered and Joyce Stockslager mentioned “Let's start the gift exchange.” Thank goodness she did, because it took awhile to get all the food. Gifts were not to be redistributed more than three times. So Robert Burton had pen and paper for the project which he has always tracked over the years. The first number was pulled and they chose a gift and then pulled the number for the next person to come up to pick a gift. That person could then pick a new gift or choose a previously picked gift. Robert was keeping track so we did not over regift. Men and ladies went back and forth with no special order and it all worked out fine. Just before the food was served, the last two gifts were exchanged.

The food was ordered off the menu, so everyone got exactly what they wanted and there were lots of comments on how great the food and service were. It looks like a winner and maybe we will do the same for next year. Or if someone wants to recommend somewhere different around Dover we can discuss that. A special thanks to Joyce and Richard Stockslager for providing poinsettias for table decorations, which nine club members then got to take home. Again, thanks to all who attended as it made the evening a very special one. A special thanks again to Jim and Myrna for hosting the past years and I have something special for them at the next meeting. Show up and see what it is. I also have photos for all that attended, so please ask for yours.

SPRINGFIELD, MA. 2015

The Club's next big project is the trip to Springfield, Massachusetts on January 23, 24, 25, 2015. Six couples and three singles are signed up to leave Les Souder's house at 8:30 A.M. Friday, January 23. All driving vehicles should be gassed up and ready, so gas reimbursement can be calculated. Our first stop will be on the Jersey Turnpike at about 9:30-9:45 A.M. at the Fennimore Rest Stop for breakfast and meet other members. The second stop will be at the Garden State Rest Area around noon for lunch. We hope to arrive at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch in Springfield around 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Rooms have been confirmed and should be ready. Something special this year, as suggested by Kurt Schwaninger, we will be meeting him at the Steam Tender Restaurant at 6:30 P.M. for dinner with trains passing by every fifteen minutes. Sounds exciting!

Saturday, January 24, is the Big Amherst Train Show with over 400 vendors and about 35 train layouts. The guys will depart from the hotel at 7:00 A.M. enroute to IHOP on River Street with reservations for 11 or 12 individuals. The IHOP is managed by Bob Evans. A little anecdotal humor and fact! At about 9:00 A.M. we will depart for the Train Show. Around 4:00 – 4:30 P.M. we will depart from the show and return to the hotel.

The ladies will spend Saturday, finding a great breakfast spot, perhaps the Damn Cafe, or a new hangout and then on to Yankee Candle for a day of shopping, a relaxed lunch and back to the hotel by around 4:30 P.M.

Dinner arrangements have been made by Paul Roy at the Schermerhorn Restaurant in Holyoke, MA with reservations for sixteen set for 6:30 P.M. Sounds like a great evening. And maybe, if time is available, back to the hotel for wine and cheese and fun stories after a good meal.

Sunday, at 8:00 A.M. we (ladies and guys) are to be at IHOP for breakfast. Ladies then usually go back to the hotel for packing and the guys go back to the train show for more looking and last and final deals. We will depart around 12 noon with hopes of being on the road back to Delaware by 1:00 P.M. Normal rest stop for breaks and the last stop is at Cracker Barrel at Exit 1 Pennsville, N.J. (just before the Delaware Memorial Bridge). As requested by Lena Roy. Good Choice! We hope to get home to Dover around 9:00 P.M. As you can see it will be a fast three days, but we continue to look forward to it each year. Just found out from Joyce Stockslager that the armbands have gone up in price, from \$9.00 a day to \$14.00 a day or \$25.00 for both days. She has already taken care of the adjusted price.

Great people doing great work and great people going great places!!

Jim Thompson

TRAIN SHOWS

January 17, 2015 – Philadelphia Div. of the NMRA will be holding a joint meeting with NJ Div. at the HADDON Township High School, 406 Memorial Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108 at 9 a.m.

January 24-25, 2015 – Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show. Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA. Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$14 per day. Parking \$5 per day. Some **FSMRRC** members will be attending. See article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

January 31, 2015 – Great Scale Model Train Show at Timonium, MD. **FSMRRC** members wishing to attend should meet at Jarrell Station, 1282 McKee Rd., Dover, DE at 7 a.m.

February 28, 2015 – “I Love Smyrna School District Day.” **FSMRRC** will set up display, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 7, 2015 – Sudlersville, MD Train Show. Volunteer Fire Company, 203 N. Church St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5 admission. **FSMRRC** will set up display. Info: Kurt 302-270-4786, sudlersvillemuseum@gmail.com

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.