



# THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER JULY 2015

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

## **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:**

June was a busy and successful month for the FSMRRC. Our set-up at Clayton went off very well even though we had elected to utilize our original modular layout instead of the DCC version. This layout, now in its' twenty-ninth year of operation (since 1986), can still carry trains and delight the public. That's a fine tribute to the original plans and quality construction that went into it over the years. All the knee-bending and under-module work that is required to set up this display was successfully tackled by our ample crew on site but we were sure glad to have the help of one particular teen-ager! There's nothing like the suppleness of youth. Our second major activity was our trip to the Timonium Scale Train Show. Two members went on Saturday and six more followed on Sunday. The show was smaller than usual but I got a chance to make contact with the gentleman managing the show and explore the possibility of our setting up the DCC modules for the October train show and perhaps others later. The principal barrier to setting up at this venue was always the requirement that we set up on Friday, thus costing us an extra night on the road. The new management is much more flexible so I will be in contact with them to work out the details involved. If successful this could lead to additional opportunities to display our modules and collect some very welcome revenue.

Meanwhile here are some things to consider for the remainder of the summer. We are still fine-tuning a few pieces of rolling stock on Thursday nights and I have brought over some weathering chalks so that interested members can get some practice with this process which takes the toy-like shine off our equipment and gives us more the look of serious modelers. We also work out each session with the DCC equipment and members are fast becoming proficient in operating trains in this mode. July is not shaping up to be a busy month for us but August holds our annual trip to English's Hobby Supply (Bowser) in Montoursville, PA. We plan to leave Dover on Friday, August 14th. We will visit the store that day and then head over to Steamtown to see and chase NKP 765 as she pulls an excursion from Scranton to Binghampton and back on Saturday. This will involve an overnight stay in the Scranton area between Friday and Saturday. We will return to Dover late Saturday night. Another activity for our consideration will be to plan a club picnic for

sometime in September. The last picnic was held on the clubhouse grounds and was well attended and quite successful. Perhaps this is the format that we need to consider for future picnics. We've done a lot of grass cutting, tree planting and other maintenance on that yard and I would really like to see us getting some use out of it.

Finally a friendly reminder that tax time is coming around again. I'd like to urge those of you who make an annual donation to the building fund to help us out again this year if at all possible. City of Dover taxes are going up about 9% to cover the cost of additional police coverage downtown. I haven't heard that there will be an increase in county taxes but it would not surprise me if there was a little uptick there as well. So far our new budgeting policies are working well but by October we will be carrying only a small surplus and the process of building up our coffers will begin all over again.

Jim Valle, President

### **UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS:**

**July 26, 2015 – Mill Creek and Lycoming Summer Train Meet.** Pennsdale Civic Center. 261 Village Road, Pennsdale, PA. 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$4.00, kids under 12 FREE.

**August 1-2, 2015 – Greenberg's Toy and Train Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds. 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 10am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$7.00 (\$9.00 at door) kids under 12 FREE, good for both days, Sunday: \$7.00 (\$9.00 at door) kids under 12 FREE.

**August 8-9, 2015 – Greenberg's Toy and Train Show.** New Jersey Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. Saturday: 10am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$7.00 (\$9.00 at door) kids under 12 FREE, good for both days, Sunday: \$7.00 (\$9.00 at door) kids under 12 FREE.

**August 14-15, 2015 – FSMRRC to Montoursville and Steamtown, PA.**

**August 22-23, 2015 – Historic Spencer Shops Train Show.** NC Transportation Museum, 411 South Salisbury Avenue, Spencer, NC. Saturday: 9am – 5pm, Sunday: 10am – 5pm. Admission: Adult: \$11.00 (\$5.00 Train Show admission, \$6.00 museum entry), kids: \$4.00 (FREE Train Show admission, \$4.00 museum entry). Train and roundtable rides require additional fee. (Saturday: 11am, 1pm, 2pm 3pm, Sunday: 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm.)

**August 23-29, 2015 – NMRA National Convention.** Portland Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland, Oregon.

**September ???? – FSMRRC Picnic**

**September 12, 2015 - The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet.** Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown PA. 10am – 3pm. Admission: \$5.00, kids under 12 FREE.

**September 19-20, 2015 - 26th Annual Tidewater Regional NMRA Train Show.** Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA. 10am – 4pm (both days). Admission: TBD for adults, (\$1.00 from every paid admission goes to Toys for Tots), kids under 12 FREE, scouts in uniform (with scoutmaster, troop leaders, den mothers, or Brownie leader) FREE.

**September 25-16, 2015 – East Coast Train Show.** York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA. Friday: 9am – 6pm. Saturday: 9am – 4pm. Admission: Two-day ticket: Adult: \$18.00, kids under 12 FREE, One-Day ticket: Adult: \$10.00, kids under 12 FREE, Two-Day Group (Club) Rates: \$15.00 for 25 or more tickets when purchased in advance.

**September 27, 2015 – Trains Collectors Association Atlantic Division Autumn Train Meet.** Plumbers Union Hall, 2791 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA. 8am – 12:30pm. (TCA members only before 9am). Admission: \$5.00.

**October 10, 2015 – This will be our next Boy Scout Railroad Badge day at FSMRRC.**

**November 14, 2015 – FSMRRC set-up at Magnolia, NJ.**

## **GARDEN RAILROAD OPEN HOUSES**

If you would like to visit some G-Scale Garden Railroad layouts please check out the following website: <http://www.gardenropenhouse.com> This website originally started out to promote "G-Day" in the four-state area of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey as garden railroaders opened their layouts to visits by the public. In helping to promote the hobby, Karen Darling has decided to open this site up to use by anyone in the United States.

You are welcome to visit the layouts and see firsthand how the hobbies of gardening and model railroading can be combined. There is usually no charge but we do ask you to keep children under control at all times. While many open house sites are included for the next few months, of special interest to our members might be the following “local” ones.

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015; Tuesday, August 18, 2015; and Saturday, September 19, 2015: KEN DONAHOE, [Donahoe Garden Railroad](#), 2642 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19802, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.** The Donahoe Garden Railroad winds around a large front yard containing many actual railroad crossing gates, signals, and signs. The tracks are built on a sturdy concrete foundation and are surrounded with lots of landscaping. This year a large garden pond has been built and tracks are expanding into the area. From Newark: Take I-

95 to Route 202 North. Shortly after the exit, turn right onto Foulk Road. Take Foulk Road 4.5 miles and look on the right for the railroad crossing sign. From points north: Take I-95 to the Naamans Road West exit. Drive 2.5 miles on RT 92 (Naamans Road) to Foulk Road (Rt 261). Turn right on Foulk Road. In 1/2 mile, look for the railroad crossing sign on the right.

## **CLUB HISTORY – IT’S TIME TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE 30 YEARS**

Do you know that The First State Model Railroad Club was formally organized on **July 9, 1985** to promote the hobby and educate the public on the important part railroads played in the development of the Delmarva region.

One of the first goals of the group was to construct an HO scale modular layout depicting the Pennsylvania Railroad in Delaware. This layout was used for displays at various public places such as malls and historical events. The first public display by the club was set up in the Delaware Agricultural Museum on October 26-27, 1985. This remained the club home for a short time. We then moved to the Wyoming Railroad Station in which we built what we thought would be a permanent layout. Unfortunately this was not to be, as the Town of Wyoming wanted to use the building as the town hall. Recently we were offered the use of the Railway Express Agency building in Dover. This building is ideal for our purposes. It has a large open room for us to set up the modular layout when it is not on public display. There is also room to set up an HO DCC layout. It also has an office area where we hold our meetings.

**Do you have something you would like to share with the members of FSMRRC? If so, please submit them to [stockslager@gmail.com](mailto:stockslager@gmail.com) by the end of each month.**