



**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD  
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER  
JULY 2016**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, July 12, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

**NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:**

First I'd like to wish everyone a happy Fourth of July. Since most of us are veterans I'm sure we won't forget all those who served and those who gave all.

Looks like another hot summer. Not sure how much will get done in the club but hopefully we will be able to get some work done on the new DCC layout. I'd like to thank all those who have been helping with this project. I would also like to thank all the club members for letting us use the old DC staging yards. I'm sure we will all enjoy it once it's done.

Not much on the calendar for July except for our field trip to Coopersburg to see that club's layout. We've had to schedule several times but it finally looks like it's going to happen this time. We are set to leave Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10 o'clock from the station. Wives are invited on this trip. You may wonder why you should go on this trip. We would like everyone to see this layout since this is the layout they gave us the idea to make our own permanent layout. We talked about it, but seeing it and how it's done will give you a better feel of what we might like to do.

Please let me or Les know if you are going and if you're taking your wife or loved one. (I hope they are one in the same person.)

Take care and have a great summer.

**Sam Eaton, President**

**FSMRRC HERITAGE OPEN HOUSE:**

On June 22, 2016, The First State Model Railroad Club opened its doors to the Heritage of Dover Assisted Living Community. Each year, for the last several years, we have opened

our building for two viewings of the layout at the request of Kyla at Heritage. The first viewing was at 10:15 A.M. and the second viewing at 11:30 A.M. With the assistance of Nancy from Heritage, the first group had about seven individuals taking their time looking at the two layouts. A number of the visitors made comments about the old layout, noting that they remembered the different towns on the display looking that way. They also made mention of the new layout, noting all the detail.

The second group of six visitors was much slower than the first. They also remembered the different towns throughout Delaware, most noting Wyoming. They thought it was great when I explained they were at two places at the same time. Looking at the building, in the building. The building module is always a show stopper and conversation spot. Jim Thompson was narrating the Club modules, old and new.

Special thanks to Bill Spanarelli who was running two trains on the old layout, one running north and one running south. They were both freight trains with 12 to 20 cars. There were no problems during the four hours of running time. On the new DCC layout was Reggie Finch, running his commuter train and answering lots of questions. Also on hand was Les Souder, running a 40- to 50-car coal train, which was super impressive to the old folks as they had plenty of questions on how two engines could pull that many cars. Also present was our youngest member, Kenny Haltom, running his silver commuter passenger cars and answering questions. Excellent job for a ten year old.

The visitors were very impressed and enjoyed the age spread of our Club. Kyla and Nancy expressed their appreciation and hope they can continue their tours and open house in the future.

## **Jim Thompson**

### **DCC Ready, DCC On Board, DCC Compatible?**

Over the last year I have had several club members ask me about what these terms mean. If you are considering purchasing an engine it is important that you know what you are purchasing. The first thing you should know is that most engines sold today are “dual-mode” and no matter what terms they use concerning DCC, it will run on a DC layout.

An engine that has “DCC On Board” means just that; it contains a DCC decoder and will operate in DCC mode. It does not however, mean that it has sound. In fact, unless it specifically states it has sound, it probably does not. If you want sound, you will need to replace the engine’s existing decoder with a sound decoder. Please note that in addition to the sound decoder you will also need to fit a capacitor and speaker into the engine. So, if the engine was not designed to accommodate a sound decoder you may find it a challenge to fit these extra items into the engine.

An engine that is “DCC ready” does not have a DCC decoder, however it is been wired to accept a DCC decoder. To operate this engine in DCC mode you will need to purchase and install a compatible DCC decoder. The key is to purchase a compatible decoder. If your decoder is compatible with your engine all you need to do is to remove the engine shell and plug the decoder into the socket on the engine.

Some companies (like MTH) sell engines that are advertised as “DCC Compatible”. These engines are not true DCC engines. You may be able to change their DCC address and operate them on a DCC layout. However, you will not be able to use a standard DCC decoder programmer to change many of their CV addresses. If you wish to modify a DCC compatible engine you will need to purchase the company specific programming system.

Finally, old DC engines that were built before the DCC standard became popular will not have any DCC wiring. Assuming they run well, most of them can be modified to accept a DCC decoder (including sound decoders). The modification will involve some wire cutting and soldering. Depending upon the engine manufacturer and decoder the modification can range from simple to very challenging. There are many “how-to” videos on YouTube on this subject so you should be able to find one that fits your situation.

I hope this information has been useful. If you have any questions please let me know and I will try to answer them.

**Henry Kramer**

**Hello**, my name is Mike Morrow. I grew up in Felton and have visited your club layout as far back as when you were located in the Wyoming train station. I have been a PRR fan since I was a teenager and have started a couple of HO scale PRR layouts. Unfortunately, due to health issues (and getting older) I am switching to either "S" or "O" scale. I have some good quality HO PRR stuff I want to sell to finance my change to the larger scale. I would rather do this locally than on E-bay or at a train show. I have attached a list of what I have and would greatly appreciate your consideration and sharing it with the club.

I'm not sure if this is the right way to approach selling my stuff but I felt like a group of local PRR modelers would be a good place to start.

Thanks again for your consideration.

**Mike Morrow, 426 Nicklaus Lane, Magnolia, DE 19962, [302-538-8216](tel:302-538-8216)**

**[Preview attachment Inventory.pdf](#)**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**July 9-10, 2016 – Great Scale Model Train Show.** Maryland State Fair (Exhibition Hall), 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$9.00, good for both days, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15, FREE when accompanied by a paid adult.

**July 10-16, 2016 – Lionel Operating Train Society 37th Annual National Convention.** Radisson Hotel – Valley Forge, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA. Tour highlights include: Liberty Bell/Independence Hall, Reading Terminal Market, Valley Forge National Park, Roadside America, Yuenling Brewery Tour, Simeone Automotive Museum, WWR Steam Train Ride, Train Layout Tours (12 layouts), American Treasure Tour Museum, Winterthur Museum & Estate, Nicholas Smith Trains, Jerry's Classic Cars Museum. For more information: <http://www.lots-trains.org/>.

**July 16, 2016 – 3rd Annual Lycoming Summer Train Meet.** Pennsdale Civic Center, 261 Village Road, Pennsdale, PA. 9am – 4pm. Admission: \$5.00. Meet is being held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual On30 Summer Meet. Visit the Millcreek & Lycoming Train Meets Facebook page for more information and updates.

**July 16-17, 2016 – Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association 10th Annual Model Train Flea Market.** Mechanicsville, PA. 8am Saturday – 4pm Sunday. Admission is FREE. Contact William Medlin at [maintainerbill@gmail.com](mailto:maintainerbill@gmail.com) for more information.

**July 24, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Club trip to Coopersburg to view that club's layout. Leave from Jarrell station.**

**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](mailto:weekendnscale@yahoo.com).

**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.**