

**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER
JULY 2017**

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, July 11, at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Welcome to what looks like a long hot summer. Not much going on this season. But for those who are looking for something to do join us at the club on July 11th at 8:30 a.m. We will be closing in another bay door. Hope to see some of you there.

Start thinking about what you would like to do for our club picnic this year. Also any ideas for a trip or other activity will be welcome. We will discuss these ideas and other things at our next meeting Tuesday July 11 at 7:30 p.m. See you then. Have a happy 4th and happy model railroading,

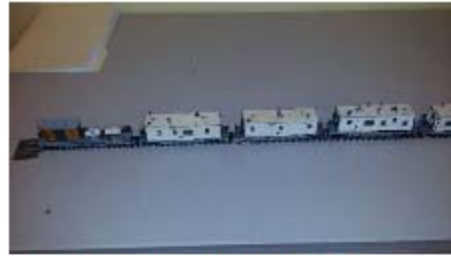
Sam Eaton, President

NMRA REPORT:

1. Report on June's NMRA, Philadelphia Division Meeting
2. On June 10, 2017 I attended a meeting of the Philadelphia Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The meeting was held at the Plymouth Fire Company in Conshohocken, PA where I joined up with Dick Lush. After a pre-meeting coffee and doughnut as well as looking at the display items, the meeting started with the usual introduction of new attendees, guests and a review of business items. After these were completed we were treated to two presentations.

3. The first presentation was the second part of a two part presentation titled “John Allen in Print” by Jeff Witt. John Allen is considered a pioneer of modern model railroading. Starting in the 1940s he wrote numerous magazine articles on model railroading and was renowned for his skill at scratch building and creating scenery. He also pioneered the technique of weathering his models for a more realistic appearance. Allen was, in addition to his superdetailing of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and scenery, known for populating his model world with scale figures in humorous scenes. Other techniques he promoted were realistic train operation and the use of forced perspective to create the illusion of a model railroad layout larger than it really was.
4. The second presentation was titled “DCC Wiring for Model Railroads using Digitrax components” by Nick Bownsberger. His PowerPoint presentation covered the entire range of DCC wiring. Some topics he covered were converting a DC layout to DCC, what size wire is needed, track power wiring, power districts, and troubleshooting.
5. As is the case with most NMRA meetings there were several local area layouts that were open for viewing. So after a quick lunch at Burger King Dick and I visited the HO layout at the Masonic Village. After viewing this layout Dick and I parted company and I went on to visit Mike Rabbitt’s new location where he is in the process of recreating his massive HO scale steel mill layout. I concluded my wonderful afternoon by visiting the last open house which was Alden Smith’s HO layout.
6. If you are not a member of the NMRA I would strongly encourage you to consider joining. Like most organizations you get most of the benefit of the origination by actively participating in their activities; the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA is no different. As you can see, they put on great programs on a variety of subjects of interest to the model railroading community. Their membership includes outstanding modelers with a wide range of interests. I guarantee that you will learn something every time you attend a meeting. The next Division meeting will be held on September 9th at the West Whiteland Township Building in Exton, PA and I hope you will consider attending.

Henry Kramer, Secretary



Pre Meeting model displays at the June 2017 meeting of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA



HO Layout at the Masonic Village



Reconstruction efforts of Mike Rabbitt's his massive HO scale steel mill layout.



Alden Smith's HO layout

Stewartstown Railroad and Ma & Pa to Offer Combo Tickets Railroads Jointly Celebrate Short Line Heritage

The Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village and the Stewartstown Railroad are joining forces this summer to celebrate the heritage of short line railroads in southeastern York County. Starting on Sunday, July 9th, they will offer a reduced price combination ticket to visit and ride the trains at both railroads. Combination tickets purchased at either railroad will be honored at the other on any open day through Labor Day.

The Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad, affectionately known as the Ma & Pa, began life as the narrow gauge Peach Bottom Railroad that connected York to Delta in the mid-1870s. The Stewartstown Railroad, often called "the farmer's railroad" was constructed from New Freedom to Stewartstown in 1885. Before automobiles and paved roads, railroads like these were essential lifelines in rural areas. They were built with the enthusiastic backing of local people who bought railroad stock and often donated rights of way to satisfy their longing for reliable transportation and access to broader markets for their agricultural products.

Today, the Stewartstown Railroad and the Ma & Pa Heritage Village are preserving the history of these short line railroads for a new generation.

The 130-year-old Stewartstown Railroad operates under its original corporate charter and its original line is intact. The historic station at Stewartstown is open to visitors and excursion trains are run over a portion of the line as volunteers continue work to rehabilitate additional track. New Freedom Special run the entire length of the line, from Stewartstown to New Freedom and return, once a month.

The Ma & Pa Heritage Village at Muddy Creek Forks is a museum that interprets the role of the railroad in life a century ago. Motorcar excursion trains run a 5.4 mile round trip through the scenic Muddy Creek Valley on the original Ma & Pa main line, and costumed docents welcome visitors to the A. M. Grove General Store, Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mills, grain elevator, and exhibits about the railroad and village. Two special events, the museum's first ever Early American Auto Day on Sunday, July 16, and its popular World War II Encampment, Saturday, August 26, and Sunday, August 27, are among the days on which the combination tickets can be used.

"We're very excited to be able to work with the Ma & Pa on this" said Dave Williamson, President of the Stewartstown Railroad. "York County has a rich railroad heritage, and we're glad to be a part of it."

According to Ma and Pa President Craig Sansonetti, "We look forward to being a part of this joint celebration. The Ma & Pa and the Stewartstown Railroad served the people of southern York County for more than a hundred years. An event like this gives them a good opportunity to ride our rail lines once again."

Short Line Heritage combination tickets will sell for just \$16 for adults and \$14 for children at the railroad stations in Stewartstown and Muddy Creek Forks. Tickets are good for train rides at both sites. The Ma & Pa Heritage Village will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 PM every Sunday through Labor Day plus some special days. A full schedule is available at www.MaAndPaRailroad.com. For the operating schedule of the Stewartstown Railroad visit

www.StewartstownRailroadCo.com.

About the Stewartstown Railroad: Stewartstown Railroad Company is a common carrier railroad based in Stewartstown, PA. Founded in 1884, the company continues to offer freight and tourist operations over the length of its 7.4 mile length. For additional information, go to www.StewartstownRailroadCompany.com, or contact Dee Bush at 717-746-8123, info@stewartstownrailroadcompany.com or by phone 410-336-1605.

About Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village: The Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village, located in Muddy Creek Forks, PA, is a museum that highlights the central role the railroad played in every aspect of life in the early 20th century. It is run by the non-profit Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society. For additional information and directions go to www.MaAndPaRailroad.com or send an email to info@MaAndPaRailroad.com

Contact: Dee Bush, Stewartstown Railroad, 717-746-8123

Contact: Craig Sansonetti, Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society, [\(717\) 862-3259](tel:7178623259)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 10-15, 2017 – 33rd Garden Railway National Convention, hosted by the Tulsa Garden Railway Club. Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center, 6808 South 107th East Ave., Tulsa, OK. 1pm-6pm, Saturday, July 15, Vendor Hall open to public, 9am-2pm.

July 15, 2017 – 4th Annual Lycoming Summer Train Meet. Pennsdale Civic Center, 261 Village Rd., Pennsdale, PA. 9am-4pm. Admission: \$5.00. July 30-August 6, 2017 – NMRA National Convention. The Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL.

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August 5-6, 2017 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Admission: Sat.-\$10 (good for both days), Sun.-\$9, kids 11 and under are admitted FREE and do not need a ticket. FREE parking. Show Features: Hundreds of tables of trains for sale, exhibitors from across the country, huge operating model train displays, FREE workshops and demonstrations, FREE door prize giveaways, free test track - test run your trains at the show.

August 12-13, 2017 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. New Jersey Expo Center 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ. Admission: Sat.-\$10 (good for both days), Sun.-\$9, kids 11 and under are admitted FREE and do not need a ticket. FREE parking. Show Features: Hundreds of tables of trains for sale, exhibitors from across the country, huge operating model train displays, FREE workshops and demonstrations, FREE door prize giveaways, free test track - test run your trains at the show.

August 19-20, 2017 – 13th Annual “N-Scale Weekend” Model Train Show. Jaffa Shrine Center, Broad Ave. and 22nd St., Altoona, PA. Setup will be Friday, August 18th. Please contact Dave Ferrari, mrgigabyte@yahoo.com, to join the layout with modules or just to help out. More details will follow.

August 30-September 2, 2017 – 37th National Narrow Gauge Convention. Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel, 4900 South Syracuse St., Denver, CO. Clinics on narrow gauge prototypes and modeling from across the world, loads of contest models, two full vendor's rooms, spectacular modular layouts, numerous layout tours that will take place before, throughout and after the convention days, special discount admission prices on all the major railroading attractions, and much more.