



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

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT:**

I would just like to thank everyone who helped with the Wilmington and Smyrna shows. I think everyone had a great time at both shows. We did get some coverage in the News Journal for the Wilmington show. There are copies of the article on the bulletin board at the club or you can find it on our web site: [www.fsmrrc.org](http://www.fsmrrc.org)

I would like to ask as many members to show up this Thursday night (3/3) to help take down some of the DC layout and then put up the DCC layout. It will be a big task and we need lots of help. There are plenty of jobs for everyone even if you can't lift anything. Jim Thompson has the plan for both layouts and will give directions as needed.

Our next two big events will be the scout merit badge class on April 23 and the open house for Dover Days on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to give a very special thanks to Buzz and Jeff for filling in for me and Henry at the February meeting. You guys did a great job. Maybe we will let you run another meeting sometime.

Just a quick update: I have asked Jim Valle to contact the owner of the club building to discuss going to the City of Dover to ask them to reduce the taxes on the building. Jim Valle, Jim Thompson and I will be meeting with him. I also would like to ask him about a long-term lease on the building. I'm concerned, as I know a lot of you are, that we will one day have to leave the building and none of us want that.

Please don't forget that dues are due this month. They are only \$60.00. Where else can you have so much fun for only \$5.00 a month?

Happy railroading 'till next month. **SAM EATON, PRESIDENT**

## **MORE NEWS:**

For the First State model Railroad Club the month of February was all about train shows. On Saturday the 6th several members car-pooled to the Timonium Show which we found to be slowly changing and evolving under its new management. Most notable was the relocation of the White Elephant Table into the main hall well away from the entrance. After a free weekend it was time for the Greenberg Train Show at the Chase Center in Wilmington on Feb. 20-21. We set up our DCC layout early on Saturday and ran successfully for the entire weekend while members browsed the various vendors' tables and scored some nice bargains. Finally we did another set up the following weekend, Saturday, the 27th to support "I Love Smyrna School District Day". We were paired in the shop area with the Shore Line Model Railroad Club's G-Scale exhibit. We actually have some "crossover" membership with this club and they are a congenial group of modelers who run some very fine equipment. Their sound systems are in keeping with their equipment, that is to say impressive!

So, what's on tap for March? After a long stay in the trailer our DCC layout will be coming back to the train hall in the clubhouse. Set up will be on Thursday evening, March 3rd starting about 6:30 PM. A portion of the older DC layout will be left in place and the two layouts together will form the familiar two ovals side-by-side that we had before. There are currently three DCC six-foot modules under development and work on them will be ongoing for the rest of the month if not longer. Meanwhile, Henry Kramer has been promoting a workshop that will be held at Severna Park, Maryland on the subject of Arduino microcontrollers. This circuitry allows modelers to create custom lighting and install animatronic figures inside structures for some really neat visual effects. If you would like to learn more there is an article in the April Issue of Model Railroader or you can contact Henry and go with him to the workshop which is posted in the meeting room at the clubhouse.

Finally, as we develop more DCC modules, some members have been brainstorming on the subject of visual themes to be incorporated to make them more interesting. As of now we have a donated electronic UFO complete with little green aliens and a robot and there is also a kit of a park monument that could be made into a veteran's memorial complex. For further information just ask me anytime. We're not going to be doing too many sets up's this month but it can still be a busy and productive time for us.

**Jim Valle, Past President**

**NEW MEMBERS:** Please welcome new **youth** members:

Kenny Haltom, 321 Stoneridge Drive, Dover, DE 19901, Ph: 302-222-7552, email: haltom183@comcast.net

John (Jack) Hudson, 201-3 Villas Drive, New Castle, DE 19702, Ph: 302-333-3822  
email: iceanator42@gmail.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March 3, 2016 – FSMRRC - TAKE DOWN & SET UP MODULES AT JARRELL STATION, 1282 McKEE ROAD, DOVER, 6:30 P.M.**

**March 5, 2016 - Sudlersville Train & Toy Show, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Sudlersville Fire House, 203 N. Church Street, Sudlersville, MD. Jeff Shockley will be at the Sudlersville Show. If anybody would like to sell items, setup is at 7:00 a.m. and the Delmarva club has 2 tables. The 15% commission fee is being waived for this show.**

**March 6, 2016 – The Brick Train Show.** Brick Elks Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick NJ, 9am – 4pm. Admission: \$ 6.00, children under 10 Free. Children and adult door prizes, operating layouts, fine refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor.

**March 6, 2016 – Jersey Central Chapter of the NRHS (JCRHS) Train Show at Mother Seton High School.** Valley Road at the Clark traffic circle, Exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway, Clark, NJ. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, kids under 12 FREE, family maximum \$10.00. Operating train layouts including one that the kids can actually run, railroad movies, a collection of model circus train equipment. Door prizes every hour with the Grand Prize an HO scale model train set. Parking is FREE.

**March 12-13, 2016 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show.** New Jersey Expo Center, Hall A, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ, 10am-4pm. Free parking. Admission: \$9.00, kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.

**March 13, 2016 - Family Train and Toy Show,** Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire House, 9am to 2pm, Rt. 2, Severna Park, Md

**March 13, 2016 - Arbutus Train and Toy Show,** Arbutus Fire Hall, 9am to 1pm, Arbutus, Md

**March 20, 2016 - WB&A Chapter Toy Train Show,** 10am to 3pm, Annapolis Elks Lodge, Edgewater, MD, <http://www.wba-tca-eastern.org>

**March 25-26, 2016 – East Coast Large Scale Train Show.** York Expo Center - Utz Arena, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA. Friday: 9am – 6pm; Saturday: 9am – 4pm; Admission: Two-day Adult ticket: \$18.00, children under 12 FREE, One-day Adult Ticket: \$10.00, children under 12 FREE. **NEWSFLASH:** Due to popular requests, we are adding **O GAUGE TRAINS** to the Large Scale List. We are letting O Gauge dealers buy space at this open-to-the-public show.

**April 3, 2016 – National Collectors Club Presents the Montvale Train and Toy Show,** St., Joseph High School, Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ. 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$7.00, children under 10 FREE.

**April 9-10, 2016 – Great Scale Model Train Show,** Maryland State Fair 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.

**April 23, 2016 – Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Class, hosted by the First State Model Railroad Club,** 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 3pm. Admission: Free. Contact 302-423-2912 or 302-653-8096 for questions or to register. To register online, go to [www.fsmrrc.org](http://www.fsmrrc.org), click on “Up Coming Events” and follow the “Boy Scout Merit Badge” link.

**April 24, 2016 – The Toms River Train & Toy Show.** Elks Lodge 1875, 600 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ, 9am – 2pm. Admission: \$5.00, children Under 10 FREE.

**May 17, 2016 – Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet.** Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown, PA. 10am – 3pm. Admission: Admission \$5.00, Children 12 under FREE.

**May 22, 2016 – The Brick Train Show.** Brick Elks Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick NJ. 9am – 4pm. Admission: \$6.00, children under 10, Free. Children and adult door prizes, operating layouts, fine refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor.

**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.**

**REMINDER: ANNUAL DUES OF \$60 WERE DUE AS OF THE FIRST OF MARCH 2016.**