



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

NEXT MEETING:

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

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Well February is over and it was a rough month for several of our club members. We lost our founding member and longtime friend, Jim Valle. Our fellow member Gary Bryant lost his wife. We have these members' families in our thoughts and prayers. I would like to thank all those members who showed up for both funerals. Peter, many thanks and everyone said you did a great job at Jim's funeral.

We have a lot going on in March, barring any further funerals. March 4th we are setting up at St. Georges church. March 11th is the train show in Wilmington and then a train show at Hartly on the 25th. We will not be setting up a layout at either of these events. We will be leaving the club house on Saturday March 11 at 8:00 to go to breakfast at the IHOP and then on to the Wilmington show. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the club house if you are going. As far as the Hartly show everyone is on their own if they want to go.

Our next meeting is the night of the 14th at 7:30 p.m. Hopefully I should be able to stay the whole night (unless Carol has something booked for me that she has not told me about, again). That meeting will be a long one but very interesting. Some important things have to be discussed. All I can say is you better be there. Till then I hope everyone stays safe and well.

Happy model railroading. **Sam Eaton, President**

**A HISTORY OF HOW JIM (VALLE) STARTED THE TRAIN CLUB:
(This was presented by Jim Thompson at the Memorial Service for Jim Valle
on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Torbert's Funeral Chapel, 1145 E. Lebanon
Road, Dover, DE.)**

The Club was started in November, 1984. There was a flyer to fill out and send to Jim Valle at 871 Townsend Blvd., Dover, DE. The working title was "The Kent County Society of Model Railroad Engineers." The first meeting was held Saturday, February 6, 1985, at 9:30 a.m. in the basement of the Dover Public Library with 17 people in attendance. The name was too long, so we changed it to "The Delmarva Railroad Club." A few days later I notified Jim that there was already a club with that name. At that point it was voted to be called "The First State Model Railroad Club." Plans were under construction for a permanent layout, but we had no place to build it. So, we decided to build a modular layout. Meetings at that point were to be at the Dover Fire Hall. April 13, 1985, 7 modules were to be built at the State Carpenters Shop. On May 18, 1985, the actual work began on those modules, depicting Delaware from a 1923 Delaware track plan. The first showing was at the Delaware Ag Museum on October 26, 1985, with ends assembled on the spot. It was a two-day show with over 2,076 people viewing and enjoying our layout. It was so impressive that the Ag Museum asked us to leave it up for the month of November during the Farmer Christmas Show. And the Club was officially started thanks to Jim Valle. Some of the original members are still here today: Cabbage Brown, Ed Chippie, Doug Judy, Al Szikszay, Brian Wasko, Fred Patrick and Jim Thompson. And the 7 modules are still being displayed today at 1282 McKee Road. And the rest is history.....

If not for Jim's love of railroading and foresight for a great endeavor, The First State Model Railroad Club would not be here today.

In the path of life there is a crossroad of earth and heaven. In railroading the crossing is the blast of the horn with 2 long blasts, 1 short blast and 1 long blast (horn sounded in the distance). With that, let us pray.....

Jim Thompson

NEW (REINSTATED) MEMBER INFO:

Ed Chippie, Jr., 155 S. West St., Apt. A-2, Camden, DE 19934, Cell phone: 302-359-1163, email: lvrr628@gmail.com

Michael Sain, 206 Thornton St., Dover, DE 19901, Cell phone: 980-621-8301, email: mesain1@outlook.com

F Y I: After contacting Kalmbach Publishing, Bill Benzin requested that I send an email to “Classic Trains” magazine forwarding Jim Valle’s obit to them. I also requested copies of their magazines that included Jim’s articles. They agreed to send them. Copies of 2 different issues have arrived and will be placed in the Club archives.

For future reference, any mail for the Club should not be addressed to the McKee Road address since there is no mail receptacle there. Instead it is suggested that Club mail be sent to President Sam Eaton at P. O. Box 16, Port Penn, DE 19731 OR to Treasurer Buzz Matthews at 505 Eagle Nest Dr., Camden, DE 19934.

Joyce

DUES ARE DUE!!!! IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD UP TO DATE? YOU CAN SEND YOUR DUES (\$60.00) TO BUZZ MATTHEWS AT 505 EAGLE NEST DR., CAMDEN, DE 19934.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 5, 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 11-12, 2017 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE. 10am-4pm. Free parking. Admission: \$9.00, kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.

March 12, 2017 – Family Train and Toy Show, by National Capital Division Toy Train Operating Society, Earleigh Heights Vol. Fire House, intersection of Rt. 2 (Gov. Ritchie Highway) and Earleigh Heights Rd., Severna Park, MD, 9 am–2 pm, admission \$5 per person (children under 12 free with adult). Info: Bill Dyson, 301-621-9728.

March 18, 2017 – Best Little Train Show in Greensboro. Greensboro Amtrak Depot, 300 E. Washington Street, Greensboro, NC. 10am-3pm. Free downtown metered and garage parking on weekends. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 FREE. Permanent HO and N scale model train layouts located in the former REA building, Greensboro NC Amtrak Depot Complex, 234-B E. Washington Street.

Admission to the club train layouts is always FREE. Special train show hours – layouts open 9am-5pm.

March 24-25, 2017 – 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.

March 26, 2017 -- Arbutus Train and Toy Show, Arbutus Fire Hall, ¼ mile off Beltway Exit 12-A Southwestern Blvd., Arbutus, MD. 9 am–1 pm, admission: \$4 per person (children under 12 free with adult).

March 26, 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, refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor.

April, 1st, 2017 – The Delaware Train & Slotcar Show, Nur Shrine Center, Route. 13 (198 S. DuPont Highway), New Castle, DE. 9am-2pm. Admission is \$5.00; children under the age of 12 are FREE. \$10.00 Early Buyers 8:00am admission. It will feature over 150 tables of trains, accessories, slotcars, and some toys. The show will have a diversity of trains in all Scales and makes. We have a variety of unique dealers coming from up and down the east coast. Train show is Saturday only.

April 8-9, 2017 – Garden State Model Railway Club, Inc., 6th Annual Spring Model Railroad Show. 575 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. 1-5pm both days. Admission: Adults \$6, Children under 12 FREE with Adult.

April 8-9, 2017 – The Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$9.00 for both days, \$8.00 for Sunday only. Children up to 15 FREE with a paying adult.

April 22, 2017 – Boy Scouts of America Railroading Merit Badge Class. Hosted by the First State Model Railroad Club, 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE, 9am-3pm. Free to all scouts. Register online at www.fsmrrc.org.

April 27-29, 2017 – TCA-Atlantic Division York Train Show. York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA. 12am-2pm. Admission: unavailable at press time. For the first time, the general public is invited to this train show, but will only be permitted to enter the Dealer Halls. The remaining halls are for TCA MEMBERS ONLY.

May 6, 2017 – The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown PA. 10am-3pm. Admission: 10am–3pm. Admission \$5.00, Children 12 under FREE. Now ONE DAY ALL Scales. More vendors and items to buy.

May 6, 2017 – Spring-Fling Toy and Train Show. Roxana Fire House, 35943 Zion Church Road, Roxana, DE, 9am-3pm. Admission \$5.00, Children 10 and under FREE.

May 13, 2017 – TCA-Atlantic Division Train Show. Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall (Penns Landing Caterers), 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. TCA Members: 8am-1pm. Public: 9am-1pm. Family admission: \$5.00 (two adults and children, 12 and under.) For information: Bob Lubronski, (856) 608-9265