



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

April and the first few days of May were busy and eventful for the First State Model Railroad Club. We started out with the usual expedition to the spring edition of the Timonium Great Scale Train Show which on this occasion featured a Brass Expo in addition to the usual vendors' tables and modular layout displays. One contingent of our group went on Saturday and the rest of us caught the show on Sunday. We loaded up on merchandise of all kinds and I personally was gratified to score a really impressive brass Santa Fe Texas type locomotive at a very good price. I've been looking for one of these for a very long time to complete my roster of major AT&SF steamers. The weekend after this event we hosted our Boy Scouts Railroading Merit Badge class. A total of six scouts were put through an intensive program that involved lectures on railroad history and safety rules, construction of a freight car kit and operation of the timesaver layouts. When not occupied with these activities the scouts ran trains on our DC layout (and boy did they ever run 'em!). Finally we got set up and hosted our annual open house coinciding with Dover Days during the first weekend in May. We had lots of support from the members and were able to run at least four trains at a time utilizing both of our exhibition layouts. Approximately thirty visitors attended each day for a total of around sixty persons of all ages. Thanks to Sam Eaton, we had spiffy new business cards to pass out to interested individuals and got our usual haul of compliments and donations.

With these activities behind us we can start to think about what we're going to do for the summer months that are just around the corner. We have a commitment to set up our older modules of Clayton's Railroad Days Festival on Saturday, June 13th. We will be in the social hall of the firehouse. Members who don't usually travel with us to more distant shows might like to participate in this one. We will be mostly running equipment familiar to the folks in Clayton: Norfolk Southern, Conrail, Penn Central (if you have it!) and Pennsylvania. We are also in the process of planning an auction sale to dispose of a windfall of Model Railroad HO scale rolling stock that was bequeathed to us by the Agricultural Museum. There's ten big boxes of stuff, perhaps a thousand individual pieces according to our preliminary evaluation. When this activity comes off there

should be some really great bargains for our club members and other interested local modelers.

Finally, this year's steam excursion season promises to be an active one with N&W 611 operating in an around Virginia and NKP 765 visiting Steamtown for several excursions in August and September. Either program is well within range for a club sponsored expedition.

Meanwhile we still have ongoing activities at the clubhouse each Thursday evening. The project to upgrade our rolling stock is already paying dividends. As wild as the Boy Scouts were in running trains the newly refurbished cars we have been working on held the rails magnificently and the trains held together even when being backed up at full speed! During the open house we ran trains for hours and hours with almost no derailments and very few breakaways. We are almost half done with this project and many members who participated learned a lot of new skills relating to fine-tuned rolling stock. Perhaps we can cap off this experience with a kit building seminar similar to the ones we conduct for the scouts but on a more detailed level.

Finally, a great big shout out to those members who worked to get the carpenter shop cleaned up and reorganized! Your work is very much appreciated.

Jim Valle, President

TRAIN SHOWS:

May 9, 2015 – The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall. 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown PA. 10am – 3pm. Admission: \$5.00. Kids 12 and under FREE.

June 13, 2015 – Clayton Railroad Days, Clayton, DE. 9-2. **FSMRRC WILL SET UP OLD LAYOUT.**

June 20-21, 2015 - Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds. 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Saturday: 9am – 4pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm. Admission: Saturday: \$9.00, good for both days, kids under 15 FREE, Sunday: \$8.00, kids under 15 FREE.

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.

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

