



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

AG. MUSEUM DEDICATION:

The Agricultural Museum Project Dedication took place on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the Delaware Agriculture Museum. About fifty (50) people and a dozen Club members showed up for the event. The display was dedicated to Norman E. Collins, Jr., deceased. His wife, Suzanne, and Granddaughter, Katherine Collins Waite, were present. The dozen Club members were Bill Benzin, Earl and Betty Brooks, Robert Burton, Sam Eaton, Reggie Finch, David and Carol McWethy, Jeff Shockley, Les and Ann Souder, Richard and Joyce Stockslager, Joe Sudler, Jim Thompson and Marty Volk. I would like to thank all who participated.

It all started in 2010 when Di Rafter of the Delaware Agricultural Museum contacted me to see if the Club could build a train layout depicting Delaware farming. She looked at our Delaware module layout and was impressed. Then in July, 2012, she informed me she had four tables 5 feet wide and 6 feet 6 inches long, which equates to 5 feet wide and 26 feet long. The four tables were detachable and on wheels. As fast as I brought it up to the Club, Jim Valle was already drawing out a preliminary sketch and theme starting with the 1800's up to the 2000's time frame, with the layout modeling Delaware with trains running through the farmland and towns.

By September, 2012, the homasote and back drop were put on by Pete Nickerson, Richard Stockslager, John Murphy and Jim Thompson. In October, the farms were laid out. And in November, 2012, the track was being laid. March, 2013, the layout plans were on paper and the wiring was accomplished. There were twelve farms to be modeled. 1. The Jester Farm modeled by Earl Brooks, who was the first to model a farm and spent numerous hours researching the project. 2. The Woodland Dairy Farm modeled by the Club. 3. The Fifer Farm modeled by Richard Stockslager. 4. The Walker Farm modeled by Robert Burton. 5. The James Hasting Farm modeled by the Club. 6. The John G. Townsend Farm modeled by the Club. 7. Mountaire and Perdue Poultry modeled by the Club. 8. T. G. Adams Farm modeled by the Club. 9. O. A. Newton Farm modeled by the Club. 10. The Richardson and Robbins Cannery modeled by the Club. 11. The Collins Farm modeled by Jim Thompson. 12. The McDowell Dairy Farm modeled by Les Souder.

Well, it took two years to build the twelve farms. We had a lot of commitment, but it fell through. Thanks to people like Henry Kramer, Earl Brooks, Bill Benzin, Robert Burton, Sam Eaton, Greg Eroo, John Espy, Reggie Finch, Richard Lush, Ed Mace, David McWethy, Pete Nickerson, Ralph Pfannenstiel, Robbie Robinson, Paul Roy, Jeff Shockley, Les Souder, Richard Stockslager, Joe Sudler, Jim Thompson, Jim Valle and Marty Volk. Numerous Thursday nights were spent making and designing farms not chosen by individuals. This was led by Henry Kramer, who just grabbed members and non-members and had them sit down and do a project. It was a win/win situation. I was a little disappointed that other members who volunteered to do a farm, then backed out leaving the Club behind on the project. Well, it is done and I would like to thank all who participated. The new plexiglass around the layout looks great. I go down about once a week and clean the track and fix minor details. Don't be a stranger and do the same. Thanks, again.

Jim Thompson



Mary Fifer Fennemore stands beside the Fifer Farm module following the dedication service at the Ag. Museum on April 26, 2016. (photo by J. Stockslager)

FSMRRRC NEWS:

April proved to be one of the quieter months in our yearly schedule of activities. As often happens, most of the activities piled up on one weekend at the end of the month. Due to a scheduling error on the part of the management of the Timonium Train Show, both that event and our semi-annual Boy Scout merit badge program ended up on the same weekend of the 23rd - 24th. Consequently members were pulled in both directions and we were lucky to have enough helpers on hand to assist the fourteen scouts who did show up. All went well, however and another batch of merit badge certificates of completion were handed out. Many thanks to Don Jennings who travelled from North Carolina and Bill Spanarelli for their help throughout the day.

On another matter, pursuant to the club's decision to challenge our 2015 City of Dover tax hike, tax assessment adjustment forms were acquired from the Tax Assessor's Office and filled out by myself with the assistance of a commercial real estate specialist and appraiser. The form, together with a letter of explanation and supporting documents, was signed off on by Dr. Jarrell representing Jarrell Properties Ltd., and hand delivered to the Assessor's Office on April 29th. We should hear the results of this appeal during May or early June. If the decision is not favorable to us Dr. Jarrell can request a hearing for which we might be able to mobilize political support from our city council person and district representative.

Our next "big thing" is our Dover Days open house which will be held on May 7th and 8th from 9:00 to 4:00 each day. One anomaly for this year is that the second day of the events coincides with Mother's Day. We will have to discuss this on Thursday evening when we set up for the event to make sure we have coverage to run the trains and watch over visitors on Sunday.

Finally, congratulations are in order to Bill Spanarelli for adding an exciting new module to our DCC layout. Bill was unable to attend club functions for several weeks due to health issues but that did not stop him from going ahead with this project. Ultimately he produced a very intricate scene depicting a double tracked swing bridge and railroad barge loading apron complete with tugboats and barges floating (?) in a river channel. Meanwhile, Ed Kline brought in a box of donated equipment which included several freight cars and a five-car set of Riverossi Rio Grande modern passenger cars plus two Fairbanks Morse C-Liner diesels, one powered and one dummy. This equipment now runs on its original wheels and horn-n-hook couplers and is very underweight. It's available to any member who would like to take it over, fine tune it and set it up for running.

Jim Valle

YANKEE DABBLER "SoundTraxx Event!" -- May 5th, 4PM & 5:30PM

YankeeDabbler New Jersey -_Soundtraxx Demo and Company update. George from SoundTraxx will conduct 2 Seminars - 4PM and 5:30PM. Attend for special discount on the new Soundtraxx Econami Decoders. Call [\(856\) 312-8084](tel:8563128084) to reserve a seat at the Seminar -

YANKEEDABBLER – TRACK33 101 West Kings HWY Bellmawr NJ. 08031

FSMRRC Hosts 25th Railroading Merit Badge Class for Local Scouts: Jeff Shockley, Merit Badge Coordinator

On Saturday, April 23, the First State Model Railroad Club in Dover, DE, hosted its 25th Railroading Merit Badge Class for local Boy Scouts. Fourteen scouts from 5 area troops attended, (#24 – Camden-Wyoming, DE, 1; #135 – Smyrna, DE, 2; #165 – Denton, MD, 3; #186 – Milford, DE, 3; and #239 – Clayton, DE, 4).

The scouts learned about the different types of train cars, the formation and importance of Amtrak, “Operation Lifesaver”, what the different types of signals represent, among other aspects of railroading. They also participated in building an HO scale boxcar donated by the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, and operated a “Timesaver” module to learn how railroads switch cars in a railyard.

The program started at 9am with the scouts delivering the Pledge of Allegiance, the Boy Scout Oath and Law, and ended at approximately 2:30 pm with the closing ceremony.

During the closing ceremony, each scout was presented with their completed “blue card” that allows them to receive the merit badge, and railroading magazines donated by the Williamsville Train Shop in Williamsville, DE. Scouts and leaders reported they had a very good time and learned a lot from the program.

A special thanks to Paul Buckley, Henry Kramer, Don Jennings (who drove up from Cary, NC, and brought another 24 car kits for the next class), Bill Spanarelli, Joe Sudler and Jim Valle for all their help during the class. This class brings to our club’s total badges awarded to 358, since the program was begun in 2003.

The next class is scheduled for October 2016. An exact date will be decided upon later. The club’s website is www.fsmrrc.org.

WEBSITE UPDATES: (www.fsmrrc.org)

Since the last newsletter I have added the article titled “Charles ‘Buzz’ Matthews The Runner” that appeared in the *Bayhealth Cardiovascular Services 2015 Annual Report*. It tells the story of Buzz’s comeback from coronary bypass surgery. You can find this article on the “Members Only” portion of our website. Additionally, I also posted two *Delaware News* articles on the Delaware Agricultural Museum exhibit dedication. This information is on the Photos & Videos page.

Henry Kramer

NEW MEMBER: Todd Dolkos, 511 Ann Moore Street, Dover, DE 19904, (cell) [703-915-2166](tel:703-915-2166); (e-mail) todddolkos@gmail.com

YOU MIGHT BE A MODEL RAILROADER IF...

- You see an empty room, and your first thought is to imagine what kind of layout could be built in it;
- You've gotten into a debate over whether Kato is pronounced “kay-to” or “kah-to”;
- You name the places on your railroad after your wife and children to atone for spending so much time in the basement; and/or
- You've ever told anyone, “I can quit buying freight cars any time I want!”

Henry Kramer

UNION, NJ, MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INVITATION:

We are having our 17th annual invitational operating session on Saturday June 4th. I am writing to you to personally invite all members of the First State Model Railroad Club to join us and welcome you to operate one of the largest club railroads in existence. See directions on a flyer posted at Jarrell Station with all important information. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Regards, **Tim McCollum**, President, Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 7-8, 2016 – FSMRRC WILL HAVE OPEN HOUSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL DOVER DAYS CELEBRATION, 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. BOTH DAYS. MEMBERS' HELP NEEDED.

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 – FSMRRC PICNIC at the home of Bill and Kathleen Schrodel, 32909 Maryland Line Rd., Massey, MD, 21650. Ph: 410-928-5061, Cell: 302-359-4813; email: workfarm@icloud.com. Check at May 10th meeting for time and details.

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.

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, WWRR 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-trainslorg/>.

July 16, 2016 – 3rd Annual Lycoming Summer Train Meet. Pennsdale Civic Center, 261 Village Road, Pennsdale, PA. 9 am-4 pm. 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. 8 am Saturday – 4 pm Sunday. Admission is FREE. Contact William Medlin at maintainerbill@gmail.com for more information.

STEWARTSTOWN, PA RAILROAD 2016 SEASON BEGINS:

All Aboard! The 2016 Ride Season started this past weekend, April 3rd, in Stewartstown, PA. Come on out for your chance to ride in our Pennsylvania Caboose, our newly-outfitted Union Pacific Caboose, and later this summer, our 1920's Reading Passenger coach. All will be pulled by Mighty Mo, our 1943 Plymouth locomotive. We'll also be offering rides in our motorcars – small four, six or eight person motorized cars that let you feel the wind in your hair and the sun on your face.

The season consists of regularly scheduled rides and tours, as well as special events. Special events during the 2016 season will include Mother's Day Rides, Father's Day Rides, Fall Foliage Rides, Veteran's Day Rides, and as always – our Santa Trains.

Rides begin at the Stewartstown Station, in Stewartstown, PA, just five mile off of Interstate 83. Full schedule of information, departure times and pricing can be found at the Stewartstown Railroad Website: www.stewartstownrailroadcompany.com

We hope to see you there! Thank you for your time, Dee Trahey

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.

REMINDER: ANNUAL DUES OF \$60 WERE DUE AS OF THE FIRST OF MARCH 2016. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, YOU ARE DELINQUENT.