



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

NEXT MEETING:

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

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Looks like we have a busy end of year coming up starting with our picnic on Sept. 30. Then we have a visit to Fred Lagno's display on October 5 then set up for Clayton Days on October 7. The big event we all are looking forward to is a train auction at Modern Maturity Center on November 11, where Jim Valle's train collection will be auctioned off. Anyone that has something they want to sell at this auction please see Jim Thompson. Then we have an open house on November 25 and 26. We will also be setting up our winter display at Bellevue Park again this year. Dates for this event will December 2 and 3, 9 and 10, 16 and 17, and ending on Saturday the 23rd. The times for these dates will be announced later as well as the date to set the display up. I hope everyone will at least take one day to be there and run trains. We will also, at all these events, be selling raffle tickets for another Polar Express train set.

There are not as many events as in previous years so we will have to make the most of these times as we can. We need to get our name out there and let people know where we are and what we have to offer. We do this by getting back to our core values which are: promote the hobby; foster fellowship among model railroaders; and instruct the public about the role railroading did in the development of the region. Sometimes I think we forget why we are here. We are very good at "fostering Fellowship" with each other (telling stories and jokes and I know I have told many) but I feel we have forgotten the other values. As someone said the other night to me. we did projects to work on. So, with that thought in mind, I have installed a white board in the train room. Anyone who can think of projects that we can work on please write them down so we can have something members can do and to learn from. The good old days of going to train shows all the time are just about

gone. We need to move ahead with the times and do more advertising and more in-house events. Even though we have an advertising committee it should be everyone's job to advertise the club events. We can all do this by telling our friends and putting up flyers wherever you can think of a place that someone might see it. Let's make a goal to advertise the heck out of our open house in November and make it the best and largest attended one we can. Any ideas how this can be done are more than welcome. Hopefully if we can get "back on track" our club will continue to grow and prosper, and we still will have fun and enjoy each other's company. So until we see each other again, happy model railroading.

Sam Eaton, President

FSMRRC PICNIC:

This year's Club picnic will be held Saturday, September 30, 2017, at 1 p.m., at the Club Building at 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. The Club will supply hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls and sodas. Please bring a covered dish (hot or cold food – main dish or dessert). Please contact Carolyn Thompson at 302-697-6769 or 302-222-7554 to advise what you will bring, so we don't have lots of duplications.

For entertainment this year the "HO Locolympics" is back. The track is 20 feet long with the first 10 feet at one angle and the second 10 feet at a steeper angle set up that day so there is no pre-test run of engines. The track from year to year is never the same. There are 10 categories: Fastest Pocket Rocket, Slowest Steam, Fastest Steam, Steam Pull, Slowest Diesel, Fastest Diesel, Fastest RDC/GGI, 4 Axle Pull, 6 Axle Pull and last is Single Motor Pull. Some people to look out for are Paul Buckley's Fastest Pocket Rocket, Paul Buckley's Fastest Steam, Jim Thompson's Slowest Diesel, Paul Buckley's Fastest Diesel, Jim Thompson's Fastest RDC/GGI and 4 Axle Pull, Paul Buckley's 6 Axle Pull and the Grand Pull is Single Motor Pull by UNDEFEATED Les Souder's Hobby Towns.

Well, there is a list of the classes and who to look out for. As I said, the boards are never the same, and a unit that won before may not win this year. So pull out as many engines as possible for the categories and get them ready. Don't forget to contact Carolyn for the dish you want to bring. Hope to see you there for good food, good people and good old memories.

Jim Thompson

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 9, 2017 – Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th St., Allentown PA. Admission: \$5.00, Children 12 under FREE. 10am-3pm. Now ONE DAY ALL Scales. More vendors and items to buy.

September 23, 2017 – Indian Summer Toy and Train Show. Roxana Fire House, 35943 Zion Church Road, Frankford, DE. 9:00am-3:00pm. Admission \$5.00. Children 10 and under FREE.

September 24, 2017 – Train Collectors Association, Atlantic Division, Fall Train Show. Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. Members: 8am-1pm, Public: 9:00am-1pm. Admission: \$5.00 (two adults and all children 12 and under.)

September 30, 2017 – 1 p.m., FSMRRC PICNIC: See Jim Thompson's article for more info.

October 1, 2017 -- Look for Model Railroad Open House Schedule online.

October 5, 2017 – 6 p.m., Club visit to Fred Lagno's. More info to follow.

October 7, 2017 – 7 a.m., FSMRRC to leave from the Club station to set up for Clayton (DE) Days (old State layout).

October 7-8, 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 paid adult.

October 12-15, 2017 – The Susquehannock, Mid-Eastern Region 2017 NMRA Convention. Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton Hotel, 4650 Lindal Rd., Harrisburg PA. Clinics, Operating Sessions, Contests, Awards Banquet, Silent/Live Auctions, Tours. Clinics start Thursday, October 12, at 7pm. For more information or to register, go to www.2017mer.org.

AUCTION OF JIM VALLE'S LAYOUT – NOVEMBER 11, 2017 -- Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Ave., Dover. See Jim Thompson and/or Les Souder for details.