



**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2018**

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.** at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

Well 2018 is finally here, and it's hard to believe that a new year is here and from the first several days it looks like a cold one. Hope everyone had a great New Year's Eve and everyone is safe and sound.

For those who have not heard, it seems like we were bad little boys this year and Santa did not come through for us this year. I just received a letter saying we were turned down again for the Wilmington train show at the waterfront. They said there was not enough room for us again this year. I'm not sure what we have to do to get back there and show our layout. If anyone has any ideas I would be glad to hear them. I'm sorry that, as your president, I let you down. Maybe it's time for a change.

So far it does not look like a busy year. We are low on funds after buying a new heater so work on closing in any more doors does not look good. We need to get the doors done, put in a ceiling with new lights and heating system before we can start on creating a permanent layout. We have been working of this for two years now. I figured it would take five years but now I feel it will take longer. To meet this goal, we need to come up with more ways of raising money. I don't think just shows will do the trick since there are fewer and fewer shows that we can set up and get paid for. I think we need to start a fund-raising committee with ideas to raise money to meet our goals, but maybe we should take a long hard look at what these goals are. I know I asked two years ago where do we want to be and we came up with the idea for a permanent layout. Do we need to revisit this idea?? I'm just not sure anymore. Start thinking about this and we will follow up at our meeting on 9th. Bring your thinking caps and don't be afraid to voice your opinions. We need to have an open and friendly discussions on where we want to go and how to get there. We can't hit a target we can't see. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting. Don't let the cold hold you back.

Sam Eaton, President

FSMRRC CHRISTMAS PARTY:

The First State Model Railroad Club Christmas Party was held on December 5, 2017 at Roma Restaurant in Dover. It was great as always, with over 33 Club members and others in attendance. There were about 20 guys and 15 ladies present for the festivities. Everyone got a ticket for the gift exchange. Appetizers and meals were ordered. While waiting for the food, the gift exchange started. The guys started the exchange and then ladies, every other one. All went fine with only a few gifts being taken from one person to another and of course books were the first to be exchanged back and forth. Some train cars passed back and forth a few times. The drinks and meals were fine but the service was a little slow. It works in our favor, as we are never rushed with the gift exchange. Photos will be put on the Club bulletin board so you can see everyone having a great time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jim Thompson, Vice President

FSMRRC HEATER PROJECT:

The heater project went well with over \$2,000.00 raised of the \$2880.00 needed. Ben Twilley and Myrna Valle donated \$500.00 each totaling \$1,000.00, with matching funds of \$50.00 from 10 individuals. Numerous other individuals donated \$100.00 each. A special thanks to Ben Twilley, Myrna Valle, Jim Thompson, Les Souder, Buzz Matthews, Bill Spanarelli, Mike Seine, Paul Buckley, Sam Eaton, Bill Schrodell, Dick Lush, Marty Volk, Bill Benzin, Paul Roy, Kurt Schwaninger and Richard Stockslager. The grand total so far is \$2,000.00 and we have a couple more pledges to come in. Again "Thanks".

Jim Thompson, Vice President

FSMRRC SPRINGFIELD TRIP 2018:

One big project each year for our Club is the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show. This year it will be held January 27-28, 2018 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA. The Hobby Show is in four buildings, The Better Living Center, The Mallory Complex, The Young Building and the smallest of the buildings is the Stroh Building. Between the four buildings there are over 400 vendors, dealers and manufacturers. There will be between 35 and 40 operating layouts with all scales on display. Also during the week there will be numerous clinics offered by the manufacturers, exhibitors and experts. These are open to all level hobbyists.

The agenda this year is basically the same as other years. Friday the 26th we start off at Les Souder's at 8:30 A.M. to start the trip. (This is optional) as long as you get to the Hotel by 4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. The first stop on the journey up to MA. is at Fenwick Rest Stop on the Jersey Turnpike around 9:30 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. The second stop is around 12 noon to get lunch at the last stop on the Garden State Parkway. We should arrive at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch

Hotel, One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA. between 4:00 P.M and 5:00 P.M. At 6:30 P.M. we head to the Cracker Barrel North for dinner.

Saturday, January 27, the guys meet at the hotel for complimentary breakfast around 7:00 A.M. Around 9:00 A.M. the guys leave for the Amherst Train Show. Armbands will be provided for entrance into the show on Saturday and Sunday.

The ladies will probably meet a little later for breakfast and then head off to the Yankee Candle north of Springfield. Everyone will meet back at the Hotel in the evening around 5:00 P.M. We will be staying in the hotel for dinner. Reservations have been made at PICK's Restaurant.

Sunday, January 28, everyone will meet for breakfast in the hotel around 8:00 A.M. At around 10:00 A.M. the guys head back to the train show to tie up loose ends and make last minute purchases. They will return to the hotel around 12 noon to depart for the return to Delaware. We will stop between 6:00 P.M and 7:00 P.M. for dinner at the Cracker Barrel, Exit 1, Pennsville, N.J. We should arrive home around 9:00 P.M. We have seven couples and five individuals making the trip this year. They are Paul and Paula Buckley, Paul and Lena Roy, Les and Ann Souder, Jim and Carolyn Thompson, Sam Eaton and Carol Young, Bill and Kathleen Schrodell, Henry and Cecilia Kramer, Myrna Valle, Paul and Lena's daughter, Dick Lush, Ralph Pfannenstiel and John Gray. Armbands have been ordered, agendas are being printed and maps will be provided. It is always a great time. I still have room for one more guy if anyone is interested.

Jim Thompson, Vice President

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 6-7 & 13-14, 2018 – Delmarva Model Railroad Club's 32nd Annual Open House. Camelot Hall (2nd Floor, NO elevator), 103-E State Street, Delmar, DE. Saturday: 11am-4pm, Sunday: Noon-4pm. 9 layouts featuring 10 different gauges from Z Scale to G Scale. Refreshments, White Elephant table, Raffle ticket sales, free parking and admission.

January 7, 2018 – Atlantic Division, Train Collector's Association Polar Bear Train Show. Penns Landing Caterers, 1301 South Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. 8am-1pm. Family Admission \$5.00 (Limit Two (2) Adults & Children (12 Years & Under). Door Prizes, Operating Train Layout, Food & Beverages Available, More Than 100 Tables of Trains, Train Doctor & Parts to Repair Your Trains.

January 7, 2018 – Toms River Train and Toy Show. Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ. 9am-2pm. Admission: \$6, children under 10 FREE. Operating layouts, fine refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train repairs.

January 13-14, 2018 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. 10am-4pm both days. FREE parking. Admission: Adults \$9.00 for a ONE DAY ticket & \$10.00 for a TWO-DAY ticket. Kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.

January 26-28, 2018 – Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show. Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., W. Springfield, MA. Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 10am-5pm. Admission: Adults: \$14.00 per day, kids 15 and under: FREE when accompanied by an Adult. Eastern States parking: \$5.00 per day. Tickets will be sold on the grounds starting one hour before the show opens on each day of the show to keep lines to a minimum. Any large groups arriving via chartered coach can receive extra benefits. Special parking is provided for charter buses. If the group calls ahead to the Show Office with a passenger count, their tickets will be ready for them when the bus arrives avoiding any waiting in the ticket line.

February 3-4, 2018 – The Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD (Cow Palace). 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. **Update:** This show will also include a sale of Howard Zane’s vast collection of brass trains and custom-built structures at staggering price reductions about 25% to 50% and MORE.

February 4, 2018 – National Collectors Club presents The Brick Train Show. Brick Elks Lodge, Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick NJ. 9am-2pm. Admission: \$6.00, kids under 10 FREE. Operating layouts, refreshments served from show opening until close, test track to operate that new purchase, train doctor on premises.

February 24, 2018 – 25th Annual Seaford Volunteer Fire Dept. Toy and Train Show. King and Cannon Sts., Seaford, DE. 9am-3pm.

March 24, 2018 – Spring Hartly Train Show. Hartly Fire House, Arthursville Rd. (DE Rt. 11) and Hartly Rd. (DE Rt. 44), Hartly, DE. 9am-3pm. Admission: \$4, spouse \$3, kids under 12 FREE with adult. Breakfast and lunch furnished by the fire company auxiliary. Door prizes every hour.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR.
HOPE YOU HAVE A PROPEROUS ONE.**