



**THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2019**

NEXT MEETING:

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

NOTES FROM THE CLUB:

Tremendous! What else can sum up our Open House on November 23-24? I wholeheartedly thank Sam, Jim, Buzz and Jeff for the time and energy expended. It has to be the most successful Open House we have had. Come to the meeting and find out the final tallies of the Open House.

The change has been made. Paul Roy is our new treasurer and the bank account is changed to the Dover Federal Credit Union. It is said to be less of a hassle than the previous account. Thanks to Buzz for filling in for Paul and aiding Paul in the transition.

Our Christmas Party is coming up at Grotto's Pizza near Dover Downs. It is on our normal meeting night on 10 Dec. 2019 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Because of this, our **normal business meeting has been moved to Thursday, 12 Dec.** 2019 at 7:30 p.m. For the Christmas Party, please remember to bring wives, girlfriends and appropriate gifts: men for men, women for women.

Don't forget our Christmas Open House with Santa Claus. It's on Saturday, one day, 7 Dec. 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We thank Gary Bryant for knowing Santa and making arrangements to bring him to us that day. On Thursday before the Open House (5 Dec. 2019) we will get ready for it.

As I am old-fashioned I am going to wish you and yours a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Les Souder, President

November 23 – 24 Open House Report:

Our annual Model Railroad Month Open House happened on the weekend of November 23-24.

Saturday: The signs were placed outside so our visitors could find us. The front room was given a quick once-over with the vacuum, trash was emptied, and clean bags put in the cans, the guestbook, donation barrels and raffle ticket buckets were put in place for our guests, and the doors opened at 9 with trains running. Tim Kaden was there with several of his model kits that he was trying to sell.

We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Raffle tickets were sold, and donations were collected. The top 5 reasons people listed as how they heard about us was newspaper ads, Facebook, visiting our website, Open House Schedules, and flyers placed around town. Many, many guests gave favorable comments about the layout and other displays. A few inquired about visiting on Thursday nights, and 3 or 4 asked about membership and took an application. At the end of the day we had a total of 137 people stop in. As a comparison, last year we had 116 for the entire weekend.

Sunday: The weather wasn't very cooperative with gloomy skies and blustery winds, and that could explain the slow start, although being a Sunday and people attending church could have been another reason. But the crowds did pickup during the day. Newspaper ads were again the main reason the crowds came, although some said they were returning after seeing it yesterday, and saying they saw things they missed before. After it was all over, 75 people came by to visit and they were VERY impressed by what they saw. That made it a total of 212 for the weekend. Something that surprised me was that more folks bought raffle tickets for the Cass Scenic Railroad than the Wilmington & Western.

I do not know the names of those members that stopped by to help but, congrats to all those that came out to help put on the show and get the advertising out to the public. One thing we should consider, after seeing the totals below, maybe we should end the open houses next year at 3. For the monetary details, come to the December meeting.

Due to a prior commitment, I will not be able to attend the December 7 Open House. Someone will have to be in the front room to greet the visitors, be available to help Santa, and draw, and contact, the Raffle winners after it ends at 3pm.

Daily Visitor Total by Hour:

| | Saturday | Sunday | |
|-------|----------|----------|-----|
| 9-10 | 16 | 3 | |
| 10-11 | 39 | 11 | |
| 11-12 | 32 | 17 | |
| 12-1 | 9 | 11 | |
| 1-2 | 18 | 26 | |
| 2-3 | 18 | 5 | |
| 3-4 | <u>5</u> | <u>2</u> | |
| Total | 137 | 75 | 212 |

Jeff Shockley, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 7, 2019 – FSMRRC Open House with Santa Claus. 9-3.

December 7-8, 2019 – Delmarva Model Railroad Club's 34th Annual Open House. Camelot Hall (2nd Floor, NO elevator), 103-E State St., Delmar, DE. Saturday: 11am-4pm, Sunday: Noon-4pm. Free parking and admission. 9 layouts featuring 10 different gauges from Z Scale to G Scale. Refreshments, White Elephant table, Raffle ticket sales, activities for the kids.

December 7-8, 2019 – Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. 10a-4p. FREE PARKING! Adult Admission is \$10 Saturday or \$9 Sunday (onsite ticket sales cash only.) Kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket. Show Features: 300+ tables of trains for sale 70+ exhibitors from across the country Huge operating model train displays including: Meade Area Rail Road Society – 20' x 64' HO Scale layout Baltimore Area American Flyer Club – 20' x 31' S Gauge layout Lebanon Valley Rail – 12' x 20' G Gauge layout MTH Electric Trains Layout – 10' x 20' O Gauge layout Free workshops and demonstrations MTH Electric Trains and Micro-Mark will be among the manufacturers at the show Free Door Prize Giveaways Free Test Track – test run your trains at the show Plus much, much more!

December 14, 2019 – Public Train Auction, Clayton Ice House Green Gavel Auction, 500 Duck Creek Blvd., Clayton, DE, 9 a.m.

January 26-27, 2020 – 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 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.

REMINDER: FSMRRC DUES WERE DUE (\$60/YR) BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 2019. If your dues are not current, please send or give them to Treasurer Roy.

FSMRRC OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: LES SOUDER

SECRETARY: JEFF SHOCKLEY

VICE PRESIDENT: JIM THOMPSON

TREASURER: PAUL ROY

FSMRRC PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1282 McKEE RD., DOVER, DE 19904 (no mail is received at this address)

FSMRRC MAILING ADDRESS:

Les Souder, 508 N. East Ave., Dover, DE 19901-3915 OR

Paul Roy, 95 River Run Blvd., Felton, DE 19943-6600

