

# **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

## **FSMRRC PICNIC:**

Thank you to Bill and Kathleen Schrodell for hosting the Club Picnic on Sunday, May 22. Bill showed off his large basement layout and also his outdoor G-Scale layout that is a work-in-progress. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

## **FSMRRC HORSESHOE CURVE TRIP:**

On Thursday, June 2, 2016, Paul Roy, Richard Stockslager, Les Souder and Jim Thompson left Les' house at 1:30 P.M. for Enola, PA., arriving at 4:00 P.M. at the Norfolk Southern Enola Yard. We took photos and watched trains for layout ideas. We departed there for Juniata Creek to follow the tracks for track plans until we arrived at Altoona. We stayed at the new Microtel Inn and Suites. The hotel suggested Hoss' Buffet for dinner, which was fantastic.

Friday, we ate breakfast at the hotel and departed to Gallitzin on a slick, rainy path downhill only to come upon a work train on a balloon track. (See photos at meeting). On to Gallitzin West Bound Tunnel, west side of town, noting numerous trains. The first train was two new SD80's N & S Engines with 120 gondolas and 2 SD40's on the rear. Then a three-mile drive through the "jungle" thanks to the directions from the east side town cop. Upon arrival we met a number of other rail fans. We took tons of photos of the east side of tunnel with 2 rails through and the old abandoned tunnel. (See photos at meeting). We had ordered subs at a Subway in Gallitzin, downtown at the tunnel entrance. Then we went to the Curve to eat lunch and take another ton of photos. The first unit was a U.P. with 2 N.S. units pulling about 100 coal cars. We spent the whole day watching trains. About every 15 minutes the trains would go by. A train with two engines pulling about 120 coal cars (empty I think), as there were no helpers on the end, went by. It was quite impressive to see trains passing each other and on numerous occasions engine trains side by side going up the mountain. It was all possible due to the fact Charlie's Tree Service had just spent 10 weeks removing trees that had been blocking the view. There is also a lift to take you to the top of the curve or you can still use the steps.

Then we went to Shaffer's Full Steam Ahead Hobby Shop and met some nice folks and made a few purchases. Then we went to the Prime Buffet. This is the same place we went

for dinner the last time we visited Horseshoe Curve and Kevin Herrmann had 5 plates full. They asked us if he was with us and we said “no”. They said “Thank God”. Then we went to the Altoona Association of Model Railroads, a Club we had visited before. They were just installing an N Scale layout someone had given them that was downstairs. Upstairs was their HO Scale layout with O Scale running around outside. All of the locomotive memorabilia, (and I mean tons) the number board and placards, were real. We got back to the hotel about 9:00 P.M. We had been training for about 9 hours or more and it was a long and tiring day. Everyone had a good night’s sleep.

The next morning we had a great breakfast and then off to the Altoona Shops in downtown Altoona. We watched them change engines on a working turntable. What a sight to see!! We saw the rebuilding site where engines were stripped and rebuilt. We passed the tank car repair facility. We also passed Alto Tower and took a few photos. Alto Tower is where we were about 14 years ago, when a female switch operator came down and invited us up to the tower to watch the operation. A memory never lost!!

Then we went to Cresson. It was extremely interesting this time because there is a locomotive graveyard with numerous engines cut up. They wouldn't let us bring one home. We took some photos of the town as it shows the old historic time frame. It also has a second N5C caboose 477869.

From there we went to South Fork and watched trains coming around the Curve. Mineral Point was the earth dam holding back the flood waters at the Johnstown Reservoir, visible from the tracks. We then had some lunch and discovered that a Jehovah's Witness Convention had come to town and we did not have a room for another night and there were no available rooms within a 50-mile radius. We, therefore, decided to make tracks to Delaware. The GPS said it was only 4 hours and 2 minutes to home. We had dinner at a Cracker Barrel. (Don't tell Lena). To those of you who didn't go, you were surely missed. (For about 10 minutes)! We arrived home at about 8:00 P.M. It was a great little trip.

## **Les Souder and Jim Thompson**

### **Handlaying Switches and Track Clinic**

The Chesapeake Division of the NMRA is considering putting on a clinic on handlaying switches and track. Kurt Thompson would be leading this clinic (he led February's Arduino clinic). They are currently looking for level of interest to hold this clinic probably July or August. If you are like me, you have been putting off hand laying your own switches thinking that it is too hard, or time consuming. I am strongly considering attending this clinic, so join me in stepping out of your comfort zone and let's have some fun with hand laying switches! The Fast Track jigs make it easier and simpler to hand lay whatever switch you desire.

If you are interested, please send an email to Greg Kidwell (Chesapeake Division Superintendent) at [lar18eneg440@aol.com](mailto:lar18eneg440@aol.com) and let him know you are interested. He would like to know your name and scale. He will be compiling a head-count and then be able to reply with a cost and location for this clinic. Also, feel free to check out Fast Tracks website for more about their jigs and other products.

**Henry Kramer**

### **NMRA - Philadelphia Division Meeting**

The next meeting of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016. The location of this meeting will be the Newtown Public Library, 201 Bishop Hollow Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073 and doors will open at 10:00am. The main program will be given by clinician Ramon Rhodes presenting on “The Santa Fe Railway in Chicago during the 1970s.” In this fast-paced presentation we will take a look at the changes that occurred on the Santa Fe Railway in Chicago during the 1970s. Using hundreds of photographs and a series of charts, graphs, and diagrams, we will see the changes that shaped the railroad during that decade—changes that include the consolidation of facilities and the spinning off of passenger service to Amtrak. Ramon Rhodes is a dynamic speaker and I have had the privilege of attending several of his presentations and have found them to be both educational and very entertaining. Additional information about this event can be found at [www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-division-meet-061116](http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-division-meet-061116).

I am planning to attend so if you would like to car pool please feel free to contact me.

**Henry Kramer**

**JUNE 14 IS FLAG DAY – FLY YOUR FLAG PROUDLY!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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-trains.org/>.

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

**August 6-7, 2016 – Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show.** Maryland State Fair, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. 10am-4pm. Free Parking. Admission: \$7.00, kids 11 and under are admitted FREE and do NOT need a ticket.

**August 13-14, 2016 – Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show.** New Jersey Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. 10am-4pm. Free Parking. Admission: \$7.00, kids 11 and under are admitted FREE and do not need a ticket.

**August 21-22, 2016 – 12th Annual "N-Scale Weekend" Model Train Show.** Jaffa Shrine Center Broad Ave. & 22nd Street, Altoona, PA. Saturday: 10am-5pm, Sunday: 9am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 are admitted FREE with an adult. For more info e-mail: [weekendnscale@yahoo.com](mailto:weekendnscale@yahoo.com).

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