



## **THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of The First State Model Railroad Club, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. at Jarrell Station at 1282 McKee Road, in Dover, DE.

### **FSMRRC NEWS SUMMARY:**

As summer recedes and autumn gains momentum, the pace of club activities begins to accelerate. October started out with another edition of our Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge program. Ten scouts from two different troops went through our three-part routine, listening to lectures on railroad operations and safety, building model car kits and working with the timesaver switching puzzles. Once this activity was successfully concluded with all participating scouts having their blue cards signed off we began preparation for our first-ever showing of our travelling layout at the Great Scale Train Show at Timonium, Maryland. We had always considered this show to be beyond our normal range as the previous management insisted on a Friday set-up which would have had us "on the road" for two nights, greatly increasing our expenses. When new management took over we were able to convince them that we could do a proper set-up on Saturday morning and be running when doors opened for the public. This did involve an "O dark thirty" departure from Dover with a breakfast stop in Elkton where we arrived even before our usual place was open. Taking this in stride, we found another place, scarfed down a hearty meal and arrived in Timonium where we met more members and executed a perfect set-up that had us running trains right on the advertised time. The show people had promised us tables for sales purposes so we brought along our collection of donated rolling stock from the Ag. Museum and were able to sell about 2/3s of the cars for approximately five dollars each. This will prove a great addition to our finances!

Hard on the heels of the Timonium adventure, we found ourselves heading down to Laurel, Delaware on October 31st for our third annual appearance at their firehouse show, sponsored by the local Lions Club. Like all such shows, this one was modest but allowed us to run our trains, socialize with local vendors like Brian Hammond and Fred Patrick, listen to the eclectic music of a prominent local band and sell off a little more of our surplus rolling stock. It was a one-day affair and the trains ran well.

This show concluded our principal activities for October and brought us to November which is officially Model Railroading Month nationwide. Faced with continued demand

for our travelling layout and the need to accommodate an open house on November 7th, we decided to leave the DCC modules in the trailer in readiness for our expedition to Magnolia, New Jersey, on the 14th and set up our original layout "full strength" to accommodate the public at the clubhouse. That operation was concluded on October 29th, giving some of our newer members their first look at all those older modules working together.

Finally, our esteemed president, Sam Eaton, has assembled a dedicated crew, an excellent table saw and the necessary materials to begin construction of several new DCC modules which are now in progress at the clubhouse. After some deliberation it was decided to build these latest versions utilizing Gatorboard which is thinner and has a harder surface than the material in the previous modules. A vendor based in Vermont is supplying this product already precut to our specifications. In addition to its other advantages, Gatorboard or Gatorfoam as it is sometimes called, is very light and strong so it should work out well while being fully compatible with what we have built so far.

So, as you can see, things are really humming around the clubhouse and on the road as well. Be sure to attend our next business meeting on November 10th to catch up on all the activity and plan to participate when and where you can. There's something going on for everyone.

**Jim Valle, Past President**

#### **TIMONIUM SET-UP:**

We just finished a very successful two-day display of our layout at Timonium MD. Not only did we display our DCC layout, we also showed off our Boy Scout timesavers and were able to sell about two-thirds of our excess rolling stock. Thank you to all who made the long trip to Timonium and helped out.

We have started preparations for our November Open House. We will be taking many of our stored DC modules and expanding our DC layout to cover our entire display area. If you are free on Thursday we could really use everyone's help.

Finally, on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> we will be displaying our DCC layout at the Laurel Train Show. The show will be held at the Laurel Fire Department (205 W. 10th Street, Laurel, DE). The show starts at 9am and we intend to leave the club house at 7am. All members are welcome to turn out and enjoy a day of fun, fellowship and trains.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

**Henry Kramer**

**Watch a railroad bridge being built in China.**

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/B6X82g2UZOs>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Model Railroad Month Open House Schedule (November 2015) (go to: <http://www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com/index.html> for the complete schedule)**

**November 6 & 13, 2015 – Jeff Griffin, OPEN HOUSE, 49 Sand Dollar Lane, Frederica, DE. 7pm - 9pm.**

**November 7-8 – First State Model Railroad Club, OPEN HOUSE, 1282 McKee Road, Dover, DE. 9am – 4pm. Contact: Jim Valle, 302-678-0283.**

**November 7-8, 2015 - 31st Annual Model Train & Railroadiana Show and Sale, Jim Graham Building, at corner of Blue Ridge Rd. and Hillsborough Street, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. 9am – 5pm. Admission: \$8.00 (covers both days), kids under 10 FREE with paying adult.**

**November 7-8, & 14-15, 2015 – Pat Mulrooney, OPEN HOUSE, 206 Stoever Dr., New Holland, PA, 11am – 4pm. Contact: 717-419-6880.**

**November 8, 2015 - Gorton Marsden, OPEN HOUSE, 14 Springmill Drive, Middletown, DE, 10am – 3pm.**

**November 8, 2015 – Bob Sembly, OPEN HOUSE, 55 Southwell Court, Dover, DE. Noon - 4pm.**

**November 14, 2015 – FSMRRC set-up at Magnolia, NJ.**

**November 14, 2015 – Fred Lagno, OPEN HOUSE, 911 Sportsman Neck Road, Queenstown, MD, 9am – 4pm. Contact: 410-827-7896.**

**November 14, 2015 – Jim Perry, OPEN HOUSE, 1279 Everetts Corner Road, Hartly, DE, 1pm – 5pm. Contact: 302-492-1967.**

**November 14, 2015 – Roland Metzner, OPEN HOUSE, 801 Pecan Avenue, Milford, DE, 9am – 4 pm. 302-422- 2015.**

**November 14-15, 2015 – Allentown Train Meet Associates' First Frost™ Train Meet, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall (Agri-Plex), 302 North 17th Street, Allentown, PA. Saturday: 9am – 4pm, Sunday: 9am – 3pm. Admission: \$7.00 each day, kids under 12 FREE, with paying adult.**

**November 22, 2015 – Paul Roy, OPEN HOUSE, 95 River Run Boulevard, Felton, DE 19943. 10am – 4pm. Contact: 302-289-3560.**

**November 24 & 29, 2015 – Tom Gears, OPEN HOUSE, 2720 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington DE, 6pm – 9pm.**

**November 28, 2015 – Dale Ridgeway, OPEN HOUSE, 10663 Piney Island Drive, Bishopville, MD, Noon – 4pm.**

**November 28, 2015 – Ed Tudor, OPEN HOUSE, 13329 Hatchery Road, Bishopville, MD, Noon - 4pm.**

**November 28-29, 2015 – Delmarva Model Railroad Club’s 30th Annual Holiday Open House, 103 E. State Street, Delmar, DE. Saturday: 11am –4pm. Sunday: Noon – 4pm. Free parking and admission. Layouts in Z Scale, N Scale modular, N Scale, HO Scale, S Scale, O Gauge, Standard Gauge, and G Scale. White Elephant table, Refreshments, and Train Videos. Also Dec. 5-6; Jan. 2-3; Jan. 9-10.**

**November 28-29, 2015 & January 2-3, 2016 – Greenberg’s Train and Toy Show, New Jersey Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. 10:00am – 4pm both days. Admission: \$9.00 (good for both days), kids under 12 FREE.**

**November 29, 2015 – Andreas Neemann, OPEN HOUSE, 7 Anita Drive, Newark, DE, 1pm - 6pm.**

**December ??, 2015 – FSMRRC CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY**

**December 5-6, 2015 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. 10am-4pm. Free Parking. Admission: \$7.00, kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.**

**December 12-13, 2015 – Greenberg’s Train & Toy Show. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. 10am-4pm. Free parking. Admission: \$9.00, kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.**

**January 23-24, 2016 – Greenberg’s Great Train & Toy Show. York Expo Center - Utz Arena, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA. 10am-4pm. Free parking. Admission: \$9.00, kids 11 and under are admitted free and do NOT need a ticket.**

**THE SHORE LINE GARDEN RAILROAD CLUB will set up a Christmas train display at the AIR MOBILITY COMMAND MUSEUM beginning November 21. It will remain available for viewing through the end of December.**

**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.**