



THE FIRST STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

NEXT MEETING:

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

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT EATON:

We had a great show at the Dover library this year. At the morning class we had 85 little kids and the evening we had 130 grownups and kids. Once again, I'd like to thank all who came out to help us set up on Thursday night and all those who came to help run trains and take the layout down on Friday. They have already invited us back for next year.

Thanks to Buzz for getting the group from the "Y" to come by on the 25th. We had 30 kids show up for that event. They were well-behaved and asked some great questions. Thanks again to all those who showed up to run trains. It made our club look great.

Not much else to talk about since the Library show was the last event until our open house in October and November.

We have left out the modular that we talked about in January of redoing. So, let's sit down, check it out and come up with a plan and get started on that project. Also, you will notice that someone donated to us an "N" gauge layout and the trains that go with it. We would like to get the train set out and see if we can get it running. It was suggested that when we get it running, we can offer it as a raffle give away. If you have any other ideas, please let me know.

We'll hope to see everyone Thursday night and at the monthly meeting on the 14th. Keep safe and well till then.

Sam Eaton, President

LAWN MOWER AND GRASS CUTTING

The mower Bill Benzin gave us is up and running. The drive belts and blades belts have been changed. I now know why they charge \$250.00 to change each belt or about \$500.00 for the job. It took me about 4 hours moving and pulling on pulleys and brackets to get them off and on. There was no reverse, so I worked about half an hour moving things back and forth. It now has reverse. But not first gear all the time. Who uses first gear anyway? To use the lawnmower – choke, turn key, it starts, put throttle up to run, pull big lever up to locking position, blades turn, put gear shift in 3 or 4 and cut grass. Remember you cannot back up in reverse with blades running. You have to stop blades and then back up. Start blades again and continue cutting grass. Always check oil and gas tank first. This is very important if the mower is to last. Richard Stockslager cut the grass three weeks ago and found over by the construction site there is debris still left there. He has walked the area and I have walked the area. But last week I cut the grass and found a ground rod with 2 feet of wire still attached. The other day little 13 year old Kenny Haltom cut the back grass and I got the weed-wacker working and trimmed. I also painted the water main pipe and pipe on north side of driveway by tractor and trailer red, so no one could run over them with the mower. There is the ground rod with wire I put up in air and painted red. Don't run over it before Richard and I drive it deep into the ground. Don't forget to take gas with you and enjoy cutting. I will work on the push mower later.

SNAKES

I don't like snakes, but we had a visitor last week. Yes, it was a little 7 inch garter snake under the DCC yard. I got the dust pan and gave him a new home over by the construction trees. Years ago I was at Jim Valle's home and noticed a little garter snake on his basement layout. He told me he knew it was there and the snake drove the cats crazy. I guess snakes like model railroading too.

MODULE REPAIR

I don't understand after putting the DCC layout up, there were 5 modules that needed the 3 inch movable sections replaced. One of the two rails were ripped off. Please be careful placing and removing modules from trailer. The rail that was ripped off was the movable rail. I need to super glue that rail.

BATTERIES

I was looking for a double AA battery to put in the clock and I found a box of double AA and 9 volt batteries. There is a big problem that many people are not aware of with 9 volt batteries. They will burn your house down. If you look at a 9 volt battery on the end is the positive and negative post. Short a nail – screw drive across them and they will get hot enough to start a fire

or explode. I had a couple in my car in a cardboard box last year and when I went to get them, the box was so hot it was ready to catch on fire. Always keep the plastic cap on or put masking tape over the end so they don't come in contact with any metal objects.

SPRING JOB – POWER WASHING

Now that spring is finally here, one of our next big projects is to power wash the building from top to bottom on the east side (road side) and then getting it painted. Then we can see how much paint we have left and repeating that process on the north and south sides. We have 15 gallons of gray and 15 gallons of white paint. I will mix when needed. That gives us 30 gallons of usable paint. I also need to get scaffolding to reach the high points.

TAGS

While working on the lawnmower, I noticed that the tags on the trailer run out this year, in December. Let's not forget and let them run out.

Jim Thompson, Vice President

THANKS:

"Thanks to all club members who came out to run trains on April 25th for the YMCA Spring Break Camp participants."

Buzz Matthews

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 Matthews.

FSMRRC OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: SAM EATON

SECRETARY: JEFF SHOCKLEY

VICE PRESIDENT: JIM THOMPSON

TREASURER: BUZZ MATTHEWS

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

**FSMRRC MAILING ADDRESS: 505 EAGLE NEST DR., CAMDEN, DE 19934 OR
P. O. BOX 16, PORT PENN, DE 19731**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 4, 2019 – Spring Fling Train & Toy Show. Roxana Firehouse, 35943 Zion Church Rd., Frankford, DE (Route 20 between Millsboro and Fenwick Island, DE.) 9a-3p. Admission: \$5, children 10 and under FREE. Operating layouts, door prizes, refreshments. Visit: www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com for information and directions.

May 4, 2019 – Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club Swap Meet & Open House. Grace Episcopal Church, 7 E. Maple Ave., Merchantville, NJ. Swap Meet: 9a-1p, Layout open: Noon-3p. Admission: \$5, Spouse and kids under 12 FREE. For information on tables for Swap Meet: Ernest Kraus, 856-468-8537.

May 4-5, 2019 – Spring into Trains Show Presented by the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Scott Building, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC. 9a-5p. Admission: Adults \$8, kids under 12 FREE with adult.

May 18-19, 2019 – Historic Spencer Shops Train Show. North Carolina Transportation Museum, 1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, NC. Saturday: 9a-5p, Sunday: 12p-5p. Museum admission: Adult \$6, Seniors/Military \$5, Ages 3-12 \$4, under 3 and NCTM members FREE. Model train and railroad collectible vendors, layouts, clinics and motorcar rides. For details: www.nctrans.org.

May 19, 2019 – National Collectors Club presents The Wayne Train Show. Wayne P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Dr., Wayne, NJ. 9a-2p. Admission: \$6, kids under 10 FREE.

July 14, 2019 – National Collectors Club presents The Brick Train Show. Brick Elks Lodge, Lodge #2151, 2491 Hooper Ave. Brick NJ. 9a-2p. Admission: \$6, kids under 10 FREE.

July 21, 2019 – National Collectors Club presents The Wayne Train Show. Wayne P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Dr., Wayne, NJ. 9am-2pm. Admission: \$6, kids under 10 FREE.