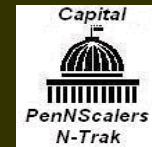


The Rusted Rail



Vol. 1 Issue 2

May / June 2005

Issue #2 (Now with a COLOR Photo!!)

This is the second issue of *The Rusted Rail*. Our highly respected editor is on a hiatus since he decided to really screw up his hobby time by getting married and working excessive overtime. So, in the meantime, this is a somewhat abbreviated version in order to keep the newsletter alive. I'm sure we all wish Rich the best and hope he returns to the editorship ASAP.

If anyone would like to volunteer to put together the next issue (July/August) or if you have anything you would like to contribute as in articles, etc, drop me a line at mrfriend@comcast.net or info@pennscalers.org.

Thanks,
Mark

Coming Events

July 16th and 17th: Model Train and Collectors Show
Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Fair Grounds, Mechanicsburg, Pa.
Sat 9-4, Sun 11-4
Admission: \$3
www.williamsgrovesteam.org

June 25th and 26th: The Great American Model Train Show
Timonium Fair Grounds
Sat 9-4, Sun 10-4
Adults \$7, kids 12 & under Free
www.gsmts.com

July 30th and 31st: Greenberg's Train Show
Timonium Fair Grounds
Sat 10-4, Sun 10-4
Adults: \$7, kids 11 & under Free
www.greenbergshows.com

If anyone has any events for future issues, just drop me a note.

Red Line Ramblings

3 Foot Corner Progress: Over the last month or so, we have progressed to the point where the 3 foot corners are useable. Wiring is yet to be done, and a consensus needs to be reached regarding their scenicing.

East Coast Hobby Show: On April 9th, Harold, Ron and I attended The East Coast Hobby Show in Ft. Washington, Pa. There we got the chance to rub elbows with quite a few folks from established N-Trak clubs and run some trains on an actual N-Trak display layout. A few of the things we came away with:

- **Module Transport** – 'Coffins', essentially a plywood box with a hinged lid at one end and handles are a safe bet for transporting modules without damage.
- **Aristo-Craft Train Engineer Radio Throttles** – These seem to be the way to go for wireless train control without much of the cost and hassle of DCC (no decoders required). At some point in the future we may want to consider purchasing one of these for club use on one of the main lines.

Looking for... A home....

Know a real estate agent or the fire chief? Aware of an unutilized space in a warehouse, above a store or a church basement?

Capital PenNScalers N-Trak is in search of a (preferably free) permanent meeting space of sufficient size (30x30 or larger) that we can use for meetings and occasional open houses.

Location should preferably be located centrally to the greater Harrisburg Pa. area.

If you find such a place, please contact us at info@pennscalers.org or by phone at 717-730-9419.

Thanks!

There are some photos from the East Coast Hobby Show on the website. Follow the Photos link.

In other news, during the April Sunday meeting, Ron setup the 2 loop-back modules he has under construction. Lookin' Good!

Imperious Leader's Report

Since I don't have any Imperial proclamations to make in this issue, except to remind all of you with excessive tree demerits to get to work, I'm going to do a short 'product review' of Muddy Creek's Company Houses kit:

What you get/cost:

This kit consists of a laser cut sheet of basswood, approximately the size of a sheet of paper which contains laser cut parts to assemble 2 houses with front porches, one pantry addition and one single-car garage. In a separate bag are 2 cast resin chimneys and some Mylar 'corrugated' roofing material. Also included is a 1 page instruction sheet. It is worth noting that there is no window glazing material or additional basswood for wall bracing included.

The cost is 21.95 plus 2.50 shipping. I believe Muddy Creek is a one man operation and the owner makes the kits as orders come in, so patience is in needed when ordering. It took approximately 2 weeks for me to receive my kit when ordered from their website.

How it goes together:

For anyone that has assembled a DPM plastic kit, this is essentially the wood version, meaning assembly is quick and easy. Windows and doors are scribed into the walls so no separate parts need to be assembled. However, as with a DPM kit, painting can be challenging, and is the most time-consuming part of the project.

Although the manufacturer mentions that the kit is made of plywood in the instructions, it is indeed made of basswood, so before painting, I highly recommend that you use somewhat beefy basswood strips to reinforce the walls (from the inside) so as to prevent warping when painting.

For assembly, you can use white/carpenters glue or AC cement (super glue). I prefer to use Alene's Tacky Glue, which is available at craft stores, and is often on sale. This glue is good for both wood and gluing together dissimilar materials

such as adding widow glazing and the Mylar roofing material. It dries clear and remains flexible.

I painted the houses as I went with a combination of craft paints and Polly-Scale acrylics

Conclusion:

Overall, these kits were quite pleasing to construct, and when one considers the usual cost for wood building kits, they are pretty reasonable. While these houses seem to be a bit on the large side (a scale 28x38 feet) when compared to the company houses I have seen in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, I feel they would be at home on just about any layout with a timeframe spanning the last 100+ years.

Additionally, their simple design lends them to easy kitbashing into store-fronts, saloons or even small businesses.

Muddy Creek also produces several other kits based on Sears Catalog houses. Their website is www.muddycreekr.com



Upcoming Meetings

Meeting dates for the next three months:

1st Tuesdays:

Tuesday, June 7th – 7pm

Tuesday, July 5th – 7pm

Tuesday, August 2nd – 7pm

3rd Sundays:

Note: There will be no Sunday meeting in June since Father's Day falls on that date.

Sunday, July 17, 1 - 5pm

Sunday, August 21, 1 - 5pm

Directions are on the website.