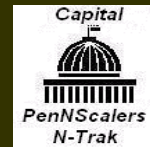


The Rusted Rail



Vol. 1 Issue 3

July / August 2005

Issue #3 Still FREE!

Summer so far has been hot and, perhaps, less than conducive to hobby activities, but that doesn't mean all has come to a halt!

In this issue, Red Line Ramblings will touch on the 3 foot corner's progress and in the Imperious Leader's Report, I'll talk about where we want to go in the near to mid future and how we can hopefully get there.

Again, I'm looking for a volunteer to take over the newsletter and make it their own. Any takers should contact me at mrfriend@comcast.net or info@pennscalers.org.

Thanks,
Mark

Coming Events

August 6th & 7th: Greenberg's Train Show
Fort Washington Expo Center
Sat 10-4, Sun 10-4
Adults: \$7, kids 11 & under Free
www.greenbergshows.com

August 6th & 7th: Eurofest 2005 (European Model Trains)
Donegal Middle School. Rt 441, Marietta, Pa.
Sat 9-4:30, Sun 9-2
Admission \$6, kids under 12 Free
www.ete.org

September 10th & 11th: The N Scale Weekend
Bedford County Fairgrounds
Sat 10-5, Sun 9-3
Admission \$3

NOTE: Some of us from the group may make a 'Field Trip' to this event.

September 17th & 18th: Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society Open House (HO club)
833 W. Trundle Rd.

Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055
Sat & Sun, 12-5
Donations accepted

October 8th & 9th: The Great Scale Model Train Show
Timonium Fairgrounds
Sat 9-4, Sun 10-4
Admission \$7
www.gsmts.com

A great source of event info is available at *Model Railroader Magazine's* Web site:
www.modelrailroader.com – click on the Schedule of Events link on the left of the page.

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

----Red Line Ramblings----

3 Foot Corner Progress:

On Sunday July 17th, we got a gander of the progress made to-date on the 'reversible' 3 foot corners. All I can say is: WOW!

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.

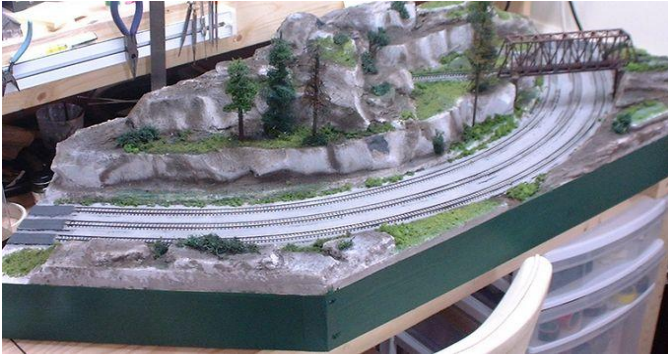
Location should preferably be located centrally to the greater Harrisburg Pa. area.

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

Thanks!

Thanks to the efforts of Dave Georgvich and Ron & Ashlee Heiser, both corners are really coming together.

First up, Dave's landscaping job, complete with abandoned bridge and boarded up tunnel portal. (2 following photos):



No less impressive is reversible wiring scheme Ron and Ashlee came up with. In the photo that follows, you can see that a harness with Cinch-Jones connectors can be plugged into either end, depending on the module's orientation (inside or outside corner). Now, we just need the other one done like this....



Ron and Ashlee are also working on a pond scene for the topside of their corner.

FREE-MO legs:

In a recent issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman*, there was an article about another modular railroad standard known as FREE-MO. While this standard caters to the HO crowd, what I found intriguing was a shot of the underside of a module showing a rather interesting and apparently toolless leg arrangement. I did some searching on the web, and with the help of a very kind gentleman named Lyle Dowell of a FREE-MO club in Illinois, I found some info on these legs which are made in part of PVC pipe fittings. The following link has photos and instructions for making these legs. It's worth a look:

http://www.trainweb.org/freemoslo/Modules/Tips-and-Techniques/adjustable_legs.htm

Other Miscellany:

Atlas has released a new version of their freeware track planning software, Right Track Version 7.0. It is available for download at:

<http://www.atlasrr.com/righttrack.htm>

N-Trak has introduced a new wiring standard which is not intended to replace Cinch-Jones connectors but to provide better voltage consistency for clubs running DCC. The specs may be viewed at www.ntrak.org or in the latest N-Trak newsletter which I have for anyone who wishes to have a look at a meeting... or why not join N-Trak yourself? Only \$8 the first year and \$6.50 per year for renewals. Bi-monthly newsletter included.

Imperious Leader's Rambling Diatribe (Formerly *Imperious Leader's Report*)

One Year Later...

June marked 1 year since the first formal meeting of Capital PenNScalers N-Trak. When Harold and I first met in March 2004, I could not foresee what would come of our mutual desire to get an N-Trak group started in the 'greater' Harrisburg area. What is has boiled down to is getting know a great group of folks and to share a hobby we all enjoy.

So, where are we? One year into this adventure, I think we've, as a group, accomplished a lot in terms of gaining knowledge about modular model railroading and practical application of what we have learned, which means building modules. And, there is always plenty more to do and learn. A

primary goal to shoot for is to do what N-Trak groups do, and that is setting up someplace for the public to see what we've done and what we're about. A few issues we have discussed in the past that to some extent control our ability to reach this goal are club structure and liability insurance.

Where Do We Go From Here?

I think we can all agree that we would like to set our sights on a public showing in the foreseeable future. I think we agreed at the July 17th meeting that we shoot for the 2005 Christmas holiday season. I believe this to be doable given the current state of module construction and while we won't have a huge setup, we do have sufficient work in progress to get the showing ball rolling. Ultimately, stepping over this threshold, I'm hoping, will bring both new excitement and new members to the group when folks get to actually see us in action, not just read an ad in a magazine or a website.

To recap what we have discussed regarding the organization and insurance issues:

1. Organizational Structure - In our informal discussions, it seems as though simple incorporation is a desired objective, both from a standpoint of dealing with any club funds and as a protection of individual members from liability... which brings us around to...
2. Liability Insurance – Incorporation will allow us to purchase this as an entity. My brief research into this topic this past spring revealed that the approximate cost is in the \$200-\$400 per year range. The other option is to become an "All NMRA Club". The NMRA offers club liability insurance at little or no cost to clubs where all of the members are NMRA members. Currently, NMRA membership runs \$45 per year (less without the *Scale Rails* subscription under the new dues structure). The downside to this option is that it may be less expensive from a per-member cost perspective to purchase our own insurance, and, do we want to tie club membership to NMRA membership?

A Call to Action!

So, let's get the ball rolling! If anyone has any knowledge of actually doing the paperwork, etc for incorporation, let us know what we need to do. This will be the first step. Let's establish the Sunday, August 21st meeting as being a 'business' meeting to get things moving in this direction. Once we have accomplished the incorporation phase, we will move on with the insurance issue. All the while we should remain focused on our

'public debut'. Ron has agreed to look into seeing if a lodge local to him might be a viable show spot, and I have an idea or two if that doesn't pan out.

In the meantime, I will, as always, ask for ideas, insight and course correction. Don't be afraid to speak up! The only dumb idea is the one not posed!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone, 'old' and new to the group for your contributions. We have indeed come a long way in a year. Let's keep it up!

Mark

Upcoming Meetings

Meeting dates for the next three months:

1st Tuesdays:

Tuesday, August 2nd – 7pm
Tuesday, September 6th – 7pm
Tuesday, October 4th – 7pm

3rd Sundays:

Sunday, August 21st, 1 – 5pm
Sunday, September 18th, 1 - 5pm
Sunday, October 16th, 1 - 5pm

Directions are on the website.