

# The Rusted Rail

[www.pennscalers.org](http://www.pennscalers.org)

Well it is newsletter time again. The holidays are in full bloom and the club is hitting the show circuit this time of year. In the next few months, we have two York shows and a month long engagement at the Cumberland Valley Railroad passenger station in Mechanicsburg. It should be an exciting few months for the club. As a club we have been productive the last few months as we have been busy building three new modules for the layout. Three foot corner modules are currently under construction so that we can have new layout possibilities. With that said, we will also need a few more POFF (Plain Old Four Footer) modules made to expand the layout using the new three foot corners. Hint, Hint if anyone is thinking of making a new module. We have also taken the opportunity to mend give a little TLC to some of the existing modules that needed it.

As of the November Sunday meeting, we have started rotating meeting locations as previously discussed. The Tuesday meetings with still continue at Mark's house. The most recent Sunday meeting was hosted by Dwight and his wife. Well they have definitely set the bar high for hosting. Please let Mark know if you would like to volunteer for any upcoming Sunday meetings. The club is also looking to order long sleeve denim shirts to wear during the winter months. Should be an exciting next few months. As a club we are continuing to grow and prosper. We are doing some wonderful things and hopefully are giving enjoyment to everyone that views our layouts. With the holiday season upon us, take some time to think about all the lives we have touched. It is an awesome feeling. I would like for everyone to have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year. May the club grow and everyone grow with the club. Keep up the hard work and enjoy the showings.

## Red Line Ramblings

Currently the club is working on three new three foot corner modules for the layout. Harold volunteered to build the module frames using the template. Members have been busy laying cork track-bed and track. Next up will be trimming the track to the correct offsets and to wire the modules. If anyone has any suggestion for scenery for the modules, please bring them up at the next few meetings. If you have any scenery materials you would like to donate to be used on the modules, please do. This is not a requirement. Other modules in the club are progressing. The newer four foot modules are under construction still and the daunting task of the yard modules continue. Keep up the good work everyone. The layout is progressing nicely.

### **ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS:**

**Starting in November, the Sunday meetings will start on a rotation to various members houses. Mark has graciously hosted these meetings to date and will continue to host the Tuesday meetings. This option was suggested a few months back. Contact Mark at [info@pennscalers.org](mailto:info@pennscalers.org) to sign up for the Sunday meeting of your choosing.**

## Club Participation Events

These events are events the club has agreed to participate in.

**November 26th, 2006**

### **6th Annual Greater York All Train Show**

Old Main Building, York Expo Center

York, Pa., Sun 9-3

Adults \$3, 12 and under free

**December 2nd, 2006—January 6th, 2007**

Trains for the Holidays

Mechanicsburg Museum Association

CVRR Passenger Station

2 West Strawberry Alley

Mechanicsburg, PA

Saturdays 12-3

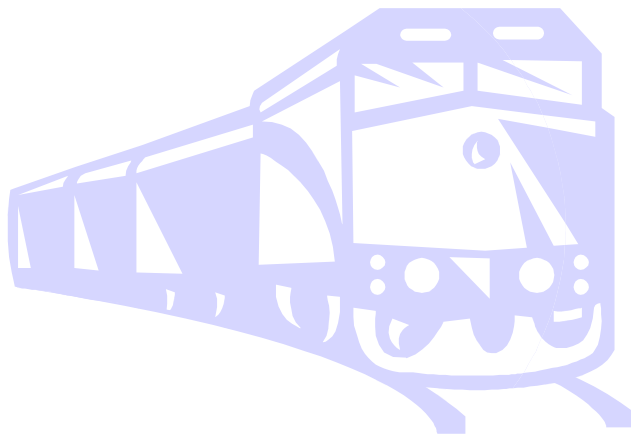
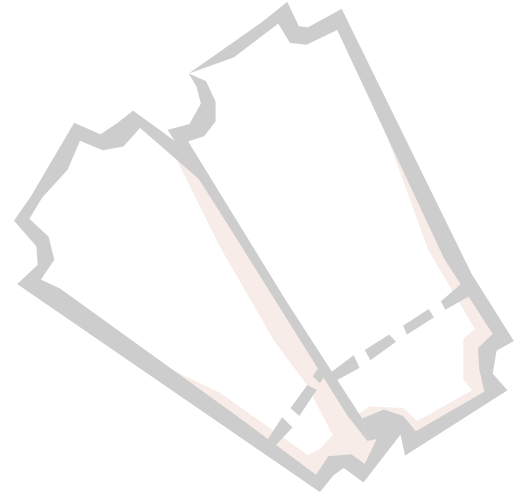
**January 13th and 14th, 2007**

GTE Show, York, PA

Toyota Arena—York Expo Center

Saturday and Sunday 10-4

Adults \$7, 12 and under free



## Other Events

### **Great Train Expo Shows:**

January 6th & 7th (Tentative)

Maryland State Fairgrounds

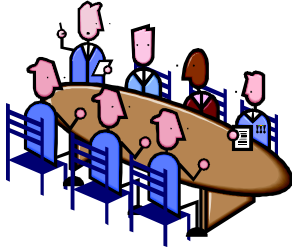
Timonium, Md.

### **Great Scale Model Train Show**

February 3rd & 4th

Maryland State Fairgrounds

Timonium, Maryland



## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday and Third Sunday of every month. Unless otherwise noted below:

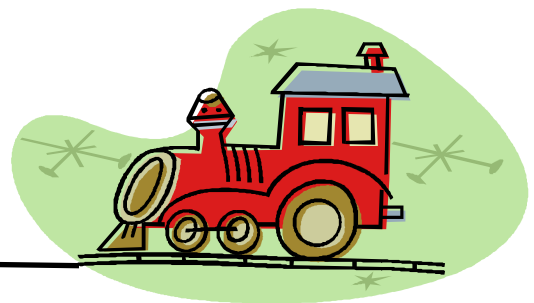
Tuesdays (6:30pm to 8:00pm)

- December, No Meeting (See Note Below)
- January 2nd, 2007
- February 6th, 2007

Sundays (1:00pm to 5:00pm)

- December, No Meeting (See Note Below)
- January 21st, 2006
- February 18th, 2007
- The December meetings are cancelled due to month long showing in Mechanicsburg. Any meeting topics will be discussed during Saturday showings.
- Check website for up to date meeting days, as they may differ from here.
- Tuesday meetings to be held at Mark's house as normal. (See website for directions)
- Sunday meetings will be on a rotating basis with various members hosting. Please see the website for meeting locations and directions.

Club Financial Statement	
Previously Reported Balance:	\$182.74
Income:	
Dues:	\$120.00
Show Proceeds:	\$0
Expenditures:	
Engineer Hats	\$18.00
Interest:	
As of Nov 6th	\$ .49
Ending Club Fund Balance:	\$291.79
Additional Information:	
\$6.56 remaining on Pizza Hut gift card to be used at an upcoming Sunday meeting.	



### Suggestions, Inquiries, Comments?

Please contact the editor of the newsletter at [newsletter@pennscalers.org](mailto:newsletter@pennscalers.org). Please let him know of any comments or concerns you may have with the content presented in this edition. The contents contained within are at the understanding of the editor. ©2006 [Capital PenNScalers](http://www.capitalpenncal.org)



## The Historical Goldmine

Recently I was lucky enough to be invited into the home of Mr. Edward H. Wiswesser, a retired Draftsman who now lives in the Mount Penn area in Reading. During his teens, he would rail fan the yards and shops in Reading, and would often visit the drafting department of the Reading Company Locomotive Shops. He studied Drafting at Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute (now Berks Technical Institute) and was hired as a draftsman for a firm in Toledo Ohio. During World War Two he used his skills for the war effort, working in the U.S. Navy Shipyards in Philadelphia.

To my surprise, and not knowing his history, I found very little Railroad Models in his basement work area. The walls were lined almost floor to ceiling with warship models, and naval aircraft hung from fishing line in the basement ceiling. Impressive none the less, I was there for trains. Mr. Wiswesser opened an old flat drawing storage file cabinet and pulled out a stack of large drawings, some photo copied reproductions, and some done on blue printers presses. Jackpot! As he went through the drawings, he spoke of watching the locomotives work in the area having first hand knowledge of most of the types he had drawn. He handed me a price list which cataloged all of the Reading and "Foreign" Equipment he had either drawn or had reproductions made of. His collection also includes reproductions of Reading Company Locomotive Shop drawings, which were the drawings the builders used to erect locomotives! The drawings are 3/4" and 1 1/2" scale, and include everything one would need to build a working live steam locomotive, however since the originals are 80+ years old, the reproductions aren't as clear as some would like. The originals were saved in the 1970s when Conrail took over the Reading and began destroying all of the engineering department's drawings and files, so Mr. Wiswesser's reproductions are truly a one in a million find. The prices were more than reasonable, and I picked up a pack of 30 drawings that were included in his book *Steam Locomotives of the Reading and P&R Railroads* and a set of drawings of the Reading's Flagship Streamliner "Crusader".

Mr. Wiswesser then let me leaf through his book that is now long out of print, originally published by Greenberg, the publishers of many fine Lionel collectors guides. Since Greenberg has been bought out by Kalmbach, there has not been any talk of a reprint, so his book is difficult to find, but not impossible. The book is hardbound, 288 pages in length and includes hundreds of simple elevation drawings, photos and 30 1/4" scale drawings of the more famous Reading Locomotives, like the Crusader, T-1, and a variety of Camelback types.

For serious Reading fans, and those who appreciate the artistry of technical drafting, Mr. Wiswesser's drawings are a must have. After the holidays, I will be placing an order to get as many more of his drawings that I can afford, hopefully somehow keeping railroad history alive through his knowledge.

Article contributed by club member Rich. Please contact him at [schwarzvw@hotmail.com](mailto:schwarzvw@hotmail.com) for more information regarding the contents of the article.

## Letter from the Editor

Hi folks,

As I'm writing this I've been staring at the partially dismantled Volvo in my garage and awaiting the moment when the trees in my yard will conspire to perform their annual leaf barrage. So what does this have to do with model railroading? Well, it means that soon, it will be a bit cold to work on automotive projects in an un-heated garage, and the leaves will be all raked for another year. So, then it will be time to move back to the (figuratively speaking for me) basement, the place where the trains live. What a great hobby to have that gives you something fun to do when you're cooped up in the house as the snow flies.

Anyway, philosophizing aside, winter is also our active period for getting our handy-work out in front of the public via train shows and other exhibiting events. I think we're in for an exciting time this year as we will kick-off the holiday season showing in York right after Thanksgiving, setting up in December through the New Year in Mechanicsburg and back to York for the GTE show in Mid-January. What a great opportunity to run some trains, share our hobby with folks and hopefully spark that interest in a few of them. Maybe we'll even pull in a few new members.

As we close out the year, I just wanted to say thanks to everyone that has made the group work and grow as it has. I know we're still small, but I think what we have accomplished speaks volumes about our capabilities and determination.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season and a fruitful, healthy and happy New Year.

Mark



# Membership Interest???

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in joining is free to attend meetings to get to know us. The club is a fairly laid back group and we are all here for fun and to enjoy the hobby. The club participates in many showings per year at various local and regional venues. Attendance is not mandatory, but is encouraged. Currently the club meets two times a month. Members have the option to construct their own modules using the N-Trak standards of construction. Members are free to create a unique theme or to model similar to current club modules. Existing club members are available for any questions or constructive suggestions for ideas. If you should decide to join the group, we do have annual dues of \$20 per household. This helps to offset group expenses somewhat and it is prorated depending on when you join. Details are on the club website.

Look for the club events listed in this newsletter and on the club website and feel free to stop by and talk to us. We are more than happy to talk to everyone we meet.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us: Phone: 1-877-464-6321  
[info@pennscalers.org](mailto:info@pennscalers.org)

[www.pennscalers.org](http://www.pennscalers.org)



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