

# The Rusted Rail

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

---

After being stowed in the siding for last 28 months, 'The Rusted Rail', is back on the mainline. And although this newsletter has been sitting quietly on the siding, the Capital PenNScalers have not. Highlights since the last newsletter include:

The club has been averaging better than two public shows per quarter.

A banner touting the Capital PenNScalers is now displayed at all public shows.

The Red Line is now predominately DCC instead of DC.

At least 30 percent of the members now own some DCC motive power.

All club owned and members' modules have been converted to power poles.

The website [www.pennscalers.org](http://www.pennscalers.org) now uses Google Calendar to keep track of up coming meetings and events.

You can now find Capital PenNScalers on Facebook.

The Capital PenNScalers NTRAK, Inc. was officially incorporated as of July 1, 2010.

The Capital PenNScalers has grown to 20 plus members.

Meetings are now held at public meeting facilities at area libraries. (Some work sessions are still at members' home)

## **The signal is Clear and the Capital PenNScalers are on the move.**

### **Events the Capital PenNScalers plan on attending.**

The weekend of October 09 –10, 2010 visitors to the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg, PA will see the group again participating in Model Railroading Days.

An entirely new venue, the Capital PenNScalers banner will be flying high at the all new Conrail Historical Society 5th Annual Winter Blues Model Train & Railroadiana Show being held November 20, 2010 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and Expo Center in Harrisburg, PA.

Despite Old Man Winter's potential wrath, on the weekend of December 04 –05, 2010, Greenberg's Toy and Train Show at Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD will again be graced by the Capital PenNScalers.

The new year sees us closer to home at one of our mainstays. Another Greenberg's Toy and Train Show at York Expo Center in York, PA on the weekend of January 08 – 09, 2011.

The national N Scale Convention ([www.nationalscaleconvention.com](http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com)) comes to our own backyard at the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton Inn for the week of June 22 – 26, 2011.

Tentative shows that we have participated in the past yet to be confirmed.

Harrisburg Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Inc. March 2011

Conrail Days - Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg, PA May 2011

Pennsylvania Railroad Pennsy Days - Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg, PA June 2011

PA/Bedford Nscale Weekend Bedford, PA August 2011

Greenberg's Toy and Train Show Timonium, MD Maryland State Fairgrounds 08/06-07/2011

Halifax Fire Department Halifax, PA 2011

## **Rails of Progress**

In an effort to speed up layout set up, at the Bedford NScale Weekend the club experimented with using a friction fit joiner track, eliminating the need to use rail joiners. While not a total failure, it became apparent that the electrical conductivity, especially for DCC, was an issue. It was decided that this was not an alternative the club wished to adopt. However, during this outing members did get to see first hand a joiner track gauge in use. This item had been discussed before, but seeing it in action, helped the club make a final determination. An order has been placed and the plan is to use the October work session to measure, cut and color-code the joiner tracks.

The steps are an arbitrary .060.

Connecting Track lengths to use with gauge.

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Brown   | 4.790                          |
| Red     | 4.850                          |
| Orange  | 4.910 (Standard Atlas section) |
| Yellow  | 4.970                          |
| Green   | 5.030                          |
| Blue    | 5.090                          |
| Lt Blue | 5.150                          |

The color-coded joiners were started at the October work session. We were able to utilize them at both the Conrail and Timonium shows. Even though the gauge had not yet been delivered, the general consensus of the track laying was that just having the joiner sections organized and identified by length, has helped in this process. The only issue we have now is needing to make some more. The long sections have been ordered and waiting for delivery from Ntrak.

Ideas and thoughts are still being discussed, to consolidated all the power systems, both DC and DCC into one containerized unit.

Other items of interest that have been discussed as the club moves forward:

Blocking the DC line(s).

Decoder Block Control.

Upgrading the DCC system to add duplex radio control.

IRS 501(c) incorporation.

## **You're NOT in the Army now.**

Khaki has been retired and Light Blue\* is now the color the club shirts will be ordered in. If you were not able to get yours during the pre-order, the club store has a good inventory on hand. And yes your current khaki shirts may still be wore at all club functions.

\* Anyone caught calling them Baby Blue or Powder Blue will be assessed 500 tree demerits.

## **DCC for Dummies.**

A big thanks to Mark and Joe for presenting a clinic on using the club's DCC system at the September work session.

Mark and Joe covered quite a lot of material from the basics of using the club's system to consisting Multiple Units.

**And the winner is.....**

Congratulations to Pete Bloom the first to 'WIN' the Golden Rivet, this prestigious roving award, is to celebrate the anal amongst us. Pete was selected for this honor for his knowledge of Baldwin Sharks.



**'All In The Family' OR 'It's a Tough Job, But Somebody Has To Do It'**





My son Patrick McKinney has been working for the Indiana County Parks And Trails in Indiana, PA while he is completing his Masters degree at IUP. One of his projects this past summer was the preservation of the above hopper saved from the scrap yards. It is on the Ghost Town Trail at Rexis, PA. This is where the Cambria and Indiana interchanged with the Pennsylvania Railroad 's Blacklick secondary, which ran between Ebensburg and Blairsville. I found it quite ironic as I have been researching the C&I the past several years in anticipation of recreating it in my basement.

Several manufactures have produced C&I livery. Micro Trains did the bicentennial set. Bowser did the cabin car in yellow and tuscan three different number sets. And recently Atlas has done the hopper in three different road numbers.

Since the C&I was owned by Bethlehem Steel when it ceased operations, some of the motive power ended up in our backyard on the Steelton & Highspire Railroad Co.

And although the C&I was primarily a coal hauler, it did start shipping another commodity around this time of the year. Hint: Indiana County touts itself as 'Christmas Tree capital of the world'. You got it. Boxcar loads of evergreens were shipped via the C&I.

### **Tickets please, tickets please...**

Just a reminder that October is when membership is renewed and dues collected. The 90 day grace period is rapidly approaching.

## Message from the Board

### Annual Business Meeting (Elections, etc)

When: Sun, January 16, 2011, 1pm – 4pm

Where: East Shore Area Library, 4501 Ethel Street, Harrisburg, PA † Room A ([map](#))

Description: Annual meeting for the election of officers. Room A, lower level of library.

Refreshments will be served, please bring your own drinks.

Please attend as by-laws stipulate a quorum is required to conduct a business meeting and it is your right as a member.

## FRED/EOT

The intent is to make this a monthly newsletter once again, so I would like to invite anyone with anything to contribute to the next newsletter to please send it to me at

[bamandlee@comcast.net](mailto:bamandlee@comcast.net).

Hope to see everyone at the Annual Business Meeting, if not before, and 2011 should be another great year of fun for the Capital PenNScalers.

## 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 @ [info@pennscalers.org](mailto:info@pennscalers.org)

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