

sometimes

# Mud Ring Monthly

Cinder Sniffers News

March-April 2015



Photo: Jim Keith

## One beautiful box car

Cinder Sniffers' member Stan Hepler brought this and three other pieces of rolling stock to the 2015 **Mini Model Engineering Show** at EnterTRAINment Junction on March 7 and 8 from Warsaw Indiana. I think Stan and his wife Jeri win the prize for traveling the farthest.

If you think this is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " gauge, think again. If you think it is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1" scale, then again not so. Stan models Colorado 3' Narrow Gauge in  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale — and this works out to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " gauge. He stretches this just a bit to operate on  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " gauged rails. This D&RGW Box was built by Gail Gish of Pleasant Hill, MO. .. For more show photos, see inside.

# 2015 Mini Model Engineering Show Exhibits



Three photos: Jim Keith

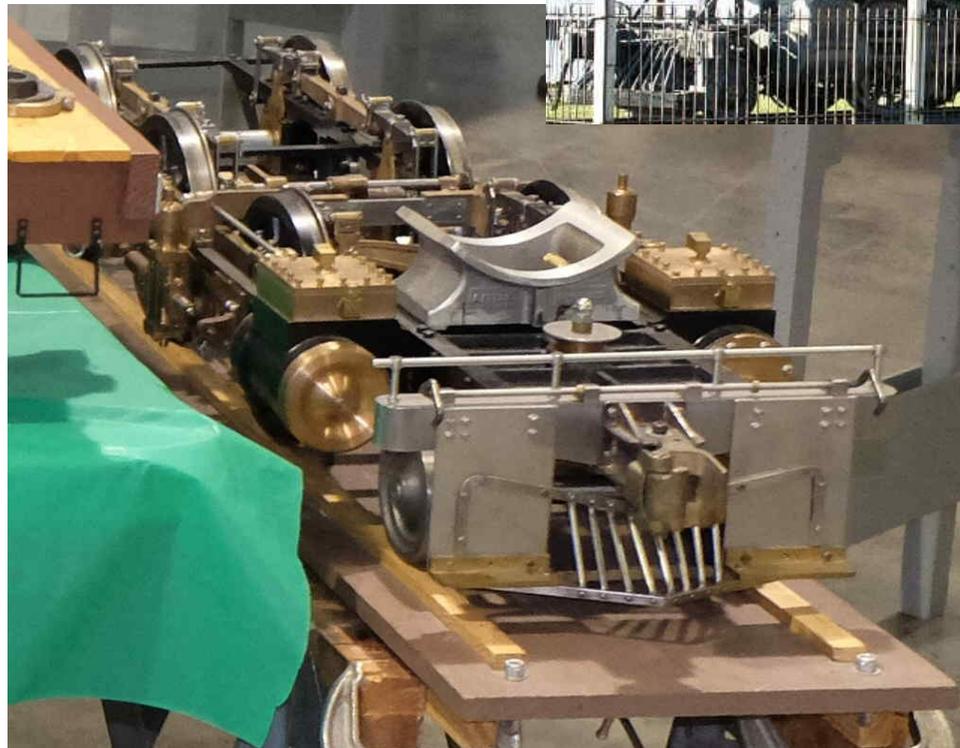
Lou Lockwood brought his ol'time flat car (with the yellow wood top upon which his cap is resting), his Mogul chassis and his ELMwood



Railroad Caboose.

He returned from Florida a few days early in order to assemble his Mogul (**left**). On the table are a simplex water pump and Stephenson valve gear eccentrics & straps for the Mogul.

That cutie **above**, EJ&S #6, ran in Michigan, south of Lake Charlevoix and *has been* a motivation for Lou's locomotive building.



# Cinder Sniffers' News

## Special Treasurer's Report, A Little Gift

Surprise! ... We just received a \$3000 gift negotiated by **Steve Chromik**. Evidently, the gift is in gratitude for a *Galloping Goose* built by members of the Cinder Sniffers and it comes (indirectly) from the late **Jim Geier** and his wife, **Chris Geier**. Steve explains the background in the following email exchange.

**Mar 20:** *Steve, I received Mr. Kukanza's check today for \$3k and will deposit it shortly.*

*Can you tell us a bit more about this Galloping Goose? Did you build it? Do you have any photos of it? .. Nice gift !!!!!*

.. *Jim Keith*

**Mar 21:** Just got back from Toledo visiting my Mom in assisted living.

Initially, Carl Rauschenberger built the frame, drive system (from an electric golf cart) and Paul Busse built the wooden structure, with Carl putting it all together. It also had a riding car which looked just like it except for the motor hood extension. Bob Maynard and I subsequently modified them both for true operation on an 8% grade. (Air brakes on both along with a system that would apply the brakes if they became uncoupled.)

The riding car went with Jim's 3-3/4" Shay, and another low slung steel riding car, to Al & Cathy Hansen in the Mojave Desert. Chris gave the Galloping Goose to me for the Club. In the sale of Geier's property to new owners, the Kukanza's wanted the Goose and the property sale hinged on it. I negotiated a sum for the Goose which was part of the original closing of the property, but the check was/is dormant in a file somewhere, never cashed. Contact with Chuck last year and over the Winter was not successful. I did not know the property sold until Diane & I took a ride and saw construction from the street.

I told you about the phone call I received and you received the fruits of that call from the visit to Mrs. Lynn Kukanza's home, of which she graciously showed me every nook and cranny of the home. Quite a remodel.

I have no digital pictures. The one's I have are on temporary loan to the Kukanza's for review of the equipment as well as the property's previous grades.

They want me to help them locate people who can repair the Goose as well as finishing the railroad. Once I saw it, I told them I would not undertake finishing the RR for them. Needs a lot of bobcat work first, then replacing the rails.

-Best Regards

**Steve C**

## Frozen Water Tank

Ed Habel

**Mar 26:** Two weeks ago Tom and I stopped at the tracks to check on his engine and discovered that the water tank had frozen and ruptured. We went down yesterday afternoon and removed the tank. I brought it home to see if it is repairable or not. Unfortunately, replacement parts are not available, so we will need a new one. A new one plus some fittings will be about \$175. We will take care of it on Wednesdays. I capped off the pipe from the tank so the water system is still useable, but the pump cycles frequently when a faucet is opened. Roger reported a couple of weeks ago that he found one of the sets of doors on the side of Knox Shop unlocked. This may have allowed the heat from the 2 lamps that are directly below the water tank to escape and cause the problem. The design of the bottom cap on the tank allowed some water to remain trapped and this must have frozen and broke the cap.

To try to prevent a repeat in the future, I think it would be wise to wall off the section where the water system is and put a 2" layer of Styrofoam insulation on the wall and underside of the roof. .. **Ed**

## ARCH BAR TRUCKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Lately, I've been finding some nice surprises in my InBox. Here is one (from at the moment an undisclosed member). He is in the process of building a number of arch bar trucks and, of course, some car-body parts to go with them. You'll be hearing more, I'm sure, in the near future. .. **jsk**



# Cinder Sniffers' News

## Charlotte and Ray Hughes

**Mar 24:** Charlotte writes: "I saw the orthopedic oncology surgeon today. He is pleased with the progress after radiation, but there is still some tissue damaged by the radiation that has to soften a bit more. He manipulated the tumor with his hands and said that it isn't connected to the bone and should come out okay. It will probably be 3 to 4 weeks before the surgery, but I am feeling much better. The pain is no longer intense, and I am out of the wheelchair and walking around with a cane."

**Mar 29:** "Several people have asked about Ray. He has seen a vascular surgeon here to follow up on his peripheral artery bypass and is now scheduled for carotid surgery on April 14. We're expecting my surgery within the next few weeks."

"We are very grateful for all the prayers on our behalf and we are looking forward to returning to Cincinnati as soon as possible."

**Editor:** Charlotte ... Thanks for the update. We hope all goes well.

## Mike Pedicini

**Mar 29:** Mike has been having a rough time with an intestinal problem which started last December. In fact, he lost 60 pounds (WOW?), but has now gained back 5. Through it all, he is still thinking about railroading and hopes to get back into his shop soon .. and a trip to the track sometime this year.

Scott Phillips, Mike's grandson and part of the Pedicini team at the track, is now a Junior at UC, is co-oping at Proctor and Gamble – where else – and doing very well, says Mike. .. jsk

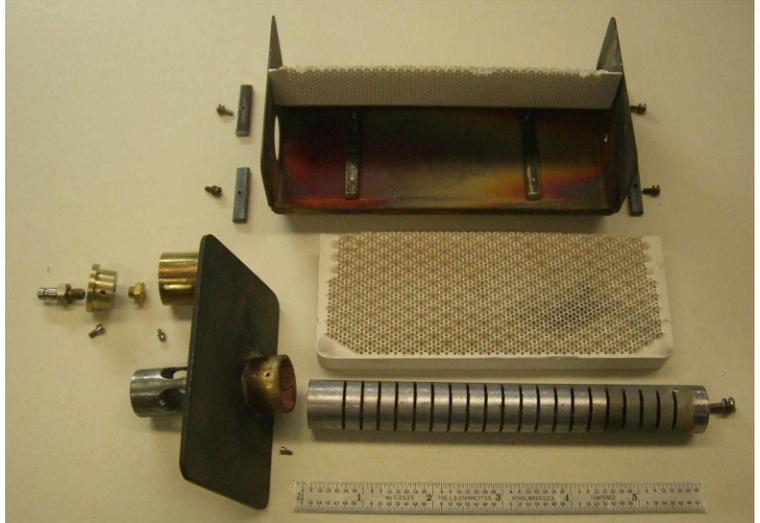
## Tracks Ahead Video

**Mar 23:** We found the new Season 9 of Tracks Ahead on Time Warner cable digital channel 984 or from Dayton public TV channel 16-3. It's on at 8:30 AM on Thursday. The first episode was on 3/19/15. The Cinder Sniffers episode filmed on July 13, 2013 should be included this season.

... Chuck Balmer, in beautiful Urbana OH

## New High Output Radiant Burner from the BLW

**Mar 26:** I have finished the new radiant heat burner for the switcher. It is designed to fit through the firebox door. I am including 3 pictures of an exploded view of the parts and one showing the burner operating with 4 psi gas pressure. If anyone is interested, they can contact me and I will be glad to give them more detail. .. Chuck Balmer



Three photos: Chuck Balmer



## APRIL 18th Tri-State Meet

### GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Johnson County Park, Central Indiana

The annual Tri-State Meet is being hosted this year by the Indiana Live Steamers at their facility in Johnson Park in Central Indiana. This will be the second annual meet and is an idea promoted last year by Denis and Harvey. As you may well remember .. it was hosted by us in April 2014 (above). This year we have the opportunity to enjoy the extensive 7 1/2" gauge layout operated by ILS and, of course, our locomotives and rolling stock are welcome.

So that the proper amount of food may be prepared, Harvey needs a head count. Come prepared to be counted at our April 10th meeting .. or .. let Harvey know with a telephone call - (513)574-3092.

For directions, check the ILS web site:  
<http://www.indianalivesteamers.org/>

## Jeanette Schwab Recovers from Fall

Included below are Carl Schwab's iPhone dispatches:

**Feb 1:** *We came to Beaufort SC on 1/19 to visit our cousin. On 1/21 Jeanette Fell and broke her left hip. Surgery a success and rehab in hospital good. We are now at cousins house for more rehab. No timetable for return to Ohio*

**Mar 4:** *Jeanette and I arrived home this evening. A five day trip turned into 47 days (seven days longer than Noah's trip on the Ark, said one of Schwab's friends).*

**Mar 30:** *Jeanette is now in her second week of what we expect to be a month of therapy. She is now using a walker and I'm looking forward to her graduating ... to a cane.*

*Carl*

Jeanette, we wish you a speedy recovery.

## Ken Hemmelgarn brings his Steam Bike to the ME Show



# At the Show: Stan Hepler's Rolling Stock Quartet



**Left:** Stan & Jeri Hepler talk with Paul Vernon of Precision Steel Car Company and his attentive daughter.

Photo: Jim Keith



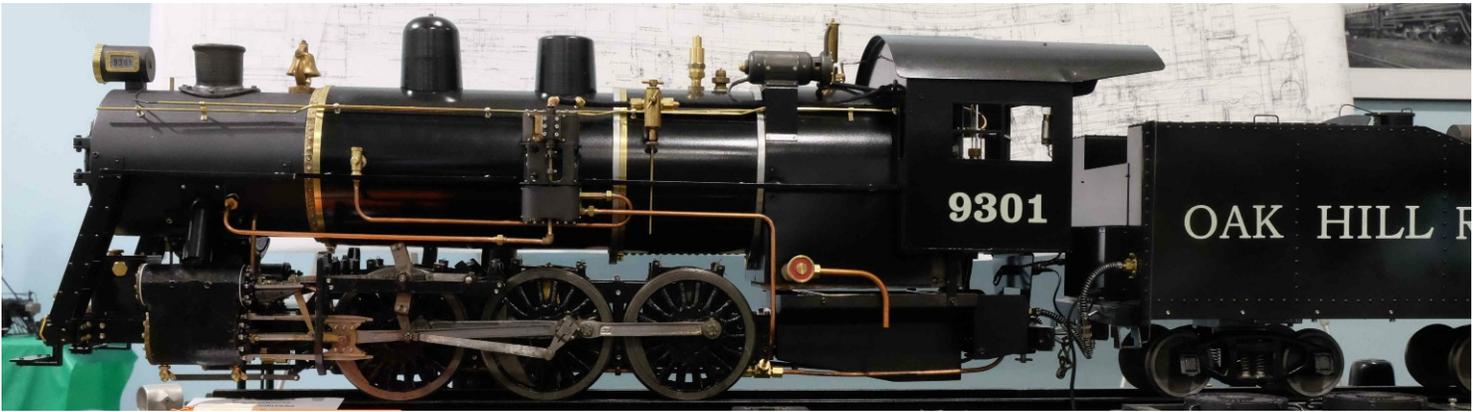
One of the pieces that the Hepler team brought with them from Indiana was this recently completed 5000 Series Stock Car. Shown to the **left** is what it looked like a few months ago in Stan's workshop. Now completed and painted black, we see Stan's exquisite detailing (**below**).

Photo: Stan Hepler



Photo: Jim Keith

## BLW Débuts NG Switcher at Model Engineering Show



**Balmer Locomotive Works** displays their newest locomotive, Construction Number 7, at the EJ Show. The locomotive, a narrow gauge 0-6-0, is being built for the 3½" gauge Oak Hill Road and is near completion. It features a steam driven water pump, a fully lighted cab and a "quick change" option for burning either coal or propane (p.4 in this issue & p.6 in the January issue). The chassis was purchased from a fellow CSI member and then largely rebuilt. The boiler, smokebox, cab, appliances and tender are all newly constructed. The début of "switcher" #9301 follows just one year after BLW outshopped BNSF #9388 (C/N #6, **below**) and will swell OHRR's roster to eleven operating locomotives.

Three photos: Jim Keith



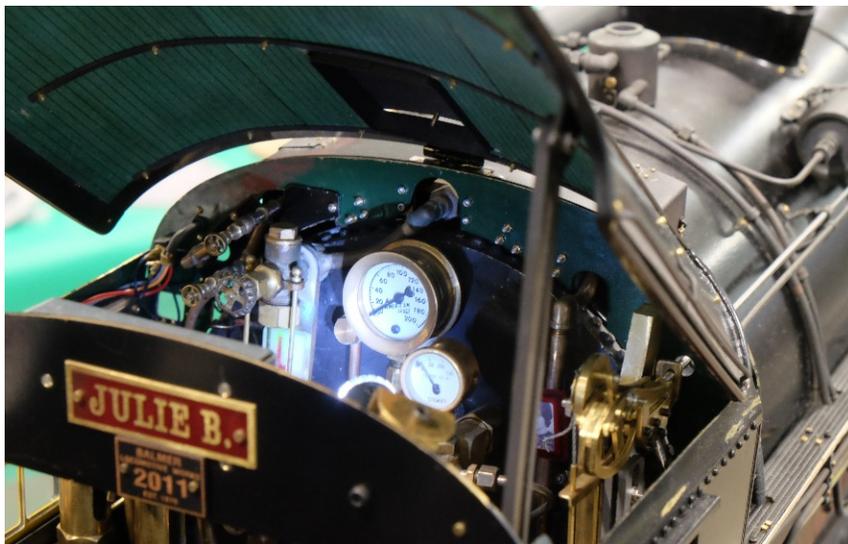
# The Oak Hill Road Extra Board



Here are a few more photos of Balmer's exhibit at EnterTRAINment Junction's Model Show.

**Top-right:** In this photo of C&O 2-6-6-6 *Julie B* we see: the top of the air compressors, the bell, the train number indicator boards, one of the marker lights and the feed-water heater housing.

**Right:** In this cab view (from left to right), we see the top of the water gauge, the steam pressure gauge, air pressure gauge and the throttle mechanism.



Four photos: Jim Keith

