

sometimes

Mud Ring Monthly

Cinder Sniffers News

September 2015



Jim Keith

Member Kent Bolerjack piloting his beautiful D&RG SD45 and three-car train at the Cinder Sniffers' Run on August 8.

CSI Run Day – August 8, 2015

Attendees of CSI's *August Run* found an open Diner with good things attractively set out by **Peggy Hodgson**. Thank you Peggy !!! **Dorothy Keith** and **Nan Sams** helped in the Diner too and hot dog man **Dave Sams** was again busy at the cooker.

We had a good showing of equipment, namely:

- Cinder Sniffer's SW1500 #6509
- Chromik's NG 0-4-2T
- Larrick's NG 2-6-0 *Lewis Brown* with new tender
- Bolerjack's D&RG SD45 #5333, two (passenger hauling) bulkhead flats & caboose #2013
- Frozina's SP SW7 #2295
- Balmer's Oak Hill Road NG 0-6-0 #9301
- Balmer's Oak Hill Road 4-8-4 #7578
- Hughes' D&RGW #50

At the station and operating #6509 were **Ray McNeil**, **Bill Mense** and **Bill Bowser**. Passenger Count: 232 riders.

Visitor **Paul Goodjohn**, his friend and daughter, joined us rather late in the day. Paul has been in the Live Steam hobby for some time and has plans for installing a track at his home in Crestwood KY (near Louisville). Lately, he has been experimenting with backyard foundry work. ... Thanks to Don Frozina for providing passenger service after others had packed up.

Statistics for the day: The diner brought in \$107, net; the flea market \$18. Passenger service yielded donations of \$99.



Dinner in the Diner?

*"You Leave the Pennsylvania station 'bout quarter to four
Read a magazine and then you're in Baltimore
Dinner in the diner, nothing could be finer..." **

"Finer" it is or could be at the Cinder Sniffers track if we could just have some more volunteers on Run Days.

What do our Diner duties look like? Let's see: a couple of women or a husband and wife team show up on a Saturday, hauling bags of ice, gallon jugs of water plus snacks, coffee, soups and and pop--according to needs emailed by the last Run's kitchen crew. Also, Dave and Nan Sams bring hot dogs, buns and a grill every month! (It's a great money-maker!)

In the next half hour, heating water for soup, hot drinks, and clean-up begins. So also does the sale of shirts, hats, and kiddie items. Then there's the Registration Book, supervised too by the Kitchen Crew. Folks sign in, promise not to sue if they fall off the train, get stamped, and then Choo Choo off to McAllister station.

What works best for the volunteers? Chatting with visitors, watching the kids--who often ask about the decorative trains on the kitchen wall, and being able to offer the metts and dogs, not just the chips, cookies and Cokes. Parents and grandparents are really appreciative.

Doesn't... seem... like... so much to do...or does it? By the time the team cleans up, totals up with the treasurer, and makes up a shopping list for next month's volunteers, it's 2 PM--time for the monthly meeting. It's been 4 hours in somebody else's idea of a kitchen.

What could be finer? SHIFTS. Could we get more volunteers if they knew they could work shorter time periods? How about two two-hour shifts? **11 to 1** and **12 to 2**. ??

Let's put this discussion on the agenda for the next meeting. . . . *Dorothy Keith*

* *"Chattanooga Choo Choo," lyrics by Mack Gordon*



**Nancy Bond with kids
signing waiver forms after
the Choo Choo Chili diner
provide by Dave and Nan
Sams on Nov 29 2014.**

Jim Keith



MEMBER'S NIGHT RUN AND POTLUCK

AUG 22, 2015



A few of the 32 folks attending

Many brought dishes to share and enjoy and then the Tracks Ahead video filmed at CSI in 2013 and the movie *Emperor of the North* were shown when darkness came.



All photos: Jim Keith

Thanks go to Don Frozina for organizing it !!!



Traffic wise, it was busy. Here Jim Balmer directs Oak Hill's 4-8-4 toward McAllister station. Other motive power included:

- Balmer's 0-6-0 #9301 & BNSF SD70Ace
- Bolerjack's D&RG SD45 #5333 & train
- Bowser's Box Cab
- Chromik's EGB & Pacific #4
- Frozina's SP SW7 #2295
- Hughes's D&RG #50
- Keith's Bevis Central Alco RS-3 #91
- Larrick's 2-6-0 *Lewis Brown*
- Sams' Galloping Goose & train

Attending were: Don & Kate Frozina; Kent & Linda Bolerjack; Peggy & Lee Hodgson; Bill Mense; Jeanette and Carl Schwab; Dot & Jim Keith, Mike, Bill, Dave, Beth, Terri, Nick & Charlie Keith; Nan & Dave Sams; Julie, Chuck and Jim Balmer; Denis Larrick; Ray & Charlotte Hughes; Ray & Kathy McNeil; Ed Bell & Anne Powers; Dale Russell; and Bill Bowser.

MEMBER'S NIGHT RUN AND POTLUCK - CONTINUED



Top left: At 7:25pm Charlotte Hughes enjoys a smooth, restful ride as D&RGW #50 approaches Wolking Walk crossing. Ten minutes earlier, Jim Balmer went bump-bump-bump over the cut-out in the rail (**top right**) for the crossing signal's train-presence-detector. . . Humm, what to do? . . **Below:** Charlotte was able to remove the remains of the broken nylon screws, but replacement screws were not found. So bailing wire whiz Carl Schwab cuts a wood block to fill the gap (**above, left**). ... GREAT JOB! Waiting trains could roll again. ... Carl improved on this model (not shown) and the following Wednesday, the train-detector-circuit-block (**above, lower right**) was fully repaired by Ed Habel. . . *jsk*



Photos: Jim Keith

Letter Box

Below are excerpts of emails recently received:

Dan and Joyce List visit Switzerland

Sep 4: We just returned from a trip to Switzerland, where we rode the *Golden Pass*, the *Glacier Express*, and the *Bernina Express*. All wonderful rides, with spectacular scenery. We also visited the Swiss Transportation Museum in Lucerne. This was an excellent museum, with lots of European prototypes, neat automobiles, and a 7 1/4" gauge ride on. It was 95 degrees the day we visited the museum - really hot! The walk along Lake Lucerne to the museum is lined with American Chestnut trees, a variety that is nearly extinct in the U.S. .. Regards *Dan L*

Philip Schram's 2-6-0 is in PA

Aug 11: I hope this email finds you doing well. Unfortunately I cannot come this year to the track, my locomotive is still being repaired by Wayne GODSHALL in PA.
.. Regards *Philip*

Here's why I just love steam

Jun 4: No lack of power in either of these machines. .. This is the best illustration of the difference between traction and horsepower I've ever seen. Those old folks knew what they were doing with limited energy source.

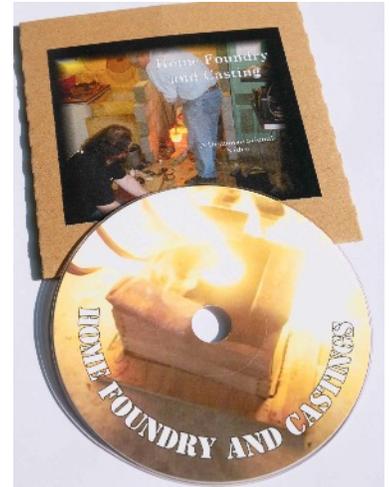
Watch this old 18 HP Match up against a new 850 HP John Deere. .. A 850 H.P. John Deere diesel vs. a steam tractor rated 18 H.P?
It's all about torque and traction. .. enjoy:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FLQhvruiimfs>

.. *Kent Bolerjack*

Home Foundry DVD

Somehow I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. I heard: "Does anyone want to have a copy?" .. A copy of, it turned out, a demonstration Video entitled **Home Foundry and Castings**. The cover was very professional looking. "Yes, I said."



Now, I have too many projects already; I'm not about to extend myself into foundry work ... but still I was curious and watching this DVD has been a good way to satisfy that curiosity.

This is not a skimpy video. You are right there watching the process. I found that the DVD was composed of 22 segments, starting with pattern making, and then continuing with segments on mold making, tools, equipment, safety, lighting the furnace, loading the crucible, and the actual pours of aluminum, bronze and iron. The works!

There are no credits on the DVD cover, but for those of us in the know, it is obviously a Balmer Locomotive Works production.

Chuck takes you through the entire process -- carefully -- with enough commentary to explain what he is doing. You are watching (or so it seems) the entire process. There are periods in which there is no commentary, no talking ... silence. Well, there would be silences but instead the video is filled with background music.

For those interested in learning the craft, I highly recommend this DVD. . . . *jsk*



Thermographic Camera

(Or thermal imaging camera or infrared camera)



Jim Keith

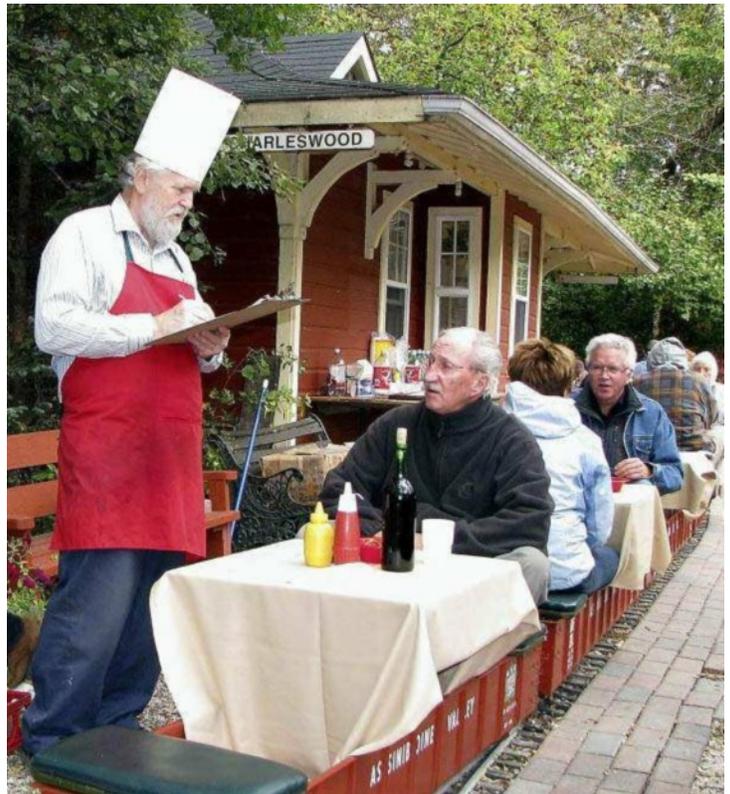
Do you want to locate the hot (and cold) on your locomotive? Your brake disk temps? The temperature of your smokebox. The temperature of your injector delivery line or of your feedwater pump lines (before and after the feedwater heater 😄). Whatever....

If so, **Jim Balmer** has the answer. He showed me a few of the tricks he can accomplish with his Thermographic App on his Samsung smart phone. In my photo above, he demonstrates the “split screen” capability. On the left is a standard photo; on the right is the infrared image, both of Steve Chromik tending his locomotive – Steve and his loco are also seen in the background of my photo.

According to Jim, this capability (and much more than what you see in this photo) is available at a reasonable price. I’m sure Jim would be happy to advise you of the particulars.

.... *jsk*

Dining in style Near Winnipeg Canada



I couldn't resist. With the reporting this month on issues around food – our evening Potluck, Dorothy's editorial(p.3) and the great job that Peggy & crew did in the Diner – I remembered this scene from the Oct 2010 issue of the *Blast Pipe*, Hutt Valley Model Engineering Society, New Zealand.

The photo depicts an annual event on the 7-1/2" gauge Assiniboine Valley Railway in Canada. ... Looks like fun. What say, Cinder Sniffers? *jsk*



Jim Keith

Oak Hill Road Crossing Gate

Aug 22: Jim Balmer demonstrates the Oak Hill Road's new crossing gate. Here it sits in front of their narrow gauge switcher which, unfortunately, is distracting in the photo. Jim demonstrated the gate's lights and up-and-down operation. Great detail! Very neat!



Wednesday



Jim Keith photos

Left: The Wednesday crew has the North Comfort Cutoff ready to be tied into the existing main line at Bandy Bridge. However, the curved rails at the north end of the bridge need to be relaxed (i.e., the welds broken and then rewelded) to properly line up with and continue the 53' radius of the new alignment. This task is scheduled to take place between Oct 13 and Nov 25 during which time the railroad will not be used. . . . **Right:** On Sep 2, the crew replaced the partially rotted west end rafters of the Diner with new pressure treated 2x6s.

The Extra Board



Kent Bolerjack's caboose - a fitting end to his train and to this issue.