

MINI-BUNCH NEWSLETTER

The Mini-Bunch newsletter is usually published 4 times a year on an irregular schedule. Membership and a subscription to the Newsletter are \$8.00 for 3 years or with Registration at a recent Mini-Bunch meeting. Website: <http://www.narrowtracks.com/minibunch>

**John Hansen & Ted Wiese – Editors Volume 37 Number 2
May 2008**

email: ted.wiese@gmail.com

Roy's Random Ravings

June 21st Meet - Alvada 2008

Ode to a Sweet 16

Fall Meet - November 1 - 2, 2008

New Stuff - KSE

Editor's note:

Please send your email address to Ted.wiese@gmail.com so that we can have an updated listing of members. At the spring meeting several members expressed the desire to receive their newsletters by email. The newsletter is always posted on our website, and we will notify members when it is posted so they can download it at their convenience. -Thanks. Ted

Roy's Random Ravings

I have to confess to a little apprehension as I begin my term as King Snipe. After all, it's a great honor to be elected to this esteemed position in the organization, isn't it? I will try to uphold the high standards of integrity and humor displayed by my predecessors. In other words, I will try not to screw things up too badly.

I would like to begin this column with a big "thank you" to outgoing King Snipe Jeff Schumaker for his service to the organization. Through his efforts the Mini-Bunch continues to provide fun and fellowship for its members. His new title of "Snipe Emeritus" has been well earned. I'm sure Jeff has many modeling projects he is itching to get to now that the burdens of office have been lifted. Be sure to give Jeff a pat on the back at the next meet.

I suppose I should tell you a little bit about myself. I live in a northern suburb of Cincinnati and have been a member of the Mini-Bunch since about 1991. I am an active member of the NMRA and have served in many positions at the Divisional level including Superintendent of Cincinnati Division 7. I was a Co-Chairman of the 17th

National Narrow Gauge Convention in 1997 and was the Registrar for the 2005 NMRA National Convention in Cincinnati.

My narrow gauge interests mainly concern eastern narrow gauge lines. I have traveled extensively throughout the country visiting and photographing narrow gauge railroads and abandoned lines. The emergence of On30 has reinvigorated my interest in narrow gauge modeling and prompted me to finally get something going in the basement. My modeling efforts at present involve building On30 models and a small On30 narrow gauge layout set in the hills of southern Ohio circa 1910.

That's probably more than you wanted to know about me so let's get to some items of more interest to members.

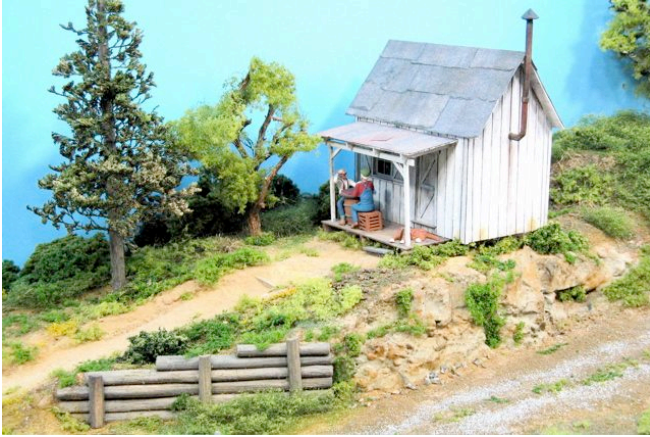
Greenford Meet a Success

We had a good turn out for our Spring Meet at the 2008 Midwest Narrow Gauge Show in Greenford, OH April 3-5. The Show featured a good selection of dealers, entertaining clinics and there were a number of fine models on display. Attendance was down slightly from last year but those who came were rewarded with an excellent experience. An added feature this year was a potent stomach virus that evidently affected quite a few attendees. I know I had a couple of unplanned days home from work to reflect on the weekend. Seriously, thanks should go to our host, Gary Kohler for putting on this show every year.

National On30 Day

Saturday May 3, 2008 was celebrated as National On30 Day since it was the day at least two On30 meets were scheduled. While the well-established Mid-Hudson meet was held in New York, the Columbus (IN) Area Model Railroad Club sponsored its first On30 Mini-Meet. Sam Swanson, Don Phillips and I drove over to Edinburgh, Indiana to attend this meet. We were impressed with the efforts of this club, as several layouts have been built in nearly every scale. Al Askerberg, Ron Lane and other club members exhibited On30 modules depicting logging scenes, which were impressive in their execution and detail. Sam Swanson presented a clinic on building Mann's Creek Ry. hopper cars and there was a Bring-n-Brag area for displaying models. A half-dozen or so dealers were present for those who needed a little shopping therapy. Since we were pretty far from any restaurants, lunch was provided with the price of admission. Overall, we were very impressed with this meet and look forward to next year hoping they do it again. Our thanks to Al, Ron and the other club members for showing us a good time.

Photos by Roy Hord



Upcoming Mini-Bunch Mini-Meet

A Mini-Bunch summer get together will be held at the Alvada Two Footer Railroad on Saturday June 21. The railroad opens at 11:00 A.M. Details are contained elsewhere in this issue. Sounds like a good time. Don't forget to RSVP so they can plan for you.

Your Help is Needed

This newsletter is published (hopefully) four times per year. We don't always know when life's events happen to our friends and fellow members but if you know of something like this please send me or Ted an email so we can get it in the newsletter. I always appreciate knowing with a friend is sick or has passed away.

Any items of general interest to the narrow gauge community are also welcome for submission.

Till Next Time

I'm pretty sure I have exceeded my space allocation for this issue so I will stop here. I look forward to serving as King Snipe for the next two years and hope to see all of you at an upcoming event.

Roy Hord

Editor's note again - A big thank you to Michael Yoakam who send an excellent photo article on building a town on his On30 layout. It will be published in the next issue. Ted

Ode to a Sweet 16

Thanks to Will for permission to publish this poem about a C-16 (HOn3) version

I love my little Westside
As she waddles down the track,
Her massive caveman motor
Still sticking out the back.

The railroad's other engines
And cars remain just kits,
Most of the line still languishes
As boxes and piles of bits.

So our lady's always working,
Our few small cars she sorts,
She only ever falters
When back-to-backs cause shorts.

Her tiny brassy boiler's
on wheels aitch-oh-enn-three,
She'll have no truck with Blackstones,
Or fancy Dee-Cee-Cee.

She keeps on going and going,
She's all we really need,
But when did that ever bother,
Management's loco greed?

Regards
Will Booth
Romsey UK

“AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. . .”

Our Fall 2008 Meet in Dayton

Many of you are aware of, or have attended, the NMRA Mid-Central Region Division 3's train show in Dayton every November. It includes an entire [large] room of modular and portable layouts, and for 2008 the show's organizers have invited the Great Lakes HOn30 Modular Group to be a part of the exhibit. Expanding this proposal further, the Mini-Bunch will be holding its Fall 2008 Meet in conjunction with this show, in the same building (Hara Arena), and wants to invite all our members with modular layouts (Sn2, On30, etc.) and portables to be a part of the layout room.

So. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in November 2008, and watch this space! Anyone with a modular or portable layout who is interested can contact me at 1221 Hathaway Road, Dayton, OH 45419, or at 937-299-1599, with your general requirements.

I'm Ba-a-a-ck!

Shortly before my term was to end as King Snipe, I proposed a column to Editor Ted that would be a sort of review of things that may be of interest to narrow gauge modelers. Always on the lookout for new victims, I mean volunteers, to write articles for the newsletter, Ted readily accepted. My one condition for writing this column was that it would be supported by the membership, that is, they would help supply material for it. So how long I'm back will depend on all of you out there.

“So how can I help?”, you may be asking yourself. Have you purchased and/or built a new kit recently that you think others would be interested in? Bought a new narrow gauge video or book that's well done? Found some modeling tool that you think is the greatest invention since sliced bread? Discovered some website on some little-known narrow gauge line? Let the Mini-Bunchers know about it by letting me know about it. Write something up about your “find” and mail or email it to me. I will include it in an upcoming column. You will get credited for the information and see your name printed in our esteemed publication. Editor Ted will be happy that there is material for the newsletter. I will be relieved that I don't have to come up with all of the material on my own. The membership will be thrilled and enlightened by the “new stuff” they're finding out about. Everybody wins.

“But, I don't know how to write.”, you may be thinking. Shoot! Neither do I. Look at the past two-and-a-half years of my ramblings that Ted has printed in this newsletter. Well, ok, I guess he had to print it. But he's willing to print more of it, so why should I

have all the fun? Don't worry about spelling or grammar. My word processor can handle that. It's saved me from embarrassment on numerous occasions.

To start things off, I'd like to mention three items that I have recently come across. The first is the latest offering from Stevens Creek Models, an HOn30/HOn2 laser kit of the Monson RR's 26' boxcars. I received my kit last week and it's impressive. The kit comes with three sides and three ends so you can build any one of the eight boxcars that ran on the railroad. The roof is made of styrene and has the tin panels laser-etched in, something I have not seen in other kits. The ten page manual contains detailed step-by-step instructions with excellent reference photos, a list of recommended tools and glues to use, painting suggestions, and a list of detail differences among the eight prototype boxcars. I'm looking forward to building mine.

Stevens Creek Models has also produced an On30/On2 laser-kit of a Sandy River 24' boxcar. If anyone has one of these kits, let's hear from you.

The second item is a book on the East Broad Top published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their Images of Rail series. The book is written by Kenneth C. Springirth and is divided into four chapters. The first shows photos from the time the railroad was operating as a common carrier. The second chapter, entitled Time Stands Still, contains photos of what can still be seen on the railroad today. The third and largest chapter shows photos from the beginning of excursion operation in the 60's up through the time the book was published in 2007. The final chapter contains images of the trolley operation at the Rockhill Trolley Museum that operates on the former right-of-way of the EBT's Shade Gap branch. A couple shots of trolleys and trains sitting side-by-side are included. All-in-all, this is a nice collection of photographs, both historic and contemporary, of America's best preserved eastern 3-foot gauge railroad.

The final item I'd like to draw your attention to the book, Georgia Short Line Railroad Album, by Albert M. Langley, Jr., published by Union Station Publishing. While not a narrow gauge book, it is filled with excellent photos of the various shortlines that dotted the countryside of the Peachtree State. The book is divided by geographical regions, with brief descriptions of the shortlines of each region introducing each chapter. These introductions are followed by page after page of locomotive, rolling stock, and action photos of the railroads. Most of the motive power photos show steam locomotives, although some diesels are included, as well as a scattering of doodlebugs. One of my favorite photos shows the tiny Buda railbus of the Midgeville Railway, which was a six mile operation that served the Georgia State Mental Hospital. If you like shots of steam locomotives in a country setting, this is an excellent book.

So there it is, my first, and hopefully not last, column. Anyone wishing to send material can email me at jschumaker@cros.net, or write to me at 401 S. Patterson St., Gibsonburg, OH 43431-1234.

Jeff Schumaker, KSE

Notes from the Editors

HELP NEEDED!!!!

We plan to send out 4 newsletters per year. We are looking for articles on modelbuilding and prototype that will be of interest for the members.

Narrow Gauge Websites

Mini-Bunch

<http://www.narrowtracks.com/minibunch>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mini-bunch>

Name Badges Available

Some members have never received a name badge since they were not available for a number of years. Others have lost theirs. Jim Eakin has a vendor who can make badges that are nearly the same as the previous design. So send \$10 to Ted, and we will send a new badge for you by the next meeting. **(Tell us how to spell the name too - nickname - or whatever.)**

LAST COPY ?????

If your label has "last copy" written on it, then we would appreciate your sending \$8.00 to Ted for the next 3 years. If you register at a meeting, then you will receive the newsletter for the next 8 issues.

Mini-Bunch Newsletter on Internet

Thanks to David Keith, our webmaster, you have the chance to see these and additional photos in color. And thanks to Jim Eakin for helping us with the copying.

Parties Responsible for this Newsletter

Our Leader:

Roy Hord
6526 Hollowview Ct
Hamilton, OH 45011
rhord@fuse.net

Editors:

John Hansen
17826 Clifton Blvd
Lakewood, OH 44107
216-521-1779
jvhansen@earthlink.net

Ted Wiese
9099 Regency Woods Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094-9380
440-256-5212
email: ted.wiese@gmail.com

Narrow Gauge Timetable

National Narrow Gauge Conventions

28th 2008 - September 10 - 13 - Portland, OR
29th 2009 - September 16 - 19 - Colorado Springs, CO
30th 2010 - September 1 - 4 - St. Louis, MO
31st 2011 - September - Hickory, NC
32nd 2012 - September - Bellevue, WA

2008 Mini-Bunch Meets

June 21st Alvada, Ohio
Nov 1-2, 2008 - Dayton, OH

Sn3 Symposium

Feb 19 - 22, 2009 - Clearwater, FL
2010 - Houston, TX
2011 - Pasadena, CA



Next issue Michael Yoakam will explain the numbers and describe the buildings.