

The Mud Ring

The Official Newsletter of the Cinder Sniffers, Inc.

www.cindersniffers.org



Celebrating 60 Years



May 2017

What I Did on My Summer Vacation Last Year

By Denis Larrick

As many of you know, I have been house hunting for the last three years. All I want is something within 10 miles of church and work with a clean basement for On30, a two car garage (half of which will become my shop), and a couple acres of rolling woods for a 1000' loop of track. Not a tall order, right? Several times I have found the house without the land and several times I've found the land with the wrong house. There is almost nothing for sale right now, let alone something suitable for a railroad.

In the meantime, I have been welding up 80" long sections of steel snap track and stacking it so when I find the right place, I can lay it fast. Why 80"? It is a third of a 20' bar of steel, and it is close to a prototypical 33' rail length in 2.5" scale for proper clickity-clack. Besides, it is the right weight for one man to lift.

This summer I decided to "accessorize". I designed a water tower, windmill, station, turntable, and a two stall engine house that would butt up against the back of the future garage so track could extend out the back of the engine house and into the shop. The water tower was the first thing to build.

Almost ten years ago, I had fallen heir to a stack of free pallet lumber that I had sawn up (and partially glued) into a Rio Grande narrow gage 10,000 gallon tower in 2" scale (2.5" scale would have been huge). The partial assembly went into the garage attic for a "future project". In June I hauled

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Member Calendar

Jun. 10	Run Day	10am
Jun. 24	Work Session	9am
	Member Meeting	1pm
Jul. 8	Run Day	10am
Jul. 22	Work Session	9am
	Member Meeting	1pm
Aug. 12	Run Day	10am
Aug. 26	Work Session	9am
	Member Meeting	1pm



Vacation (Continued from page 1)

the wood out of the attic and finished building the tower base. At that point, my desire to be different kicked in. Much as I love narrow gage, I've seen enough Colorado D&RG, RGS, and C&S towers.

I wanted something more "short-liney". After looking at countless towers on the Internet, I decided on a "square" vertical tank with a diameter the same as the height. I ripped up three dollar-a-pop cedar fence boards for the staves. The bands are plastic tie down straps from Granger (you no longer have to make up a company name to buy over-the-counter from them!). Yes, the tank is a fake. Being lazy, I went with a hexagonal, not octagonal, roof as it is 25% less work. Hexes were rare, but they did exist on California's narrow gage South Pacific Coast Railroad. One pack of shingles from Menards was enough. I chose the ones that already looked like half size shingles and lapped them in smaller 3" rows. The spout was made from hardware store 3" diameter clothes dryer ductwork. It is fed from a ball valve connected to a garden hose like the one at the club. The spout "sock" is... well... an old sock.

The tower sits on prototypical tapered concrete piers. I had been looking for square plastic



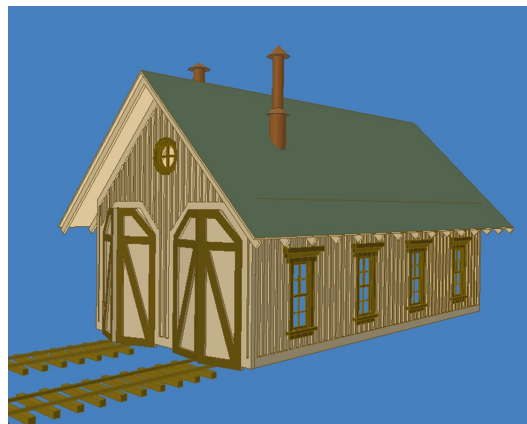
flower pots for molds, but with no luck. Then one day I was wandering through Lowes and spotted hundreds of black vacuum formed trays used to transport plants from the warehouse. When I asked, I was told they were not for sale, but I could take as many as I wanted for free. Serendipity! I cleared a spot in the back yard and pushed long quarter inch bolts through the trays into the ground as pins to fit in holes in the bottom of the water tower legs. One bag of Quikrete did the job. What was left over was spread on a muddy spots in the back yard and misted with the hose to make a rustic garden pebble path.

All along, I had been thinking of where I could collect materials for the wood towered windmill. I knew that the head could be difficult and time consuming. Then I walked into Rural King and standing in front of me was the wind-

mill of my dreams, exactly the height I had designed. It was only \$150.00 with a ball bearing head and sensitive pivot spike for wind direction. I couldn't have built one from scratch for that. Superserendipity!

Fall was coming and school was starting, but like Lay's Potato Chips, bet you can't build just one. I was in wood-working mode while the loco languished in the garage.

After completing the water tower, I had a choice of moving on to the station or the engine house.



The station looked daunting, so I chose the 2.5" scale engine house which I'm sure my neighbors must think is the world's largest two stall doghouse. It is inspired by a lot of engine houses I found on the Internet, but mostly by the Fine Scale Miniatures version of John Allen's famous Gorre and Daphetid engine house and by Bill Fitt's two-staller on his Lake Meauwataka and Wildwood 7.5" gage line in Michigan which he built from scrap lumber when he remodeled his house. At this point, I have the bones screwed together and have finished two walls and one fourth of the rafters. I will purposely throw tarps over it instead of installing a roof on it so the tax man can't accuse me of adding an outbuilding. No roof, no building.

Knowing that I would have to move it someday, I am making the walls in five foot panels, held together with door hinges the way a stage set would be built. The structure you see was erected on a level concrete driveway and broken down and reassembled in the back yard. I simply pulled the hinge pins and walked off with the panels. When it reaches its final home, screws will be added between panels as well as a real roof.

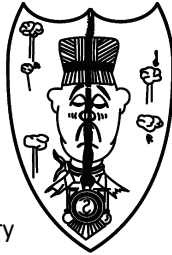
The studs are 2x2 with 1x4 furring strips for girts. The vertical board and batten siding is made from 5/8" cedar fence boards to match the tank of the water tower. Cedar has a very nice color when clear coated with urethane, it

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The Mud Ring Editor
Executive Committee
President
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Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary
Contact Us



Donna R Hill
Donald Frozina
Bill Mense
Denis Larrick
Ray McNeil
Dave Sams

corrsec@cindersniffers.org

Balmers on WYSO Radio

By Dave Sams

Some of you may recall Bill Mense and the Balmers hosting Jim Kahle, of WYSO radio, at one of our runs.

Jim Kahle is an acquaintance of Bill's. Jim met with Chuck and Julie at their shop and then paid a visit to the track. Jim filed this story on WYSO radio which aired last week.



See and hear the story at <http://www.tinyurl.com/jjtsxy7>

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has highly textured fine grain with the look of rough sawn lumber, and if you pick your boards carefully, you can get small "scale size" knots. Best of all, the rough sawn fence boards are fairly cheap. The painted trim is also rough sawn fence boards, but pine at half the price of cedar. The windows are old scrap 2x4's cut up and glued over "glass" made of plywood painted silver.

I have since added Menard's duct caps for smoke jacks. At ten feet long, it will comfortably hold my narrow gage mogul on one track and my 4-4-0 and electric caboose on the other track.

New Mud Ring Editor

By Donald Frozina

Our outstanding Mud Ring editor, Jim Keith, recently handed over the reins of editorship to Donna Hill.



Donna is a newer member, married to Donald Frozina, has a PhD in Biochemistry and Anaerobic Microbiology and is a Senior Scientist at the Proctor & Gamble Company

Besides her (new found) love for trains, Donna is an accomplished woodworker and has a shop full of woodworking machines and tools. Plus, she redrew the CliShay used on our new newsletter masthead in SketchUp.



EnterTrainment Junction Model Engineering Show

By Donald Frozina

CSI was at the Model Engineering Show on March 4 and 5. The CSI booth was staffed by Bill Mense on Saturday, and by Bill Mense, Donald Frozina and Donna Hill on Sunday.

We gave out the new color club brochures that Donald created and Bill had printed. The CSI SW-1500 loco was there, thanks to Carl Schwab and Ed Habel, and on Sunday



was protected by a platoon of soldiers thanks to the military modelers at the show. Carl's ClIShay "Trouble" #1 was



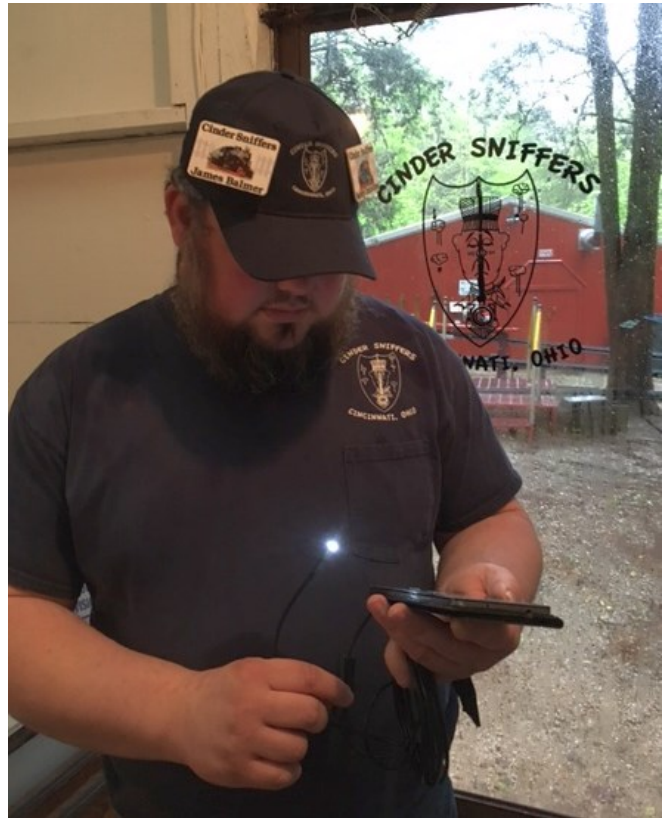
also there for all to admire. The Balmer Locomotive Works—Chuck, Julie and Jim—were also present and displaying many of their fine locomotives.



Inexpensive Borescope a Hit

By Donna R Hill

At the Tri-Club Meet on April 29, we were all enthralled with the \$12 borescope that Jim Balmer brought out to show us. It proved to be excellent for inspecting down inside the boiler and into the tubes, especially since it is



water proof and only 5.5mm in diameter. It has a built in light source and you see its images live using either your phone or tablet (Apple/Droid).

Just search Amazon for 'Endoscope Borescope Waterproof Inspection Camera' and you will find a variety of options from \$10 to \$100. Jim's demo of the \$12 version worked great.

In Memoriam

Elmer Kreuzmann, 89, CSI Life Member, passed on May 16 after a long illness. Elmer had been a CSI member since 2005.

Kenneth (Ken) Shattock, 70, passed away on May 6. Ken was the North American Region Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Live Steamers until his death.