

MINI-BUNCH NEWSLETTER

The Mini-Bunch newsletter is usually published 4 times a year on an irregular schedule. Membership can be maintained by registering at a Mini-Bunch meeting or by sending \$8 to the editor. See **Notes from the Editor** for details.

Volume 44 Number 3

Sept 2015

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Editor's note

If you are renewing your subscription – please make checks payable to Ted Wiese. That helps avoid banking problems. Thanks.

Someone asked why their issue had a “Last Issue” notice on the mailing label when they attended a meeting 18 months earlier. We mark attendance only for members who actually register at a meeting. At the fall meetings we charge \$8.00 or \$10.00 to register and that covers the cost of the meeting facility as well as the cost of mailing the newsletter. (And it costs about \$1.00 to copy and mail each issue.)

For the spring joint meeting with the Midwest NG group, we just charge a \$2.00 nominal registration fee to cover the newsletter cost. So, if you don't register, our records don't show that you were in attendance.

Note, of course, if this issue has an expiration notice, that you will receive the next 8 issues if you register at the October meeting.

Anyone registering for a meeting will get the next 8 issues. If you renew by paying the \$8.00 requested, then you will receive 12 issues.

Michael's Musings

I trust every one had a great summer attending reunions, cookouts and eating way too much. I know I did. Well, the outside activities are winding down, the days are getting shorter and modeling season is rapidly approaching. I know I am looking forward to spending

more time in the basement and less time mowing the lawn.

I would like to report that the "Bear Creek Gang" or now the Soggy Bottom guys are making progress on the new layout. We manage to get together almost every Friday night all summer. The track work is almost complete, the lighting is in and structures are being built. We have basic scenery forms in and are on schedule to present it at the NNGC in 2016. I hope to see all of you there. Over the last year our group has expanded by a few members, and they will soon be part of the Mini-bunch. Our group has also grown stronger in relationships. Our Friday night meets have evolved into three parts. First is social time where we talk about anything and everything. The second phase is the meal. Sometimes it's pizza, sometimes it's sandwiches and some times our wives cook up the food. The third phase is the basement time. This is when the work gets done. Some times parts 1 and 2 run long and very little gets done.

We also took a road trip this year to attend the Mid-Atlantic narrow gauge module meet in Kimberton, Pennsylvania. Along the way we made stops at the Flight 93 Memorial (<http://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>) and the Mill at Anselma. This grain mill was built in 1747 and still operates today. (<http://www.anselmamill.org>)

We also spent time at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Valley Forge and Strasburg, PA. We all had a great time, and I got an education.

I am telling you this because I don't believe this hobby is just about the trains. I think the trains are the common interest, but the hobby is about the friends and the relationships we build. If it were not for Terry, Gary, John, Bill, Phil, Bob, Fred, Jim, Dave, Joshua and the Mini-Bunch, I would still like trains but they would not play such an important roll in my life. It is the friends that make it enjoyable.

So in the interest of the hobby and friendship, invite someone new into your basement this fall and start another great relationship because that is what it's about!

Michael Yoakam

2015 Fall Event

Our fall meet will be held in Kirtland, OH on October 17th and 18th 2015. On Saturday, we will meet at the **Kirtland Community Center** - 7900 Euclid-Chardon Road. (US 6) The Center was an elementary school until about 1990.



We will have access to the gym and adjoining room so we will have plenty of space. There is ample parking and a general lounge area at the front lobby.

Since the Small Layout Group lost their meeting place and since we have a large overlap of membership, they have been invited to participate in this meeting.

Where is Kirtland?

Kirtland is 25 miles east of downtown Cleveland and there are 2 easy exits off I-90 at Ohio routes 91 and 306. (**Caution** – if driving north on I-271, you should avoid the Express lanes to reach Ohio 91 at Exit 189.)

From Exit 189: Drive south on Ohio 91 to US 6 - 0.9 miles. Turn east (left) on US 6 and drive 4.2 miles to the Community Center on the south side of the highway.

From Exit 193: Drive south on Ohio 306 about 4.3 miles to US 6. Turn west (right) and drive about 0.6 miles to the Community Center.

Traffic Warnings

Do not speed. The Kirtland speed limit is 25 on 306 from the Mormon Temple at the top of the hill past the schools and down to the end of the commercial district. It is enforced. The police station is next to City Hall.

Event Information

This event will take place in two rooms on the east side of the Community Center. The former gym will contain the display, contest, sales tables and space for conversations. The other room will be used for clinics and the general meeting and raffle.

Please note that the facility will be available from 10 AM to 6 PM, and all the tables, chairs put away and cleanup **MUST** be completed by 6 PM.

Registration fee of \$10 will be charged at the door.

Tables for displays and sales: We will need **advance notice** of the need for display and sales tables. Mail in the registration form to list your needs for tables and electrical power.) Your registration fee need not be sent with this request.) Or you can send email to Ted Wiese to request space. **Note:** Sometimes emails do not get to the intended party. I will acknowledge all table requests so

you know that the message was received.

Note: We do not have an unlimited number of tables, so there may be some restriction on the number that one person can request. We would appreciate a \$5 contribution for each sales table.

We expect the small layout displays to share tables, so knowing your space needs would help us organize the space.

Food and Drinks: note that food and beverages can be brought into the Center. We have access to the refrigerator and sinks in the kitchen, but no cooking is allowed. Please – no alcohol – except that used in stains for model building. We plan to have coffee and soft drinks (\$0.50) available.

Contests

Categories include:

Motive Power

Rolling Stock

Structures (only a limited amount of scenery allowed)

Dioramas

Small Layouts (operating dioramas)

New Contest – At the 2014 NG convention in Kansas City, there was a 12 x 12 contest. Regardless of scale, each entry was a 12" x 12" diorama. The results were really interesting and showed a lot of ingenuity on the part of the participants. Examples from Kansas City:



Nn3 logging RR



1/2" scale



HO Scale



Clinics – starting at 12:30

The schedule will be posted at the meet.

Lee Rainey will talk about passenger service on the EBT as well as discussing restoration on the line and the 2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention.

John Chlebowski will discuss scratch building – photos to plans to construction.

Jim Felton will talk about postal history, RPO's and postmarks on the narrow gauge.

We expect there will be at least one more clinic.

Small Layout 'Tour' – At sometime in the afternoon, we can assemble to hear each small layout builder tell about construction of their layout.

Meeting - the general meeting will start at about 4:30. Our meeting will precede the raffle. No election this time, so it will not be too long.

Raffle - Please look over your vast collection and select some items you can live without. Bring them along and donate so there will be a good selection.

We plan for the raffle to conclude by 5:30, Then we will need everyone's help to clear the space, return all tables to the storage room and clean up the area we used. **We must vacate the premises by 6 PM.**

Sunday Layout Tours

There will be at least 4 layouts to visit on Sunday. The one in Kirtland will open by 9 AM. If weather cooperates, we hope to have a garden RR open in Mentor. Maps and direction information will be available on Saturday.

Motel Information

Caution: I visited the motels, but have not stayed at any of them. I recommend you use this site for more information: <http://hotelguides.com/ohio/willoughby-hills-oh-hotels.html>

The site has information on the 5 motels discussed below:

Exit 189:

Motel 6 – 35110 Maplegrove Rd

Willoughby, OH 44094

440-975-9922

Cost \$56 plus tax (~19%) (Wi-Fi extra)

No Breakfast

Travelodge
34500 Maplegrove Rd
Willoughby, OH 44094
440-278-4136
Cost \$65 + tax - 2 queen beds
Free Breakfast

Marriott Courtyard
35103 Maplegrove Rd
Willoughby, OH 44094
440-530-1101
Cost \$189 + tax
No Breakfast

Exit 193:

Red Roof Inn
4166 State Route 306
(Behind Burger King)
Willoughby, OH 44094
440-946-9872
Rate: \$63 + tax – 2 beds
With Microwave and refrig:
\$68 + tax
Coffee, but no breakfast
Free Wi-Fi

Days Inn
4145 State Route 306
(Next to Speedway Gas Station)
Willoughby, OH 44094
440-946-0500
Rate: \$70 + tax
Continental breakfast
Free Wi-Fi

Saturday or Sunday Morning Dining:

If you arrive in the area before our 10 AM setup time, there is the **Kirtland Diner** on Route 306 in the ‘downtown’ section of Kirtland. It’s on the east side on the road across from the HS football field. They open at 7am and serve a reasonable priced breakfast and lunch. They close at 3 PM.

On the west side of 306, there is a Subway shop in the shopping mall just after the football field (and the ‘for sale’ vacant store.)

Saturday Evening Dining

Tavern Six is about ½ mile west on US 6. They have a bar with a dozen beers on tap, but they also serve excellent food that is a significant step above “pub food”

On Ohio 306, the Kirtland Tavern is about a mile north of US 6. There is also Biga Wood-fired Pizza across from the schools. McDonalds and Burger King are at 306 & I-90. About a mile north of I-90 is US 20 in Mentor. There are several bars and restaurants on 20 east and west of 306, and there are additional restaurants north of the RR overpass on 306 – Smoky Bones, Chipotle, Hooley House, Bravo, Bob Evans, Fridays, etc.

At I-90 and Ohio 91, there are several restaurants including a Bob Evans, Cracker Barrel, and Wendy’s.

The 2016 Convention in Maine

A Classic Narrow Gauge Convention . . . In a Very Special Place!

Plan your 2016 vacation around the fascinating state of Maine and the traditional fun of a narrow gauge convention! The fabled Two-Foot Country will host next year’s convention in Augusta, Maine’s capital city, on September 7-10, 2016. Co-sponsored by the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association, the convention features operating slim-gauge prototypes and all the beauty of down-east New England.

The narrow gauge convention in Maine will include the smell of coal smoke! Here’s two-foot action you can expect to see at some of the nearby Maine railroad attractions – all within a short drive of our convention headquarters.

- Meets between two steam-powered mixed trains at Alna, including boomer engine #9, ex-SR/KC/WW&F – one of the oldest engines anywhere still in steam!
- Monson #3 pulling original Sandy River freight cars in Phillips.
- Bridgton & Saco River #7 hauling ex-Bridgton and Sandy River coaches on the Portland waterfront.
- Cute little German 0-4-0s at Boothbay – plus a guided tour of their amazing shop that builds full-size steam locomotive boilers.
- Internal combustion critters more your favorite? Don’t miss the operating Model T railcar on the Wiscasset line.

Clinics on narrow gauge prototypes from coast to coast, plus the latest modeling techniques, will be offered by a blue-ribbon lineup of speakers, including Tony Koester, Miles Hale, and Lou Sassi. Noted two-foot authors and modelers on the program include Dave Frary, Bob Hayden, Peter Barney, Wes Ewell, and more. Don’t miss the clinic on the rebuilding of Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington #9 – an 1891 Portland Co. Forney.

Choose from tours of all the historic narrow gauge routes and operating narrow gauge museums. Some, like the Sandy River museum and Boothbay, are offering special trains and behind-the-scene tours for convention attendees only. We’ll also offer over a dozen fascinating home layout tours, including Art Fahie’s Sn2 layout from Great Model Railroads and Eric Schade’s live steam F scale pike, as well as many others layouts, both during and before and after the convention.

More than a dozen modular layouts in Nn3, HOn30, Sn2, On30, On3, Gn15, 7/8n2 and more are already committed to attend. And there will be large-scale live steam running on the lawn outside the convention center! Visiting motive power and rolling stock are welcome.

And, of course, every narrow gauge convention features a full range of contests and the world’s largest slim-gauge hobby shop in the manufacturers’ room.

The 2016 convention is the joint project of members of three modular groups that follow two-foot prototype: The Narrow Minded Guys from Maine (who model in On30), The Sn2 Crew, and the Great Lakes HOn30 Modular

Group. Mini-Bunchers on the convention committee include Jim Foster, clinic chairman, Jeff Schumaker, modular chairman, Butch Sage, vendor room chairman, Gary Carmichael, AV guru, and Lee Rainey, overall chairman.

We'd welcome additional help at the convention from other Mini-Bunchers. As at past conventions, a few hours of volunteer help will be recognized by a big break on registration costs. So if you are interested, see Jim Foster or Lee Rainey at the fall meet.

Our full convention website, www.nngc2016.org, is now live and can answer all your questions. If you are not web-enabled, you can reach us by mail at 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Inc., PO Box 1406, Gray, ME 04039 to request a registration packet.

This is one narrow gauge convention the rest of the family won't want to miss. After all, Maine — and indeed all of New England — is rich with museums, shopping, distinctive food, breath-taking scenery, and much more.

And Mainers will tell you that the best time to vacation in the beautiful Pine Tree State is the week after Labor Day. The summer crowds have gone back to school, and the leaf-peepers have not arrived yet, but all the attractions are still open and the weather is great!

So whether you and your party are looking for a locomotive or a lobster, for shopping, or for scenery, Maine has something for you!

See you in at the Narrow Gauge Convention in Maine in 2016!

Matt Woods Photos

Matt had planned to give a clinic at the fall meet, but new coaching job requires that he be about 100 miles away at a cross-country meet that morning.

But he supplies some photos taken on his layout:



OM&L enclosed water tower near Archie



OM&L #3 working its way south on the Old Mission Peninsula



OM&L #3 passing the Archie depot in the fall 1935



Fruit warehouse and water tank at Old Mission



more 12 x12 dioramas



Notes from the Editors
HELP NEEDED!!!!

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

Subscriptions: Please send \$8 for a three-year subscription. Please make the check payable to Ted Wiese. (Mini-Bunch is not a 'legal' company and the bank will refuse those checks.) **OR – REGISTER** at one of the meetings held during the year for an automatic 2 - year subscription.

Mini-Bunch Newsletter on Internet

You have the chance to see these and additional photos in color. Subscribe to the Mini-Bunch group on Yahoo! to see the photos in color. We usually get the newsletter posted in the Files section of the Yahoo! Group shortly after it has been mailed.

Yahoo! Groups – Mini-Bunch

Note: this is a new address

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mini-bunch/info>

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National Narrow Gauge Conventions

Augusta, ME	September 7 - 10, 2016
Denver, CO	Aug 30 - Sept 2, 2017
Minneapolis, MN	2018
Sacramento, CA	2019

Mini-Bunch Meetings

Kirtland, OH	October 17 - 18, 2015
Greenford, OH	March 2016

Other meets and shows

Div 4 Berea Train Show -	October 3 - 4, 2015
Div 7 Train Show	October 10 - 11, 2015
Div 3 Train Show	October 31 - Nov 1, 2015



The Soggy Bottom Shout

The Perfect Paper for a Soggy Bottom

Est. 1888 Vol. 11 Number 8

Friday, August 26, 1898

Price 6 ¢

SPECIAL EDITION – AN HOMAGE TO SWILL

THE BIRTH OF A LEGEND

With the coming of the railroad, and particularly the spur to the Olde Canal Distillery, a glorious local secret will be shared with the world. Future generations will praise Soggy County as the birthplace, and only source, of *Old Canal Swill*, the most important boon to mankind since the Scotch invented "uisge beatha", the "water of life".

Now some may argue that this distinction belongs to the lifeblood of neighboring Kentucky, bourbon whiskey. But, while Your Editor has a high esteem for the amber elixir as a spirit without equal, bourbon lacks the universal utility that makes our own Swill indispensable.

No other liquid can be used as a libation, medication, sanitation, horse liniment, lamp oil, paint thinner, insecticide, boiler wash, antiseptic, and leather tanning solvent. Why, its usefulness in the worming of sheep alone, would qualify it as a historical discovery.

But, as many know, the discovery was long in coming and no thanks to man. Swill would prove to be a true gift of God, (and the canal.)

Southern Ohio and Soggy County, in particular, has a long history with alcoholic spirits. One theory states that the famous serpent mound of Adams County was intended to be an arrow pointing to the North Star. To ease the hard work of digging and carrying dirt, the Adenas made frequent use of a drink made from wild grapes and sassafras root which was left for a week in the sun. As they staggered under their baskets of dirt, exhausted and inebriated, the mound also wended to and fro. Upon completion, the supervising shaman, not wishing to appear too surprised, declared that he had a serpent in mind all along.

Continued Column 2

Is Your Swill Swell?

Try *Old Canal Swill*
The Swellest Swill You Will
Ever Swallow.

Old Canal Distillery,
J. Kehn Prop. Deep Cut,

LEGEND (CONTINUED)

The path to Swill was greatly impeded by Benedict Arnold Amabo who sold watered-down grog to the local Indians. They called it "fire-water", but it barely glowed.

Rufus "Ruthless" H. Amabo, grandson of Benedict, came much closer to the mark with the potent potion he used to drug horses. Strong it was, but when asked how it tasted, one old settler replied: "Life-threatening!"

The birth of our beloved Swill is inextricably linked to the canal, and to one early boat in particular. The "Lucky Swill" was named for two of Captain Billy Binnacle's favourite things, a one-eyed, one-eared, three legged terrier and the cheap beer of Deep Cut. His wife, Sophronna, was only a distant third in his admiration. Besides, her name wouldn't fit on the fantail. As a matter of fact, the portly Mrs. Binnacle, herself, barely fit on the fantail, but that's another story.

After several years of hauling corn, wheat and barley, the bilge of the "Lucky Swill" had collected its share of spilled grain. On most boats, the bilge rats would have kept the refuse in check, but this was no ordinary boat. Perhaps to compensate for his physical challenges, the dog, "Lucky", had become the most ferocious ratter on the canal. No rodent dared set paw on the "Lucky Swill".

After four years of neglect, the bilge of the boat had become a swirling brew of grain, canal water and assorted flotsam and jetsam, all covered by a most verdant green slime. As it threatened to flood the hold, Captain Billy had no choice but to haul-out at Deep Cut and drain the bilge. As he undogged the hatch and prepared for the noxious task, a huge, errant rat shot between his legs followed almost immediately by a one eyed terrier. Both disappeared in a deluge of bilge water. Just when he feared the worst, "Lucky" and the rat literally exploded up through the hatchway and on to the deck.

Continued Column 3

LEGEND (CONTINUED)

Captain Billy was taken somewhat aback when they licked the slime from each other's faces, and then staggered, paw in paw, down the deck, but he had the portent that something significant had just happened.

Leaning through the hatch and skimming the larger detritus from the surface, he captured a glass of cloudy green liquid. To say the bouquet was unusual would be to say that Lake Erie is a pond. A note of Soggy Swamp after a hard rain was clearly noticed along with the hint of skunk cabbage in the spring. The slight nose of a fresh road apple on a sunny day provided depth. The captain ventured a sip. As it caressed his palate, the first traces of an earthy loam appeared, no doubt engendered by the floating canal mud. A grassy, grainy flavor emerged reminding him of the mouldy hay he had hauled the previous month. It provided the promise of great proof with a little more yeasty encouragement. A great oaky finish, whispering of a gently rotting log, rounded out the complexity. The mouth feel of the green slime took a little getting used to, but the divine conjunction of grain, water, boat and time had produced a thing of great promise.

Wasting not a minute, Captain Billy drew a barrel full from the bilge. He carefully strained it, added fresh grain and yeast and distilled the result. What he got was...the same thing any hick in Hocking County could achieve: raw white lightning with all the character of a Deep Cut floozy.

Back he went to the "Lucky Swill" for more water. To this unfiltered batch he added only a bucket of sugar and a handful of mouldy hay. After a furious fermentation, he skimmed as much of the slime from the surface as he could and gently distilled the result. The decanted mixture was placed into a freshly made barrel constructed from the sodden hull planks of the recently sunk freighter "Wild Hare".

Continued Column 4

LEGEND (CONTINUED)

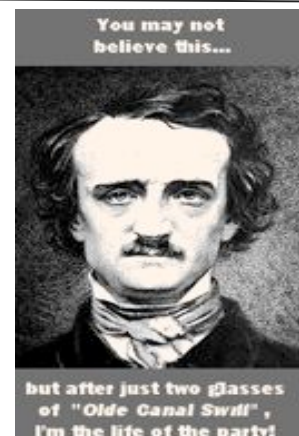
Thirty days was as long as he could placate the yard owner, who wanted his berth, and Mrs. Binnacle, who wanted to be back on the canal earning money. Each threatened to take an axe to the "Lucky Swill", emptying her hull.

During that brief month, the bilge water and barrel worked their magic, rewarding Captain Billy's faith with the first true batch of Swill. All of the character developed in the bowels of the canal boat was joined with a skull busting wallop. The balance of the bilge water was quickly emptied to become raw material for more of the newly named "Swill".

The "Lucky Swill", herself, was refloated, but never to ply the canals of Ohio again as a working girl. She rests quietly today at the distillery in Deep Cut, guarded by the ghost of a one-eyed, one-eared, three legged terrier named "Lucky". Her leaky bilges are periodically refreshed with corn, wheat, rye and mouldy hay, to produce *Olde Canal Green*, the original and best of the *Olde Canal Swills*.

Demand for swill led to the construction of the massive distillery which graces the canal bank just outside Deep Cut. Upon Captain Billy's passing, Mr. J. Kehn, retired railroad man, purchased his estate. Today he proudly follows the tradition of distilling:

"The Swellest Swill You Will Ever Swallow."





Mini-Bunch and Small Layout Group Fall Meet

October 17-18, 2015

Kirtland Community Center
7900 Euclid Chardon Rd. (US6)
Kirtland OH 44094

Exit I-90 at State Routes 91 or 306, 5 miles to Meet.

Lodging and food at both exits.

Saturday, Oct 17 - Schedule 10 AM – 6 PM

Clinics, Model Contest, Small Layout Tour,

Famous Mini-Bunch Raffle!

Sunday, Oct 18 Layout Tours

More Info:

ted.wiese@gmail.com

Or haigh44094@gmail.com

Registration \$10, check payable to Ted Wiese

IF you will need a table, it MUST be reserved in advance

Name _____

Address _____

Layout: Y N How Big? _____ Need Power: Y N

Mail to: Ted Wiese
9099 Regency Woods Dr.
Kirtland OH 44094

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTIONS

Augusta, ME September 7 – 10, 2016
Denver, CO Aug 30 – Sept 2, 2017
Minneapolis, MN 2018
Sacramento, CA 2019

Mini-Bunch Meeting
Fall 2015
Kirtland, OH
Date October 17 - 18, 2015



JC's Iowa-Tiger transfer station



Fall scene at Old Mission - Matt Woods' photo



Small Layouts invited – R Haigh version



John C's town center