

Greater Cincinnati Garden Railway Society Summer Layout Tours

NORTH TOURS - SUNDAY, JULY 25TH - 2010, 1pm - 6pm

Skyridge Railroad

Ray & Charlotte Hughes 9846 Skyridge Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45252-2126 (513) 385-6599

Directions: I-275 to Exit #33, Colerain Avenue North. Turn left at second traffic light (Between Skyline Chili and Lowe's) onto Dry Ridge Road staying in far right lane. (Dry Ridge bears right at stop sign.) Take Dry Ridge 1.8 miles to Skyridge Drive. Turn left and proceed to bottom of hill (.4 mile) to 9846. (Redwood ranch on left)

Description: The Skyridge Railroad is an imaginary branch line of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad in the mid 1950's. The railroad was conceived, designed and constructed by the owner. It is a small layout consisting of 268 feet of track, of which approximately 40' is hand laid. The layout includes four scratch built metal bridges, a scratch built redwood and brass truss bridge, and a scratch built redwood covered bridge. There are two main loops of track, two dead-end sidings, and a passing siding. The inner loop includes a 2.5% grade through two tunnels. The outer loop is level and includes 14 feet of concrete viaduct that reaches three feet above the observer's head. Twenty feet of trestle with maximum heights over five feet are incorporated in both loops. The railroad was constructed approximately 29" above ground level using retaining walls of railroad ties and natural stone found on the property. Parts of an abandoned line can still be observed from the original layout built in 1989. A small, pre-formed pond and waterfall are surrounded by varieties of sedum, herbs and miniature trees.

Midwestern and Rainbow Tunnel Railroad

Allan & Liz Pantle 111 Country Club Drive Oxford, Ohio 45056 (513) 524-2124

Directions: Take I-275 to exit 33 (US 27, Colerain Ave). Take US 27 north all the way into Oxford. On the way US 27 makes a left turn in Millville at a traffic light (12 miles from I-275), and another left turn at High St in Oxford (10 miles out of Millville). In Oxford, follow High St straight west and it changes its name to Contreras Rd (no longer US 27) at the end of downtown Oxford (Shell and BP stations). Continue straight and follow Contreras road over the RR tracks, past Arby's (on the left) and past Oxford Country Club (on the right). At Olde Farm Rd. (approx 1 mile out of downtown Oxford), turn right into Heritage Subdivision. Turn right on Country Club Dr. Pantle's house is the fifth one on the right side of the street.

Description: The Midwestern and Rainbow Tunnel (MW & RT) Railroad is a combination mainline (Midwestern) and branchline (Rainbow Tunnel) model railroad set in the late 1940's early 1950's era. The MW & RT RR covers approximately 1700 sq ft with 325 ft of mainline track, 100 ft of branchline track, and 75 ft of yard track. The track winds through a garden of over 60 different varieties of plants (groundcovers, dwarf and miniature trees and flowers), around a rock stream and pond, and past more than 20 buildings making up industries, a farm, and a city. Trains go through a tunnel, climb 40-ft long hills with 2% grades, and pass over 3 bridges and 5 trestles, one of which is 35 ft long. A variety of freight and passenger trains run on the railroad – including those pulled by large articulated steam locomotives over 4 ft long (scale size), 3-unit diesel locomotives, small narrow-gauge locomotives, and occasional novelty motive power (Peanuts motorcycle and Thomas the Tank and Percy engines). A digital command control system is used for train operations. The layout is handicap accessible.

J and J Railroad Company

Jim & Jane Matchett 11929 Stonequarry Court Cincinnati, Ohio 45251 (513) 245-2411

Directions: I-275 to Exit #33, Colerain Avenue (US 27) North. Exit at Kemper, right on Kemper and first left on Stonemill, right on Stonetrace, and right on Stonequarry to 11929 two thirds down on the right - look for the deer in front.

Description: The J and J Railroad Company, Jim and Jane Matchett owners, operates the Cedar creek and Stonequarry Line (C&S) narrow gauge short line. The line runs through the hills and valleys of southwestern Ohio, providing light passenger and freight service as well as some fantasy tourist excursions through the sleepy little hamlets of Cedar creek and Stonequarry. Because of its connection with the Ohio River and Western narrow gauge branch of the Pennsylvania RR, you will find a lot of Pennsy equipment operating on the C&S. The layout was created in early 1999 by Paul Busse to provide interesting operational possibilities, while making creative use of the steeply sloping terrain. Major construction began with a GCGRS rail raising July 10, 1999. There is about 650 feet of track, made up of a 350 foot main line, 200 foot branch line and 100+ foot storage/shortline feeding into the basement for storage and/or future expansion. Numerous grade crossings, overpasses and tunnels provide interest and excitement. There have been several wrecks when attention wandered during multi-train operations. A waterfall feeds a stream cascading through the layout to an upper and lower pond. The ponds are stocked with fish, tadpoles, frogs, minnows and a few water plants. Jane is in charge of buildings and landscaping while Jim maintains rolling stock and track work.

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OnTrackRR

Bob & Barbara Ampulski

5674 Red Oak Drive

Fairfield, Ohio 45014

(513) 829-4990

Directions: From 275

1. Exit 36 (Hamilton Avenue – Mt Healthy) go North on Hamilton Avenue
2. Continue north (US 127) for 2.7 miles
3. Turn left on Evalie.
4. Go four blocks
5. Turn left on Red Oak Drive
6. First house on the left is 5674 Red Oak Drive.

Description: The OnTrackRR is a blend of the White Pass and Yukon Route and the Durango & Silverton. The layout concept was designed by Paul Busse. Construction began in 1995 with the building of the observation Gazebo. Laying track began the following year. The "L"-shaped mountainous terrain frames the side and back of a swimming pool. The route starts across the base of the gazebo, climbs three feet above grade, and descends three feet below grade to travel under the gazebo. Trestles, bridges, ponds, and waterfalls complete the scenery. The 1950's – 70's era diorama contains over 600 feet of track in approximately 2000 square feet. The Multi Train System controls steam and diesel freight and passenger consists. Barnyard, saloon, and industrial sounds add to the realism and interest level.

The Geo. Gunn Railroad

Mike O'Donnell

5010 Boomer Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

(513) 574-9734

Directions: From intersection of I-74 & Northbend Road (Exit #14) go South on Northbend Road to Boomer Road (one block or first traffic light). Turn right on Boomer (West). Proceed approx. one mile to 5010 on right side. Directly across from Mallard Crossing.

Description: This layout was self-designed and constructed by Mike and his grandkids in 2002 and is dedicated to Mike's grandfather, who was a railroader. Approximately 230 feet of track cover a 1300 square foot area and represents the 1930-40 era. Two girder and 2 steel beam bridges, along with 1 long specially designed bridge are incorporated in the layout which features two small ponds with a connecting stream. Buildings consist of a brewery and other kitbashed kits. This heavily shaded garden layout presents many perennial shade plants with annuals interspersed and is handicap accessible. Bring the kids for extra fun this year!

Sycamore Creek Railroad

Ray & Grace Budinger

10516 Adventure Lane

Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

(513) 791-3495

Directions: I-71 to Pfeiffer Road 500 feet east to first left Storybook Drive, first right on Adventure to 10516 at bend on the right.

Description: The Sycamore Creek Railroad runs high above the north branch of Sycamore Creek in a tranquil wooded setting. The roadbed of this railroad was laid in 1991 after being inspired by the tours of the 7th National Garden Railway Convention in Cincinnati. The layout has three independent loops, all interconnected in a main switchyard. A single train can traverse the entire 580 feet of track in both directions on all loops or four trains can run continuously. A flowing creek, a fish pond, two main trestles, several tunnels and bridges and numerous buildings and structures decorate the garden landscape. The landscape is mature, but Grace has spent hundreds of hours refining and keeping miniature plantings in check. She has added many personal touches to the buildings.