



The Trainwire.



Off the Mainline...

by: Kirk Pohto

Our meeting this month will be at Lake Metroparks Farmpark to coincide with their Railroads in the Parks weekend. We'll be setting up the HO modular layout prior to the meeting on Friday night, so if you can stop by to lend a hand, please do! We're always looking for volunteers. We're also looking for people to man the layout throughout the weekend. Hang out, run some trains, talk to the public and promote the hobby. This will be our

largest set up of 2008. As in years past, the Division will be helping the Boy Scouts achieve their model railroad merit badge. If you'd like to help the scouts build their HO car kits, contact Andy Baker or Ken Stroebel. A couple weeks after Railroads in the Parks the Mid-Central Region convention will be taking place in Independence. How many of you are planning on going? As I've said in this space before, let's show our support to our friends in Division 4 by having a large num-

ber of people in attendance. I'll be there, but won't be able to attend the Sandusky Coal Dock tour like I had wanted to. For anyone who does go on that tour, take some pictures for me. This month also means a lot of museums/excursions are opening for the season as of Memorial Day, so now's the time to plan your summer trips. Keep in mind that we have some great local attractions to satisfy your train cravings. Some of these include: the AC&J Scenic Railroad, Conneaut Railroad Museum, Midwest Railway

Preservation Society's West 3rd St. roundhouse, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, and the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum (which happens to be open year-round). So take advantage of the nice weather and stop by some (or all) of these places. For those of you who have not heard the news, Frank Russell was in the hospital last month. He had hip surgery at Lake West from a fall he had taken a few weeks ago. The Division sends out get-well wishes to Frank on a

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speedy recovery. At our board meeting last month, we received confirmation that the Great American Train Show (GATS) will be at the IX Center in Cleveland the same weekend we will be having Railfest at Lakeland in 2009. Needless to say, we're all EXTREMELY disappointed with GATS' decision to come to town at the same time we have our show. More discussion on this topic is to follow at not only our board meeting but also at the regional board meeting in Independence. Well, the election results are in. Your new officers are as follows: Superintendent - Al Cap, Assistant Superintendent - Dale Smith, and Treasurer - Bonnie Lette. Thank

you to Matt Kross for mailing out the ballots and to Dennis Lloyd for serving as Teller. Our new officer's first meeting will be in June. The start of the new officers' term means our journey off the mainline has reached its final destination. Thank you to everyone for your participation and support over the last two years. Without your help, Division 5 would never have progressed the way it has. The drive and determination of this division are two of the things first mentioned by other divisions when they speak about us. We're thought of VERY HIGHLY around the country (not just within the region). That speaks volumes more about this division than I could ever hope to cram into

this column. So on that note, I'll take my locomotive to the house and call it a day. Thanks, again, everyone for the opportunity to have been your Superintendent.

See you down the line at Farmpark! ☺



Kirk D. Pohto – Superintendent
Division 5
NMRA – Mid Central Region

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

Division 5 monthly meetings normally start at 7:30 PM.

May 2nd

Location: Farm Park

Program: Farm Park

Bring & Brag: Whimsicle

June 6th

Location: Hambden Town Hall

Program: Bull Session

Bring & Brag: Sugar Shack Unplugged.

July

No Meeting

The Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum

7471 Tyler Blvd. Unit "L"

Mentor, Ohio 44060

Hours

Tuesday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Thursday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday Noon - 5:00 PM

Contact Rick @ 440-251-0350 for more information.

www.wrmrrm.shutterfly.com

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Railroads in the Park

May 3 - 4

Farm Park

Penitentiary Glen

Kirtland, Ohio

MCR Regional Convention

May 15 - 18

Independence, Ohio

Division 5 BOD Meeting

May 19

Farm Park

Kirtland, Ohio

NTrak National Convention

June 25 - 29

Kentucky International Convention Center

Louisville, Kentucky

NMRA National Convention

July 13 - 19

Anaheim, California

NCR Convention

Sept. 19 - 21

Toledo, Ohio

Kirk's Comments

by: Kirk Pohto

Don't forget our Bring-n-Brag theme for June is "Sugar Shack" Unplugged". Let's see what you can do with the sugar shack kit to kitbash it into something besides a sugar shack.

May's Bring-n-Brag theme is: whimsical. When we originally thought this one out, it was meant to be about free-lanced or fantasy railroads. Have you visited a private model railroad?

Have you created one on your own? If so, show us!

For Sale

Manufacturer: Bachmann

Model: General Electric

Dash 8-40CW

Scale: HO

Roadname: Conrail

Asking price: \$45 



This locomotive is a pretty decent runner and has been weathered. Kadee couplers installed as well. It is one of Bachmann's earlier releases from the mid-90's and is standard DC. Contact Kirk Pohto if interested.



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Division 5 Meeting Minutes.

April 4,

- Visitors/New Members, Faces

Jon Glus – Newberry – models in HO

Paul Chappel – Auburn – models in OO

Harley Smith's layout is opened tonight and has items for sale

Mid Central Region's Freight House – sign up sheet on the table

Ballots should all be mailed in by now – results of the election will be given to the BOD this month and announced at the May meeting to the membership

Division 4 convention is next month – they have a lot of clinics lined up

Division 5 Sugar House are available for sale for the June's Bring N Brag – Sugar House Unplugged – where you put the sugar house kit together as something other than the kit was intended.

Geneva Winterfest – Bonnie reported that the LENS module layout at the Geneva State Lodge went very well on Saturday with a lot of spectators. Sunday the spectators were few about 20-25 people. A very nice facility.

Finance report was given by Bonnie

2008 Railfest- Thank you for all your help and support for a successful event. There was only 1 person that was upset. 500 more people attended over last year. There was a lot of last minute work done by Jim Wendorf. Because of the large gym not being available due to flooding – tables and vendors were able to be rearranged using different classrooms and only losing about 200' of table length. It was very good having the Dance Room Hall door open to have people flow better through that room. Thank you Rob & Jim for another great Railfest.

Lake Farm Park – Boy Scout Merit Badge – Expected class size to be around 20 scouts. Help is requested for about an hour on Saturday to help the scouts put the HO Reefer together and with running trains on the layouts.

Willoughby is having Railroads in Willoughby the first weekend in August. The HO modules have been invited to set up in the basement of City Hall. More info to follow

At the "For Sale" table – participants were: Bill Berger, Don Thomas, Dick Naramore, Al Cap, Bill Brodie, & Dale Smith – hope they sold their items.

Division 5 Convention – Dale & Matt will be giving their formal bid to the Region's BOD meeting in May for Division 5 to hold the MCR Convention in 2011.

April 12th – WRRRM (museum) will be holding an open house 10-6pm. There will be a Chinese Raffle and the improvements are coming along.

Bridges to Buffalo – Jack Metcalf has 3 DVDs for sale at \$10 each of the program that Bruce Lutheran put on a few months back.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Alan Arthur and family for the loss of his sister.

Frank Russell is doing better from his fall at Railfest

A/P – Bill Brodie announced that there is nothing lately and Kirk has the Golden Spike Award for Frank Russell.

Achievements of the membership to go on the website – please submit your awards to Bonnie or Wayne Lette – either in person or email them to webmaster@mcr5.org

Bring N Brag – Thumbs/Fools for April & Green Theme for March

Ken Stroebel

Bill Berger

Gary Shaffer

Ted Nemeth

Jack Metcalf

Bruce Lutheran

Don Bittner

Don Thomas 

Bill Brodie

Division 5 BOD Meeting Notes

April 21, 2008

Attended – Kirk Pohto, Dale Smith, Al Cap, Bruce Lutheran, Matt Kross, Harley Smith, Rob Bowers, Wayne Lette, Bonnie Lette, Dennis Lloyd.

Railroads in the Park – Per Andy Baker, we can setup the modules after 2:00 PM on Friday, 5/2. The Division's business meeting will be held in the auditorium on Friday, 5/2.

Boy Scouts Merit Badge – 12 have Scouts confirmed, expecting 25-30; help is requested in aiding the boys with assembling the car kits. Tools are also requested – small screwdrivers, nippers.

Promotional Day – Bruce Lutheran has agreed to be the Promo Day coordinator again this year. Discussed some changes for Promo Day – there was one suggestion of doing a step by step demonstration of building a layout from start to finish – details still being worked on. There were a lot of good ideas bounced around; some investigating and defined details need to be decided on.

Railfest 2009 – it is official that the Great American Train Show (GATS) will be holding their show at the IX Center next year March 14 & 15 (the same weekend as our Railfest). Kirk motioned to keep Railfest dates as is, as it has been forever, Dale 2nd the motion – the vote was yes. Railfest will remain March 14 & 15, 2009.

Election results were presented to the board by Teller Dennis Lloyd – the final vote tally is:

Al Cap – Superintendent **Dale Smith** – Assistant Superintendent **Bonnie Lette** – Treasurer

Wayne motioned to accept the final vote, Dale 2nd – the vote was yes. Thank you Dennis for doing the teller job and Matt for creating and mailing the ballots.

Regional BOD meeting at Division 4 convention – is believed to be Friday night, those intending to attend: Kirk, Dale, Matt, Rob – items of discussion at the meeting would include the 2011 Convention, what Division 5 has been doing.

Kirk announced that he has presented Frank Russell with his Golden Spike award. Frank Russell fell in his driveway and broke his hip; he has been operated on. Get well soon.

May's BOD meeting may need to be changed or adjusted – Kirk will notify the board of any changes that might need to be done.

July Picnic – it has been decided to have again this year – location will be the Hambden Twp Park across from the Town Hall and we will have it catered again. However, the date has not been determined. At the May meeting we will be asking the membership which date is better – July 5th or July 12th – so check your calendars.

Taxes for the division will be worked on by Bonnie Lette & Jeanne Cap

MCR Freight House order form will be at the May meeting and then turned in to get the freight houses in by the Convention.

Heart of Willoughby Rail event being held August 9 & 10 at the City Hall, Tech Center at the YMCA & Masonic Lodge. Division 5 modules will be setup in the basement of City Hall – setup is 5 to 9PM on Friday, 8/8.

Convention – The Niagara Frontier Region, through Dick Roth, has asked if we would like to do a joint convention in 2011. They are looking to have a convention in 2011 in the Erie area. Dale & Matt are to investigate further to get all the information to make an informative decision before committing to anything. ♣

Pohto's Photos

By: Kirk Pohto

While hanging out around Conneaut a couple weeks ago, I happened to catch this eastbound changing crews. At first it appears to be a regular mixed freight...



But behind that first gondola was a pretty neat sight, a string of TTX flats full of used locomotive trucks.

Quite a cool car load to model. Take some old Ateharn trucks, some rigging and get to work!



Look Ma! No traction motors!

Looks like an old GE truck to me.

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Pohto's Photos *cont.....*



An old EMD truck.



Another old GE truck.

After the changing crews, they set out all of the wheel sets as well as the second locomotive (because it wasn't loading

properly). The train then continued eastward.



Once they had cleared the yard, the local power began switching the yard using a pair of former Conrail diesels. The blue unit is a GP38-2 and the black unit is a repainted GP40-2.



Before I left for the day, the yard crew was kind enough to move the caboose out into the open for a good photo angle. No wonder they call these things "hacks" and "crummies". How's that for a cool weathering job? Not a bad few hours in Conneaut. ♣

Riding the British Rails

Traveling internationally can be quite an interesting experience, even more so if you're trying to railfan in a country where high speed passenger service is the norm and freight service rivals a Class II American rail company at best. Throw in the barriers of a different language (yes the different accents and different meanings for common words may take a little time to getting use to), the challenge of navigating a car on the opposite side of the road, steering from the right side of the car and traversing through roundabouts, the only real solution is to travel by train. So with all of the above taking into consideration, I decided on my first trip to the other

side of the pond to travel to several areas within southern and central England via rail only. While I used a taxi to commute to my work site on a daily basis, my remaining miles were solely by rail. After spending the night flying across the Atlantic Ocean, the trek began south of London, at Gatwick Airport. Gatwick is some 50 kilometers south of downtown London, and several rail companies supply transit. So the first stop after collecting luggage was to the rail counter, where we were told we could purchase tickets for the Gatwick Express. The first impression upon finding our departing platform was that the trains were very sleek and seemed to be a stepped down version of the infamous bullet trains that make the trip through the

English countryside and under the English Channel. For the railfan, our train was a Class 460 "Juniper" EMUs electric engine. The interior was very sleek as well, and quite clean. Unfortunately, trackside was another story, as the dirty backside of London's working class neighborhoods and the constant view of trash along the railway left a different impression of the city. Not a scene too dissimilar to riding the RTA rapid from Hopkins Airport to downtown Cleveland.



Our arrival into London's Victoria station was a mere 30 minutes later, where we proceeded to catch the infamous London tube for a quick ride to another station near our hotel. Victoria Station was quite different from the train stations I have experienced before, as the station gives the appearance of being a mixture of old and new. While many train stations in the US give a grand appearance with high vaulted marble ceilings

and ornate staircases, Victoria Station consists of a mixture of metal supports and rafters, which support the glass panes that form the roof and provide a large amount of natural illumination. The walls of the station appear to be older, consisting of well-weathered brick. However, the interior resembles a modern mall setting, with an abundance of small shops, eating establishments and electronic signs. The largest of the signs is the arrival/departure board, which presents time and station information for all of the trains. Travel aboard the tube is similar to many US subway systems, although the cars seem to be fairly well worn and seating

was at a premium even for a weekend morning.



After spending the afternoon touring London's popular tourist attractions by bus and foot, we were ready to board the tube the next morning and travel to the northern part of the city where we would find our second train waiting for us at the Kings Cross Station, the Great North Eastern Railway (GNER). Passenger cars for

this train proudly wear the moniker of the Route of the Flying Scotsman, as the train travels back and forth between London and several Scottish cities. The Kings Cross is an older station, serving both local commuter trains and express trains traveling through the United Kingdom. Immediately to the west was the St. Pancras railway station, the terminus for international Eurostar trains. The GNER was a company which was owned by Sea Containers Ltd, but the franchise was sold to National Express East Coast shortly after I rode it. After finding our train on one of the central platforms, we began the process of finding our car. For a visitor to the sys-

tem, directions for boarding were absent and no conductors could be found. My traveling companions found it quite awkward to lug suitcases from car to car as we searched for seats. It seems that most of the cars closest to the platform entrance are reserved seating for 1st class seating only, and unfortunately signage explaining this little fact was missing. So after getting off and on several cars, I decided that the only proper place for an American railfan to ride was the first coach behind the engines. While my traveling companions didn't quite understand the need to find a seat and then quickly jump back out to photograph the

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*Article and Photos
By: Ken Stroebel*

Riding the British Rails *cont....*

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lead engine with only a minute to spare before the scheduled departure time, no one was left behind and we were on our way. They pretended not to know me as the whir of my camera shutter went off as I proceeded to shoot frame after frame of freight trains as we passed through several small yards. Our train was another electric engine, although I couldn't find any



markings to identify the class of engine.



This part of our trip was an express, although we did stop at a number of small to medium sized cities and towns as we headed north through the English countryside. Powered by a single engine, the trip was very pleasant, and the ride very smooth. The train had very comfortable seating and

On our way north, we did pass through several small yards, as well as pass by numerous sidings. I was able to photograph engines from the GBRf (which operates freight trains across all sectors of the UK network), the EWS (the English, Welsh and Scottish Railway), Network Rail, and MetroNet. The closest freight cars I saw which resemble US freight cars were some small gravel or stone hoppers. The GNER connects with the Northern Rail at Doncaster, which was just a short distance from our destination of Sheffield. Here our trip suddenly jumped from riding in style, to something similar to getting on the local bus. Our train

was very modern in interior appearance. Similar to some of my trips on Amtrak, food service was rather limited, with the only food available via an attendant who came through the coach once dur-

ing our trek, with a trolley cart of pre-packaged snacks and beverages. The selection was quite limited and costly, and I'd advise any travelers to bring along their own snacks for the trip.



Golden Spike Awarded to Frank Russell.

Division 5 members continue to rack up the accolades. At the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum's most recent open house, I was able to present Frank Russell with his Golden Spike Award. Congratulations Frank! ☺



Businesses Accepting Division 5 Certificates

The businesses listed below are currently accepting Division 5's award certificates:



Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's Toys
Hobby Town USA
Train Specialty Company
Village Train

Willoughby, Ohio
Mentor, Ohio
Chardon, Ohio
Perry, Ohio



Please support these dealers!

Special Mention.

Three stores in the general area deserve a special mention in the Trainwire. All three stores carry familiar brands

and cover a wide variety of hobbies, trains being the most interesting. Glen's Train Shop has a lot of N gauge rolling stock that might be of interest to hobbyist. Tom C Toys is

just an interesting store to visit and survey his inventory. Falls Hobby and Collectibles has just moved into a much larger store than they had before, and have a complete vari-

ety of supplies. I have listed the three stores below, to help you pursue your interest. ☺

Glen's Train Shop

587 grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311
330-253-6527

Tom C Toys

8095 St. Rt. 305
Garrettsville, Ohio 44231
330-527-7601
www.tomctoys@apk.net

Falls Hobby & Collectibles

1928 Portage Trail
Cuyahoga falls, Ohio 44223
330-929-1112
fallshobby@sbcglobal.net

Team Track**www.MCR5.org****Division 5 Officers**

(Terms expire June 2008)

Superintendent	Kirk Pohto	440-352-9813 Super@MCR5.org
Asst. Superintendent	Al Cap	440-729-1458 AstSuper@MCR5.org
Clerk / Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075 Clerk@MCR5.org

Division 5 Trustees: (Terms expire June 2008)

Rick Montgomery	440-251-0350	Bruce Lutheran	440-257-2105
Wayne Lette	440-298-3075	Dale Smith	440-286-4932

Division 5 Board of Directors: BOD@MCR5.org**Division 5 Appointed Positions:** (Terms expire June 2008)

Railfest Chairman	Rob Bowers Jr.	440-942-3039 Railfest@MCR5.org
Promo Day Coordinator	Bruce Lutheran	440-257-2105 PromoDay@MCR5.org
Achievement Program	Bill Brodie	216-780-0938 AP@MCR5.org
Contests	Bill Brodie	216-780-0938 Contest@MCR5.org
VCR / TV	Al Cap	440-729-1458
Auditors	Mike Schaab Matt Kross	440-255-2530 440-729-3045 Audit@MCR5.org
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Refreshments	Ron Biddell	440-352-3730 Refreshments@MCR5.org
Membership Roster	Matt Kross	440-729-3045 Membership@MCR5.org
Division Tripmaster	(open)	Tripmaster@MCR5.org
Programs / Clinics	(open)	
Webmaster	Wayne Lette	440-298-3075 Webmaster@MCR5.org
Company Store	Al Cap	440-729-1458 CompanyStore@MCR5.org

May Division 5 Meeting

May 2, 2008

Location: **The Farm Park**
(Route 6)
Kirtland, Ohio

Program: Farm Park

Bring & Brag Theme: Whimsical

Reminder: Bring & Brag entries DO NOT have to adhere to the Bring & Brag theme for the evening. The themes are meant to add some variety to the types of model work shown and to encourage members to work on something they may not have tried otherwise. The themes are not meant to discourage you from bringing in other model work that you have completed in the last 6 months. By all means, bring it in and show it off!

June Trainwire
Deadline May 20th.

The Trainwire Newsletter

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The Western Reserve Division 5



www.mcr5.org
A non-profit educational organization



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