



# The Trainwire



## Inside this issue:

<b>Scheduled events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Meeting Pictures</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BOD Minutes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Division Picnic</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Modeler's Corner</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Seven Years</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Flyers &amp; News</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Swap Meet flyer</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Officer Info</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Last page</b>	<b>12</b>

## Superintendent's Report

### Sourcing Model Railroad Stuff

In the old days, (*I mean the really old days*), folks were very creative in using whatever they could find for details, and doing much *scratch - and - scrap* building. Some of that still continues. Then hobby shops became popular, and commercial items flourished. Fast forward to today and we have creative **3-D printing**, and a plethora of commercial items available to meet virtually all of our hobby interests.....

But far fewer hobby shops exist today because they cannot survive the internet sales directly from manufacturers or on-line retailers. However, we still like to *'feel and see'*, which is a reason that swap meets and shows are still popular where we can *'fondle'* the items.

There are other sources besides these, however, to feed our *'fix'* for model railroad-useful items. Two cases in point are beauty supply stores (*ala Sally's*) and arts/crafts stores such as Pat Catan's. Often items

that can be found in stores such as these are actually more economical for our use than those purchased from a *'standard'* model Railroad supplier.

Beauty supply stores have cosmetic brushes of all kinds, plus files of all sizes. Good for fine work and weathering, for example (*where do you think the now-popular Pan Pastel weathering line came from?*) At arts/crafts stores, you can find good quality cardstock for structure building---either temporary or permanent, stain markers, strip wood, hard wood articles, and many different adhesives. Also craft paints which are considerably less expensive, and with more color selection, than standard railroad colors. Craft paints can be diluted with a suitable solvent such as Liquitex for airbrushing. In the jewelry section there is usually a selection of hobby tools, and delicate chains and small beads can be used on our pikes for many different applications. Even small mirrors can be found to place on our layouts to create depth and illusion.



Dave Neff – Superintendent  
Division 5  
NMRA – Mid Central Region

If you look around such stores, you may see many other items that with your imagination and creativity can find a home in some fashion on your layout. So think broadly and with a positive attitude if/when your spouse drags you to 'non-railroad' establishments such as these. You just might find something of use!

- Dave





# Division 5 Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Superintendent **Dave Neff** at 7:30 pm at Hambden Town Hall. 30 members and 6 guests were present.

The details for the trip to the **Age Of Steam Roundhouse** were reviewed. The trip is on Saturday September 12 and will leave from Chardon at 7:00 **am** sharp. The first stop will be the Warthers Museum. We will then stop for a family style lunch and then on to the roundhouse around 1 **pm**. The bus should return to Chardon by 6 pm. The trip costs \$25 per person and includes all entrance fees, transportation, and lunch. We are limited to 35 people due to the restaurant we are going to. Money is due by September 4 (**at our monthly meeting**). No work will be going on at the roundhouse but you should still wear hard soled shoes. No open toe shoes, sandals, or flip flops will be permitted. We will be walking through work areas so you should wear old clothes. Safety glasses may be required. If you have your own, you may want to bring them. Walkers and wheelchairs are okay at the roundhouse. Children must be at least 10 years old and have a signed permission form from their parents. **Note:** Personal photos are permitted at the roundhouse but they are to be for personal use only, no public posting on the **internet, Facebook, etc.**

**Doug Riedel** has asked to be replaced as **refreshment coordinator**. Many thanks to Doug for his years of handling this task. So, we are looking for someone to volunteer to be the new refreshment coordinator.

The program on the Southern Railway Museum is being moved from September to October. We need a replacement program for September. If nothing else comes up, we will view one of the NMRA **national convention clinic videos**.

**Bill Berger** has a friend that is selling his HO collection. Contact Bill if interested.

Some problems with the mailed copy of **Trainwire** were identified. The issue is related to a change in the software used to create the Trainwire and the conversion process used by OfficeMax when they go to make copies. The problem is believed to be resolved for future issues. New copies will be made of the August Trainwire.

There will be a **NETS swap meet** on September 13 at the Painesville Depot.

**Modeling Question:** Does anyone have experience with any of the DCC electronic circuit breakers available and can you recommend one in particular? There were numerous people who indicated experiences with DCC Specialties PSX Power Shield, OnGuard, and Digitrax PM42. A number of people highly recommended the PSX Power Shield unit.

We will be having **Division 5 layout tours** this Fall on Saturday October 24 and November 7. We are looking for volunteers to open their layouts for these tours. Contact Matt Kross if interested.

**Bring & Brag:** Theme – Anything Electronic

Paul Chapple  
Mike Rudder

Matt Kross  
Bryan Persing

Bob Orlando  
Bill Osborne

Dave Neff

**Program:** **Alan Arthur and Bob Orlando** provided a clinic on using LED strip lights on the layout, mainly for building lighting. They showed various styles and colors of the lights along, power supplies, and lighting controllers. They also talked about ways to attach the lights.

**Submitted by**  
**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**

# Pictures from August Meeting

Photos by: Tom Pescha



**Next Division 5 Meeting September 4th, 2015**

# Division 5 BOD Meeting

August 10, 2015

A **Division 5 BOD meeting** was held on August 10, 2015 at Hambden Town Hall. In attendance were Dave Neff, Dale Smith, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Matt Kross, Bob Gittinger, Dan Chuppa, Rob Bowers, Tom Pescha, Lenny Kessler, and Don Bittner.

**The Division 5 picnic** was held on August 8. There were about 42 people in attendance. There weren't any complaints about the change in the menu. Next year we may want to change the hours from 2 pm to 6 pm to something earlier. There weren't a lot of trains during this period and many people left by 5 pm. Need to get people to **RSVP** so we have a better count for the food.

Regarding **the Age Of Steam Roundhouse trip**, members must be current with their NMRA dues in order for us to meet the insurance requirements.

Dan Chuppa has volunteered to take over as **refreshment coordinator**. We want to cut back on the variety of pop offered to reduce the amount of pop on hand that reaches the expiration date. Also, we are looking at ways we can reduce the amount of coffee that is dumped after every meeting.

We aren't sure what the **September program or Bring & Brag theme** will be. October program will be on the Southern Railway Museum with locomotives as the B&B theme. In November, Alan Arthur and Bob Orlando will put on another clinic regarding model railroad electronics with the B&B theme being anything electronic. We don't have any programs lined up after that.

We need to create signs for each of **the demonstration tables** at Promo Day. Bob Gittinger and Matt Kross will handle this.

The **2016 budgeting process** was started. Copies of the 2015 budget were passed out for reference. Railfest income was about \$6,000 less this year so next year's budget will need to be cut back compared to this year or we will need to take some money out of savings to supplement the 2016 spending. Division 5 officers and coordinators that have areas requiring Division funding in 2016 need to submit their budget requests by the September BOD meeting. The 2016 budget will be worked on at the September and October BOD meetings and finalized at the November BOD meeting.

**The Division 5 and Railfest financial audits** will be performed sometime in the next couple of weeks.

There was discussion about the added work of preparing and filing the **Division income taxes** that the Treasurer has been doing. This work is not part of the job description and requires a significant number of hours. Compensation was proposed for this extra work since we would otherwise need to hire someone to do this work. A motion was made and passed to compensate the Treasurer \$500 yearly to prepare and file the Division 5 income taxes, consulting with outside resources as needed.

Reviewed the **Trainwire printing problem** and what the resolution will be.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will not be at the **September membership meeting**. The Clerk will run the meeting.

A motion was made and approved to provide a \$200 donation to the Painesville Depot for hosting the **Division 5 picnic**.

The next regular **Division 5 BOD meeting** will be September 14, 2015 at 7:30pm at Hambden Town Hall.

*Submitted by*

**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**

# Division 5 Annual Picnic

Photos by:  
Tom Pescha



On Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Division 5 held their annual picnic at the Painesville Depot for the third time. We invited Mother Nature and she supplied a beautiful sunny day with a temperature in the low 80's with low humidity, a perfect day for rail-

fanning. Unlike other picnics at the depot, the main course of burgers and hot dogs was replaced with two kinds of chicken, baked and deep fried breaded. Jimmy Wendorf was glad about the change because it relieved him of the drudgery of his kitchen duties, *manning the grill*. Of course, what would a picnic be

with Tom Pescha's now famous **hobo beans**? In addition one could help themselves with the usual picnic fare of potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, rolls & butter, a variety of chips and topped off with a delicious piece of cake. Tom Pescha receive numerous compliments on his meal planning.



For the thirsty there was coffee for your cake, an assortment of soda pop and bottled water. The train activity was a bit unusual for a typical Depot event, several trains in the late morning, quiet through most of the

afternoon and heavy traffic while we were cleaning up after the picnic. All in all, it was another great event held at the Depot. The only downside was that only 42 people enjoyed the festivities of the day, out the one

hundred plus members and family of Division 5. Hopefully next year will be even better. - *Len Kessler*



# The Modeler's Corner.



- Saw off a block of scrap wood and drill holes about 1" apart to loosely hold 10-penny nails. (Foam is too light, can tip over, and breaks with repeated use.)
- Cut figures from sprues and remove flashing by sanding, filing or cutting/scraping with X-acto knife (I keep a chisel blade on one handle and a no. 11 on another handy all the time).

- Wash in soapy water and let dry.
- Glue each individual item on a nail-head, using quick-dry tacky glue (I use Aleene's). When glue is dry, pick up a nail and begin painting, turning the nail to reach all sides easily.
- Paint all flesh. Paint hair.
- Paint one color at a time assembly-

line style on random articles of clothing and accessories (blue shirt on one figure, blue pants on the next, etc.).

- Paint metallic objects such as shovels and buttons with metallic paint and weather with black or tan.
- Paint shoes. Weather, if necessary. Washes of cream color make clothing look faded; black or dark brown make



clothing look dirty or make wrinkles and facial features stand out. Dry brush with tan on selected areas, such as knees, to add muddy spots.

- Paint plastic bases brown, gray or green if you know the placement of figures, or remove the bases.
- For stripes on barrels, hold the paint brush still and twirl the nail.
- When dry, spray lightly with Dullcote, Krylon Matte Finish or Aquanet hairspray (slight gloss) as a fixative.
- Let dry. Pop figures off nailheads.

If they don't come off easily, push X-acto blade between figure and nailhead.

- The circle of glue residue makes a thin, flexible, colorless base. Glue figure to permanent spot on layout.

## Tips...

- Add more detail or take more care painting people that will be at the front of your layout.
- I use acrylic craft paint, such as Americana or Apple Barrel. Metallic paint is Folkart or Americana.
- I use natural brushes, red sable or

camel hair, because they hold paint and flow better.

- Aleene's quick-dry tacky glue, Krylon, and craft paints are available at Michael's, Pat Cataan's, Joann's, Hobby Lobby, and Wal-Mart, to name a few.

I prefer natural bristles (sable or camel hair). Nylon brushes don't hold paint well and leave stroke marks, but are good for applying glue. - [Linda Kacprzak](#)

# Seven Years Later and Still Running



In 2008 I was part of a team that installed a "G" gauge model railroad in the Teichmann Financial building just south of Kirtland, Ohio. Unlike your typical model railroad layout, this one is suspended from the ceiling and travels down the main hallways passing through

several offices, a vestibule, the main lobby and two smaller lobbies. I don't recall how many feet of track are involved, but it does have a complete two track mainline that traverses more than half of the large building. On the mainline there are several switches with multiple sidings. In addition there are more

than a few clusters of "G" scale buildings adding a sense of reality to the display. The system runs on DCC and is controlled by radio controlled throttles. A kid of any age could lose several hours of a day manipulating as many as four compete trains at one time. I saw several engines and dozens of cars



up on the tracks as I walked the complete mainline snapping pictures at several vantage points. Al Arthur is the man they call when there is a problem with the trains because he was the one that designed the layout and installed and fine-tuned the DCC.

The outstanding trains are not the only attraction in the main lobby. There is a running water falls on one wall and a magnificent player piano that also plays at least 7 other instruments that are visible in the piano. Talk about your one man band.

Seven years later and I am still impressed with this magnificent layout and the superb animated objects in the lobby. - Len Kessler



**RAILPANNING DAY**

at  
The Painesville Railroad Museum,  
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077  
Spend a day *RailFanning* at the Painesville Depot  
*Be sure to bring your Camera and a CHAIR!*

**VISIT THIS HISTORICAL TRAIN DEPOT**



The Painesville Railroad Museum  
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

**THE DEPOT OPENED IN 1893 FOR THE  
LAKE SHORE AND MICHIGAN SOUTHERN LINE**

**THE DEPOT IS ON THE CSX MAIN LINE *-Mile Post 153.2-***

**Sunday, September 13, 2015  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**NETS - SWAP & TRADE MEET**

**All Scale Model Train Meet**

**Buy \* Sell \* Trade \* By collectors, For collectors**  
Sponsored by North East Train Society  
Food and Drinks available

216-470-5780  
www.painesvilleraillroadmuseum.org  
prmm@att.net 501(c)3 non-profit

**MODEL TRAIN & TOY AUCTION**

**September 26, 2015**  
Preview 10 am - Auction Noon

**MILESTONE AUCTIONS**

**3860 Ben Hur Ave., Willoughby, Ohio 44094**  
HO scale, S gauge, O gauge, G Gauge, Pre-War, Post War and Modern  
American Flyer - Lionel - MTH - Williams - Astro-Craft - LGB - Bachmann - Pola - UAS Trains  
Atream - AHM










Carrette, Marx, Courtland, Buddy L, Wyandotte, Germany, Japan, Tin, Pressed Steel, Wind-ups





**Bidding Options**

- Bidding in person at our live auctions at our gallery in Willoughby, Ohio.
- Internet bidding is available through liveauctioneers.com, proxibid.com
- Telephone bidding is available by contacting us in advance. One of our staff will call you when your particular lot comes for sale.
- Absentee bidding is available by contacting us by phone or email. All absentee bids are executed competitively. New clients must speak to a member of our staff to leave absentee bids.

Auctioneer: Gary Heaven    Apprentice: Miles King  
20% Buyers Premium - Credit Cards Accepted - 2% Discount For Cash or Check  
440-527-8060    www.milestoneauctions.com    milestoneauctions@yahoo.com

## Division 5 Fall 2015 Layout Tours

Division 5 is trying to set up some layout tours for this coming Fall. We are putting a request out to anyone in the Division 5 area that would like to have their layout open.

The current plan is to have layouts open on Saturday October 24 and Saturday November 7. You only need to sign-up for one of these dates. Suggested times on both days would be from Noon to 4 pm but we can be flexible to meet the layout owner's need.

We will be inviting members of Divisions 1, 4, and 5 to view the layouts.

If you are willing to open your layout for one of these days, please contact Matt Kross (440-668-9462 cell), e-mail [Clerk@mcr5.org](mailto:Clerk@mcr5.org), or mail:

**12049 Sperry Road  
Chesterland, OH 44026**

We will provide a tour listing that provides directions to each layout along with a brief description of the layout.

## 2016 Budget Requests

Division 5 officers and coordinators that have areas requiring Division funding in 2016 need to submit their budget requests by the September BOD meeting. The 2016 budget will be worked on at the September and October BOD meetings and finalized at the November BOD meeting.



**Team Track****www.MCR5.org**

Division 5 Officers (Terms expire June 2016)

Superintendent	Dave Neff	440-269-1229	<a href="mailto:Super@MCR5.org">Super@MCR5.org</a>
Asst. Superintendent	Dale Smith		<a href="mailto:AstSuper@MCR5.org">AstSuper@MCR5.org</a>
Division 5 Directors: (Terms expire June 2016)			
Don Bittner	440-257-7555	Robert Gittinger	440-525-0237
Wayne Lette	440-298-3075	Tom Pescha	216-470-5780
Division 5 Board of Directors:		<a href="mailto:BOD@MCR5.org">BOD@MCR5.org</a>	

**Division 5 Appointed Positions:** (Terms expire June 2016)

Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@MCR5.org">Treasurer@MCR5.org</a>
Clerk	Matt Kross	440-729-3045	<a href="mailto:Clerk@MCR5.org">Clerk@MCR5.org</a>
Railfest Chairman	Jim Wendorf	440-357-8890	<a href="mailto:Railfest@MCR5.org">Railfest@MCR5.org</a>
Promo Day Coordinator	Rob Bowers Bob Frieden	(440) 942-3039	<a href="mailto:PromoDay@MCR5.org">PromoDay@MCR5.org</a>
Achievement Program	Mike Buehner	440-428-0137	<a href="mailto:AP@MCR5.org">AP@MCR5.org</a>
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Company Store	Ted Wiese	440-256-5212	<a href="mailto:CompanyStore@MCR5.org">CompanyStore@MCR5.org</a>
Bring & Brag	(Open Position)		
Layout Tours	Mike Buehner	440-428-0137	<a href="mailto:layouttour@MCR5.org">layouttour@MCR5.org</a>



## Wanted

The Trainwire is always looking for an interesting article. If you have taken a trip lately, seen something interesting trackside, have a particular view point on a railroad subject or just want to participate in the Modelers Corner; then we want to hear from you. Everyone wants to be kept current on Division information, but we all enjoy an interesting article written by a member of this organization. So take your pictures and article and send them to the Editor by email and share them will all of us.

**October Trainwire Deadline  
September 15th.**

# The Trainwire Newsletter

# Electronic Version

Publication of Division 5  
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Chesterland, Ohio 44026



**September, 2015**

**Division 5 Membership  
as of August 1st, 2015**

**93**



## The Trainwire

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Information regarding *The Trainwire*, Division 5, or the NMRA may be obtained by writing to 3257 Center Road, Perry, Ohio 44081 or sending an e-mail to [Trainwire@MCR5.org](mailto:Trainwire@MCR5.org). The Trainwire and Division 5 activities are funded by flea markets, raffles, contributions, and donations. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in *The Trainwire* do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the NMRA, the Mid Central Region or Division 5.

## The Western Reserve Division 5



[www.mcr5.org](http://www.mcr5.org)

**A non-profit educational organization**



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