



# The Trainwire



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## Superintendent's Report

### All Aboard the Fantasy Unlimited

I don't know about you, but it seems like these days I do more model railroading in my mind than in my basement! I fantasize about how much I'm going to tackle and accomplish in the hobby almost every day. I fantasize that *someday* I'll have the perfectly operating vast layout of my dreams (*which doesn't exactly match my current reality!*) I am full of vim and vigor early in the morning as I plan my day--- which always includes some personal model railroading activity. But despite planning, I somehow almost always get to the end of the day without much energy to do anything! Sound familiar? How do we break that cycle?

For one thing, it's good

to have a plan. Most of us probably have multiple model railroad projects within our target sights, but fewer arrows in our quiver. And if you're like me, you have multiple projects underway with some degree of progress (*or not!*) at the same time. And with so many tasks on my railroad that I'd like to accomplish, I get overwhelmed and rather than tackle something-- all too often I do nothing at all.

The secret to this dilemma, the wizened old heads will tell you, is to *focus and just do it!* Ha! They must not have a wife, or household chores to do, or aching backs, or need to fix something that just broke, or whatever. Some even have to go to work for a living to support those of us who are retired....imagine that!



Dave Neff – Superintendent  
Division 5  
NMRA – Mid Central Region

Well, here I am at the end of another day, it's almost time for bed and I've done nothing with the Pocahontas Roads (*my railroad*) except write this \*#^ #! article for the Trainwire!

Time to fantasize in dreamland! As the saying goes, "tomorrow is another day".....

*Dave*





# Division 5 Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2015

Meeting was called to order by **Superintendent Dave Neff** at 7:30 pm at Hambden Town Hall. 27 members and 5 guests were present.

Members were asked to help with the **NMRA table** at Division 4's trainshow.

**Pat Flash** had several boxes of free magazines for those present at the meeting.

**Upcoming events** mentioned included the Painesville Depot fundraiser on October 12, Railfanning Day at the Painesville Depot on Oct 17, and a narrow gauge mini-convention being held in Kirtland, OH the weekend of Oct 17.

**The layout tour guide** for Division 5's tours on Oct 24 and Nov 7 was e-mailed to members. Paper copies were available at the meeting. Anyone needing a layout tour guide should contact Matt Kross. There are six layouts open on Oct 24 and four layouts on Nov 7.

**Dave Neff** will be meeting with the new director of Lake Farmpark to discuss the future of our layout setups there and other ways we can work together.

**Lake Erie N-scale Society** reported that they had completed their new power cart for their N-Trak modules and would be using it for the first time at Promo Day 2015. They thanked the Division for providing the funding for this project.

**The Lake-Geauga HO Modular Group** reported that they are rebuilding their four corner modules along with about 12 to 14 straight modules.

Our "**How To Build A Model Railroad**" event, aka Promo Day, is all set for October 31 at Lakeland Community College. Setup will start at 7 am. The event is open to the public from 9 am to 2 pm. Tom Pescha reported on all the different advertising we have done for this event. We will have the following instructional areas and layouts:

**Basic Layout Electrical** – Dan Chuppa

**Plastic kit construction / scratchbuilding** – Bob Gittinger

**Scenery** – Matt Kross

**Track & Ballast** – Bruce Lutheran / Bryan Persing

**NMRA Membership Table / Kit building** – Dave Neff

**HO narrow gauge layout** – Bob Orlando

**Lake-Geauga HO Modular Group layout**

**Benchwork** – Wayne Lette

**Making Trees** – Lou Dreher

**Scenery Details** – Linda Kacprzak

**LED Lighting** – Bob Orlando

**LENS N-Trak layout**

**O 3-rail layout** – Tom Pescha

**On30 module** – Pat Flash

**Dave Neff** reported on some of the key items from the recent Mid Central Region BOD meeting.

**NMRA national** is working on being the umbrella organization for federal 501c3 non-profit status for all regions and divisions. As part of this process, the MCR needed to change its name to the following: Mid Central Region Inc.

The transfer of members from the defunct **Allegheny Highlands Division of the Niagara Frontier Region** has been implemented. Division 5 now includes NMRA members from Erie and Crawford counties in PA and Chitauqua county in NY. Division 5 will try to hold at least one membership meeting a year in the Erie, PA area, probably in the April/May timeframe.

*(continued on page 4)*

# Division 5 Meeting Minutes cont.....

October 2, 2015

(continued from page 3)

**Modeling Question:** What's the difference between using diluted black shoe dye and India Ink? Member responses were that the dye has more pigment, is more permanent, and produces more of an aging effect.

**Bring & Brag:** Theme – Locomotives

Bill Berger	Matt Kross	Bryan Persing	Bob Orlando
Don Bittner	Alan Arthur	Bob Gittinger	Ted Wiese
Dave Metzger	Bruce Lutheran	Dennis Lloyd	

**Program:** Bruce Lutheran provided a presentation on the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, Georgia that he and his family visited.

*Submitted by*

**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**

## Diecast Collectible Toy and Model Show

### Lakeland College

**BUY - SELL - TRADE**

**LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
7700 CLOCKTOWER DR.  
KIRTLAND, OHIO 44094

*Athletic & fitness center (AFC) Auxiliary Gym*  
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**Sat. Nov. 7, 2015**  
**9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

Admission: Adults \$6.00  
Children (6-12) \$2.00  
Active Military Personal Free

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**Toy 1 Nov. 7, 2015** Diecast Collectible Toy Show  
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**No "Pack Up" before 2 P.M**

ALL SHOWS ARE ADVERTISED IN The Plain Dealer Antique Section Revised 10-21-14

# Depot Christens Re-built Caboose

**CABOOSE CHRISTENING**  
during the  
**RAILFANNING 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!*

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**  
**10:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
Christening ceremony of the rebuilding of our caboose  
3:00 pm

Food and Drinks available  
216-470-5780  
www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org



**I**t was the last big event of the **2015 season** at the Depot. Railfanning Day, Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was the special day we christened our re-built caboose and picked the winning ticket in our model train

raffle. The weather was a little rough with a cloudy sky, a bit windy, a temperature in the high 40's and a constant threat of rain. Railroad traffic was normal with plenty of trains screaming past the Depot. Despite the low keyed weather,



around seventy interested people stopped by to witness this jubilant occasion. Leanne Exume, the Painesville City Engineer and Lynn White, the Painesville City Planner volunteered to break a ceremonial bottle of champagne over one of the caboose couplers. After the cheering and applause, everyone went back into the building and toasted the caboose with

a non-alcoholic sparkling beverage in champagne glasses. This whole event came together due to the hard work of volunteers Dale Porter, Rick Rocks, Brian Morningstar, Tom Tylicki, Jack Liles, Carl Neff and Bob Orlando. Thank you gentlemen, you took a burnt out caboose skeleton that sat in our backyard for nine years and turned it into the magnificent replica of a

1930's working caboose in five short months. After all of the celebrations, the winning ticket for our model train raffle was drawn and the winner, a fellow named Alex, was there to accept his train set. While our fun filled 2015 season comes to an end, the ghost hunters will be using the Depot in November to once again connect with the spiritual world. -

*The Editor*



# Division 5 BOD Meeting

October 12, 2015

A **Division 5 BOD meeting** was held on October 12, 2015 at the Stadium Bar & Grill in Mentor, OH. In attendance were Dave Neff, Matt Kross, Tom Pescha, Ted Wiese, Lenny Kessler, and Don Bittner.

Reviewed **Promo Day planning**. No changes to the instructional areas and displays that were listed at the Division 5 meeting on October 2.

**Upcoming programs:** No changes to what was listed at the last BOD meeting. We may start looking at presenting some of the NMRA EduTrain classes.

**The Division Holiday Party** is tentatively set for Friday, January 8, 2016. We will need to find out if the Hambden Town Hall is available.

**Division 5 elections** will be held in the Spring of 2016. We need to form a nomination committee by the January BOD meeting.

A motion was approved to provide the **Lake Geauga HO Module Group** \$500 towards the rehab of their corner modules and to upgrade their control system.

**Division 5 financial audit reports** were received for the Division's 2015 finances and for Railfest 2015.

There were some comments sent to the **MCR BOD** from Allegheny Highlands Division (AHD) members questioning why they weren't given a choice of which MCR division they would become part of. Division 5 is working on sending a welcome letter to all active and inactive AHD members that are now listed as part of our division.

**Division 4's layout tour guide** was received and sent to the Division 5 e-mail list.

**Division 1's trainshow** will be on November 1.

**No new 2016 budget submissions** were received. We will go with what was submitted at the September BOD meeting.

The next regular **Division 5 BOD** meeting will be November 9, 2015 at 7:30pm at Hambden Town Hall.

*Submitted by*

**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**

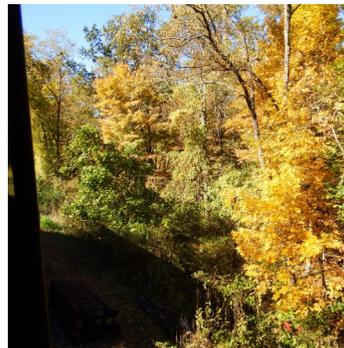
# The Caboose Trip



The NETS group was on the move again. Sunday October 12, 2015 eleven members along with fifteen family members and friends met at the Rockside Station of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Once again Mother Nature was kind to

us as **She** provided an outstanding day filled with brilliant blue skies that were awash in sunshine. The temperatures remained in the mid-seventies with low humidity and a gentle breeze, just enough to rustle the changing leaves on the numerous trees along the right-of-way. The caboose was

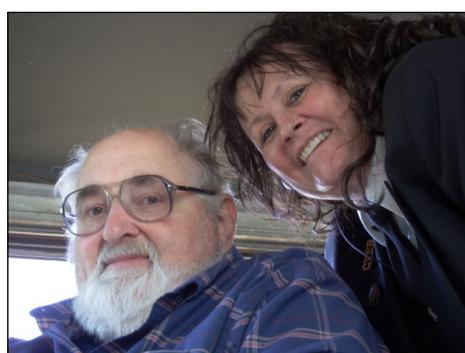
limited to only twelve people per trip, so some of our party rode in the coach car to Akron and would switch with the caboose crew when we made it to Akron. I rode in the coach on the first leg of the trip where I had a chance to organize my thoughts and observe the beautiful scenery, including



several trees giving up their summer green coats and donning their autumn colors. We made about five or six stops along the way to pick up bikers and their bikes for the meager cost of \$3.00

one way. The conductor, Allen Rice, a person known to our group, stopped by and explained the operations of the train line. He told us many stories of odd things he has seen in his many

years of volunteering on this unique railroad. Arriving at the Akron Station, I was *not* overly impressed with the experience even though the ride down was quite comfortable. I was really



# Caboose Trip cont.....



looking forward to riding in the caboose. After the changing of crews and meeting Debbie our hostess and tour guide, I was invited to climb up into one side of the cupola which had one of the best seats in the house. The chairs were like wide captain's chairs heavily padded and very comfortable. I could easily see

the front of the train through the front window and the engine behind the caboose through the back window. While the chair could be turned 180 degrees, it takes two men and a boy to lift the seat and turn it completely around. The comfortable seat is attached to a cast iron support that is bolted to boiler plate floor but

once it is in place it's the greatest seat on the train. On this unique trip traveling in a caboose cupola despite the blaring horn and fumes from the engine when he puts the pedal to the medal, you are in for one hell of a ride; one I would repeat in a heartbeat. I sure hope we take this trip next year.  
**- The Editor**



## 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  
 Toy-N-Hobby Headquarters

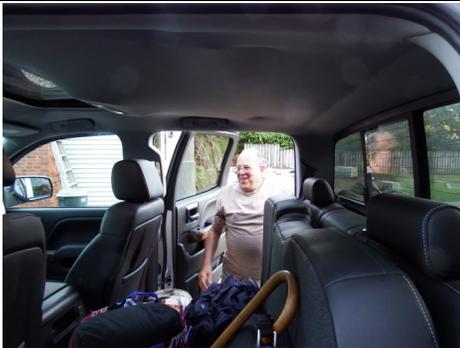
Willoughby, Ohio  
 Mentor, Ohio  
 Chardon, Ohio  
 Geneva, Ohio



*Please support these dealers!*

# The North Platte Experience

By: Len Kessler



**H**orace Greely gets credit for that famous phrase, "Go West young man, go West". That was 150 years ago and meant for young men and their families to go west in search of their fortunes and to grow with this magnificent country. Fast forward 150 years and now we have two old farts well into their 70's going west to take part in the festivities of **Railfest 2015** in North

Platte, Nebraska. Bob Frieden and I rode together because everyone else, six other people, had partnered up and had their plans *etched in stone*. Two couples were traveling by train and two other fellas were traveling by car. So these free spirits (**Bob and I**) decided to wing it and see what was *going* on out west, with the intent to end up in North Platte sometime on Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Keep in mind, we have two grumpy old men both

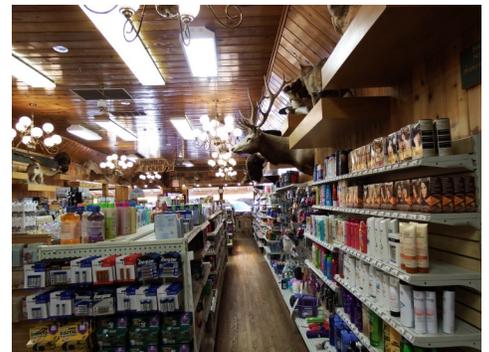
with physical impediments, one that has to use a walker. Both men are dominant, gruff, sometimes cantankerous, irritable, extremely opinionated, and always ready to jump into a verbal argument with no holds barred and have **never** traveled together. What could possibly go wrong with this scenario? On **Monday 9/14** I picked up Bob at 7:30 **am** and we were on our way, no turning back now. We drove thru Ohio, Indiana and into



Illinois. At the last minute we agreed to skirt around Chicago by staying on Int. 80 and go north on Rt. 39 to Wisconsin. Once in Wisconsin the terrain turned flat with dozens of wind mills on several wind farms, a sight unfamiliar to me. At sunset after a long 10 hour drive, this odd couple settled in La Cross, Wisconsin at

the Days Inn on an island in the middle of the Mississippi River. On **Tuesday**

9/15 before we got started both of us agreed on seven simple rules to help us get along for the week long trip. Bobs were, "*I'll be the driver, you be the navigator - always use Karmin over Garmin - and shut the (blank) up and think positive.*" Mine were, "*Don't smash my truck - don't get me killed -*



# North Platte Experience cont.....



*and don't make me spend one night in jail."* Works for me. After crossing the Mississippi River and into Minnesota there were more windmills, open country, plenty of wind and flatter terrain. The journey across the state took about 4 ½ hours. Now in South Dakota the scenery has changed to prairies, rolling grass lands and very few trees. Never having been in this part of the country, I was amazed at the fantastic

views from all angles. Next stop was the unique Wall drug store in Wall, South Dakota. Hundreds of signs and billboards along all the highways direct travelers from miles away to this rare shopping experience. The Wall Drug Store, *a story in itself*, occupies a complete city block. Bob and I toured this unique complex where you can find every imaginable trinket including statuettes, figurines, cups, mugs, post

cards, greeting cards, office supplies, signs, posters, Christmas ornaments, gifts, souvenirs, games and jewelry. There are countless taxidermy wild animals including an owl, turkeys, bobcats, deer, elk, antelopes, bears, a coyote, a large bison head and several improbable *jack-a-lobes*. Once you walk through several stores that also stock T-shirts, sweat shirts, hats, caps, pennants and other tourist attire you



finally step into an inside mall with various small stores. There you can find almost anything from pharmaceutical products, clothes, western gear and attire, souvenirs of all kinds, to a harness shop and a machine with a gypsy inside that will tell you your future. There is a cafeteria where you can grab a quick

meal and a small chapel where you can find a little spiritual guidance among the commercial chaos. The shop and mall area are peppered with wooden hand carved life-size figures standing around or sitting on park benches that line the mall. I stopped and talked to a fellow Ohioan who was sitting next to a wooden

Annie Oakley who also was an Ohioan. One could easily get lost for hours on end but after a couple of hours, we were back on the highway and ended up in Rapid City, South Dakota @ the Econolodge just as it started to get dark. *To be continued....*



**Team Track**

[www.MCR5.org](http://www.MCR5.org)

**Division 5 Officers**

(Terms expire June 2016)

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Wayne Lette	440-298-3075	Tom Pescha	216-470-5780

Division 5 Board of Directors: [BOD@MCR5.org](mailto:BOD@MCR5.org)

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

Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@MCR5.org">Treasurer@MCR5.org</a>
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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.

**December Trainwire Deadline  
November 15th.**

# The Trainwire Newsletter

# Electronic Version

Publication of Division 5  
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**November, 2015**

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



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## The Trainwire

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## The Western Reserve Division 5



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

**A non-profit educational organization**



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