



# The Trainwire.



## Off the Mainline...

By: Kirk Pohto

**W**e won't be having a regular Division meeting in July, as I'm sure everyone is aware of. Instead we'll be getting together for our annual picnic at the Hamblen Township Park on Saturday, July 7th. As of the June meeting, we had only a few members sign up, so I hope everyone has gotten hold of Dale or Harley Smith to finalize going since then. Last year we had a great time sharing stories and great food. I'm sure this year will be the

same. Unfortunately, I'll be out of town and won't be able to attend this year's picnic, so have an extra burger for me! A special thanks goes out to Dale and Harley Smith for coordinating the picnic again this year.

For those of you who missed the June meeting, we now have a Steering Committee Chairman in place. Rob Bowers decided to take the helm and lead this committee. They'll be responsible for exploring potential projects for Division 5. If you'd be interested in helping Rob out with this, contact him (or one of the Officers). This is an

important committee to help lead Division 5 into the future by exploring leads on new car/structure projects, grants, donations, major purchases, etc.

Anyone going to Detroit for the National Convention (July 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>)? If so, give us a recap of things at our next meeting. Those of us that aren't going would like to know what we missed.

Don't forget we're having our reception at the August meeting for Gary Shaffer, our newest Master Model Railroader!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Fourth of July holiday! See you down the line in August! ☘



Kirk D. Pohto – Superintendent  
 Division 5  
 NMRA – Mid Central Region  
 “The Western Reserve Division”

### Inside this issue:

Scheduled events	2
Trip Master Report	3
Wheelin & Dealin	4
Div. 5 Minutes	5
Bring & Brag Pixs	6
BOD minutes	7
Pohto's Photos	8
Advertisements	9
Tw Submittals	10
Officer Info	11

### Division 5 Company Store Items

- O scale Sugar Houses @ \$36/each
- HO scale Sugar Houses @ \$24/each
- N scale Sugar Houses @ \$17/each
- HO scale Western Reserve RR Reefers @ \$12/each  
 N scale Western Reserve RR Reefers (two numbers)  
 @\$12/each or two for \$22
- Division 5 Pins @ \$2/each
- Division 5 “Pentagon” Patch @ \$2/each
- Division 5 Hats @ \$10/each

## UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

**July**                      **No meeting.**

**August 3**

Location:                  Hambden Town Hall  
 Program:                  Great Lakes shipping  
                                 Bearco Marine  
 Bring & Brag:            Resin Kits

**September 7**

Location:                  Willoughby Town Hall  
 Program:                  Operations on HO modules  
 Bring & Brag:            Anything from Pre-1900

**October 5**

Location:                  Hambden Town Hall  
 Program:                  Dick Roth clinic  
 Bring & Brag:

**November 2**

Location:                  Hambden Town Hall  
 Program:  
 Bring & Brag:

### 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         10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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

[www.wrmmr shutterfly.com](http://www.wrmmr shutterfly.com)

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

<b>Division 5 Picnic</b> Hambden Township Park	<b>July 7</b>
<b>NMRA 2007 National Convention</b> Detroit Michigan	<b>July 22-28</b>
<b>N-scale Convention</b> Hartford, CT	<b>Aug 7-12</b>
<b>Ho Module Setup</b> Willoughby Frontier Days Willoughby City Hall, Willoughby, OH	<b>Sep 7-9</b>
<b>Ho Module Setup</b> Collinwood Masonic Lodge Euclid, Ohio	<b>Sep 15</b>
<b>Division 4 Carnival of Railroading</b> Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Berea, Ohio	<b>Oct 6-7</b>
<b>Hobo Stew Dinner</b> With Lake Shore Live Steamers Penitentiary Glen Park, Kirtland, Ohio	<b>Oct 13</b>
<b>HO Module Setup</b> Lake Farmpark, Kirtland, Ohio	<b>Dec</b>
<b>LENS N-Trak Module Setup</b> Lake Farmpark, Kirtland, Ohio	<b>Dec</b>

## Division 5 Picnic

### Saturday – July 7<sup>th</sup>

**Join us for a Division 5 family picnic.**

When: Saturday, July 7, 2007

Where: Hambden Township Park – Pavilion 2

Time: **4:00 pm until dark**

5:00 pm – Dinner

Who: Division 5 members, family, friends

Cost: \$5.00 per person (adults only, kids free), **but only for those that sign up!**



The meal will be catered by Carl's Overlook Catering (*located on Lake Rd. in Ashtabula, the same outfit that catered last year's event*). It will consist of standard picnic fare such as hot dogs and hamburgers.

**Members will have to SIGN UP by June 29th if they plan to attend. Note that food and drinks will be available only for those who sign up. Extra food will not be available.**

The picnic will be held whether it rains or shines. We have the park signed up starting at 1:00 pm but there aren't any activities planned



during the afternoon. If you would like to come earlier than the 4:00 pm picnic starting time and use the facilities, please feel free to do so.

# Trip Master Report.

*Photos and Article*  
 By: Ken Stroebel

**D**uring our visit to the Norwalk & Western Railroad layout this spring, some of their members mentioned a club layout northwest of Toledo that we might be interested. Bonnie Lette was kind enough to look into the information given to her by the Norwalk group, which

has lead to my correspondence with their group about a possible visit. The Blissfield Model Railroad Club has built and operates a large HO scale model railroad with a focus on the Chesapeake & Ohio and Clinchfield railroads in northeastern Kentucky and western West Virginia. The 2300 square foot model railroad has over 1,500 feet of

mainline track on two primary levels. According to their website, "the layout is loosely based on a section of the Clinchfield Railroad and a portion of the C&O railroad in Appalachia in the 1955-1975 era. We generally try to run equipment of these railroads and time period during operating sessions, but all eras, as well as all equipment

are welcome for running during open houses." The main line has mountain coal mines, a Kentucky steel mill, a major division point yard, a large engine facility, a river port, and many industries and scenes in between, with both single and double track mainlines, and passing sidings that allow running 16 foot trains. The layout occupies a



33 foot by 70 foot room, allowing us over 2300 square feet of operating space. The layout is basically a double deck, around-the-walls design with three large peninsulas extending into the center of the room. For those interested, they

will be having an open house to see the layout on Sept. 15-16, 2007. Depending on the Division 5 membership interest, we could schedule a visit either day. My preference would be on the Saturday, as we could also make a quick stop in Walbridge, Ohio and

surrounding area to see some CSXT action if anyone's interested. Walbridge is usually a very busy yard, although traffic may be better on a Saturday. Please let me know if you're interested in attending this trip ASAP and put it on your calendar. Although Sep-

tember may seem like quite a ways off, with summer vacations and trips and no meeting July, I would like to have an idea of how many members are interested in this trip. We will make arrangements to carpool up to their location or possibly rent a few vans. ☘

## Businesses Accepting Division 5 Certificates

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



- Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's Toys
- HobbyTown USA
- Train Specialty Company
- Village Train Shop
- Madison Village Hobby

- Willoughby, OH
- Mentor, OH
- Chardon, OH
- Perry, OH
- Madison, OH



*Please support these dealers!*



# Wheelin' and Dealin' in Bellevue.

*Photos and Article By: Kirk Pohto*

On a recent trip to Bellevue I thought to myself, "Man, wouldn't it be cool to catch a Wheeling train out here?" Not long after that thought I caught not one, but two WLE trains within 15 minutes; both were leaving Bellevue.

Here's the first train. It had a pair of SD40's on the head end with nothing but newly built Wheeling hoppers in tow. ➡



Ohhh, shiny new cars. How cool. ↑



Now here's where I hit it big. I heard another horn leaving the yard and this is what I see... an ex-NKP highhood GP35 leading an ex-UP/MP SD40-2. Behind them was a mix of ballast hoppers. ↑



Are these former PLE cars? Check out the bearings on the rebuilt trucks ↑



As this train passed by, I got greedy and thought, "Now if only I could see one of the Wheeling's former Rio Grande locos." And look what was on the end of the train as a helper. How cool is this? A former Rio Grande GP40 still in Rio Grande paint! (I should have played the lottery that night.) ⚡ ↑



I never knew Osborne had aggregate cars. I like those reporting marks. They're pretty easy to remember. ↑

# Division 5 Meeting Minutes

June 1st, 2007

Meeting was called to Order by Superintendent Kirk Pohto

**New member** – Bill Eville

**Trainwire** – announced that Gary Shaffer has earned #393 Master Model Railroader. The August meeting will be the party to honor Gary with Cake & Fruit.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> Picnic** – Sign up sheet on the front table – Pay Bonnie \$5.00 per person attending.

**Division Inventory** – Deadline has been set to have all photos, descriptions, serial numbers, etc. to the Clerk by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**NMRA National Convention** – July 22-28 – Division 4 bus is full for the one day trip for the vendor show – but you can still drive up for the day.

**Steering Committee** – Need someone to chair the committee – there are others willing to be on the committee but want someone to chair it – Rob Bowers volunteered to chair the Steering Committee. This committee will research all projects for the Division: i.e. Building, projects, cars, etc..

**Company Store Ads in Magazines** – the ads that Al has placed with the different magazines have started to generate purchases of the Reefers and Sugar Houses. Please get a copy of the ad from any of the following magazines to Al. Scale Rails, Tall Timber Shortlines, Rail Model Journal, N Scale Magazine, Narrow Gauge & Shortline Gazette, Mainline Modeler, Light Iron Digest, Railroad Model Craftsman, Trains, and Model Railroader.

**Per Al** – he investigated the Divisions in Indiana for Doug Modic (he is working there) as he wanted to go to their meeting. The Division in the area that Doug is at covers 48 Counties – remember our Division covers 3 Counties.

**Clerk Report** – Bonnie Lette gave the Financial Balances of the accounts with the exception of Railfest.

**Railfest** – Rob reported that he has spoke with Matt to setup a time for the Audit to close the books for Railfest 2007.

**AP Program Reported by Bill Brodie** - Master Model Railroader #393 Gary Shaffer; at Lake Farm Park Rails in the Park – Bill received a Golden Spike application but has not heard anything yet.

**Modules** – signup sheet for those interested to be on the committee for the new modules was on the front table – if you did not sign up and would like to be on the committee, please contact Rick Montgomery. 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting will be June 13, 2007 at Rick's office at 7:00 PM. Rick showed the hand drawn layout of the new proposed modules – it is tentatively going to go from Conneaut to Wickliffe. When a smaller layout is setup – we will lose Perry. Kirk Pohto has provided actual track plans. The track plan will be published in the Trainwire. It was mentioned that there is a new book out - Railroad Depots of Northeast Ohio thought it might help with the depots of the area. There was discussion about whether we needed to build new modules and why the new modules are deviating from the NMRA module standards. Various opinions, both pro and con, were expressed. One of the major reason for changing the size of the modules is for transporting the modules to be displayed; having them shorter, so they fit in the truck better, so there is less damage, the truck rental has discontinued the larger truck. Plans are to have computer interface with DCC.

The old modules will be retired but some of the landscape can be used on the new modules. Over all cost – stays within the budget. Discussed Modules vs Sectional layout – the new ones will be meeting better or closer then the current ones do to the NMRA standards. The old legs will be kept so the modules can be taller.

Currently there are 11 members signed up for the Module Committee – if interested to serve on the committee please contact Rick Montgomery. Cost of the new modules will be \$204.52 each before scenery.

**Bonnie** mentioned that she had gone on the internet and googled Scenic Railroads in NY, PA, & OH. There are many in all the states.

## **Bring N Brag:**

Wayne Lette  
Bill Smith  
Don Bittner  
Bill Berger  
Doug Modic

## **Favorite Locomotive**

Bonnie Lette  
Dick Roth  
Gary Shaffer  
Ron Sieloff  
Bill Brodie  
Jack Metcalf  
Mike Buehner  
Al Cap  
Skip Gidding



# Pictures from June Meeting.

Photos  
By: Ron Sieloff



June Division 5 Meeting – June 1, 2007.

# Division 5 BOD Meeting Notes

June 12th, 2007

A Division 5 BOD meeting was held on June 12, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum in Mentor. The following people were in attendance: Dale Smith, Rick Montgomery, Lenny Kessler, Jim Wendorf and Kirk Pohto.

1. Division inventory is on track to be completed by end of June.
2. We're looking for volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee. So far Jim Wendorf and Rick Montgomery have expressed an interest.
3. As of the BOD meeting, 17 people have signed up for the Division picnic on July 7<sup>th</sup>. According to Dale Smith, June 29<sup>th</sup> is the cut-off date to sign up. Cost is \$5 per person.
4. We discussed the possibility of offering a \$5 certificate to Division members as a one-time incentive to get the electronic copy of the Trainwire instead of the paper copy. The topic was tabled for further discussion at a later BOD meeting.
5. Dates were finalized for the HO modular set up at the Masonic Lodge in Collinwood. This year's event is Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. The next BOD meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at Dale Smith's house.  
The time will be 7:30 PM. ☘

### Next Division 5 BOD Meeting

**July 11th, 2007 - 7:30 PM.**

Dale Smith's home

Chardon, Ohio

**Condolences to Division 5 member Mike Buehner on the death of his grandmother. May she rest in peace.**

### **Division 5 member Jack Burger died June 14, 2007.**

John "Jack" Burger was sixty-two years old and passed away at UHHS Geauga Medical Center in Claridon Township. Born on November 11, 1944, in Cleveland, he had lived in Burton Village and Burton Township since 1985.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, and served during the Vietnam War. He had a passion for trains, model and vintage. He would travel the country traveling on all kinds of trains. He was also a Civil War buff and enjoyed visiting Gettysburg and studying history.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon, sons Scott and Cory, four grandchildren, Jacob, Aaron, Zachary and Alexander, and sister, Judie Pfahl of Middlefield. Jack also is survived by two stepbrothers and his stepmother, Bernice Sifling Burger of Eastlake. May he rest in peace.

**John Burger**

**1944 - 2007**



# Pohto's Photos.

Photos and Article

By: Kirk Pohto

**W**hile driving down Brookpark Road recently I stumbled across this repainted ex-Union Pacific caboose. Is this Harley's latest project? Not quite, it's actually owned by a trucking company in Brookpark that shares its name with Harley's railroad. You may have seen it when it was at the back of their lot still painted in UP colors. It used to sit in plain view from I-480. It's since been moved to the front of their lot and repainted. Wouldn't this turn some heads for Bring-n-Brag? ☘



**H**ere's another one... take a look at this coil car. The car is numbered as Iowa, Chicago, and Eastern (ICE) 70088 but the hood itself states it can only be used on I & M Rail Link (IMRL) coil car 70141. I guess reading the instructions is overrated these days. ☘



**L**astly, how has this car avoided the paint shop? It survived Conrail's creation in 1976 and the Conrail split/disaster in 1999. Still going strong in 2007 in its original paint and car number (#78712), albeit a little more weathered than it was back then. ☘



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# Trainwire Submittals.

Photos and Articles  
By: Ken Stroebel

## Boxcar Modification.

Here's an interesting find that I made during a recent trip by a railroad car repair business. This 50' boxcar was sitting in the yard, awaiting further repairs before being put back into revenue service. As you can see, the end of this single door 50' boxcar had been damaged at some point, and was rebuilt using a portion of the end



of a Railbox boxcar. The old reporting marks have been painted over and the new reporting marks appear to have been hand-lettered on the car. To top it off, the local artists have gotten to at least one side of the car and left some graffiti. Looks like an interesting and challenging modeling project if you have a couple of boxcars lying around. ☘

## CF7 Engine Sighting.

During a recent trip to southern Kansas, I came across this Watco Company engine parked outside a small yard. Unfortunately it had little information on the body, just the reporting marks and engine number. So a little research on the web resulted in the unit being identified as a CF7, which is some-

thing I never had run across before. The CF7 was an EMD F-unit that has had its streamlined carbody removed and replaced with a custom-made, "general purpose" body in order to adapt the unit for road switching duty. All of the conversions were performed by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway

in their Cleburne, Texas workshops between October, 1970 and March, 1978. The CF7s worked within all segments of the Santa Fe system. While most saw action switching cars and transporting local freight, others could be found in multiple unit consists hauling mainline drags. ☘





**Team Track**[www.MCR5.org](http://www.MCR5.org)

Division 5 Officers

(Terms expire June 2008)

Superintendent	Kirk Pohto	440-352-9813
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Clerk / Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075
		<a href="mailto:Clerk@MCR5.org">Clerk@MCR5.org</a>

**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](mailto:BOD@MCR5.org)**Division 5 Appointed Positions:** (Terms expire June 2008)

Railfest Chairman	Rob Bowers Jr.	440-942-3039
		<a href="mailto:Railfest@MCR5.org">Railfest@MCR5.org</a>
Promo Day Coordinator	Bruce Lutheran	440-257-2105
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Company Store	Al Cap	440-729-1458
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**July Division 5 Meeting**

There is no Meeting in July.

**The Module Committee.**

On June 13 2007 the module committee met at the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum. The construction of the individual modules was discussed and many engineering problems were addressed. The track plan was reviewed and while being very interesting, it will be a challenging adventure to include as much of the proto-type track plan on the modules as possible. There seems to be plenty of enthusiasm to get this project off to a great start. The committee will be meeting again on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**Division 5 Membership  
as of June 1, 2007****118**

**August Trainwire Deadline  
July 20th.**

# The Trainwire Newsletter

3257 Center Road  
Perry, Ohio 44081  
Publication of Division 5  
*"The Western Reserve Division"*  
Mid Central Region  
National Model RR Association, Inc.

## JULY 2007

### Electronic Version

### The Trainwire

*The Trainwire* is an official publication of Division 5 "The Western Reserve Division", Mid Central Region, of the National Model Railroad Association. It is published approximately once a month and mailed to all NMRA members residing in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties (Ohio) free of charge, as

long as the Division has funds for mailing. Others wishing to receive it may do so for the annual fee of \$12.00. 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 Train-

wire 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 Division5

## The Western Reserve Division 5



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

A non-profit educational organization



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**Asst. Super:** Al Capp  
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