A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION **DIVISION 5 - MID CENTRAL REGION -NATIONAL MODEL** RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Volume I Issue 5

The Trainwire. Off the Mainline... by: Kirk Pohto

ast month meant the **A** start of the busy season for Division 5. We have a lot going on in the coming months, so take your seats and have your tickets ready as we get this train rolling! All aboard! Attendance at Frontier Days was fairly light last month, but everyone who stopped by to run trains had a good time. We talked to as many people as we could and passed out quite a few NMRA membership forms, so here's hoping we have some new faces soon!

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**Officer Info** 

The Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum had a good turnout of around 100 people at their open house on September 15<sup>th</sup>. A couple train sets were raffled-off as door prizes along with five computer systems as grand prizes. Rick Montgomery informed me that they had 24 trains running at the same time for most of the day. If you want to see some pictures, check out the Museum's website: http://wrmrrm.shutterfly.com/ action. Every time I stop out there, something new has been added. It's amazing!

Also on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the HO Modular Group took some of the modules to the Masonic Lodge in Collinwood for their annual Railroad Night. I'd like to thank Jack Metcalf for inviting us out to enjoy a great hobo stew dinner and giving us the opportunity to listen to a series of guest speakers. Al Cap made a presentation on Legos and Alan Arthur gave his presentation on kitbashing. Engineers from CSX and Norfolk Southern were also on hand to talk about life on the railroad. And at the end of the night, Jerry Jacobson (of Ohio Central fame) spoke about the latest

doings at the Ohio Central and where he sees the industry going in the future thanks to advances being made in train control software. He also made special mention of that Nickel Plate Berkshire the OHCR has purchased. Plans are to have it running in three years. It made for a very fun night! I'd also like to send a special thank you to Alan and Alice Arthur, Floyd Richards, and Al Cap who went along that night. Without their help we would not have been able to bring the modules. Thank you!

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Railfanning 4	on't forget about Division 4's train	asm for our great hobby and Division!	
Div. 5 Minutes 5	This has been a great show in		Nace
Creating identity 6-7	the past and I'm sure this year will be no different! We're	See you down the line	
Division 4 flyer 8	still looking for some volun- teers to spend some time at	in October!	Kirk D. Pohto – Superintendent
Promo Day 9			Division 5 NMRA – Mid Central Region
BOD Minutes 10	make it. It's a great way to get involved by talking to the		"The Western Reserve Division"
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### **UPCOMING DIVISION 5 SCHEDULED** MEETINGS **EVENTS** Oct 6-7 **Division 4 Carnival of Railroading** Division 5 monthly meetings normally start at 7:30 PM. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Berea, Ohio October 5 Location: Hambden Town Hall **Hobo Stew Dinner** Oct 13 Program: Pillars, Portals and Walls With Lake Shore Live Steamers Penitentiary Glen Park, Bring & Brag: "Rags to Riches" Kirtland, Ohio November 2 NMRA Div. 5 Promotional Day Nov 3 Location: Hambden Town Hall WR Model RR Museum Mentor, Ohio "Bridges to Buffalo" (video presentation) Program: Bring & Brag: Best models **Christmas Party** Dec 7 Carl's Overlook Restaurant 4338 Lake Road West There is no meeting in December. Ashtabula, Ohio **Holiday Open House** Dec 9 WR Model RR Museum The "Rags-to-Riches" Theme Mentor, Ohio We have scheduled for Division 5 October (bring-n-Brag), **HO Module Setup** Dec "Rags-to-Riches". It's meant to be a super-detailing bring-n-Lake Farmpark, brag theme where Division members would take a cheap, sim-Kirtland, Ohio ple item (like a Tyco boxcar) and super detail it. From \$2 car/building to a museum piece, or something like that. -Kirk **LENS N-Trak Module Setup** Dec Lake Farmpark, The Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum Kirtland, Ohio 7471 Tyler Blvd. Unit "L" Mentor, Ohio 44060 2008 Hours March 15-16 Railfest Tuesday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lakeland Community College Thursday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Kirtland, Ohio Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Contact Rick @ 440-251-0350 for more information.

www.wrmrrm.shutterfly.com



# **Bulletin Board.**

### **Congratulations To Mike and Gary**

Mike Buehner received his Golden Spike Award at the September meeting. Also at the meeting, Gary Shaffer received his AP Certificates for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, Model Railroad Engineer – Chief Dispatcher, and Master Builder – Structures. Congratulations to Mike and Gary!

### **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

### **Get Well Wishes**

To Lawson Stevenson and Dave Gage who are both recovering from health issues which required hospital stays. Both are home now and doing well.

### NYC – Youngstown to Ashtabula Program

Chuck Bergie will be putting on a program at the Jefferson Depot in Jefferson, OH on October 1 at 8:00 pm. The topic will be the New York Central line from Youngstown to Ashtabula.

### **The Lake Shore Live Steamers**

Cordially invite all NMRA Division 5 members to join them at a **Club Run** and **"Hobo Stew"** dinner on Saturday October 13th, 2007 in Penitentiary Glen from 11 AM til 6 PM.

Dinner will be served at 5 PM

# **THE REST OF THE STORY!** Railfanning the Wine Country?

Division 5 will be having a day to railfan the stretch of CSXT and NS tracks from North East, PA to Lake City, PA, with a lunch stop at the Lake Shore Railway Museum. This is wine country, as the rails roll through a lot of vineyards and orchards. We'll start the day's activities near the New York and Pennsylvania boundary, at the old steel bridge at Bort Road in

North East. This is a great place to catch trains, as the CSXT and NS tracks are almost directly adjacent to one another, and photos can be taken from the bridge directly, from the roadway, or of CSXT shooting under the bridge. The plan will be to leave early and arrive by 9:00 AM to hopefully catch quite a lot of action. Around noon, we'll grab something for lunch in North East, or bring your own sandwich and eat by the museum. Lake Shore

Railway Museum is adjacent to the CSX's and Norfolk Southern's Buffalo to Chicago mainlines. We'll tour the museum and see if we can catch any trains at this location. Afterwards we'll head for home, but not before stopping near the other side of Pennsylvania in the Lake City/Girard area. This is another nice location to catch some trains with the restored depot in the background. The cost for the trip? Nothing, nada, \$0.00 for Division members. The only thing you have to purchase or supply is your lunch and a small donation to the museum for letting us tour it. Due to the limited amount of space at Bort Road, we will car pool there, so that we have a maximum of 3-4 vehicles. The date will be Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet was available at the September meeting and will also be available at the October meeting or email through the Divisions website. 🔀



# Preparing to Railfan an Area.

Photo and Article By: Ken Stroebel

n preparation for Division 5's October railfan trip to the northwest tip of Pennsylvania, I thought I'd share a recent railfanning experience of my own, as well as how I prepare for a trip. A long time ago I developed a checklist for both things to bring, as well as how to go about preparing for a trip. While most of the items on my checklist will seem fairly commonplace, it doesn't hurt to have them written down, especially since a railfan's brain can only adsorb so much information before going to overload. Here are the things I consider when preparing to go trackside:

. Check the internet for fellow railfan sites for your intended area. With the huge number of available sites, a quick search is in order to gather a lot of information such as location maps, weather conditions, scanner frequencies, etc.

A make sure you have packed all of your trackside information, including extra reading material. Maps, timetables, and lineups will help you spend more time chasing trains rather than just blindly hunting for a train. At least one railroad (BNSF) has started issuing railfan cards.

Prepare an alternate location if possible, in case the weather doesn't want to cooperate with your plans. This is especially useful if you're taking a trip a long distance and you don't want to see a days worth of rain or overcast skies. It may mean you have to drive a few miles more, but usually worth the time. So what if it means you have to get on the road a few hours earlier, you didn't really need that sleep when you could be railfanning.

. Charge all things electrical (camera, radio, cell phone, scanner, etc.) and bring extra batteries if available. During a recent trip to Ontario, I had all of my equipment charged and loaded the night before, except for the main camera battery that I put on the charger to get a full charge. Of course this one the one item I forgot to load in my bag that morning, and didn't realize it until I was 30 minutes away and almost trackside. It meant circling back to the house, and losing an hour that I could have been tracksideshooting trains. Fortunately, the train I wanted to follow was just leaving the yard upon my return to the area, so it wasn't a total loss.

5. Review the radio frequencies for the area and railroads from past trips. Look up the radio frequencies for any rail lines in the area and be sure to store those frequencies on your scanner. I keep a small book with all of the frequencies I have found for a particular area handy in my bag.

6. Pack for changing weather conditions. Never hurts to have an extra sweatshirt, pair of shoes or rain jacket even if the forecast is for a sunny, warm day. This is especially true for mountainous regions. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat are also often overlooked essentials. . Clean your camera equipment. It's a lot easier to clean things sitting

at a desk than it is while bouncing over the countryside.



A future railfan greets a CSXT westbound intermodal train as it passes through North East, PA.

Bring extra food and water. I hate to have to interrupt my trackside time to go back into a town just to grab something to eat. Pack some nonperishable items that can be eaten trackside throughout the day.

ell, this is my quick list of essentials. You may find that there are other things you need. See you trackside.

# **Division 5 Meeting Minutes**

September 7, 2007

- 1. Meeting called to order by Superintendent Kirk Pohto at 7:30 pm in the Willoughby City Hall. There were approximately 35 members and 8 visitors at the meeting.
- 2. The HO modules are set up and running well for Willoughby's Frontier Days.
- 3. Division 4's train show will be October 6 7 in Berea, OH. Division 5 will have a table there. We need manning it throughout the two days. Anyone interested should let Kirk Pohto, Al Cap, or Bonnie Lette know.
- 4. Rick Montgomery reported that the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum would have an open house September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 5. Only one Division 5 Company Store order this past month.
- 6. Kirk Pohto relayed the Division 5 financial account balances provided by the Clerk. The Division 5 financial records for the last 12 months have been successfully audited. No problems were found and no adjustments were necessary. Thanks to Clerk Bonnie Lette for a job well done!
- 7. Division 5 Promo Day preparations are underway. Chairman Bruce Lutheran is working on additional advertising of the event. An announcement will be in the AAA magazine. We are looking into getting something in the News-Herald.
- 8. Tripmaster Ken Stroebel reported that a railfanning trip to Northeast, PA has been planned for late October. The trip will be limited to the number of people that can fit into two vans. A detailed write-up will be in the Trainwire. A sign-up sheet was at the meeting and will also be at the October meeting. Anyone interested should contact Ken. Ken is still working on an operating session at a Detroit, MI area club.
- 9. Division 5 HO Module Group activities include Willoughby Frontier Days Sep 7-9, Collinwood Masonic Lodge Sep 15, and a module committee meeting on Sep 19.
- 10. AP Chairman Bill Brodie presented Mike Buehner with his Golden Spike Award and Gary Shaffer with the following three AP Certificates: Model Railroad Engineer Electrical, Model Railroad Engineer Chief Dispatcher, and Master Builder Structures. Congratulations to Mike and Gary!
- 11. Jack Metcalf said that he has a homemade box that holds 8 to 10 cars, a locomotive, and room for tools. It is free to the first person that tells him they are interested.
- 12. Chuck Bergie will be putting on a program at the Jefferson Depot in Jefferson, OH on October 1 at 8:00 pm. The topic will be the New York Central line from Youngstown to Ashtabula.
- 13. Get well wishes to Lawson Stevenson and Dave Gage who are both recovering from health issues and recent hospital stays.
- 14. Bring and Brag participants: Ken Stroebel, Kirk Pohto, Gary Shaffer, Bill Smith, Jack Metcalf, Mike Buehner, Bill Brodie, Don Bittner, and Larry Novak.
- 15. After the meeting was adjourned, the HO modules were viewed and operated and a great deal of socializing went on!



### Volume I Issue 5



# **Creating an Identity**

By: Kirk Pohto

s the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum (WRMRRM) continues to grow, so does its fleet of rolling stock. I've been promoted to the role of paint shop foreman, but before I could paint and decal any cars, I needed to develop a paint scheme for them. The hard part was already done for me; Rick had chosen a color scheme for the Museum to give it an identity. He had chosen Southern Pacific Daylight Orange, Burlington Northern Green, CSX Yellow

and White. I just had to take those colors and figure out what was to be painted and how.

Here was my starting point, a pair of locomotives I had painted in the striped scheme.



nce I had the locomotives schemes determined, I had to decide how to translate those colors

to the other equipment to make it **noticeable** AND **believable**. I wanted to give the rolling stock a prototypical look so you could imagine the Museum's cars could be in regular service anywhere on our Nation's rail network. Those of you that were at the June open house probably remember seeing the gray ACF covered hopper and green 86-ft auto parts box car that were completed by that time. (See below.)



How could you miss that auto parts boxcar? It's huge!

Since June, the Museum has had the following cars roll out of the paint shop and enter revenue service:



Pullman Standard covered hopper painted yellow with orange ends and bottom.



Fifty foot "Railbox" style boxcar in green.

(Continued on page 7)



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### (Continued from page 6)

You can see from the photos the way the color scheme breaks down. All boxcars are to be painted green or orange (depending on what service lane they are assigned to). Covered hoppers will be painted gray, yellow or orange based on what they carry. All open hoppers, gondolas, and flatcars are painted black, while the caboose fleet will have the striped scheme, just like the locomotives. (Now here's a curveball, any car type can be painted into the striped scheme. It all depends on the mood of the paint shop and how many cars they have sitting in queue. So



And what train would be complete without a caboose? Here's the Museum's Northeastern style caboose painted in the full stripe scheme.

if you see a striped gondola AND a striped boxcar, don't be alarmed, it's perfectly normal. Looking at the entire fleet of rolling stock, I think I've captured a realistic scheme based on what other railroads have done. (Well, maybe the disco-striped cars would even be a little too much for someone like the Chessie System to go with, but they look so darn cool.) Many railroads paint covered hoppers one color for grain service and another color for their other service groups. They may also pick a dark color like black for open hoppers and gondolas that see service in rough environments like hauling coal or steel products. But as far as the disco stripes go, I figure if Conrail can paint a boxcar blue or grain companies can paint covered hoppers pink, what's wrong with disco stripes? So now that the Museum has an identity for it's fleet of rolling stock, all that's left to do is shuffle more equipment through the paint shop. So keep an eye out for WRMRRM equipment the next time you're train watching. You never know where it'll turn up next! 🖁

# **Catching the Lakeshore Limited.**

Article by: Kirk Pohto



ith Amtrak's schedule change for the Lakeshore Limited, it's now possible to catch it in daylight going eastbound. I've been able to photograph it in Painesville on my way to work between 7:30-7:45 in the morning. So far the consist has been a pair of GE P42's pulling a single baggage car, followed by three Viewliner sleepers, a diner, and five Amfleet coaches.  $\Re$ 

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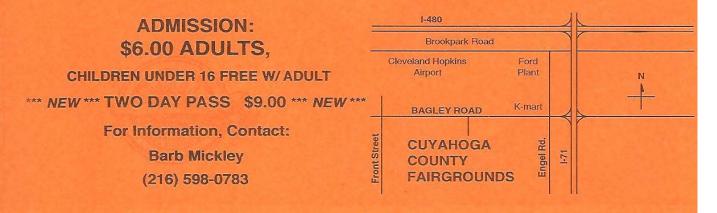
# DIVISION FOUR MID-CENTRAL REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



# CARNIVAL '07

"MODEL TRAIN SHOW" SATURDAY, OCT. 6, 2007 - 10 A.M.- 5 P.M. SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 2007 - 11 A.M.- 4 P.M. CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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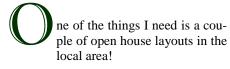
### Volume I Issue 5



# Division 5 Promotional day – "Promo Day"

**By:** Bruce Lutheran

S aturday November 3 is Promo Day for Division 5. It will again be held at the train museum on Tyler blvd in Mentor, just like last year. And, like last year, it depends on your help to make it a success. The flyer has been shown below in a reduced size. It shows some of the events planned for that day.



I will be at the meeting with extra brochures. I am hoping I can get the division 5 members to hand-out and/or place them in a store near where you live, a couple of weeks prior to the date. also will be available for questions on ways to help. Even an hour or two of your time would help.

Thank you in advance!



## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

NMRA – MCR - Division 5 National Model Railroad Month Promotional Day

> Saturday, November 3, 2007 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM "Free Admission"

Western Reserve Railroad Expo 7471 Tyler Boulevard, Units K and L Mentor Ohio Half-mile east of Rt.306 on the north side of street "Look for the RR Crossbucks"

### Activities

- Model Judging
- Clinics
- Ohio Northern Railroad Operating Sessions
- LEGO Layout
- Self guided Layout Tours
- Company Store
- Videos
- HO, O-Gauge, & N-Scale Traction (pulling) Contest
- Operating & Train Running



Coffee, Pop, Donuts and Snacks Through Out the Day!

For Information: e-mail: Promoday@MCR5.org or phone 440-257-2105







# Division 5 BOD Meeting Notes

September 17th, 2007

Members in attendance – Kirk Pohto, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Bruce Lutheran, Dale Smith, Harley Smith, Matt Kross, Lenny Kessler.

- 1. Discussed the progression of Promotional Day
- 2. Masonic Lodge setup Kirk to do a write-up for the Trainwire everything went good, there were 60 people.
- 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Railfest 2008 nothing to discuss at this time.
- 4. Ads in the Trainwire When originally setup the rates were based on what Division 4 had setup for their news letter. There was nothing said about having to be rail related. After discussion it was put to a motion and vote "Ads will be brought before the BOD for approval to be placed in the Trainwire as space is available"
- Regional BOD in Columbus October 21<sup>st</sup> items were discussed for Kirk to present to the Regional BOD about Division 5
- 6. Hobo Stew with Lakeshore Live Steamers it was voted to give a \$200 donation (as we have in the past) and we need to give a head count to the Lakeshore Live Steamers.
- 7. Convention 2011 ???? discussed facilities and needing to come up with a theme. Kirk is to let the Region know that we are interested but no sooner then 2011 if there is a Region Convention in the area the year before then we will hold off a year or so. Further discussion to be at the next membership meeting in October.
- 8. Farmpark Locos the locomotives at Lake Farmpark in the display that we donated are having some problems Kirk is going to try to work on and clean them to get them working again. We may need to replace.
- 9. Programs discussed possible programs for the beginning of the year. Gary Shaffer and Dale Madison have vol unteered to do a couple of programs.
- Christmas Party update we have 20 that have signed up so far. Money will be collected at the October & November meeting – Cost: \$7.00 each for member & a guest; \$10.00 for additional over 3 people. Location: Overlook Restaurant; 4338 Lake Road West; Ashtabula, OH
- 11. BOD will go back to meeting the Third Monday of every month at the Hambden Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

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Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's Toys Willoughby, OH

> Hobby Town USA Mentor, OH

Train Specialty Company Chardon, OH

Village Train Shop Perry, OH





Please support these dealers!



Team Track	www.MCR5.	<sup>org</sup> October Division 5 Meeting		
Division 5 Officers	(Terms expire June 20	008) October 5th, 2007.		
Superintendent	Kirk Pohto 440-352 Super@MCR	Division 5 montally meetings start at 7.50 T M.		
Asst. Superintendent	Al Cap 440-729- AstSuper@MCR	R5.org		
Clerk / Treasurer	Bonnie Lette 440-298 Clerk@MCR			
Division 5 Trustees: (Terms expire June 2008)				
Rick Montgomery 440-251 Wayne Lette 440-298	3-3075 Dale Smith 440-286	5-4932 and Rt. 166 next to Hambden Elementary School east of Chardon.		
Division 5 Board of Directors: BOD@MCR5.org				
Division 5 Appointed Positions:(Terms expire June 2008)Program:Pillars, Portals and Walls				
Railfest Chairman	Rob Bowers Jr. 440-942 <u>Railfest @MCR</u>			
Promo Day Coordinator	Bruce Lutheran 440-257 PromoDay@MCR			
Achievement Program	Bill Brodie 218-780 AP@MCR	the Bring & Brag theme for the evening. The themes are		
Contests	Bill Brodie 218-780 Contest@MCR	5.org not have tried otherwise. The themes are not meant to dis-		
VCR / TV	Al Cap 440-729	-1458		
Auditors	Mike Schaab440-255Matt Kross440-729Audit@MCF	-3045 <u>R5.org</u> Hambden		
HO Module Coordinator	Rick Montgomery 440-251 ModuleCoordinatior@MC			
Trainwire Editor	Lenny Kessler 440-478 <u>Trianwire@MCI</u>			
Refreshments	Ron Biddell 440-352 <u>Refreshments@MC</u>	R5.org Square Rt 6		
Membership Roster	Matt Kross 440-729 Membership@MC			
Division Tripmaster	Ken Stroebel 440-257			
Programs / Clinics	(open)	Map to Hambden Town Hall		
Webmaster	Wayne Lette 440-298 <u>Webmaster@MC</u>			
Company Store	Al Cap 440-729 CompanyStore@MC	-1458 Deadline October 20th		

# **The Trainwire Newsletter**

### 3257 Center Road

Perry, Ohio 44081

Publication of Division 5

"The Western Reserve Division"

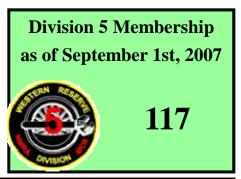
Mid Central Region

National Model RR Association, Inc.

A Non-Profit Educational Organization

# OCTOBER, 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 <u>Trainwire@MCR5.org</u>. 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 Division5

