



# The Trainwire.



## Superintendent's Message

by: Al Cap

I hope the weather was good for the picnic and everyone had an enjoyable time. I am writing this while in North Carolina on vacation.

Jerry Ashley has resigned as President of the MCR. His leadership will be missed and I know we wish him the best of health. I have been informed GATS has decided to change the date of their show next year at the IX Center. This has not been confirmed. The Manager of the IX was to call me, but I have not heard from him. This may be Summer, but I trust your modeling is not gathering dust till Autumn. You need to just push

yourselves a little bit more. I took my toolbox and a dozen kits to work on while at the beach. At night, rather than watch TV, I get a kit out and do what I can to complete it. I may not be able to paint or weather, but I can still get most of the assembly work done. I'll be that much more ahead when I get back home.

See you in a few weeks. ☘



Al Cap – Superintendent  
 Division 5  
 NMRA – Mid Central Region

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### 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 Shop  
 Toy-N-Hobby Headquarters

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



*Please support these dealers!*

## UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

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

### August 1st

Location: Hambden Town Hall  
 Program: Interurban Slide Show  
 Bring & Brag: What you are working on.

### September 5th

Location: Willoughby Town Hall  
 Program: Frontier Days  
 Bring & Brag: No Bring and Brag

### October 3rd

Location: Hambden Town Hall  
 Program: (open)  
 Bring & Brag: (open)

**The Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum**  
 7471 Tyler Blvd. Unit "L"  
 Mentor, Ohio 44060

### Summer Hours

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Noon - 5:00 PM</b>

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

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

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Willoughby Rail Days** **Aug. 9 - 10**  
 Downtown Willoughby

**Frontier Days** **Sept. 4 - 7**  
 Willoughby Town Hall  
 Willoughby, Ohio

**Fall Open House** **Sept. 13**  
**WRMRRM**  
 Mentor, Ohio

**NCR Convention** **Sept. 19 - 21**  
 Toledo, Ohio

**Railroad Night** **Sept. 20**  
 Collinwood Masonic Lodge #582  
 Euclid, Ohio

**NMRA Promotional Day** **Nov. 1**  
**WRMRRM**  
 Mentor, Ohio

**WRMRRM Reverse Raffle** **Nov. 15**  
 Patrician Party Center  
 Eastlake, Ohio

**Holiday Open House** **Dec. 6**  
**WRMRRM**  
 Mentor, Ohio



Member NMRA,  
MCR, Division 5.

## Anthony J. Spena, CLU, ChFC, CEP Spena Financial Services, LLC

### Are you concerned . . .

- That you are paying too much in taxes??
- About replacing your income if you become sick or hurt and can't work??
- About the high cost of funding your children's or grandchildren's education??
- That you might outlive your retirement assets??
- About the high cost of nursing home expenses??
- About meeting the financial obligations to your family when you die??
- About avoiding the delay and cost of probating your estate??

### WE CAN HELP!!

We are available to assist you with answers and solutions to these very important concerns.

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hour consultation!  
No obligation!*

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e-mail: [spenafinancial@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spenafinancial@sbcglobal.net)



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# Kids Can Show You How by: Richard Roth

Several years ago, the modelers in the Chatham, ON area, hosted the NFR Convention. It had been some time since we were that far west in our Region and it allowed those fine modelers to showcase their layouts to nearly 200 NFR members and their families. Because I, as a Region Official and model contest judge, found it necessary to stay around the convention site on most of Saturday while layout tours were going on, my family, daughter, grand daughters 16 and 12, and grandson 6 at the time had to either go out on their

own or stay around at the hotel and visit the few layouts open as people were leaving the convention area on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday morning we packed and headed west toward Provincial 401 with 3 layouts marked for visits on our way back through St. Thomas and London and on to Niagara Falls and then Erie. We were too early for the first, so we headed on to the second. Arriving, we were shown down to the basement by the lady of the house. The layout was magnificent with most of the rolling stock, power, and structures scratch built. The

overall layout was just what could be expected of a Master Model Railroader, very detailed and well done. We watched as two helpers operated several trains for about 10 minutes. Finally, my grandson said to me, "Grandpa, can I run a train a few minutes?" Our host overheard his question and responded, "Little fellow, maybe the next time you come here, you can run a train, ok? This didn't satisfy a 6 year-old's desires and he said to me, "Grandpa, they've got the same EasyDCC throttles we use at home." Again, his comments were heard by the host, but this time with a different result as

he said to my grandson, "Young man, if your sharp enough to recognize the throttles as EasyDCC, I think you earned a try at running." He handed my grandson a throttle and said, "Here, couple that engine onto the string of hoppers, pick up the green caboose, and take it out of the yard. I'll line the switches for you to the main." My grandson cracked the throttle slightly and the wrong engine crept forward. He shut it down and looked up at the locomotive he was supposed to take out. Pressing a sequence of buttons on the throt-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Kids Can Show You How cont....

by: Richard Roth

(Continued from page 3)

tle, he gained control of the proper locomotive and backed through the yard throat and onto the consist. He then ran across several tracks to the caboose storage track and picked up the designated hack. Switching direction, he started the train out of the yard, very slowly opening the throttle slightly as he cleared the yard. About 10 or 12 adult modelers stood there in silence as a 6 year-old ran the train twice around the layout then back into the bottom end of the yard, always keeping to a very easy speed of probably 15 or 20 scale mph, and stopping for a moment for a red block signal before it fell to green and he completed his run. Back at the yard, he dropped the caboose, uncoupled the locomo-

tive from the train and moved it back to the engine house. When he handed the throttle back to our host, the MMR looked at Anthony and then up at me. Finally he spoke, "That little guy taught me something today. Never underestimate a kid." When we arrived at the third and last layout on the visit list, Anthony's reputation preceded him by a phone call. Almost before we had our names scribed into their visitor's register, he had a controller handed to him and he was off and running. There too, he used the same care and caution as before to run two different trains, one a freight and the other one a passenger train with a number of station stops. (I only wish some of our engineers on the OC&T at Titusville, PA were that

smooth.) About 6-months later at the Toronto Christmas Train Show, that MMR was working at a modular layout at the show. He recognized me and called me over. He told me that he would never forget my grandson and the way he, at only 6 years old, showed him that kids too could run trains safely too. 15 minutes later my grandson was at the modular layout running a train at the show with dozens of adult eyes following him and his trains. I had to nearly drag him away when it was time to head back to Erie some 5 hours later. Rob Bowers has the idea. Kids are important; they are the future of the NMRA, its Regions, and Divisions. Give them the chance. Now, I challenge you to carry that a bit farther.

The next time you're going to have your modules somewhere, go to your newspapers and solicit a public service news article or at least an announcement or ad or get with several hobby shops. As a part of that article, include a coupon that parents can complete and send in to someone. If your going to run for 6 hours, pick maybe 8 of the coupons and notify the named kids that they have won a half-hour of running trains on the modular layout. Book them in half-hour increments starting 1-hour after startup and to 1-hour before shutdown for the day. This gives debugging time and then gives some kids a thrill they'll probably never forget. Mom and dad will probably be back often with the youngsters. Remember, "*Never underestimate a kid*".

## Off the Rails

Article and photos by:  
Ken Stroebel

Like many rail enthusiasts, whenever I travel I always carry a camera, no matter if it's my large SLR or simply a digital point and shoot. So I thought I'd share some photos over the

next few issues of the Trainwire of various rail activities, whether they're simply unusual or different railroading aspects from what we see here in northeast Ohio, general ideas that you can use for modeling, or finally something related to the more problematic nature of railroading. Hopefully this will get some of the membership thinking about things they've seen and share it with the Division here in the Trainwire. ☘



Port of Vancouver 614 critter getting ready to switch lumber flatcars at Port.



Ferromex 4687, a new ES44AC built at GE Erie, rolls west through the desert at Victorville, CA



BNSF 2189 spotting cars along an earthen loading ramp within the BNSF Vancouver, WA yard



# Mad River and NKP Museum Rededication

Article and Photos by: Kirk D. Pohto

On Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, a large crowd gathered at the Mad River and NKP Museum in Bellevue, Ohio. The museum was having a rededication ceremony in honor of founder Bill Fuehring. As an added bonus, Norfolk Southern brought their executive train for the crowd to view. The

train was pulled by F9A #4270, F7B #4276, and F9A #4271. All three units wear a Southern-inspired paint scheme. Behind the locomotives were the following cars: business car Pennsylvania, business car Alabama, business car/diner General William Mahone, business car West Virginia, and theater car Buena Vista.



The train departed Bellevue Yard shortly before 1:00 to make the short trip down the Toledo Sub to the museum. As it rounded the leg of the wye, camera flashes were going off left-and-right. Railfans were strategically located along both sides of the tracks and also on the overpass. Everyone wanted to make sure they took advantage of the bright, sunny day to capture the beautifully painted executive train. After letting the guests of honor de-train at the grade crossing, the crew backed the train up so its locomotives sat on the crossing for the ceremony.



Once the ceremony had ended, the train backed down the other leg of the wye. Upon clearing the turnout, the train made its return trip to Bellevue Yard. Once, again, railfans lined both sides of the tracks to catch the train's movement on film. From start-to-finish, this was truly a first-class event. Norfolk Southern not only brought out their beautiful executive passenger train, they also shut down the Toledo Sub for two hours. It isn't every day you see something like that happen. Add in the beautiful weather and you had one memorable Saturday afternoon in Bellevue. ❀



# Pohto's Photos

By: Kirk D. Pohto

Recently, CSX has been doing track work throughout Division 5

(and beyond). When they had been storing their equipment on the south control siding at Perry I had the opportunity to snap

some photos. (Not all of the equipment is shown here. These are just some random shots from the collection of around 20 dif-

ferent pieces of equipment that were being used.)



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

## Division 5 Officers

(Terms expire June 2010)

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## Division 5 Trustees: (Terms expire June 2010)

Mike Buehner	440-428-0137	Bruce Lutheran	440-257-2105
Wayne Lette	440-298-3075	Don Bittner	440-257-7555

Division 5 Board of Directors: [BOD@MCR5.org](mailto:BOD@MCR5.org)**Division 5 Appointed Positions:** (Terms expire June 2010)

Clerk	Matt Kross	440-729-3045
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**August Division 5 Meeting**

August 1, 2008

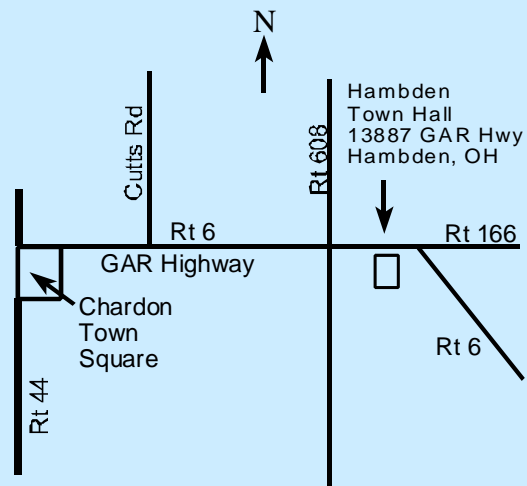
Location: **Hambden Town Hall**  
**13887 GAR Highway (Route 6)**  
**Chardon, Ohio**

Located on Rt. 6 between the intersection of Rt. 608 and Rt. 166 next to Hambden Elementary School east of Chardon.

Program: Interurban Slide Show

Bring &amp; Brag Theme: What you are working on.

*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!*



Map to Hambden Town Hall

**September Trainwire**  
**Deadline August 20th.**



# The Trainwire Newsletter

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A Non-Profit Educational Organization

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Electronic Version

**Division 5 Membership  
as of July 1st, 2008**



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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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