



The Trainwire.



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Superintendent's Message.

It will almost be 2009 when you read this. I don't know about how you feel, but to me, as I get older time goes by faster. It figures, I slow down and time speeds up. I want to mention a few things. Some of them others will get into in more detail and some will be brought up in January. Hope those who attended the Xmas party had a good time. The food was plentiful and tasty. Thank you Harley and Dale. Our planned speaker was not available, but it was for the best. The gift exchange took quite a while to go through. Never saw such a fuss about tools. Must be a guy thing. What do you think

about moving the party to January, so more people could attend? That way we would not have a conflict with Country Lights. What about having a non-rail gift exchange for significant others? Let me know what you think. We got the HO modules set up and torn down at Lakefarm Park, but there was a noticeable lack of participation by the membership. This is one of my pet projects for my term. What gives? I'll let Bill Eville delve into this. For those who picked up Golden Spike applications, please bring them to the meeting for review and submission. The A/P is another item I shall be emphasizing. Bill Brodie will be dis-



Al Cap – Superintendent
Division 5
NMRA – Mid Central Region

cussing this in depth in the future. We need Bring and Brag ideas. The Board could decide the themes, but we would like your input. Have a safe holiday season.

Division 5 Promotional Day.

Saturday November 1st was promo day for division 5. It was held at the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum on Tyler Blvd in Mentor. Thank you Rick Montgomery and the entire Museum staff for helping. I had set-up advertisements in the News Herald, AAA and the Mentor chan-

nel. Many of the attendees said they had seen it in one of those places. (I got around 160 phone calls to my home and approx 80 e-mails, as the reporter put my phone number in the paper) The reported from the News Herald placed the article in Friday, Oct. 24th newspaper, but she failed to put the correct day of Saturday, Nov 1st, instead she just

put Saturday in it. This led to a crowd of around 400 people on sat, October 25. Oh well! We did have several people from the west (Sandusky) and south side (Massilon) also attended, so the flyers helped get the word out also. Thank you to everyone who set flyers out at local businesses. We had around 250 people attend this year. My wife, Cindy, and

Article by: Bruce Lutheran

Len Kessler helped get the "guests" checked- in. Alice Arthur and Tom Carr also helped, gave directions and overall good will. Several Division 5 members, Matt Kross, Bill Eville, Bill Brodie and Bonnie Lette helped with the layout tour information. The place was busy from when we opened until 5:00pm, with the

(Continued on page 2)

Division 5 Promotional Day cont....



(Continued from page 1)

last people arriving at 4:50pm. I passed out the “yellow vests” to everyone working the show and several visitors commented to me that the vests helped not only locate people who could answer questions, but, also those people gave extremely good answers and advice. Tom Carr and Bill Eville did a “roving patrol” throughout the day. I heard nothing but good reports about how helpful everyone was! Everyone who attended said they had a great time. Many people enjoyed the donuts, chips, cookies and pop that was provided. We handed out about 10 applications for membership, along with the discount sheet from the NMRA, so we will see if we get any new members! The raffle for the kids was very

well received also, with handing out raffle tickets to all kids and writing names on the board about every 30 minutes. I gave away a wood train whistle to each winner, along with several “**Grand Prizes**” of a \$5.00 gift certificate (donated by Dick Roth) to the hobby stores. We placed the winning ticket number on the board at the entrance and everybody checked it on the way out. Several kids checked the board every 20 minutes for 2 hours straight. As the boy walked out, he knew he did not win, I gave him a prize and the look on his face

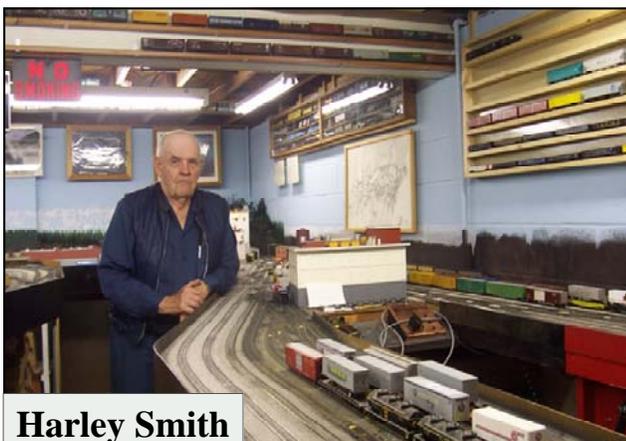
was that as if I had given him a “gold bar”. Most all ripped off the package and started blowing into it right away! Several other little boys and girls won one of the “grand prizes” of a \$5 gift certificate. The balloons I got to be used to help people find the place helped out. At the end of the day, the balloons were taken

down and given to the “non winners” as they walked out. Every area in the Museum was packed with visitors, young and old alike. Tom Pescha and Jim Wendorf worked the “O” scale and “S” scale center section, while Frank Russell handled the Trolley area. Rick Montgomery stayed in the center of the HO-N scale section running as many as 12 trains on the 3 tracks at the same time. He told me later he had “fun” playing trains - I guess you never grow up doing something you love! Kirk Pohto, Alan Arthur, Ray Granier and Ian Donnelly were helpers with the HO scale. The layout tour was very well participated by division 5 members this year. I created

(Continued on page 3)



Division 5 Superintendent, Al Cap.



Harley Smith



Mike Buehner

Division 5 Promotional Day cont....



Tony Spena



Dave Hanna' "HO" layout

(Continued from page 2)

25 maps to each and approx 15 of each went out to visitors. Matt Kross, Mike Buehner, and Warren Lindner each held their N-scale layouts open. Harley Smith, Tony Spena and

Dave Hanna held their HO scale layouts open and Lou Dreher held his outdoor G scale layout open. Lou told me the people that stopped over were from Pennsylvania! The layouts had visitors amounting from none to up to 12 people.

Everyone who held an open house told me the same comment, "Even if nobody came, It gave me a reason to clean my basement and get my layout up and running!" Thank you to everybody for participating! I provided food to all

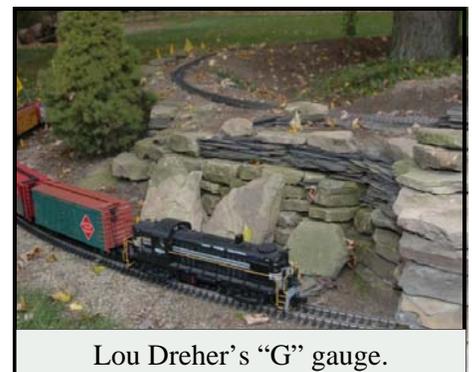
who helped work that day. My not so famous "*world famous chili*" and hot dogs for all. I also got a bag of candy that went well. Bonnie brought her pizza stew also. It was almost all gone by the end of the day! Bon-



Matt Kross



The Kross "N" layout



Lou Dreher's "G" gauge.

nie left right after the noon time and, taking her camera, she went to many of the open house layout tours and took pictures. They are attached below. Thank you Bonnie!!! A reporter from the News herald came in around 3:00 pm and I

gave him a highlight tour of the Museum and pointed out several reasons that Division 5, holds this event. He talked to several guests and put an article in the next days paper (Sunday, November 2nd). I think that the following event

near the end of the day tells a lot – There were two little boys, around 4 yrs old, screaming their heads off, with big tears rolling down his face, "I don't want to go, I don't want to go, don't make me leave the trains". I think we

will have several future members joining! It was a very successful day and the hobby was promoted well! Again, Thank you to all who helped!!!!

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

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

January

Location: Hambden Town Hall
 Program: Building techniques
 Bring & Brag: Open

February

Location: Hambden Town Hall
 Program: Nickel Plate past
 Bring & Brag: Open

March

Location: Hambden Town Hall
 Program: Montana Railfanning
 Bring & Brag: Open

The Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum

7471 Tyler Blvd. Unit "L"
 Mentor, Ohio 44060

Fall Hours

Monday thru Thursday 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Friday — Closed

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday Noon - 5:00 PM

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

www.wrmrrm.org

SCHEDULED EVENTS

2009

Division 5 BOD Meeting	Jan. 19
Hambden, Ohio @7:30 PM	
LENS	Feb. 7 & 8
Geneva State Lodge	
9am-5pm	
Division 5 BOD Meeting	Feb. 16
Hambden, Ohio @7:30 PM	
WRMRRM	Feb. 21
Winter Open House	
Mentor, Ohio	
10am-6pm	
Railfest	Mar. 14 & 15
Lakeland College	
Mentor, Ohil	
Mid-Central Regional	Mar. 16
Columbus, Ohio	
Division 5 BOD Meeting	Mar. 16
Hambden, Ohio @7:30 PM	
WRMRRM	Apr. 18
Spring Open House	
Mentor, Ohio	
10am-6pm	
Division 5 BOD Meeting	Apr. 20
Hambden, Ohio @7:30 PM	

Division 5 Christmas Party, 2008

Article by: Bruce Lutheran

Friday, December 5th was our annual Christmas party for division 5. It was held at Hampton hall, our usual meeting place. The meal was provided by Carl and set-up by Dale and Harley Smith, along with help from their wives. The attached picture shows the spread we had.

What the picture does not show, because it was not set-up yet, was the spread of pies! Oh what a selection! In the next couple of pictures, everybody is enjoying the get-together. I did not take any pictures of everybody eating, (by several requests), but everything was great. The food included, roast beef, ham,

chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter, salad and of course PIE!. Just a note to those who might be attending next year – many people got their slice of pie first! The Chinese gift exchange was next. The last few years it got a little dull, but not this year. The items were going back and forth many

times. The hot item of the night was a tool set that Jim Wendorf originally picked as a wrapped package. Once he opened it, it was snatched from both his clutches and about 4 or 5 other people over the rest of the gift exchange. As shown below, Jim eventually ended up with the PRIZE!



Next Division 5 Meeting – January 2nd, 2009.

Division 5 BOD Meeting Notes

December 15th, 2008

Present: Al Cap, Dale Smith, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Don Bittner, Bruce Lutheran, Mike Buehner, Matt Kross, Lenny Kessler, Bill Eville, and Bill Brodie.

Due to bad weather, the scheduled BOD in November was called off.

The board reviewed the upcoming meeting programs and Bring & Brag themes. We need to solicit the membership for program ideas and Bring & Brag themes.

It was decided to keep the January 2009 meeting on the first Friday of the month (Jan 2) for consistency.

The BOD approved the proposed rules and prizes for the 2011 convention naming contest. The rules and entry form will be put in the Trainwire and on the website.

Bill Eville reported that the HO module setup and operations at Lake Farmpark went reasonably well. Bill will try to have HO module running time signup sheets at the March meeting for the Railfest setup. The BOD asked the HO module coordinator to try to write up something every month for the Trainwire about what is going on with the HO modules.

There was some discussion about alternative dates and times when we could hold the annual Division 5 Christmas Party. It has always been at the same time as the Lake Farmpark HO module operations which prevents some members from being able to attend. Further discussion on this topic was tabled until a future BOD meeting.

There was also discussion about adding a second Chinese Gift Exchange to the Christmas Party that the spouses could participate in. This exchange would be a general, non-railroad related category that everyone could participate in. More discussion on this will be done at future BOD meetings.

There was extended discussion about how to promote the NMRA Achievement Program within Division 5. A number of suggestions were made. Bill Brodie will try to do more at the meetings. We would like to get those Division 5 members who have earned one of the AP certificates to spend a few minutes at a meeting talking about what they did to earn the certificate.

Both the Railfest 2008 and Division 5 financial audits are past due. Matt Kross indicated that his schedule has been such that he has not been able to get the audits scheduled and therefore the Superintendent should see if he can find someone else to conduct the audits along with Mike Schaab. Lenny Kessler indicated that he might be willing to take over as an auditor. Al Cap will contact Rob Bowers to check on the status of the Railfest books.

Dale Smith and Bruce Lutheran gave an update on Promo Day 2009 planning. They are looking for one more person to assist them with the project. Bob Frieden has been contacted and is willing to work with us as a joint event. We are looking at having some common advertising and fliers. Bruce is trying to get fliers made in time for Railfest.

Dale Smith proposed that we try to hold a true, old-fashioned, model railroad "swap" meet where just individuals (no dealers) bring items that they would like to sell or trade. Half a table would be provided to each person that signs up to sell items. There would be no charge for the tables and no fee for people to get in. Costs will be kept to a minimum. Advertising would be through the Trainwire, website, notices to other divisions, and a few fliers in local hobby shops. We would start out small and see how it goes. It is suggested that we plan for the event in September at the Hambden Town Hall.

No additional 2009 budget requests have been received. Bonnie Lette will update the 2008 income figures with the amounts from the year end statements and the Christmas Party ticket sales. The finalized budget will then be sent out to the BOD members.

Modeling Conifers

By Kenneth Stroebel

This week I started on one of the projects that I've been putting off for many months, not because it's a difficult project but rather it's somewhat of a boring, tedious project with no immediate reward. The project I'm talking about is making trees, or more specifically, pine trees or conifers. While I've made pine trees before using several techniques, I thought that I'd try something different, which would hopefully be easier and cheaper, yet still result in good quality trees. While various methods such as what I'm about to describe have been written about before, I thought

it was worth going over in detail for anyone who is new to making trees and needs to add a pine forest to their layout. First let's start with a list of materials that will be used. The list includes: package of dowel rods (3/16" dia.) purchased at the local craft store, adhesive spray or bottle of white glue, portable hand drill, coarse sand paper (#40, 50 or 60), fine threaded bolt or screw, rasp, wood stain (color is your preference), fibrous furnace filter, black, light gray, and several shades of green spray paint, foam block, and several colors of fine ground foam. Oh and add in a wastebasket, which you'll see in a

moment is very handy to keep the work area clean. Ok we're ready to start the process. The first thing we'll need is the package of dowel rods or sticks cut to the size of the tree we want to make. For my purposes, I take the bag of sticks to the chop saw and take out a small handful and cut them into two lengths, usually a 5-inch and 7-inch length or 4-inch and 8-inch length. Once that's done, it's time to move to preparing the dowel pieces and start their transition to trees. For this, I use a piece of coarse sandpaper and my portable hand drill. After inserting the stick into the chuck and tightening, I spin them

using the high speed on the drill and run the sandpaper over the dowel, starting at the tip and bringing it back towards me as I taper the stick to the shape that I want. For my purposes, I usually remove enough wood at the tip so that it is roughly half the starting diameter of the dowel. Remember to use the wastebasket, as this process generates a lot of fine wood dust, which in itself can be used on the layout as needed. It's also helpful to have a second piece of paper or cardboard over the sandpaper, as just a single piece of sandpaper can get

hot very quickly. Once the shaping to the proper taper is done, which usually requires about 20-30 seconds on the drill; I take the bolt or rasp and rotate the wood as the tool is held against the surface. The idea behind this process is to rough up the wood so that you produce a surface similar to the bark of a tree.



After the tapering is finished, it's time to stain the trees. I prefer to use the Woodland Scenics rock washes to color my tree trunks, however, you could use a paint wash or stain

if you prefer. Remember that most tree trunks are not really brown, that's why I prefer to use a wash or stain that is a mixture of grays.



While the stain is drying, it's time to start cutting up the filter material into several sizes. You're going to need a variety of sizes, especially if you plan to have some tall trees. I start by cutting up a number of square pieces of the filter material, usually starting with a 1-1/2 inch square and making successively smaller squares to a final size of 1/4-inch. For tall

conifers, I usually start with a base layer of branches that's 1-1/2-inches wide and then alternate the size of the filter squares for several layers. As you work your way up the tree, you'll begin to use alternating layers of smaller filter squares. Typically the furnace filter material is approximately 1/2-inch in width, and can be peeled into two or three thin layers. I usually place the layers no more than 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch apart. It's now time

to make some trees. Simply place the largest piece of filter onto the stick, and slide it down to the lowest level and apply some glue. This process is repeated with successively smaller pieces of filter material. Generally, I will only place two pieces of the same size of filter back to back, and then insert a smaller piece of filter. The sizes can be varied depending on how

(Continued on page 8)



Modeling Conifers cont.....

(Continued from page 7)

tall a tree you're making, such as a 1-inch piece followed by a couple of 3/4-inch pieces, another 1-inch piece, a 3/4-inch piece, a couple of 1/2-inch pieces, etc. The general idea is to give the tree some fullness, with a gradual taper toward the tip. Take your scissors out and cut the tree to shape the desired if needed.

The last steps for the trees is to cover spray the underside of the tree with a dark green or black paint, and then turn them over and cover from the top down with some fine ground foam. Holding the base of the tree in one hand, you'll want to spray some adhesive on the tree from the top down. Then sprinkle the ground foam so that it only adheres to the top

surface of the branches. You can vary the colors of the ground foam. I try to vary my trees with a medium green and dark green foams. Set the tree aside to dry for the night and repeat the process again and again.

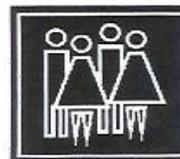
There you have it, a quick and easy way to make some pine trees. Usually I'll make about 100 or so trees over a 2-3 eve-

ning period. Once you have the trunks to shape and stained, it only takes a few minutes per tree to place the furnace filters on and add the ground foam. They may not be as deluxe a tree as what you can buy, but I think they make a great tree for your background.



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Division 5 “2011 Convention” Naming Contest

Here's your chance to be creative and earn yourself some Div 5 certificates. We are trying to come up with a name, logo, theme, and possibly a slogan for the Mid Central Region convention that Division 5 will be hosting in 2011. We are holding a contest for Division 5 members to come up with the best name for the convention.

For our 2005 convention, the convention name was “Hulett Heritage”, our theme was “Lake-to-Rail Connections” with the Hulett ore unloader part of the convention focus, and our slogan was “**5 in 5**” which was short for “**Division 5 in 2005**”. Our logo was the image of a Hulett ore unloader:



Contest Rules:

Contest is open to Division 5 members, family, and friends.

You may enter as many times as you want.

All entries must be submitted by March 9, 2009.

In the case of duplicate ideas, the first entry received with the selected idea will be the winner.

Winning entries will be determined by the convention co-chairmen. The convention co-chairmen are not eligible for the prizes. However, if no suitable entries are received, the convention co-chairmen can determine their own name for the convention.

Prizes:

Winning Convention Name - \$25 Division 5 Certificate

Winning Convention Logo - \$25 Division 5 Certificate

Winning Convention Theme - \$10 Division 5 Certificate

Winning Convention Slogan - \$10 Division 5 Certificate

Points to consider when coming up with your entries:

2011 will be Division 5's **50th anniversary**

Points of interest in northeast Ohio such as the wineries, covered bridges, nurseries, agriculture, Amish communities, and Lake Erie.

Railroads in our area: CSX, NS, B&LE, AC&J

Past railroads in our area: PRR, NYC, PC, NKP, Erie, EL, etc.

Passenger trains, past and present, traveling through our area

Lake ports, water-to-rail connections, industries

Division 5 Convention Naming Contest Entry Form

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

My contest entries are: (if more space is needed, write your additional entries on the back of this form or submit separate contest forms)

Convention Name: _____

Convention Slogan: _____

Convention Theme: _____

Covention Logo:
(sketch your ideas)

Submit your entry by either: 1.) mailing the completed form to Matt Kross, 12049 Sperry Road, Chesterland, OH 44026, 2.) giving it to Matt Kross or Dale Smith at a Division 5 function, or 3.) e-mailing the above information to Convention@mcr5.org.

Team Trackwww.MCR5.org

Division 5 Officers

(Terms expire June 2010)

Superintendent	Al Cap	440-729-1458
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Asst. Superintendent	Dale Smith	440-286-4932
		AstSuper@MCR5.org
Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075
		Treasurer@MCR5.org

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**Division 5 Appointed Positions:** (Terms expire June 2010)

Clerk	Matt Kross	440-729-3045
		Clerk@MCR5.org
Railfest Chairman	Rob Bowers Jr.	440-942-3039
		Railfest@MCR5.org
Promo Day Coordinator	Bruce Lutheran	440-257-2105
		PromoDay@MCR5.org
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Convention Co-Chairs	Dale Smith Matt Kross	440-286-4932
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Webmaster	Wayne Lette	440-298-3075
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Company Store	Al Cap	440-729-1458
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January Division 5 Meeting

January 2nd, 2008.

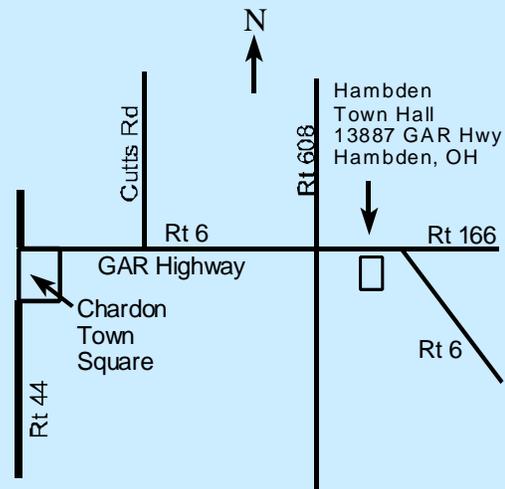
Location: **Hambden Town Hall**
13887 GAR Highway (Route 6)
Chardon, Ohio

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

Program:

Bring & Brag Theme:

*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

February Trainwire Deadline
January 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

January, 2009

Electronic Version

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



105

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 for a mailing or it is always available on the website (FREE). 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. 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

A non-profit educational organization



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