



# The Trainwire



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## Superintendent's Report

### June Awakenings

**H**ere we are, summer has finally arrived. Hope everyone had a restful but meaningful Memorial Day. Our Independence day celebration will soon be upon us when you read this issue of the Trainwire. What's a body to do in the model railroad world at this time?

Well I for one took advantage of a special invitation to be a guest of the Live Steamers at Penitentiary Glen on June 17, courtesy of Paul Emch, and Judson Elliott who is one of our LENS group N Scalars when he's not tinkering with his battery-operated engine at PG. This was a club members only event. Judson gave me an extensive ride on his box-seat flat car through the forest, and showed me the turntable, hydraulic lift, and car-barn where members store their engines and rolling stock. I hadn't been there in years so it was a most enjoyable experience. I highly recommend you visit there during one of their public openings and take a ride!

On Wednesday June 21 ten of our LENS members will have trekked to Pittsburgh with our modules for the

National N Scale convention, which includes an extensive multiple-loop N-Trak layout. Four full days of running trains, auctions, vendors, swap meet (flea market sales), tours, several clinics, and a lot of comraderie with fellow N scale groups, including Burning River (Div. 4), and Crooked River whom LENS has partnered with before, as well as several others.

Coming up in July: The Jefferson Train Show, **Sat. July 15, 10a.m. to 4 p.m.**, sponsored by and benefitting the Jefferson Historical Society. Be there with your fellow Division 5 members!

**August: Division tour to Entertainment Junction on Saturday August 12.** The bus will leave Lakeland CC at 7 a.m. and we expect to return by 9 p.m. Lunch on your own at the Junction, and dinner on your own at a Denny's in Berkshire, Ohio on the return. The Division is subsidizing the bus costs and entry fees to the museum. Participant cost just \$25—NMRA members and immediate family only. **To date we only have 14 participants registered and paid. We MUST have 30, both a minimum and**



Dave Neff – Superintendent  
Division 5  
NMRA – Mid Central Region

**maximum, registered and paid by JULY 11 or we will be forced to CANCEL!! Call Bonnie or Dave for your reservation and send payment to Bonnie at**

**17541 Thompson Road,  
Thompson, OH 44086**

**by July 11 latest. Don't let down those who have already registered and paid !  
Join in!**

*- Dave*



## UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

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

**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.

### No Meeting in July

### August 4th, 2017

**Location:** Hambden Town Hall  
**Program:** Make and take clinic (*Larry Madson*)  
**Bring & Brag:** Any car/locomotive/structure/electrical project with details that have used soldering.

### September 8th, 2017

**Location:** Bill Osborn's home - Leroy, Ohio  
**Program:** Railroad Movie Night. Outside with Popcorn!  
**Bring & Brag:** RR prototype artifacts  
(*signs, signals, dining car ware, timetables, etc*)

### October 13th, 2017

**Location:** Erie, Pennsylvania  
**Program:** Railroad Slide Show (subjects TBD)  
**Bring & Brag:** Anything goes

### November 3rd, 2017

**Location:** Hambden Town Hall  
**Program:** Trainz Computer program (*Randy Hahn*)  
**Bring & Brag:** Anything electronic or explain any computer controls on your layout

### December 1st, 2017

**Location:** Hambden Town Hall  
**Program:** TBA  
**Bring & Brag:** TBA

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

### Open House July 22

The Painesville Depot  
475 Railroad Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077 **(10:00 am - 5:00 pm)**

### Division 5 Picnic August 5

475 Railroad Street **(flyer on page 14)**  
Painesville, Ohio 44077 **(2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)**

### Division 5 BOD Meeting August 14

Hambden Town Hall  
Hambden, Ohio **(7:30 pm)**

### Railroad Memorabilia Show August 27

The Painesville Depot  
475 Railroad Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077 **(10:00 am - 5:00 pm)**

### Antique Toy and Diecast Show October 21

Lakeland College

### Building a Model Railroad November 4

Lakeland College

### 2 Rail "O" Scale Train Show November 4

Lakeland College

### NETS Model Train Show November 11

Highland Heights Community Center

### Christmas Toy & Train Show December 10

Lakeland College

# Division 5 Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2017

The June 2, 2017 **membership meeting** was called to order by Superintendent Dave Neff at 8:00 PM at Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland, OH. 32 members and 4 guests were present.

**Superintendent Dave Neff** reviewed some of the highlights of the recent MCR BOD meeting held during the MCR regional convention. One of the items was that Bob Orlando was selected posthumously to receive the Russ Wenderfer Award this year. Bob died earlier this year. He was a member of Division 4 but was a regular attendee at Division 5 meetings and events. The award will be presented to his widow by Dave Neff and Steve Kaplan.

Reviewed the upcoming activities for the **Railroads In The Parks** weekend. Division 5 will be assisting with the Boy Scout Railroading merit badge workshop being put on by Farmpark.

**The trainshow in Jefferson, Ohio** will be on July 15. There will be HO and N layouts. Division 5 will have a membership table and members are asked to help man this table. So far, Dave Neff, Dennis Lloyd, Dan Chuppa, and Tim Clint have volunteered to help.

Tom Pescha reviewed the various upcoming events at **the Painesville Depot**. These are listed on the Depot's website and many of them are listed in the Trainwire.

Dave Neff reminded the membership that **the Marion, Ohio Meet** put on by several MCR divisions is coming up in a couple of weeks.

At the recent **MCR BOD meeting**, it was decided to move five counties from Division 11 to Division 5 due to travel difficulties. Division 5 now has the following additional counties: Cattaraugus and Allegany counties in New York, Warren, McKean, and Potter counties in Pennsylvania. The long-term hope is that a new Division 12 can be formed that is made up of these counties along with Erie and Crawford counties in PA and Chautauqua county in NY.

**The 2018 MCR regional convention** will be in Cincinnati (Division 7) and the 2019 convention will be in Boardman, Ohio (Division 1).

Reminder that the **Division 5 picnic** will be on Saturday, August 5 at the Painesville Depot. The event is free but you need to RSVP to Tom Pescha by July 17 so that we know how much food to get.

We will have our **regular monthly meeting on Friday, August 4 at Hamden Town Hall** even though the picnic is the following day.

There is an event going on at the **C&P Docks in Cleveland** on July 15 at 8 PM.

**Modeling Question:** How to go about helping someone dispose of a model railroader's collection? General response was to get someone who will buy the entire collection and take care of clearing it out of the house. There are many such companies listed in the back of Model Railroader magazine. Trying to catalog everything is extremely time consuming. It is very difficult to sell items off individually and takes many years to dispose of the equipment. No matter how you do it, you will never get much out of it.

**Bring & Brag: Theme – "Something Weathered"**

Mike Rudder  
Bill Berger  
Dale Desser

Tom Pescha  
Bill Osborne  
Mike Hauk

Bob Gittinger  
Doug Sandmeyer  
Dave Ellis

**Program:** Mike Hauk did a live clinic on how he does basic weathering using artist oil paints. He showed several techniques he uses for weathering freight cars.

**Submitted by:**

**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**



# Pictures from June Meeting

Photos by: Tom Pescha



**Next Division 5 Meeting August 4, 2017**

# Division 5 BOD Meeting

June 12, 2017

A Division 5 BOD meeting was held on June 12, 2017 at Hambden Town Hall. In attendance were Dave Neff, Bryan Persing, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Matt Kross, Bob Gittinger, Tom Pescha, Don Bittner, and Dale Smith.

Since Harley Smith was a founding member of Division 5 and did so much for the Division and the NMRA, **a memorial article** is being prepared to send in to the various model railroading magazines.

Dave Neff went over **the additional counties in NY and PA** that have been added to Division 5 and reiterated that the long-term goal is to have these former Allegheny Highlands Division counties become Division 12 within the Mid Central Region.

**Division 5 Company Store** sales at the 2017 MCR convention were poor. We only sold 2 N scale reefers.

Reviewed the **status of getting a defibrillator for Hambden Town Hall**. No luck in getting one donated so we are proceeding with purchasing one. The best quote we had has expired. Bryan Persing will get a new quote that has a cabinet included. The BOD instructed Bryan to proceed with purchasing the unit once a new quote was received.

**The Division books are ready to be audited** at any time. Railfest still has 20 checks outstanding and Jim Wendorf wants to wait until all checks have been posted before doing the Railfest audit.

The August meeting program will be **a hands on soldering clinic**. We need to determine the number of soldering irons that can be safely used in the town hall based on electrical needs.

Need to start reminding **Division coordinators** to start putting their 2018 budget requests together. The BOD will begin working on the 2018 budget at the September BOD meeting.

We have 12 layouts on the list for our **Fall 2017 Division Layout Tours**. We have 8 different dates set aside for the tours. If we have 3 layouts open on each date, we have openings for 24 layouts, so there is plenty of room for more layouts to be added. We will keep advertising in the Trainwire. A cutoff date in early September will be needed so that we have time to put together the layout tour guides.

We only have 14 people signed up so far for the **EnterTrainMent Junction bus trip**. We are looking at getting a smaller bus since there hasn't been much interest shown so far. If we don't get enough people to sign up by mid July, we will have to cancel the trip. The BOD will decide on what the minimum number of signups we need once we select the bus. Bryan Persing will check on other bus companies and what they have as far as smaller buses. We also need to find a place to stop for dinner on the return trip. It will probably be somewhere on the west side of Columbus, Ohio. Matt Kross will send out an e-mail reminder to the membership.

Dale Smith thanked the Division for all their support on **the passing of his father, Harley Smith**.

Since Harley Smith played such an important role within Division 5, the BOD is looking at some way to perpetuate **the memory of Harley within the Division**. This is just in the beginning stages of discussion but will probably be some type of award presented to Division 5 members under special circumstances for efforts related to something that Harley was known for.

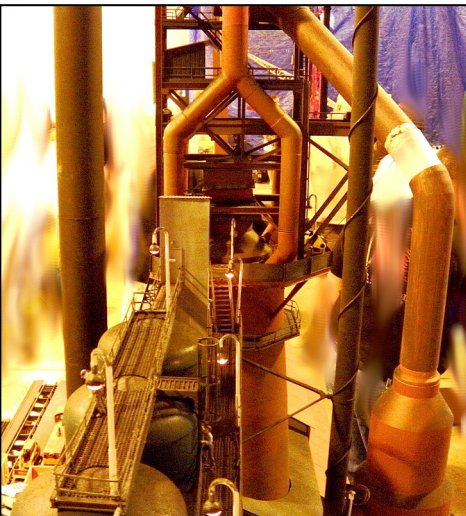
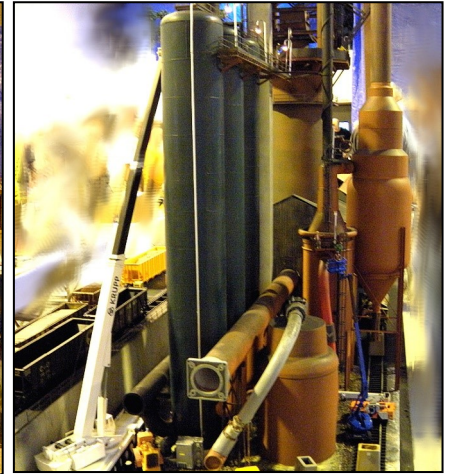
**No BOD meeting in July.** The next regular Division 5 BOD meeting will be August 14, 2017 at 7:30pm at Hambden Town Hall.

**Submitted by:**  
**Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk**

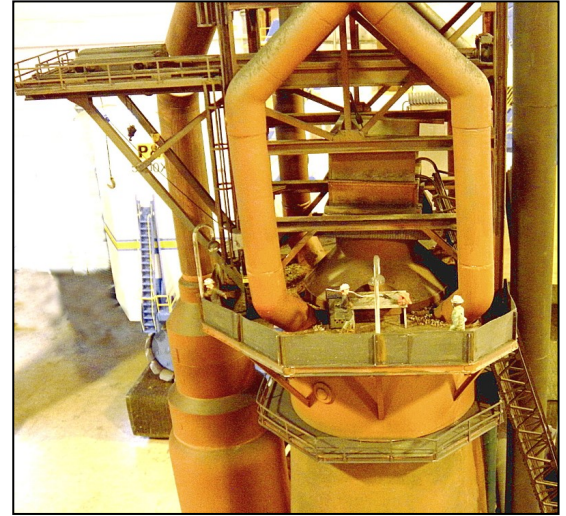


# Modeler's Corner

By: Alan Arthur




Here are the five pictures of Don Akins' "O" gauge blast furnace. Don started this project a while ago and I finished it a short time ago. The plywood box is the cast house. The furnace has an internal form of wood slats covered with a white poster board. The stoves are 4 inch "pvc" pipes with a plastic



dome. The elevator is square tubing and the stack is plumbing drainpipe. The smaller piping is also plumbing tubing. Several types of other plumbing items make up the various tanks. Many structural steel pieces were used. The lights are HO scale street-lights. The large part of the cast house is a big box of foam board covered with homemade corrugated siding. The skip hoist that takes the material to the top is made from HO scale train

bridge parts and rails. There is a man in a bucket hoist welding on the side of a stove. The flashing led makes the welding effect. Some of the various piping is hose, copper tubing and others are plastic. The deck grating is "plastic canvas" from the craft store, it is commonly used for embroidery work. The corrugated siding is .002 steel shim stock from auto parts store or other supplier. In the scrapbook section of the craft store they

have a roller tool to make the corrugations. Being steel, you can soak it in saltwater to make real rust if that is your desire. 

- Alan Arthur

# Disappearing Americana

I was born and raised in the greatest country in the world and I love everything AMERICAN. I love model railroading because I can model things that happened before my time and recreate scenes from my childhood. I remember riding in the car and coming to a railroad crossing and wondering what railroad it was. Today you have a 50/50 shot depending what side of the Mississippi River you're on. Watching trains of box cars, gondolas and hoppers emblazoned with railroad names and logos advertising passenger trains or where they went or touting their service. Today's trains are made up of identical looking diesels pulling cars with nothing more than reporting marks and maybe some graffiti, **BORING!** Remember when companies had names like New York Central and Lehigh Valley? Today everything is an acronym...BNSF, CSX, IHOP, CVS etc. I remember traveling on the

interstate with my face pressed against the window taking in the sights of this great country, watching a rail line as it came to intersect the freeway and the road would go up and over the line. I would look down the line hoping to see a train, and see down the line in the distance a smokestack and water tower indicating a factory or town and wonder what was made there. Was there a siding with boxcars on it? Today you just see a line of trees and weeds where the rail line used to be and look off in the distance and the smokestack and water tower are gone. Where did they go, China, Mexico? Remember staying in a Motor Lodge with their large neon sign advertising air conditioning, color TV, swimming pool and you dreaded to see the flickering no vacancy lit up. Today's steel and glass hotel high rises offer consistency. It's not a bad thing but is not the same. Remember filling stations as they were called? They sold tires, v belts and you could get

a lube job there. Their logo was on the giant sign out front that rotated. Today's gas stations are minimarts that sell hot dogs, beer, cigs and lottery tickets. So the reason I wanted to have the September meeting at my house is because I wanted to recreate another vanishing piece of Americana, the **DRIVE IN THEATER**. I thought it would be great to simulate a drive in watching train videos under the stars. We won't be sitting in our cars so bring a lawn chair or blanket. Let me know at the next meeting of a railroad you would like to see a video of as I have videos of just about every railroad line. I will show movies as long as you want to stay and watch. I've had slide shows till 3 o'clock in the morning in the past so I'll show them as long as you want to watch them. I am currently working to get as many of my signals up and running for display. Hope to see you there in September.  
-Bill Osborne

## A Special Note of Thanks

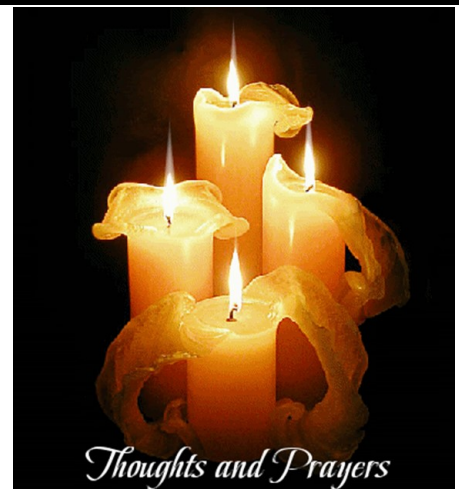
### A Note of Thanks

Dear Members of NMRA MCR Division 5,

Thank you All for your kind words, prayers and concerns during our time of deep sadness.

#### The Harley Smith Family

Ellen, Dale, Deborah, Sarah, Lu Ann, Dennis, Julie, Carah, Sally, Jason, Charlie, Collin, Carter, Paul, Heather, Austin and Trystan.



*Thoughts and Prayers*



# 2017 Small Layout Meet in Findlay



The small layout meet was held this year on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Northwestern Ohio Railroad Preservation, Inc. in Findlay, Ohio. The facility, which is open to the public on

weekends during the summer, has an outdoor railroad running quarter-scale diesel and steam equipment and three model railroads, HO, O and N scale, in the gift shop building. Attendees brought a variety of interesting

small layouts to display, some finished and some in progress. Most of the layouts were narrow gauge. The Great Lakes Modular Group set up a small circular display that connected six modules. We showed my



HOn30 square footer railroad and a new, almost finished, 18" x 30" HOn30 layout of the Coke Oven Historic Park in the mythical town of Coal Creek. On our way to Findlay we stopped at the Fostoria Rail

Park, billed as the busiest rail-fanning location in Ohio. We were there for about 15 minutes and saw four trains on different tracks, so it definitely lived up to expectations. 📷

*-Linda Kacprzak*





# Division 4 Layout Tour Highlights *By: Linda Kacprzak*

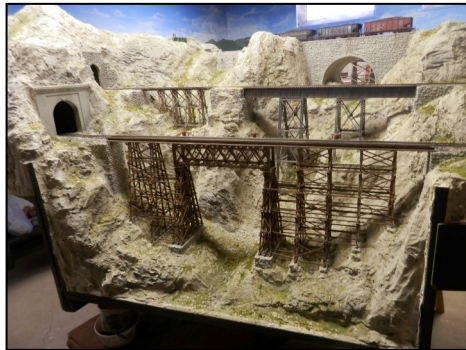


**R**ich and I visited all seven layouts open on two weekends in May and would like to thank Division 4 for their hospitality. Once more, we would encourage more Division 5 members to attend future open house tours.

Tom and Lucy McInerney's Elk River Logging and Snug Harbor Railroads are super-detailed HO/HOn3 layouts with many scratch-built items and craftsman structures. The 30' Elk River Logging RR is finished and the Snug Harbor RR in the next room is still under construc-

tion. Lucy painted the backdrops and is updating the trees, and Tom is working toward becoming an MMR. Their layout was featured in the April 2014 issue of Rail Model Craftsman.

Bruce Brintnall's Memphis Ridge



Lines is a 12' x 22' HO C&O branch line. He enjoys operations and has his scenery 100% completed. Bruce is one of the very few MMRs to have earned all 11 AP certificates. His layout has been featured in several publications.

Don Stettin's DE&L (Danbury, El-

ton & Litton) RR is a 13.5' x 20' HO mountain coal-hauling mainline with a branch line. He has 19 bridges on his layout, many of them scratch-built.

George Keller's 20' x 20' Norfolk and Western RR is based in and around Bellevue, Ohio during the

1967-1968 time period. George demonstrated his use of dried coreopsis as armatures for his fall-foliage trees. His track work is almost finished and scenery is well underway.

*(Continued on page 10)*





## Division 4 Layout Tour Highlights cont....



*(Continued from page 9)*

Fred Wagner's Mills Creek & Lake Erie RR is a 28' x 32' HO layout set in the modern day era. His track is operational and he is just starting his scenery.

Jim Moore's Cold Creek & Lake



Erie RR is a 29' x 39' HO layout built for operations, with a lot of industry. It is set in the fall of 1968 after the New York Central and Pennsylvania railroads became the PennCentral.

The Erie & Mad River Railroad Club is a 23' x 30' HO layout with



very nice scenery on multiple levels.

While we were in Bellevue we drove past the RR Museum to take a few pictures. After we finished the tour, we cruised around Marblehead peninsula and snapped a photo of the lighthouse.



## More Layouts Wanted For Division 5 Layout Tours


**W**e have 12 layouts on the list so far for our Fall 2017 Division 5 Layout Tours. We have 8 different dates (4 weekends) and if we figure about 3 layouts per date, we have room for another 12 layouts. Please consider opening up your layout for others to see.

Your layout can be at any stage, from just starting the benchwork, to functioning trackwork but no scenery, to fully finished. People are interested in seeing the techniques

that other modelers have used. We are also interested in seeing the layouts of our new members in Pennsylvania and New York. We are giving you plenty of advanced notice so you have time to get the layout spruced up and ready for visitors.

We are targeting the following weekends: October 21/22 and 28/29 and November 11/12 and 18/19. Start thinking about whether you would like to have your layout open for the tours and what weekend and day you would want to do it on. More

information and details as we get closer. Matt Kross will be organizing the layout tours. You can contact Matt at [Clerk@mcr5.org](mailto:Clerk@mcr5.org) or call 440-668-9462 if you would like more details about hosting a layout tour or if you want to go ahead and add your layout to the tour list.

In order to have time to create the layout tour guides, we will have to have a cutoff date of early September for signing up your layout. Time is running out, so sign up today! 



**Team Track****www.MCR5.org****Division 5 Officers****(Terms expire June 2018)**

Superintendent	Dave Neff	440-269-1229	<a href="mailto:Super@MCR5.org">Super@MCR5.org</a>
Asst. Superintendent	Bryan Persing		<a href="mailto:AstSuper@MCR5.org">AstSuper@MCR5.org</a>
<b>Division 5 Directors:</b> (Terms expire June 2018)			
Don Bittner	440-257-7555	Robert Gittinger	440-525-0237
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 2018)

Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@MCR5.org">Treasurer@MCR5.org</a>
Clerk	Matt Kross	440-729-3045	<a href="mailto:Clerk@MCR5.org">Clerk@MCR5.org</a>
Railfest Chairman	Jim Wendorf	440-357-8890	<a href="mailto:Railfest@MCR5.org">Railfest@MCR5.org</a>
Promo Day Coordinator	Rob Bowers Bob Frieden	(440) 942-3039	<a href="mailto:PromoDay@MCR5.org">PromoDay@MCR5.org</a>
Achievement Program	Mike Buehner	440-428-0137	<a href="mailto:AP@MCR5.org">AP@MCR5.org</a>
Contests	(Open Position)		<a href="mailto:Contest@MCR5.org">Contest@MCR5.org</a>
Auditors	Dennis Lloyd Tony Spena	440-255-2530	<a href="mailto:Audit@MCR5.org">Audit@MCR5.org</a>
Trainwire Editor	Lenny Kessler	440-417-6746	<a href="mailto:Trainwire@MCR5.org">Trainwire@MCR5.org</a>
Refreshments	Dan Chuppa	440-488-4179	<a href="mailto:Refreshments@MCR5.org">Refreshments@MCR5.org</a>
Membership Roster	Matt Kross	440-729-3045	<a href="mailto:Membership@MCR5.org">Membership@MCR5.org</a>
Webmaster	Wayne Lette	440-298-3075	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@MCR5.org">Webmaster@MCR5.org</a>
Company Store	Ted Wiese	440-256-5212	<a href="mailto:CompanyStore@MCR5.org">CompanyStore@MCR5.org</a>
Bring & Brag	(Open Position)		
Layout Tours	Mike Buehner	440-428-0137	<a href="mailto:layouttour@MCR5.org">layouttour@MCR5.org</a>



## Wanted

**T**he 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.



View from California Zephyr

## Notice

I will be compiling the next Trainwire on the 19th of the month and any articles or reports that come in after the 19th will probably be published in the following issue. - *The Editor*

# The Trainwire Newsletter

# Electronic Version

Publication of Division 5  
12049 Sperry Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026



Amtrak passenger train near the Horseshoe Curve

## July, 2017

Division 5 Membership  
as of June 1st, 2017



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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.mcr5.org)

A non-profit educational organization



<b>Trainwire Editor:</b>	Lenny Kessler	3257 Center Rd. Perry, Ohio 44081	440-417-6746	<a href="mailto:Trainwire@mcr5.org">Trainwire@mcr5.org</a>
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Dave Neff	5479 Chestnut Hill Dr. Willoughby, Ohio 44094	440-269-1229	<a href="mailto:Super@mcr5.org">Super@mcr5.org</a>
<b>Asst. Super:</b>	Bryan Persing	2860 Loreto Drive Willoughby Hills OH 44094	330-715-3519	<a href="mailto:AstSuper@mcr5.org">AstSuper@mcr5.org</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bonnie Lette	17541 Thompson Rd. Thompson, Ohio 44086	440-298-3075	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@MCR5.org">Treasurer@MCR5.org</a>
<b>Clerk:</b>	Matt Kross	12049 Sperry Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026	440-729-3045	<a href="mailto:Clerk@mcr5.org">Clerk@mcr5.org</a>





# DIV. 5 PICNIC

## Saturday, August 5, 2017

At

**The Painesville Depot**  
475 Railroad Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077

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

**2 pm to 5 pm**

Driving directions

Exit Rt 2 at Richmond Street, South one block to Chester,  
East on Chester to N. State Street,  
South on N. State Street (under the RR bridge),  
East on Railroad Street to Depot



### Join in on good fellowship and railfanning!



**Menu:**

- Breaded Chicken
- Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips
- Hobo Beans,
- Desert
- Pop & water
- If you wish - Dish to pass



Food is being provide by Div. 5

Admission: **Free** to all Div. 5 members and immediate family.

**RSVP** by August 1, 2017 to Tom at:

(216) 470-5780 or send an e-mail to [Tom.Pescha@MCR5.org](mailto:Tom.Pescha@MCR5.org)

***Be sure to bring your Camera and a CHAIR!***

