

TRAINWIRE



DECEMBER, 2020 VOLUME XVI ISSUE 12

A PUBLICATION OF
THE WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION
DIVISION 5 — MID CENTRAL REGION — NMRA



THIS MONTH:

Friday December 4
Division Meeting
@ 7:30
Virtual Using Zoom

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Super Reflections December 2020

Railfest 2021 Cancellation Is Definite
Division 5 Railfest Chairman Jim Wendorf sent us the following:

As per the News Herald, Lakeland has cancelled their spring break for 2021, so there will not be a Railfest next year since that's the weekend of our show. Maybe a smaller show later in the year at a different location, TBD, if possible?

Still Looking For Monthly Programs For Our Online Meetings

We need people to come forward and put on some live programs for our upcoming meetings during the next several months. A Power Point presentation works well on Zoom where you can show your Power Point pages and narrate them. You can also do a program where you just talk about a particular subject but don't show anything. If you have an external camera instead of one built into the computer, you could do a live clinic and have the camera pointed at your work surface. This would probably work best if you had someone to help you with pointing the camera. Contact Matt Kross if you can provide

a program (Super@mcr5.org or 440-668-9462).

We are looking for any ideas along these lines of how to put on various types of programs using Zoom. We are all still learning how to best use this technology.

My Clean-up Continues

I have been continuing my efforts to go through things in the basement to organize, consolidate, put in the "for sale" box, or pitch. Boy, it is hard parting with some things. One thing I came across was a box of twin-coil switch machines. I used to use these on all my turnouts. Now I use Tortoise switch machines or manual throws. I sure hate to part with the twin-coil switch machines, but honestly, I'm never going to use them again. I put them in the "for sale" box, but I don't know if anyone is using these any more. Technology marches on! No where was this clearer as to when I was going through a bunch of electronic parts I have collected over the last 50 years. Micro-processor and memory parts that were state of the art 25 years ago are essentially useless now because there are so many things that are smaller,

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COLUMNS

faster, do much more, and are cheaper. I ended up throwing away a lot of parts I used to use on a daily basis at work 25 years ago. That was another really tough thing to do. Also, as I went through all my parts drawers, if I hadn't touched these parts in the last 25 years, I generally just threw them away. I really am trying to thin things down. Also, as I said previously, going through all these parts drawers and boxes is like performing an archeological dig. I keep finding lots of things I didn't remember I had or didn't know where I had put them. My label maker is smoking from all the labels I have been printing.

This Month's Modeling Work

I haven't done much modeling work over the past month. I have been spending much of my time on

the basement cleanup. I did build a couple of voltage display panels for my layout to indicate if power for various accessories was being provided properly. I also built a couple of N scale cell phone tower kits for the layout. Hopefully you have been finding time to work on your empire. If you did, please join our monthly Zoom meeting and show us what you have been working on.

That's all for this month. Try to make the best of the upcoming holidays. I hope to see you on our December 4th online membership meeting. See you down the line.

Matt

Assistant Super Comments

As this evil virus continues to dominate our society today the prospects of visiting a train show continues to diminish. Division 12's cancellation of their May show has become more the norm than the exception. As with us, I believe most of the divisions are looking more towards the fall months of 2021 if not the spring of 2022. Let us all hope and pray that we get through these trying times healthy and stronger.

Recently I was asked a very thought provoking question by my 22 year old son. As the two of us were traveling down the road we started talking about our hobbies. My son, Joseph, has been an avid horseman since he was two years old and has recently purchased a new horse named Stella. As we talked about how he was going to train her he asked me this question, "Your hobby is model trains. What part of the hobby do you like?" This

caught me off guard as I had to stop and think about it. Do I like running the trains, doing the scenery, working the operations, or spending the time on detail work? After pondering for a few minutes my answer was the detail work. Although this did not surprise my son it did reflect something we both have in common, patience. If I really want I could say that everything from scenery to operations is detail work. It just depends on how you look at it.

As most of you know I am a company truck driver and on my trips I tend to look for anything train oriented I can use or put on my layout. Now it should be known that my layout is a long way from being complete or operational, this more finance driven than anything else but it does not mean I cannot create the detail items. I tend to shy away from the pre-made loads and I find creating different loads

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COLUMNS

for hoppers, flatcars, and gondolas to be very enjoyable. I have made prime movers loads, pipe loads, generator loads, transformer loads and wood loads for my flat cars. My hoppers have coal and ballast loads although I do need to make a lot more of these loads. The gondola loads seem to me to be the most challenging as they can have everything listed above plus coil steel, scrap steel, building rubble, both fresh lumber and scrap lumber like old railroad ties or tree stumps. Recently I was on I80 east leaving Youngstown. On this route you can see this very large metal recycling facility with a large amount of scrap steel roll offs and gondolas being loaded and unloaded. Because of an accident further up the road which turned I80 east into a parking lot, I was able to watch a shredder grind up scrap cars and steel items and dump the shredded material into gondolas which most likely were headed to the mills. All the way back to the shop I was trying to figure a way to replicate the shredded material. What I came up with was pencil shavings. Once glued and painted to a piece of foam fitted to a gondola it looks really good. If you shift the pencil shavings you get a finer version suitable for N scale.

I have come to enjoy letting my son and wife drive me around, I look out the side window for a rea-

son, as I get to see a lot more of what is going on. Such a simple question he asked for something so detailed.

It for reasons like that listed above that the "Members Only" section was added to our web site. Each of us has a specialty that we can pass on to or help other members with. Please consider participating by signing into and listing your specialty.

If you are proud of your layouts or current projects send some photos to the Trainwire. We would love to see what you have got going on during this isolation period. If you have some photos of a trip you were on where trains or railroad items were the subject, send these also to Bryan. I am sure the other members would love to see them.

Also, please participate in our Zoom meetings as it is one way we can stay safe but still get together. Instructions on how to attend our Zoom meetings are listed in this Trainwire. It's not that difficult to learn.

I hope each and every one of our members has a happy and joyful holiday season! Remember what you eat this month may require some exercise next month so, let's make sure it's worth it.

Mike

MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

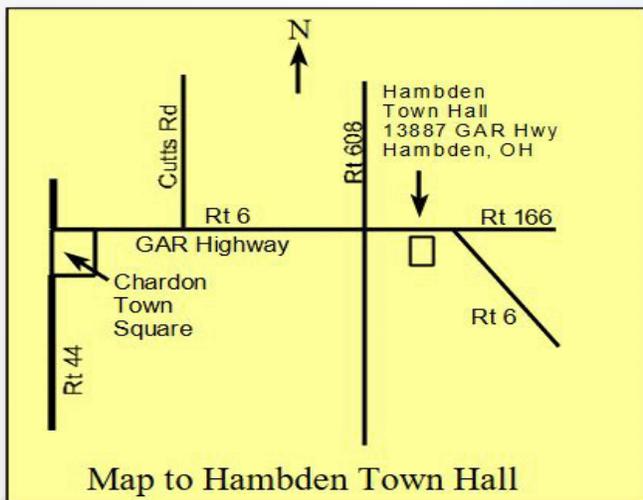
LOCATION: HAMB DEN TOWN HALL
13887 GAR HIGHWAY (ROUTE 6)
CHARDON, OHIO

DECEMBER 4, 2020

LOCATION: VIRTUAL USING ZOOM
(DIRECTIONS ON PAGE)

PROGRAM: TBD

BRING/BRAG: ANYTHING GOES



Map to Hambden Town Hall

UPCOMING Events

(SEE ATTACHED FLYERS IN TRAINWIRE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS FOR MOST EVENTS OR GO TO WWW.CLEVESHOWS.COM)

Obviously with everything being the way it is right now it is important to confirm if an event listed will actually be held.

DEC. 6
MEDINA TRAIN AND TOY SHOW
MEDINA FAIRGROUNDS, MEDINA, OHIO
44256
9 AM TO 3 PM
ADM. \$6.00

PHONE: 330-948-4400

MINUTES

NOVEMBER MEETING

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2020

The November 6, 2020 membership meeting was held virtually using Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Superintendent Matt Kross. 15 members and no guests were present.

Reviewed the status of various upcoming scheduled events:

There are no scheduled Division 5 events other than online meetings for the next several months
 As far as we know, train shows in Mansfield, OH on Nov 15 and Parma, OH on Nov 28 will still be held
 As of this meeting, the 2021 MCR Regional Convention in Erie, PA is still on
 Still a possibility of a tri-region convention in 2022
 2022 National NMRA Convention will be in St. Louis

The next Division 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30pm and will be held online using Zoom.
 There was a Mid Central Region virtual BOD meeting on Friday, October 23, 2020.

Since all the candidates for MCR offices were running unopposed, the MCR BOD elected the candidates by Acclamation. On very own Dave Neff will be our new Region President starting at the end of May 2021.

The various region divisions discussed how they are dealing with the restrictions caused by Covid-19. Many divisions are making great use of online meetings.

There are some intellectual property issues with many divisions recording meetings and posting to websites for public access. The Region is reviewing this and will attempt to issue some guidelines.

We need to look at ways to safely invite non-members to our online meetings. There are a number of security measures now in place to prevent anonymous people from joining the meeting intent on disrupting the meeting.

Region (and National NMRA) membership has been dropping during 2021.

18 of the N scale reefers are still available at the reduced pricing for Division 5 members. You have until November 9, 2020 to purchase one.

Modeling Question:

How do you get dry transfer lettering to stick? Tried roughing the surface but that didn't help. Some responses were: paint the surface with flat paint; put dry transfer lettering on clear decal paper, spray with dull coat, and then apply as a decal.

What is the best way to store decals? No responses.

Items for the good of the order:

Dave Neff talked about his efforts to implement N Scale Architect's M-Track system. He found that using 22AWG floral wire worked better than the phosphor bronze wire provided. He also found that using pressure sensitive adhesive from Micro Mark worked well in attaching the track.

Bring 'n' Brag: Matt Kross Bob Gittinger Dennis Lloyd

Program:

Ray Newnes gave an account of his adventure in hunting down and visiting the locomotive storage yard/graveyard near Lordstown, OH. He talked about how he located the facility and found a way in. He showed pictures of the various locomotives sitting there.

Matt Kross provided a clinic on how he added background sounds to various scenes on his layout.

Submitted by
 Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

MINUTES

NOVEMBER BOD MEETING

BOD Meeting 9 Nov 2020

A virtual Division 5 BOD meeting was held on November 9, 2020 via online meeting using Zoom. In attendance were Matt Kross, Mike Carovac, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Ray Newnes, Linda Kacprzak, Bob Gittinger, Ted Wiese, and Bryan Persing.

We definitely will not be having Railfest in March 2021. Still have to wait and see if we can have some type of train show later in 2021.

The Mount Hope train show was held a week ago.

The BOD approved allowing verbal approval on Division expense reports turned in during 2020 instead of requiring an actual officer signature.

The BOD reviewed the decision to cancel this year's Division Holiday Party and unanimously agreed that it should remain cancelled.

The Division normally makes a donation to Hambden Township for the use of the Town Hall. Since we were only allowed to use the Town Hall for three months, a prorated donation will be made this year.

The Trainwire Editor asked if there was any problem in accepting Trainwire submissions from non-Division members. The response was that it was fine for outside people to submit articles. It is up to the discretion of the Trainwire Editor whether to publish items submitted. Non-Division members are not eligible to receive Division Award Certificates for their submissions, however.

The BOD approved setting the expiration date to the end of 2021 for all Division 5 Award Certificates that are issued in 2020.

Since we have not been able to have our monthly meeting raffle, the BOD approved submitting one free raffle entry for each Division member that attends Division meetings in 2020 starting with the Outdoor Movie Night Meeting in August 2020. This will allow those that are attending our meetings to have raffle entries for when we are finally able to hold our Losers Raffle.

All the remaining N scale reefers in the Division 5 Company Store have been sold.

There was a question about when reports were supposed to be submitted by outside groups receiving Division 5 grants. It was stated that we do not have any required timeframe other than the fact that the group cannot receive another grant until they report on the use of the previous grant.

Bryan Persing reported that the Dec 2020/Jan 2021 issue of O Gauge Railroading has an article about the local area O gauge 3-rail modular layout group he is part of. The group is called the Mod Squad.

Ray Newnes will consider doing a presentation at the December meeting on his visit to the Mad River Railroad Museum.

The next Div 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 7:30pm online using Zoom. *(Note: Normally, BOD meetings are held on even numbered months from February to October and then in November and not in December.)*

Submitted by

Matt Kross – Superintendent / temporary Div 5 Clerk

MINUTES

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BUSINESSES ACCEPTING DIVISION 5 CERTIFICATES



Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's Toys	Willoughby, Ohio
Hobby Town USA	Mentor, Ohio
Toy-N-Hobby Headquarters	Geneva, Ohio
The Painesville Railroad Museum	Painesville, Ohio



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WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP

Articles

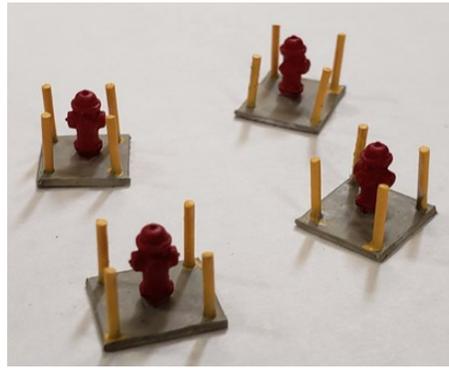
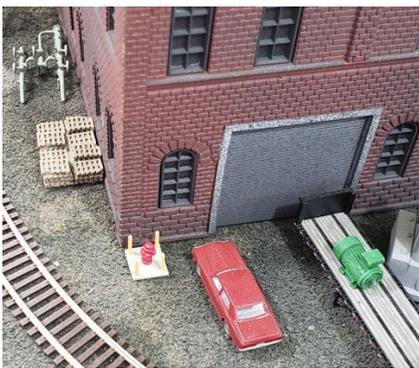
Steel Mill Fire Hydrants

I saw the following picture in a steel mill book (Steel Mill Railroad Facilities and Equipment by Stephen M. Timko) and wanted to add this detail to my N-scale steel mill. Things are always bigger in a steel mill so I ordered some HO scale fire hydrants to use in my N scale mill. (Photo credit: Ray Hoadley)



I took some scrap .030" styrene sheet material and cut some rectangles of varying sizes to serve as a base. I cut some styrene rod to serve as the posts protecting the hydrant and glued these to the corners of the bases. I then glued the HO fire hydrants in the center. I made mine smaller than in the prototype picture due to my limited space. It still serves the purpose and conveys the general idea. I left the fire hydrants the color they came in. I may change them to yellow like in the prototype picture so that they stand out better. Since the HO fire hydrants I

ordered came in a pack of 8, I made 8 of these little assemblies and have them scattered around my steel mill buildings. - Matt Kross



Division Announcements

Zoom Meeting Instructions

Getting Started

Up to 15 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start, click on the link you were provided for the Zoom meeting or type it into your web browser.

If you have not used Zoom before on your computer, you will be instructed to download the Zoom application. You need to do this but it doesn't take very long.

Zoom will ask for or show your default name. Enter your name so we know who you are.

You have an opportunity to test your audio at this point by clicking on "Test Computer Audio." Once you are satisfied that your audio works, click on "Join audio by computer."

You will be placed in a waiting room until the meeting host allows you to join the meeting. This is why we need to know who you are.

Once You Are Connected

At the bottom of your screen you should see the following participant controls:



Mute/Unmute your microphone

Start/Stop Video – turns your webcam on or off

View Participant list – opens a pop-out screen that includes a "Raise Hand" icon that you may use to raise a virtual hand. You can also change your screen name that is seen in the participant list and video window.

Chat allows you to type text messages to meeting participants

Somewhere on your Zoom screen you will also see a choice to toggle between "speaker" and "gallery" view. "Speaker view" shows the active speaker. "Gallery view" tiles all of the meeting participants.

General Instructions

If you want to be heard during the meeting, you need to make sure your microphone is Unmuted. Normally, you should leave your microphone muted so that background noises (dogs barking, TV, phone ringing) are not picked up. At times in the meeting, the host may mute all participants to eliminate background noise.

You do not have to turn on your webcam (Start Video). If you do, the other meeting participants will see you which is nice during the social time. But, you can leave it off and a blank box with just your name will be seen by the others.

Gallery View displays all the meeting participants on one screen. The box of the person talking will be highlighted in yellow. Speaker View shows a full screen view of the current person speaking.

During The Meeting

Mute your microphone unless you have something to say

Do not share your screen unless instructed to by the host

Unruly or unwelcome participants can be kicked out of the meeting by the host

Ask questions using the Chat box. The presenter will periodically check these.

Be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

Division 5 Meeting In January

Since the Division Holiday Party has been cancelled, we will have a regular Division 5 membership meeting in January 2021. This will be an online meeting. However, due to the first Friday of the month being New Year's Day, we will move the January meeting to January 8, 2021.

December and January Div 5 Membership Meetings Will Be Virtual

Due to the continued problems of Covid-19 in the local area, the Division BOD decided to continue to hold meetings online using Zoom for the next several months. We will not have a raffle but we will have a Bring & Brag session during these meetings. The December meeting will be December 4, 2020.

Approximately a week before the meeting, an e-mail will be sent to Division 5 members that contains the Zoom meeting link. If you do not receive the e-mail and would like to attend the Division 5 membership meeting, please email Matt Kross at Super@mcr5.org and a Zoom meeting link will be emailed to you. Alternatively, you can go to the Members Only section of the Division 5 website to obtain the meeting link. It is not required that you have a webcam but a computer with an internet connection is needed if you wish to see what is going on.

Division Certificates Issued In 2020

Due to the problems of people getting certificates earned and being able to get out and use the certificates at the local hobby shops, the Division BOD decided that any Division Award Certificate issued in 2020 will not expire until the end of 2021.

Next Division 5 BOD Meeting Not Until February

The next Division 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Don't Be Afraid Of Zoom!

If you haven't joined one of our Division 5 Zoom meetings because you are afraid of the technology, don't be intimidated! I will gladly work with you sometime before the meeting to walk you through what you need to do. If you have a computer or smart phone and an internet connection, that is all you need. It is actually quite simple and just takes a brief orientation session. Contact me at least several days before the meeting and we will set up a time we can work together. I will send you a Zoom meeting link we can use as a test. I will call you on the phone and walk you through getting your computer connected. Call me at 440-668-9462 or e-mail Super@mcr5.org.

Information From November's Background Sound Clinic

There were several web links in Matt Kross' November clinic on adding background sound to your layout scenes. Here are those links:

Free (for personal use) sound clips: <https://www.sounddogs.com/>
 Pay sound clips: <https://freesound.org/>

MixPad software for creating sound tracks: www.nch.com.au/mixpad

PROCOM audio file player: <https://www.pricom.com/audio/players.shtml>

Example external amplified computer speakers:
<https://www.target.com/p/logitech-s120-speaker-system-black-980-000309/-/A-14479755>

2021 MCR Convention In Erie, PA Cancelled

The Division 12 convention committee (and board of directors) has reached the difficult decision to cancel the Northern Express, the Mid Central Region convention, planned for May 20--23, 2021 in Erie.

2021 N Scale Convention In Reno, NV Cancelled

The 2021 N scale convention scheduled for June has been cancelled. The N scale convention schedule is now Nashville in 2022, and tentatively Reno in 2023.

Division 5 Officers (Terms expire June 2022)

Superintendent	Matt Kross	440-668-9462 Super@mcr5.org
Asst. Superintendent	Mike Carovac	440-497-8536 AstSuper@mcr5.org

Division 5 Directors (Terms expire June 2022)

Robert Gittinger	440-585-0237	BOD@mcr5.org
Chuck Limbert	440-357-1864	BOD@mcr5.org
Ray Newnes	216-312-2132	BOD@mcr5.org
D		

Division 5 Appointed Positions (Terms expire June 2022)

Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075 Treasurer@mcr5.org
Clerk	Matt Kross	440-668-9462 Clerk@mcr5.org
Railfest Chairman	Jim Wendorf	440-357-8890 Railfest@mcr5.org
Promo Day Coordinator	Tom Pescha	216-470-5780 PromoDay@mcr5.org
Achievement Program	Bryan Persing	330-715-3519 AP@mcr5.org
Trip Master	Bill Osborne	440-254-0107 Tripmaster@mcr5.org
Auditors	Dennis Lloyd Chuck Limbert	440-255-2530 Audit@mcr5.org
Trainwire Editor	Bryan Persing	330-715-3519 Trainwire@mcr5.org
Refreshments	Chuck Limbert Paul Emch	Refreshments@mcr5.org
Membership Roster Layout Tours	Matt Kross	440-668-9462 Membership@mcr5.org
Webmaster	Wayne Lette	440-298-3075 Webmaster@mcr5.org
Company Store	Ted Wiese	440-256-5212 CompanyStore@mcr5.org
Program, Bring & Brag	Bill Osborne	440-254-0107

WANTED

The Trainwire is always looking for an interesting article. If you have taken a trip lately, seen something interesting trackside, have a particular viewpoint on a railroad subject or just want to participate in the members profile; 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 write your article and send them to the Editor by email.

NOTICE

I work on the Trainwire throughout the month and publish it around the 20th. If you absolutely need something in the next Trainwire issue please send it as soon as possible or let me know to hold space for you. Many times space allotted for certain items may already be spoken for. However, if you send items in early I can rearrange the format. Also when items are submitted I will inform you that I received them and when to look for them in the Trainwire.

THE TRAINWIRE NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION OF DIVISION 5
2860 LORETO DRIVE
WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO 44094

DECEMBER, 2020 EDITION

DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (61)

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

Information regarding The Trainwire, Division 5, or the NMRA may be obtained by writing to 2860 Loreto Drive Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094 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



THE WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION 5

www.mcr5.org
A non-profit educational organization



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Clerk:	Matt Kross	12049 Sperry Road Chesterland, OH 44026	440-668-9462	Clerk@mcr5.org