

TRAINWIRE



JANUARY, 2021 VOLUME XVII ISSUE 1

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



THIS MONTH:

Friday January 8
Division Meeting
@ 7:30
Virtual Using Zoom

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Super Reflections January 2021

New Year Plea

Please! Please! Please, 2021, be a better year! We all want to get back to the way things were. We want to have in-person meetings. We want train shows. Lots of train shows. Big train shows. We want conventions, big and small. But it's just a dream. It looks like the first half of 2021 will be a continuation of this Covid-19 headache. Hang in there everyone.

How About Doing A Virtual Layout Tour Of Your Railroad?

Chuck Limbert did a great job putting on a virtual layout tour of his N-scale layout during the December meeting. Chuck was able to do this just by carrying his laptop computer around his layout room and pointing the webcam at the areas he wanted to show. During a recent LENS N-scale meeting, a member there was able to do a similar layout tour. He also carried his laptop to his layout room and just pointed the webcam in the general direction of his T-Trak modules. We were able to see most of what he wanted to show us. Would you be willing to do this at a meeting? Instead of carrying your computer

around, you can always create a video of your layout before the meeting and we can then show your video during the meeting while you narrate. If you are interested, contact Matt Kross (Super@mcr5.org or 440-668-9462). If there is something else you would like to present at one of our virtual meetings, please contact Matt.

Some Suggestions For New Year Resolutions

Here are some suggestions for you to pick from for your 2021 New Year Resolutions along with the personal reward you can get from doing it:

- I will submit one article to the Trainwire in 2021 (earn \$10 certificate)
- I will submit train related pictures to the Trainwire in 2021 (earn \$5 certificate)
- I will show at least one item in a monthly meeting Bring 'n' Brag (earn \$5 certificate)
- I will do a virtual layout tour of my layout during a monthly virtual meeting (earn \$10 certificate)
- I will put on a clinic at one of our 2021 monthly meetings (earn \$10 certificate)

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COLUMNS

I will build a model railroading related display and show it to the public when we can have train shows again (earn \$50 certificate)

I will earn an NMRA Achievement Program certificate (receive recognition for your modeling proficiency and make progress towards becoming an MMR)

I will spend at least an hour a week doing model railroading things (get personal satisfaction and have fun)

Unproductive Month For My Modeling Work

Not much going on in my basement this past

month. Too busy getting ready for the holidays and closing out a crappy year! I have a multi-page list of items that I want to work on. Hopefully I can get myself better organized in 2021 and start getting things done on the layout.

I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays and received some neat model railroad gifts. I also hope to see you on our January 8th online membership meeting. See you down the line.

Matt

Assistant Super Comments

We are so glad that 2020 is over. With the issues, problems, unrest and that evilness known as COVID -19 this year cannot end fast enough although, I do believe that it will become a popular year in the future for historians.

I am sorry I did not attend the December members meeting but some family issues arose that needed my attention. I hope that every one of you had a very happy, healthy and enjoyable holiday season and that Santa was good to all of you. Once again my wife and son have made the holiday season very enjoyable for me - if anyone needs cookies please let me know.

I have been doing my little experiment with the 20 minute idea that Matt brought up a couple of months ago. Now, I have been avoiding layout tasks just because my set up time always seems to be more than 20 minutes, so I have concentrated on the detail work such as loads. What I have found

out is that it all depends on what you want to make, create, or how far along you want to get. For example, when making hopper loads such as coal or gravel it was easy to keep within the 20 minute guidelines, first cutting out the foam then forming the foam then adding the coal or gravel. The only issue with this is the number of loads I need to make. The rest of my loads I tend to try and make four loads of each. It became a little harder with the pipe loads I made for my gondolas and flatcars as it seemed that the assembly portion seemed to take a lot more than 20 minutes per stack of pipes. Then came the scrap loads for my gondolas. Cutting out the bases – no problem, making them fit – so sweat, putting on the scrap load – total failure! It is almost impossible to even get the load started before the timer (yes I said timer) went off. I eventually gave up and just sat down and worked on one until it was done. I am so glad that my shop gave us a paid holiday from Dec 24th to Jan 3rd. Now, if the experiment was how much you can get done in 2

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COLUMNS

hours, this would have been no problem. We will not even get into the pulp wood load nightmare.

If you have any ideas on how to make these types of loads easier (buying them is not an option), send in some comments to the Trainwire or use the "Members Only" section on our website.

As Matt has stated, we ***will be having*** a members meeting this month on Friday January 8th at 7:30pm via Zoom. This is because we are not hav-

ing a holiday gathering.

What did you do this holiday season? Make something? Add something to the layout? Send in some pictures to the Trainwire, it is one way we can stay in touch with each other and see what we have been doing.

Hope to see you at the January Zoom meeting!

Mike

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

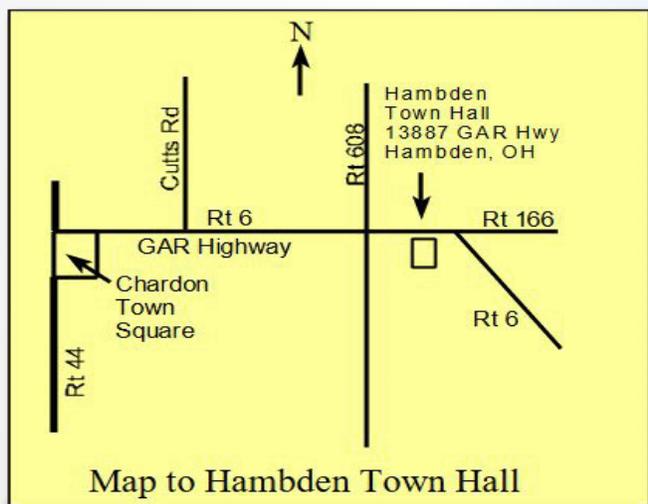
LOCATION: HAMB DEN TOWN HALL
13887 GAR HIGHWAY (ROUTE 6)
CHARDON, OHIO

JANUARY 8, 2021

LOCATION: VIRTUAL USING ZOOM

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.

January 3 & February 14

Mansfield Train Show
Richland County Fairgrounds
750 N. Home Road
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
10 am - 3 pm Adm. \$7.00
Phone: 419-606-7934

February 7

Medina Train and Toy Show
Medina Fairgrounds,
Medina, Ohio 44256
9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00
Phone: 330-948-4400

February 20

Canfield Train and Toy Show
Canfield Fairgrounds
7265 Columbiana
Canfield, Ohio 44406
10 am to 3pm Adm. \$6.00
Phone: 330-651-1042

MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2020

The December 4, 2020 membership meeting was held online using Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Superintendent Matt Kross. 14 members and no guests were present.

Members were encouraged to invite other model railroaders to our Zoom meetings. It is okay to forward the email with the meeting information to people that you know that you think might be interested. It was suggested that we invite the area train groups to join our meetings as guests. Invitations will be sent to the Lake Shore Live Steamers, Lake Erie N-scale Society, and the Painesville Railroad Museum.

Reviewed the status of various upcoming scheduled events:

We will be having a Division 5 membership meeting in January but it will be moved back a week to January 8 due to New Year's Day.

There are no scheduled Division 5 events other than online meetings for the next several months.

Painesville Railroad Museum cancelled their open house planned for Dec 13.

The 2021 MCR Regional Convention in Erie, PA has been cancelled.

Train show in Medina on December 6 is still on.

The next Division 5 BOD meeting will not be until Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30pm and will be held online using Zoom.

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

Modeling Questions:

Does anyone solder rail joints anymore? Responses: Yes, some people still do but they don't rely on these solder connections for track power. The solder the joints to maintain good rail alignment. They still solder feeder wires to each section of flextrack. Also, you need to leave occasional gaps for thermal expansion of the rails.

Where to find replacement magnets for a very old HO Varney Dockside locomotive? Responses: check Micro Mark catalog; try to find a similar locomotive motor and scavenge the magnets; see if you can find someone selling an old Varney Dockside for parts;

Items for the good of the order:

Brad White in Division 12 is selling off HO items from a friend's estate. A list of items was sent to Division 5 members that have e-mail.

Bring 'n' Brag:	Matt Kross	Bob Gittinger	Dennis Lloyd
	Bill Berger	Dave Neff	Chuck Limbert

Program: Chuck Limber presented a virtual layout tour of his N-scale layout.

Submitted by Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

We Are Having A January Meeting

Remember, we are going to have a January membership meeting since we are not having our annual Holiday Party. Due to New Year's Day being a Friday, the meeting will not be until Friday, January 8th and it will be online.

January and February Div 5 Membership Meetings Will Be Virtual

We will 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 January meeting will be January 8, 2021.

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. Matt Kross

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.

Online Place To Buy/Sell Your HO Train Items

Anxious to sell some of your HO train items? Looking for used HO items? Paul Emch suggested using the following internet site: <https://groups.io/g/HOswap>

An example of a "for sale" posting is as follows:

To: HOswap@groups.io

Subject: [HOswap on IO] FS: Atlas Custom Line #4 & #6 code 83 turnouts nickel silver - lightly used - Updated

Up for sale are a total of 23 lightly used Atlas Custom Line code 83 turnouts. All are nickel silver. No ties have been cut back. All were installed on a layout using track nails. Upon inspection no ties are warped from installation.

#4 Right - 3 available - excellent condition, no flaws - \$9.00 each

#4 Right - 1 available - excellent condition, 1 outer tie end broken off from stock rail, remainder of tie complete - \$7.00

#4 Right - 1 available - excellent condition, wear of black finish on frog - probably from brightboy - \$7.00

#4 Left - 2 available - excellent condition, no flaws - \$9.00 each

#6 Right - 1 available - excellent condition, no flaws - \$9.00 each

#6 Right - 1 available - excellent condition, solder on the web of rails from rail joiner attachment - \$7.00 each

#6 Left - 1 available - excellent condition, no flaws - \$9.00 each

#6 Left - 1 available - excellent condition, solder on the web of rails from rail joiner attachment - \$7.00 each

All prices are plus USPS shipping.

Pictures available on request.

Payment via Paypal preferred.

No trades, no holds.

'Reply to Sender' with questions or to purchase

Articles

Don't Throw Away Those Desiccant Packs

I try not to throw anything away until I think about whether I could use it for something on the layout. In various medicine bottles I have opened over the years I have often found desiccant packs that are used to absorb moisture so that the medication doesn't. Most of the modern packs are small tubular plastic containers in three different sizes. Some medicines use a paper packet containing the desiccant. These also come in several sizes.



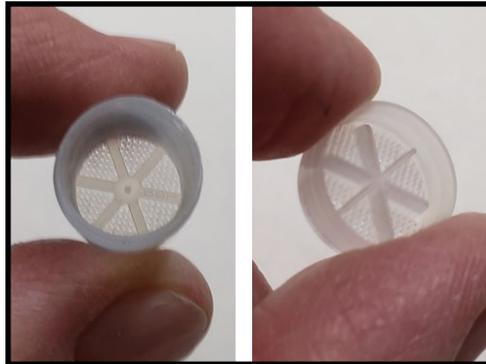
I was thinking I could paint these and somehow use them as some type of industrial product. However, the other day I looked more closely at these and found that I could pop the cap-type end off of these. Inside, you find a bunch of tiny little pellets that are the material that absorbs moisture. I can't see a way of using these little pellets and, since I don't know what they are made of and whether they are toxic, I throw these away. I do remove the paper label that is wrapped around some of the containers.



To remove the end cap, I stuck the dull side of an Exacto knife into the cap seam and pried the cap off. This tends to leave a mark on both sides of the seam since the plastic is very soft. You can work to dress up this mark or orient the final product so that the damaged side is towards the back and unseen.

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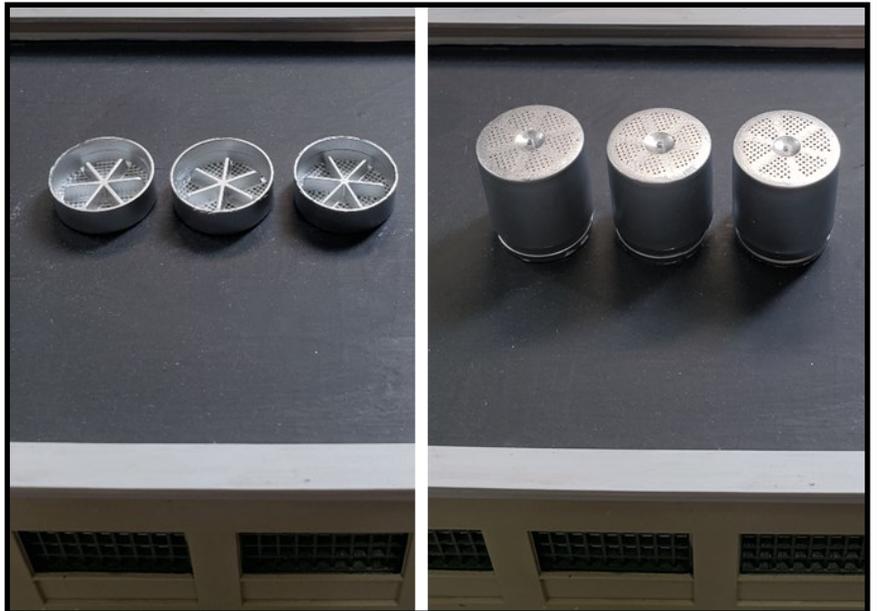
Articles



What I am left with is the larger tube and the small end cap. Both of these have tiny perforations on the ends. They also have ribs inside that sort of look like fan blades.

What can you use these for? Well, they have an industrial look. I figure you can use them in any industrial scene as some sort of machinery, strainer, mixer, ventilator, etc. I took several of the emptied containers and painted them silver.

If you put these on something in the background you could probably use these to represent some sort of rooftop ventilators or air filtration system.



As far as the desiccants in paper packets, I took one of the ones I had and painted it white. While this is too large for N-scale, you could potentially use these as sacks of material for O or G scale. You can paint the packets whatever color needed to represent the desired product.

~ Matt Kross

Articles

The Story

This is a special work car for a branch line of the Burlington Northern in the Colorado Rockies. While there was a "Big Hook" for rescuing locomotives that have derailed, the Maintenance of Way crew needed something to assist them in their daily work. This car was a repurposed stock car. When asked why we didn't use a boxcar, the answer was simple. The stock car would have been scrapped. And, yes, a boxcar would be a better option but now we have something useful. If there is any spare time, the maintenance crew said they would line the inside with plywood.

The Model

This model was intended to be part of a work train on my layout. This N-scale crane car started off as Life-Like's Union Pacific stock car. I cut away the roof, doors and sides, then imagined what might be needed for daily operations.

The original color of the stock car was a bright yellow. I brush painted the car with Polly Scale Special Oxide Red. The trucks were dry brush weathered also with the Special Oxide Red. The decking was painted Polly Scale 'something' Grey. (The lettering on the jar wore off.) Most of the weathering was diluted Polly Scale Engine Black.

The base for the crane was originally from the display stand for a ship model. The crane originally was part of an 1/540 scale aircraft carrier. I added a hoist and motor to the frame of crane. When I was painting the hoist and motor, a small fleck of black paint touched the hook. I was about to wipe it off when I saw that it looks like a safety latch. I guess some mistakes are meant to be.

The barrels are pewter. Two of the boxes at the end of the car are balsa wood and the other two 'lockers' are chunks of styrene plastic. The figures are Woodland Scenic 'dock workers'.

~ Bob Gittinger



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
Linda Kacprzak	440-286-9690	BOD@mcr5.org

Division 5 Appointed Positions (Terms expire June 2022)

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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

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DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (60)

THE TRAINWIRE

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www.mcr5.org
A non-profit educational organization



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