



FEBRUARY, 2021 VOLUME XVII ISSUE 2

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



THIS MONTH:

Friday February 5
Div Meeting @ 7:30
Virtual Using Zoom

Monday February 8
BOD Meeting @ 7:30
Virtual Using Zoom

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Super Reflections February 2021

What The Heck Are You Working On?

I couldn't get anyone to take me up on any of my proposed model railroading New Year Resolutions. At least not that anyone would admit. I hope you are doing something with your hobby. Remember, model railroading is fun, so why aren't you doing anything? It is always the same few people that are showing stuff for Bring 'n' Brag. Aren't you working on anything that you can tell us about? You don't have to build something. You can tell us about a new way you found to operate your railroad or tell us about a good railroad book you found. Your Assistant Superintendent, Mike Carovac, has really been trying hard to do at least some model railroading every day. Hopefully you are reading his column in the Trainwire and following his efforts. Perhaps he will inspire you to try his approach of 20 minutes a day of model railroading.

Desperate For Meeting Programs

It is a real challenge to try and come up with something for our meetings to keep you folks informed and enter-

tained. During Bring 'n' Brag, we are finding that a number of people are doing interesting things. We have been able to stretch a number of these Bring 'n' Brag presentations out into longer segments such that they become mini clinics. Look at what you have been working on and think about what you could share with the group regarding things you learned, techniques you developed, places you have found for parts, etc. Consider sharing this information as a mini program or at least share it during Bring 'n' Brag. A number of mini programs can be just as interesting as an hour-long program.

Steel Mill Research and Ghost Rails Books

I hadn't been doing much with the steel mill on my layout and wanted to start getting into the details of stuff around the mill. I hadn't done any web searches for a while so I did some in early January. One of the online steel mill modeling publications is "The Mill" which can be found at <https://steelindustri.blogspot.com/2018/11/the-mill-newsletters-available-for.html> . It is published quarterly and they just started Volume 5. It is free but I had

(Continued on Next Page)

COLUMNS

forgotten that it was available. I came across it again and downloaded all the issues I had missed. One thing that they have at the end of every issue is a list of steel mill reference material. One of the things listed in the references is the Ghost Rails series of books. These are sort of history books containing lots of pictures about railroads and industries that used to exist in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Several of them cover the Beaver Falls, PA area where I grew up and I have several of these on order. Part of what these books cover are the steel mills in the area and include those in the Youngstown and Warren Ohio area as well as Beaver Falls, Sharon, and Pittsburgh Pennsylvania area. Ghost Rails Volume 17 was released in August 2020. It covers USS Ohio Works and the Y&N RR. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Ghost Rails Volume 19 is due out in Spring/Summer 2021 and is going to cover the B&O Lake Branch. **SIDE NOTE:** As I was corresponding via email with the author of the Ghost Rails books, it turns out he was a young English teacher in my high school back when I graduated in 1974. I never had him for a course but I do remember him. Small world.

My Past Month Modeling Work

Most of what I have been working on during the

past month was purchasing and building various detail parts for my layout. One of the things, which I shared at the January meeting, are some electrical transmission towers for my steel mill. I found a prototype picture of some towers that I liked and have been trying to find a way to model them. This is still a work in progress. I got a few ideas from suggestions that were made during and after the January meeting. I recently purchased a Micro-Trains CSX MOW tie loader car set. Most Micro-Trains items come ready-to-run, but this set required assembly of the gondola extended sides and the tie crane. I found the instructions and the plastic castings to be rather poor. I expected better from MicroTrains. A couple of other things that I shared at the January meeting was the work I was doing on improving my layout room lights and my construction of an odometer car to measure the distance of my mainline. These both are still works-in-progress.

I hope the new year has started out well for you. Please join us for our February online meeting. See you down the line.

Matt



Follow us on
Facebook

NMRA

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

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

LOCATION: VIRTUAL USING ZOOM

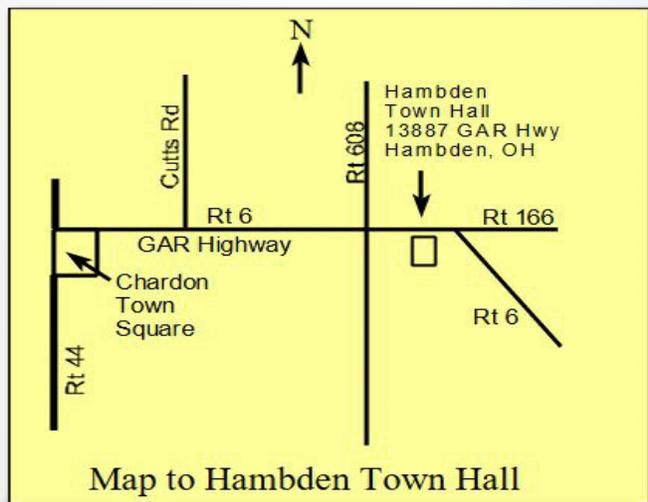
PROGRAM: TBD

BRING/BRAG: ANYTHING GOES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

BOD MEETING

LOCATION VIRTUAL USING ZOOM



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.

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 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 20

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

March 7

Erie Model Train Show
Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park, PA
10 am to 4 pm Adm. \$5.00
Phone: 724-992-2035

MINUTES

JANUARY MEETING

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2021

The January 8, 2021 membership meeting was held online using Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Superintendent Matt Kross. 16 members and no guests were present.

Because we were unable to arrange an official program for the January meeting, we held off inviting outside groups to join our meeting. We will try again next month.

Reviewed the status of various upcoming scheduled events:

The February Division 5 membership meeting will be held online using Zoom.

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

1/9/21 - UAW Snow Dog Train Show - cancelled

2/7/21 - Medina Model Railroad and Toy Show – still a go

2/14/21 - Mansfield Train Show – still a go

2/20/21 - Canfield Train Show – still a go

3/2021 - Independence Train Show - cancelled

3/2021 - MT Hope Train Show - cancelled

4/11-21 - Medina Model Railroad and Toy Show – still a go

5/2021 - Ohio N Scale Weekend – to be determined

Steel Mill Modelers Meet is still planned for late August.

The next Division 5 BOD meeting will be Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30pm and will be held online using Zoom.

We still don't have any volunteers to do a program for upcoming meetings.

Ray Newnes said he was recently given some old NYC RR employee information cards. Ray said some of these have some very interesting notes on them. Anyone interested in looking at them should contact Ray.

Modeling Questions:

A friend's family inherited a bunch of American Flyer equipment. Who do you talk to to get a rough appraisal? It was suggested that they talk to the Painesville Railroad Museum or Stewarts Hobbies.

How do you get better depth of field when taking pictures of your layout? One suggestion was to use the widest angle lens you have and then add a 2x or 3x Teleconverter. Another suggestion was to use the Helicon Focus software.

Items for the good of the order:

The NTrak parent organization has changed their name to NRail since the organization is more than just NTrak. It includes NTrak, TTrak, FreemoN, OneTrak, etc.

Bring 'n' Brag:	Matt Kross	Linda Kacprzak	Ted Wiese
	Bill Berger	Dave Neff	Chuck Limbert

Program: There was no official program for the meeting. Several members provided an extended Bring & Brag presentation for items they have been working on.

Submitted by
Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

Railroads in the Parks

Lake Farmpark is not reopening until June 19, 2021 so it looks like Railroads In The Parks is cancelled for 2021.

February and March 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

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



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!

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

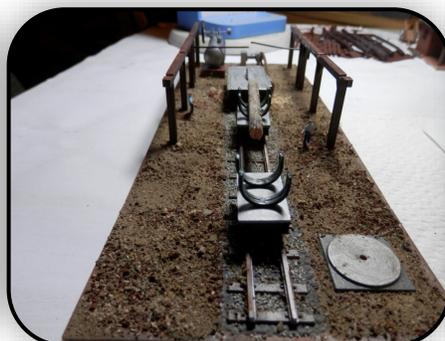
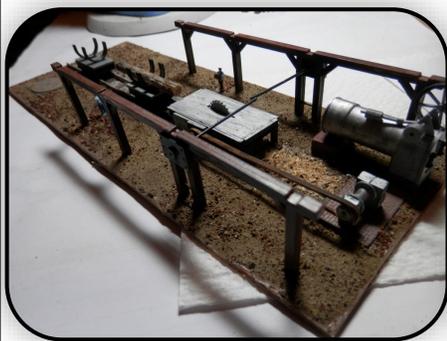
Articles

Building a T-Trak Logging Module

The idea of making a T-Trak diorama was intriguing, so I thought about buying a single module. At the September 2019 Mini-Meet in Erie, PA, I was fortunate enough to be given by CMR Products a double T-Trak module, which had a tunnel that didn't meet clearance specs. After adding shims to increase the height of the tunnel, I decided to cut off six inches of length to allow for better visibility of the scenery. At the October 2019 Berea Show I looked for a building kit suitable for mountainous terrain and found the Valley Sawmill, which became the focal point of this logging module, and sketched a layout plan. The sawmill kit base was too large, so it had to be cut and rearranged to fit in the space allocated. I later eliminated one maintenance shed and replaced it with two outhouses. I wanted to show evidence of logging in the wooded mountains and also included a log pond. I added a dirt road, log trucks and a freight station to indicate activity in and out of the area.



I started out by first cutting all components in the structure kit off the sprues and painting them with acrylic craft paints before building the sawmill, maintenance sheds, wagon, turbine, saw and crane. Next, the two main base sections were glued together, the ties were painted, and the rails were glued on. The adhesives used were Aleene's Tacky Quick Dry and Fast Grab Glues. Then I assembled the two log carts and added logs, which are twigs from trees in our woods. (They replaced the plastic logs included in the kit.) Coarse dirt, a little ballast, sawdust, and used tea bag leaves were used for ground cover. I assembled the turbine and saw and glued them in place, adding a rubber band to look like a drive belt. (See Figs. 2, 3, 4.) The crane needed cable and a hook, which were not in the kit, but gray thread and a piece of hook-shaped scrap plastic were added. Workers and carts were glued in place before the roof supports, wiring and the roof were added. Weathering of the roofs completed the model.





Next, the entire module (Fig. 5) was painted brown, then pink and blue foam was glued to the base and carved to form the mountain, and covered with a coat of neutral gray paint. Earth-tone paints were stippled on, ground foam and small bushes were glued on, and gloss medium was used for water run-off. The N-scale double track was nailed in place and ballasted, and wiring was added (Figs. 6, 7). Most of the trees are made of pieces of green

polyfiber sprayed with hairspray, dipped in super leaves and ground foam, and then glued to tree trunks cut from twigs. The tree trunks were first glued into the ground cover (Fig. 8). Along the edges of the wooded areas I used tree armatures for a more realistic appearance. The area with tree stumps and debris represent the logging operation.



The log pond was painted navy blue, which was then washed with mud tones and olive green. Then, three coats of Mod Podge gloss medium were applied. While the final coat of gloss medium was still wet, I placed twigs cut in half lengthwise flat side down to look like logs floating in the water. Some white paint was dry-brushed on ripples and along the edges of the logs.

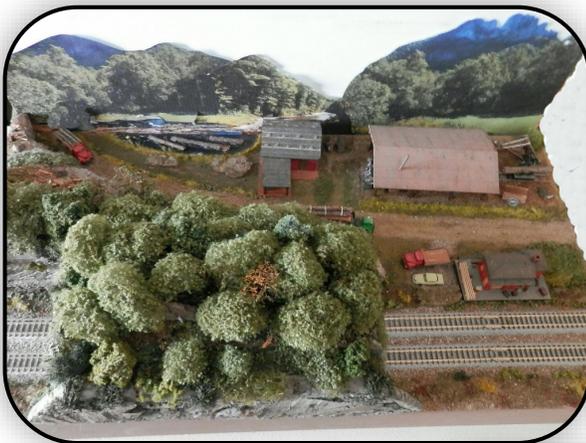


The freight station kit was assembled with moveable sliding doors and lots of detail parts and workers. Log loads on the trucks were glued on to resemble actual log trucks shown in internet images. (See Figs. 9, 10). Scenery materials used all over the module included ground foam in several colors, static grass



material, clump foliage, lichen, coarse dirt, tea bags, sawdust, pencil shavings, and talus. The tunnel is intended to be removable, if necessary, to accommodate trains pulling extra-

high loads or to clear a derailment inside. The same techniques were used to complete the rock wall and the trees as the mountain. The tunnel portals are paper glued to thin basswood coated with matte medium. If you look closely you'll see a logger checking out a stand of trees. (See Figs. 11, 12.)



The backdrop is foam board painted light blue and the scenery is a collage of photos taken on vacation in 2019 in West Virginia. When I'm satisfied with the final appearance, I plan to scan the pieces and print them in two sections to glue onto the backdrop board. Finally, I have to add more weeds, debris, barrels, a ladder, etc., especially around the shed. I would also like to add LED lighting to the sawmill, because the light included in the kit is obsolete.



~Linda Kacprzak

MANSFIELD TRAIN SHOW

Denny's Trains of Loudonville will have its 10th train show Sunday, February, 14, 2021 at The Richland County Fairgrounds 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. in The Fairhaven Hall, 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906

Admission \$7 - under 12 FREE!!

THIS SHOW WILL HAVE ONLY TRAIN-RELATED ITEMS

If you are looking for tropical fish, bird feeders, baby clothes, plants, tupperware, toys, men's socks, basement water-proofing booths, etc., **THIS SHOW IS NOT FOR YOU!!**

This show **WILL** have a KIDS AREA with a small riding Thomas train, operating a scale Thomas train, several operating layouts and 150 tables of quality train-related items.

DEALERS - 8 ft. tables \$30 - Buy 5 get 1 FREE! - Saturday set-up 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Sunday set-up 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. There will be limited drive-in access to unload - Dealers must stay completely set-up until 3:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Dennis Breese at 419-606-7934 or email at coaltrain3@hotmail.com

Please make checks payable to **Dennis Breese** and mail to:
Dennis Breese
22537 State Route 3
Loudonville, OH 44842

DIRECTIONS: off US 30, 7 miles **WEST** of I-71 - exit at Trimble Rd., go north 1000 feet, turn left on Longview, take Longview 8/10 of a mile to stop sign at Home rd., turn right - Fairgrounds on right

Canfield Train & Toy Show



**Saturday, February 20, 2021
10:00AM - 3:00PM**

BEING HELD IN THE NEW EVENT CENTER

Admission: Adults \$6.00 • Children 12 and under FREE

Featuring:

- New and old trains, parts, repair manuals, price guides, books, etc.
- Train videos, model building supplies, and kits.
- Lionel, American Flyer, MTH, Williams, Weaver, LGB
- O, S, HO, N, Z & Large Scale
- Toys of all types = old and new!



Canfield Fairgrounds
7265 Columbiana - Canfield Rd
Canfield, Ohio 44406



Rules for Dealers:

1. Dealers will set up between 7:00AM and 9:45AM
2. Dealers will accept full responsibility for any injuries or loss to them or their property while attending the show. Dealers expressly release the promoters (Woolman Stock Farm LLC) and The Canfield Fair from any liability and agree to hold promoters harmless therefore.
3. All monies will be refunded for each show that a dealer is unable to attend because of illness or vehicular problems. If unable to attend because of any other reason, the dealer must let Woolman Stock Farm LLC know one week prior to the show in writing.
4. There is to be nothing attached to the walls.
5. If for any reason the show is cancelled, all sums will be refunded.
6. All boxes and storage material must be placed directly under the tables. NO loose material is to be left in the aisles or unattended. Electricity is available if ordered in advance.
7. All loading and unloading of material, exhibits, and etc. are to be done at the designated entrance
8. No "Pack-Up" before 2PM.
9. Sale of food by dealer is prohibited.

Please return this form with check.

Please Print

Dealers- \$25 per 8' table in advance Buy 5 Tables, get 1 FREE!
Two free admission per exhibitor.

I would like _____ tables at \$25.00 each= \$ _____

FREE coffee for dealers till 10:00AM

All table orders must be paid for by February 10, 2021. Table orders NOT paid for by this date will be released to those dealers on the waiting list.

Make Checks Payable to:
Elwood Woolman
8560 Bedell Rd. Berlin Center, Ohio 44401
330-651-1042 ebwoolman@gmail.com

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____
Type of Display _____ Electricity

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)

Treasurer	Bonnie Lette	440-298-3075 Treasurer@mcr5.org
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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 (59)

THE TRAINWIRE

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www.mcr5.org
A non-profit educational organization



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