

TRAINWIRE



DECEMBER, 2021 VOLUME XVII ISSUE 12

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



THIS MONTH:

Friday December 3

Div Meeting @ 7:30
Hambden Town Hall

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Super Reflections December 2021

November Meeting Fiasco

We showed up at Hambden Town Hall for our November meeting only to find out that we couldn't use the Town Hall because they were fumigating it for Covid. Quite a frustrating experience to find this out as everyone was showing up for the meeting. As is usually the case, the regular person was on vacation and the fill-in person didn't bother to check the schedule. There were lots of apologies from Hambden Township and said it wouldn't happen again. Covid strikes again!

Mount Hope Show Was Great!

I attended the Mount Hope on November 6th. It was full of vendors and there was quite a large crowd while I was there. I found a number of things of interest, mainly an N scale kit I had been looking for for quite some time. The show is a toy and train show so there were a lot of tables of old toys but there were still a lot of tables with trains. There was more N-scale at the show than I expected.

Repurposing Parts

I had an experience recently where I had used the main parts of a kit to make a different building than the kit originally intended. Because I did that, I had left over parts from the kit. Two of the things leftover were two different sizes of wooden rooftop water tanks. As I looked at the plastic tank bodies, I realized the texture of the parts would make good river barge piers. These types of piers are round and are in groups along rivers to allow barges

to be tied up to them. I looked through my junk box and found that I had several more of them. I painted them and put them in my river and they looked pretty good. They looked so good that now I want to get a bunch more of them. I bought another of the same kit just to get the rooftop water tanks but that is an expensive way to go to get a couple of small parts. I am going to try and make a mold of the parts and cast a bunch of parts. Just goes to show you, you need to look at things differently and consider alternative uses for them. So, take a look through your junk box and see if you can find new uses for your leftover parts.

My Past Month Modeling Work

I continued to build a lot of plastic kits this past month: electrical transmission towers, electrical substations, machine shop, and storage tanks, lots of storage tanks! I also applied stick-on laser-cut wood decks to a number of flat cars and then weathered the cars. I continued to assemble and paint a number of detail items for various scenes on my layout. It doesn't seem like a lot, but the little things keep adding up. I really like the way a number of scenes on my layout are starting to take shape.

Please join us in-person at our December meeting. See you down the line.

Matt

MINUTES

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2021

The November 5, 2021 membership meeting was held online using Zoom. The meeting was supposed to have been in-person at Hambden Town Hall but when we arrived at the town hall around 6:45pm we found out that it was closed due to Covid-19 fumigation. Those people showing up for the meeting were directed to return home and instead join an online Zoom session for the night's meeting. A last-minute Zoom meeting email was sent out to the membership around 7:45pm. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by Superintendent Matt Kross. 14 members and no guests were present. We originally had 21 people that said they were planning on attending the in-person meeting so some were not able to join the online meeting.

Reviewed upcoming events and shows

Mount Hope Train & Toy Show

NETS show in Highland Heights

LENS N-Trak group will be at Geauga Country Library in Thompson, Ohio first weekend in December

Reminded members to vote in our survey regarding whether to have a Holiday Party this year. If we do not have the Holiday Party in January, then we will have a regular membership meeting on Friday, January 7, 2022.

Reviewed how Division 4 show was last month.

Provided some updated information on the Indy Junction 2022 convention. Can now go to the convention website to register for the convention and the hotel. Early registration discount is only through the end of this year.

2023 MCR convention will be in Cranberry Township, PA, north of Pittsburgh.

Mid Central Region is looking for a division to host the 2024 regional convention. They are looking to Division 4 or 5 since we haven't done one for a while.

Reviewed some highlights from the recent MCR BOD meeting. Still looking for people to submit clinics they are willing to provide for the Region Clinician Database. National is experimenting with offering a digital version of the NMRA Magazine. There is still a lot of work to do and issues to resolve before this might be offered at a cost to members. Discussed representation of various scales within the MCR divisions. Division 5 is unusual in that we have a large N scale representation (about 1/3 of members). Most divisions do not. Discussed what social media applications that younger people are currently using and the possibility of using those to reach out to younger people.

Ted Wiese provided the Company Store stock status. We don't have much left in our store other than Division 5 pins. There are a few HO cars and O scale sugar shacks.

Reviewed new RSVP feature on the Division website

Still nothing from Lakeland Community College regarding holding Railfest 2022. We are still looking at our possible places to hold Railfest. Mentor High School is a possibility. It was suggested that we might want to take a look at Kirtland High School.

Items For The Good Of The Order:

Pet Peeves: Documentaries on TV about US railroads that keep showing video clips of European trains; parents that teach their kids the wrong sounds or names of things regarding trains (using steam engine sounds when a diesel goes by).

Mike Rudder is looking for people interested in forming an operating group on his layout.

Modeling Questions:

How to revive old plastic kits/what adhesive to use? A lot of plastics will crystallize with age and they become solvent resistant. Nothing you can do to rejuvenate it. Might try to use Tacky Glue, Foam Tack, or Scenic Cement.

Bring & Brag: Bob Gittinger Dave Neff Mike Rudder

Program: The scheduled program for the evening was postponed until the December meeting due to the meeting location issues that arose. Mike Carovac was scheduled to present the third of his four clinics on Scenery Accents.

Submitted by Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

BOD Meeting 8 November 2021

A virtual Division 5 BOD meeting was held on November 8, 2021 via online meeting using Zoom. In attendance were Matt Kross, Bryan Persing, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Ray Newnes, Chuck Limbert, and Linda Kacprzak.

Discussed if we could have handled our last-minute meeting location cancellation any differently. We need to make sure the Superintendent has quick access to members' phone numbers so that we can quickly start notifying people of a problem. There really wasn't anything else we could have done. The new web-based RSVP system will help us know who was planning on coming to the meeting.

Based on the results of the member survey regarding whether to have a Division Holiday Party this year, the BOD decided to cancel the party for this year. Because we won't be having a party in January, we will instead have a membership meeting on our normal night which will be January 7, 2022. This year's Losers Raffle will be held at the January membership meeting.

Decided to have pizza available at the December meeting as an attraction.

Nothing new to report on Railfest 2022. Still have not had any new information from Lakeland Community College. Looking at possibility of holding the show at Mentor High School.

Need to form a Nominating Committee in December. We will ask for volunteers at the December meeting.

Discussed the possibility of Division 5 hosting a regional convention in a few years. At the moment, manpower is a significant issue for the Division plus we don't have any good places to hold a convention. For us to host a convention, we would probably need to get another division to co-host with us.

Reviewed list of people and organizations receiving paper copies of the Trainwire to see if we can get them to switch to the electronic copy or drop them from our mailing list.

Briefly talked about ways we could recognize people within the Division.

Noted the article in the recent NMRA magazine that featured what Division 4 is doing to attract new people and keep the members they have.

Talked about whether having Division T-Trak modules might help to attract people, especially younger people. Possibly of creating a small set of T-Trak modules to create a layout that kids can run at the shows.

The next Div 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, February 14, 2022 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

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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NMRA

WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Trainwire Items

- *****
- December Meeting:** December 3, 2021 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall
(NO online Zoom meeting will be available)
 Program: Part 3 of 4 of Mike Carovac’s Scenery Accents series
Pizza Night!
- *****
- January Meeting:** January 7, 2022 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall
(NO online Zoom meeting will be available)
 Program: Part 4 of 4 of Mike Carovac’s Scenery Accents series
Annual Losers Raffle!
- *****
- February Meeting:** December 3, 2021 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall
(NO online Zoom meeting will be available)
 Program: Dave Neff presentation on his trip to Colorado railroads
- *****

December Bring ‘n’ Brag Theme:

We will try one more time at having you bring in the items you have been working on during the last year and a half during the Covid-19 lockdown. Surely you have worked on something during the last 18 months that you can show us. Otherwise, just bring in something that you have currently been working on. You will receive a \$5 Division Certificate if you do.

Pizza At The December Meeting

We will have pizza from Capp’s as the main refreshment at our December meeting. Several different varieties will be available. We will also have coffee, water, and soft drinks available along with packaged cookies.

No Holiday Party This Year

Based on member feedback, we will not be having a Division Holiday Party in January. Instead, we will be having a regular monthly membership meeting where we will hold our annual Losers Raffle (you don’t have to be present to win).

Indy Junction 2022 Early Registration Ending Soon

Time is running out for discounted registration for Indy Junction 2022. You have through the end of 2021 to register before the cost goes up \$10. Visit the convention website at <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/> to register, get a hotel room, and get updates on everything that will be happening at the convention. This is one convention you’re not going to want to miss!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

How About Submitting A Member Profile?

How about submitting a member profile of yourself? We did a number of these a couple of years ago but then they stopped. There are still a lot of you out there that we don't know about. Let the other members know about you and your model railroading background. You can tell us:

How did you get interested in model railroading?

What are your railroading interests?

What scale do you model?

Are you modeling something specific or are you a freelancer?

What are you currently working on?

Do you have a layout or module?

What other interests do you have besides trains?

We can help you put together the write-up. We just need you to provide the information. If you are willing to do this, please contact the Trainwire Editor Bryan Persing or Superintendent Matt Kross.

Farmpark Country Lights Train Layouts Cancelled

Division 5 Election Process

The Division Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Superintendent. It shall be composed of a Chairperson and two other members. Each person on the committee shall be from a different county of the Division. The current Superintendent shall not serve on the committee, nor sit with it during its deliberations. The Nominating Committee will report the nominations to the Clerk and the membership.

Members of the Nominating Committee may not nominate themselves for any office, including re-election for office.

The Teller shall report the results of the election to the officers of the Division and to all nominees prior to the May meeting. The results are to be announced by the Teller at the May meeting. Those elected shall be invited to participate in the May Board of Directors meeting. The newly elected officers will assume office June 1st.

Nominations for Division 5 offices may be made by a petition signed by two members and the nominee and submitted to the Nominating Committee. The signatures must be legible and the member's NMRA membership number and their membership expiration date must appear with the signature. The petition shall state for what office the candidate is seeking nomination. No candidate can be nominated for more than one office in an election.

Nominations from the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the January meeting of the election year. Nominations of members from the floor shall be presented at the February meeting of the election year. Nominations from the floor shall be by a motion and must be seconded. Nominees cannot nominate themselves.

No member shall be nominated to an elective office without their approval.

- Election for Division officers shall be conducted by mail ballot. Nominees for office and qualifications for same shall be included in the March issue of the Trainwire for elected office balloting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee Volunteers Needed

2022 will be an election year for Division 5 so we need to form a Nominating Committee before the end of 2021 to put together a slate of candidates. We are looking for three representatives, preferably each from a different county. Your job would be to determine good candidates for office. You would then need to contact them to see if they would be willing to run.

If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee, please contact Superintendent Matt Kross.

Refer to the section elsewhere in this Trainwire on the Division 5 Election Process for more details on the Nominating Committee duties.

Division 5 2022 Elections

This coming spring will be election time again for Division 5.

There are 2 elected officers in the Division:

- Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent

Elections are held every two years in the Spring of the even-numbered years. Only Division 5 members may hold office. Terms are two years in length and are limited to 4 consecutive years (two terms) in a row in the same office. If a member has been in a position for two consecutive terms, they can be elected for that position again after they have been out of that position for one term.

If you are interested in running for Superintendent or Assistant, please contact a member of the Division 5 Nominating Committee or the Superintendent.

The duties of the **Superintendent** are:

- Preside at all Division 5, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee meetings.
- Serve or appoint a proxy as the Division representative on the Region Board of Directors.
- Assign the Assistant Superintendent suitable duties and keep him/her informed of Division 5 business.
- Appoint chairpersons of committees required to accomplish the stated purposes of the Division.
- Cooperate with other Divisions in every way possible.

The duties of the **Assistant Superintendent** are:

- Assist the Superintendent in any way possible.
- Assume the functions of the office of Superintendent during the absence of the Superintendent.
- Run the Bring 'n' Brag at the meeting.
- Assist with the Raffle sales at the meeting.

If all elected offices only have a single candidate, then an Election by Acclimation process can be implemented as long as the Division nominating committee has made a diligent effort/search for multiple candidates for each elected office. The Election by Acclimation process shall consist of the Division 5 Board Of Directors reviewing the actions of the Nominating Committee, and after determining that no suitable additional candidates can be found, passes by majority vote that the election process is complete and the specified candidates will be the new duly elected officers. No membership balloting (paper or otherwise) will be required for this process.

ARTICLES

OHIO RAILROAD ODDITIES

Ever since Linda and I were youngsters our families spent vacations and traveled numerous times to the Marblehead area of Ohio. Even today we still enjoy going there. I have always had an interest in a railroad that once was in Marblehead because I saw remnants of it when I was a kid. Recently I read a book about it called *The Lakeside and Marblehead Railroad*. In the book it described and had pictures of a McKeen Railcar.

The McKeen railcar can be considered an oddity because of its design and that it was built in Omaha, Nebraska for the Union Pacific. McKeen railcars were built from 1906 to 1917. They have a "windsplitter" pointed aerodynamic shape and rounded tail as well as distinctive porthole windows.

I always thought McKeen cars were used by western railroads, not in Ohio. Well, when I googled McKeen railcars I found many others. UP, SP, Erie,

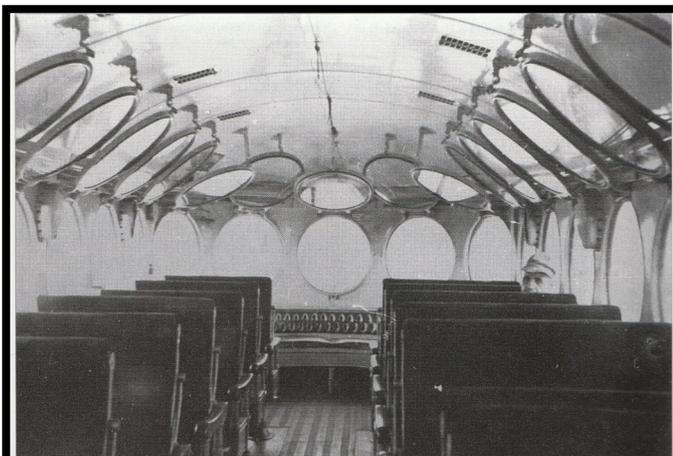
BR & P and others, all use these oddities.

The Lakeside & Marblehead RR purchased their car in 1916 and used it for passenger service until 1930. This car was scrapped and later sold, rebuilt and used as a restaurant in Bono, Ohio from 1947 to 1962.

I found a picture postcard of another McKeen car owned by the Bessemer & Lake Erie RR at a station in Conneaut, Ohio. There was no year indicated. The B & LE car was first used in 1917 on the Hillards branch.

After more searching I found a third McKeen car that was located in Nelsonville, Ohio. It was purchased by the Hocking & Sunday Creek Traction Co. in 1910 and ran until 1915 when the line was electrified. This line ran from Nelsonville to Athens.

~ Rich Kacprzak



The interior of the L&M's McKeen car featured mahogany finishes and round, top-hinged "porthole" windows. (George Danchisen collection.)



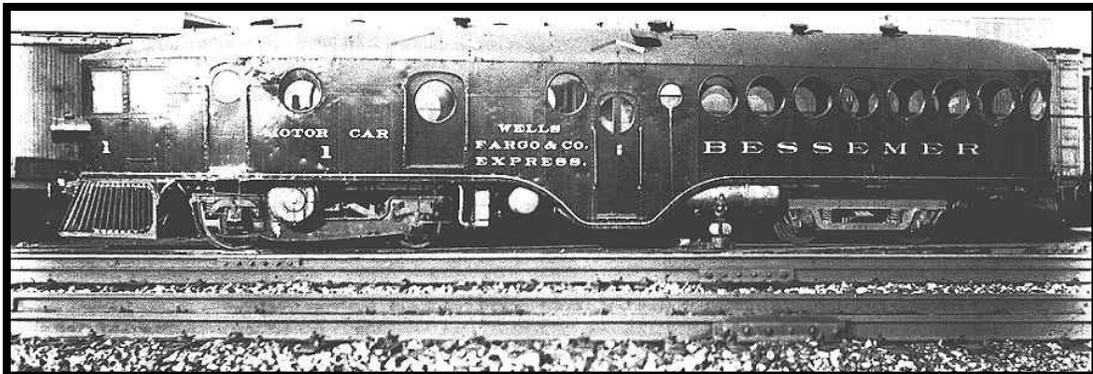
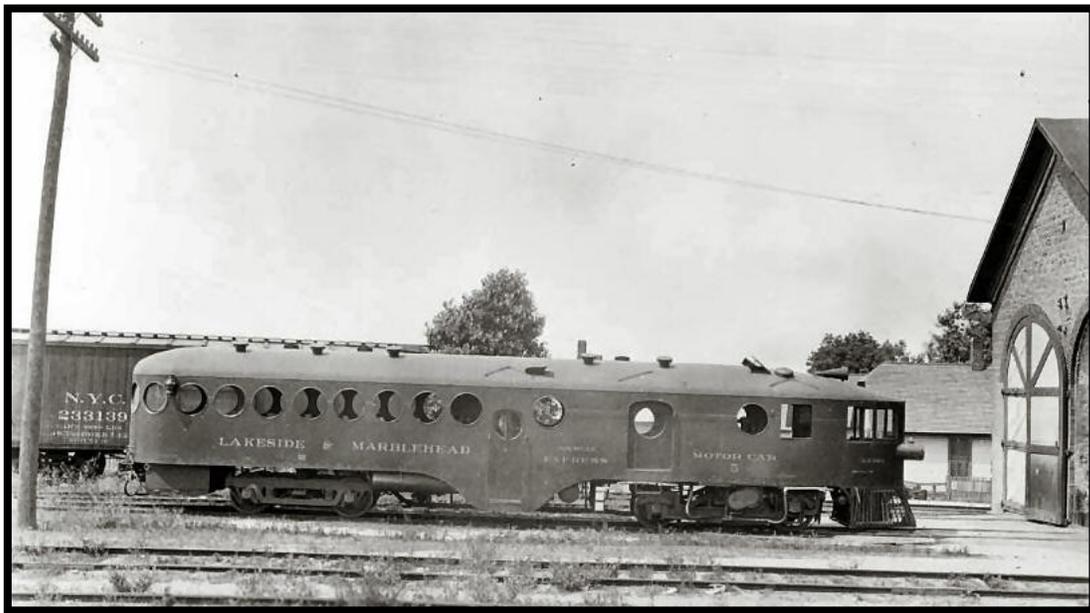
ARTICLES



The Bessemer Passenger Service, Connaught, Ohio.



Motor Car 5 serving as a diner in Bono, Ohio in 1960. (Bob Lorenz.)



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
Clerk	Matt Kross	440-668-9462 Clerk@mcr5.org
Railfest Chairman	Jim Wendorf	440-357-8890 Railfest@mcr5.org
Promo Day Coordinator		PromoDay@mcr5.org
Achievement Program	Bryan Persing	330-715-3519 AP@mcr5.org
Trip Master		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		

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.

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DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (56)

THE TRAINWIRE

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THE WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION 5

www.mcr5.org
A non-profit educational organization



Superintendent:	Matt Kross	Super@mcr5.org
Asst. Super:	Mike Carovac	AstSuper@mcr5.org
Trainwire Editor:	Bryan Persing	Trainwire@mcr5.org
Treasurer:	Bonnie Lette	Treasurer@mcr5.org
Clerk:	Matt Kross	Clerk@mcr5.org