

TRAINWIRE



DECEMBER, 2023 VOLUME XIX ISSUE 12

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



THIS MONTH:

December 1
Division Meeting
Hambden Town Hall
7:30

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Super Reflections December 2023

Happy Holidays

Best wishes for a happy holiday season. Hopefully you will have some spare time to do some model railroad-ing work. Use this time of family get-togethers to show all the relatives about model railroading, especially the young kids.

Consider Running For Office

We need some members to step up and run for the offices of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Our Nominating Committee has partially been filled. Chuck Limbert and Paul Emch have volunteered to be on the committee. We could use one more person on this committee. If you would like to be on the Nominating Committee, please contact Matt Kross. If you are interested in running for office, please contact Chuck or Paul.

Holiday Party

Our annual Division 5 Holiday Party will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at Hambden Town Hall. See the details inside this Trainwire. This is a nice time to bring your spouse or a guest and just socialize with other Division 5 members, enjoy some good food, and possibly win a prize.

My Past Month Modeling Work

Still not getting anything done on my layout. I have started working on just getting my layout cleaned up. It is amazing how much stuff gets stacked on top of the layout when you are not actively running the layout or working on it. I would like to take some pictures of the layout but I can't really do that until I get all the clutter off of it.

Join us on December 1st for our monthly membership meeting. See you down the line.

Matt

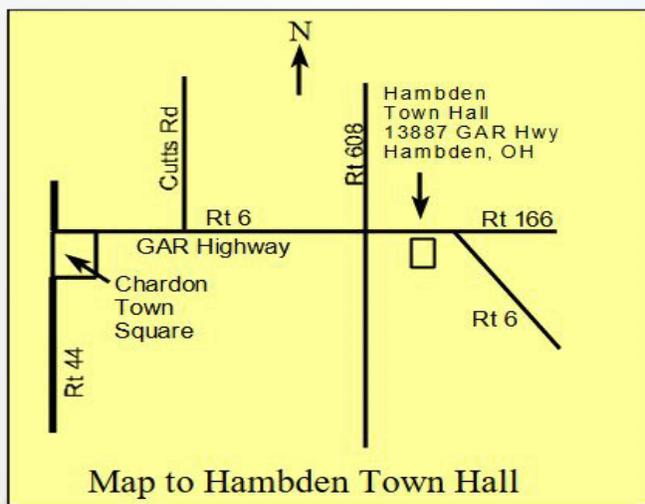
Editor's Note: If planning on making a contribution to the January Trainwire please send it to me as soon as possible. I will be getting the Trainwire together earlier in the month as your Editor will be spending the Christmas Holiday in sunny Southwest Florida and will not have access to any files so I need to get this out before I leave on December 21.....and no you can't come with me.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>DECEMBER 1, 2023</u> | DIVISION MEETING |
| LOCATION: | HAMBDEN TOWN HALL 13887 GAR HIGHWAY |
| PROGRAM: | RICH KACPRZAK TANK CARS |
| BRING & BRAG: | TANK CARS |
| | |
| <u>JANUARY 6, 2023</u> | HOLIDAY PARTY |
| LOCATION: | HAMBDEN TOWN HALL 13887 GAR HIGHWAY |
| | |
| <u>FEBRUARY 2, 2024</u> | DIVISION MEETING |
| LOCATION: | HAMBDEN TOWN HALL 13887 GAR HIGHWAY |
| PROGRAM: | TBD |
| BRING & BRAG: | TBD |



Map to Hambden Town Hall

UPCOMING Events

(GO TO WWW.CLEVESHOWS.COM FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS)

December 2

Cuyahoga Valley Terminal Model Railroad Club Open House
Northampton Road & W. Bath Road
10:00 am to 4:00 pm Adm. \$5.00

December 2 & 3

Model Train Open House - Youngstown Model Railroad Assn.
Corner of Raccoon Rd. & Four-Mile Run Rd. Austintown, Oh
Noon - 6:00 pm Adm. \$5.00 Donation

December 3

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

December 9 & 10

Model Train Open House - Youngstown Model Railroad Assn.
Corner of Raccoon Rd. & Four-Mile Run Rd. Austintown, Oh
Noon - 6:00 pm Adm. \$5.00 Donation

December 10

Massillon Train & Toy Show
K of C Hall, 988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon, Ohio 44647
10 am to 3 pm Adm. \$5.00
Phone Jon Ulbright at: 330-262-7488

January 27

TCA Collectors Show
UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio
10 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00
Phone John Twarog at: 330-273-6404

MINUTES

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2023

The November 3, 2023, membership meeting was held at Hambden Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Superintendent Matt Kross. There were 20 members and 2 guests present.

Welcomed new members Cody Cavender and Bruce Call.

We signed up 5 new members at the Division 5 Promotional Day in October. Four were RailPass members and the other a full member.

Next year's Mid Central Region convention will be in the Cleveland area. Jerry Kruger, the convention chairman, gave us a presentation on the MCR 2024 convention via Zoom.

Reviewed upcoming Division 5 meetings and events.

Normal December and February meetings.

No meeting in January – Holiday Party instead

Upcoming train shows and other events:

NETS show in Highland Heights November 11

Members were encouraged to venture outside of our local area to attend train shows. There are a lot of great shows within several hours drive. You would be surprised at the different things you will find due to different vendors and different geographic area. Assistant Superintendent Mike Carovac recently went to the Cincinnati show at the Lakota High School and said it was an incredible show. He said they had a great kids' area featuring Thomas The Tank Engine that attracted lots of kids. They also had a table where you could ask questions or possibly have your train fixed on the spot. There were lots of layouts, some very large, of all scales.

There will be a road trip on Saturday, November 11, 2023 to see both the Sebring and Youngstown model railroad club layouts. This will be the only weekend when both clubs are having open houses on the same days. Details were in the November Trainwire. Plan is to carpool and leave around 9am. First stop will be the Sebring club, then Rob's Trains in Alliance, then stop for lunch at the Burger Station in Alliance, then on to the Youngstown club. The group should get back around 6pm.

We currently need a meeting program for the February meeting.

We will have our annual Holiday Party on January 6, 2024 at the Hambden Town Hall. It is free for a Division 5 member and one guest. Cost will be \$10 per additional guest. Details will be in the Trainwire. We need people to RSVP by Wednesday, December 27, 2023 so that we have a count for the food. Paul Emch volunteered to help coordinate this event.

Our Railfest Chairman Jim Wendorf has said 2024 will be the last year that he will be chairman of the show. We need some people willing to work with Jim now in the planning of Railfest 2024 to learn how to run Railfest and take over for him in the following years.

Division 5 elections will be held this coming Spring. Members are asked to start considering how they will help support the Division. We need people to run for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Chuck Limbert and Paul Emch volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. We are supposed to have three on the Nominating Committee so we are looking for one more person.

Our Division 5 Model Railroading Promotional Day held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 went

well. It was held at the library in Thompson, OH. We had approximately 85 people come and see our demonstrations and displays. A couple of new things we tried this year were free raffles of a train set, five RailPass memberships, and a dozen model railroading How To books. We also had train-related children's activity books that we gave away to families with kids. We had seven different presentations going on, a table of free train magazines, three operating layouts (G, HO, N), and some train videos running.

Member Welfare:

Ted Wiese's wife Sandy passed away this past week.

Jim Wendorf is going through radiation treatments.

Rich Kacprzak is still weak but recovering well from his serious surgery a month ago to remove a tumor.

Modeling Question:

Member looking for someone to help his neighbor in Madison with the controls for his HO railroad.

Items for the Good Of The Order:

There is interest in having another trip to the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum.

Bring & Brag: Rusty Equipment

Chuck Limbert

Matt Kross

Bryan Persing

Dave Metzger

Paul Emch

Bill Berger

Program: Mike Carovac showed his techniques for modeling rust

Submitted by Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

BOD Meeting 13 November 2023

A Division 5 BOD meeting was held on November 13, 2023. The meeting was held online using Zoom. In attendance were Matt Kross, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Bryan Persing, Andy Yedlick, and Chuck Limbert.

Division 2024 budget was discussed. There are a number of budget items that could be adjusted in the future if we need to reduce the budget in future. After a lot of detailed discussion, it was decided to keep the 2024 budget the same as the 2023 budget.

We had two people volunteer to be on the Nominating Committee for the 2024 Division 5 elections, Chuck Limbert and Paul Emch. Per our Division Regulations, we are supposed to have three people on the Nominating Committee, if possible. We will continue to ask the membership for another committee member. Reviewed the overall election process. Because we have been holding our annual Holiday Party in January and do not have a January membership meeting, we need to revise our Regulations to change the dates when various election steps need to take place.

We added five new members at Promo Day this year, four RailPass members and one full membership.

Division 5 membership currently stands at 65. We currently have 12 Life members on our roster.

We have several people willing to help run Railfest. This information has been passed on to the Railfest Chairman and told him he needs to get these people involved as soon as possible. The Chair-

man is currently working on preparing the Railfest invitations which will be sent out at the end of November.

A new laptop has been purchased for the Treasurer. The old laptop will be provided to Railfest to run that software. It was decided it would be helpful to buy a new laptop (up to \$885) for Railfest in addition to giving the old Division laptop to Railfest. The new laptop will be the official Railfest laptop that has all the current Railfest data on it. The old laptop will be used as a backup and as a training tool for the new people helping with Railfest. The cost of this will be taken from savings and charged to Division 5.

Motion was approved to allow the Treasurer to purchase a new copy of Microsoft Office for the new Division 5 laptop and the new Railfest laptop. We will see if we can get a reduced-cost version for non-profit organizations. The cost of this will be taken from savings and charged to Division 5.

Upcoming Division 5 membership meetings:

December 1 – Rich Kacprzak will present a clinic on tank cars

January – No Meeting – Division 5 Holiday Party

February 2 – need a program

Upcoming Division 5 events:

Holiday Party – January 2024

Railfest – March 2024

We will be having our annual Division 5 Holiday Party in January 2024. The date will be Saturday, January 6, 2024 at Hambden Town Hall. We will see if we can get Mary Yoder's Restaurant in Middlefield to cater the event. The party is free for a Division member and one guest; \$10 for each additional guest. We will need people to RSVP by Wednesday December 27, 2023 so that we can get a count for the food. Paul Emch volunteered to be the coordinator for this event.

There are several Division documents that still need to be updated. The Membership Guide is the main one but there are also a few things in the Regulations that should be revised. Some specific Regulation changes involve the timing of the audits and the timing of various election steps.

The BOD would like to get an updated list of what is currently left in the Company Store inventory. Also, we should create a Division equipment list.

The next Div 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, February 12, 2024 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Trainwire Items

December Meeting: December 1, 2023 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall
 Bring ‘n’ Brag: Theme: Tank Cars
 Program: Rich Kacprzak – Tank Cars

January Meeting: No Meeting
 Division 5 Holiday Party instead (see details in this Trainwire)

February Meeting: February 2, 2024 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall
 Bring ‘n’ Brag: TBD
 Program: TBD

Division 5 Holiday Party

We will be having our annual Division 5 Holiday Party on Saturday January 6, 2024 at Hambden Town Hall. We will see if we can get Mary Yoder’s Restaurant in Middlefield to cater the event. We will need people to RSVP by Wednesday December 27, 2023 so that we can get a count for the food. We are currently taking RSVPs for this event. Please contact Matt Kross or Bonnie Lette to let us know if you are planning to come and how many guests you will be bringing.

Summary

What: Annual Division 5 Holiday Party
When: Saturday, January 6, 2024
Hours: 12:00pm to 1:00pm Social Time
 1:00pm to 2:30pm Meal
 2:30pm to 4:00pm Activities
Where: Hambden Town Hall,
Costs: Free for a Division member and one guest;
 \$10 for each additional guest (payment at the door)
Menu: Specifics to be determined but most likely will be our standard fare:
 Roast beef, chicken, potatoes/gravy, vegetable (green beans?), tossed
 salad/dressing, roll/butter, coffee, tea, water, soft drinks, pie
Activities: Annual Losers Raffle, other activities TBD

Reminder - Please RSVP Your Monthly Meeting Attendance

Please use the meeting RSVP feature in the Division 5 members only section of our website to let us know if you will be attending the upcoming Division 5 membership meeting. This particular feature is only available between the time when the new Trainwire is posted to the website and the time of the actual meeting. All other times, the meeting RSVP feature will be hidden. Knowing the number of people that will be attending the meeting provides information regarding the amount of refreshments to bring and also how we should set up the meeting room.

Nominating Committee Volunteers Needed

2024 will be an election year for Division 5 so we need to form a Nominating Committee before the end of 2023 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 2024 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.

Member Welfare

We wish the following members well and speedy recoveries:

Condolences to Ted Wiese and his family on the passing of his wife Sandy. Ted is also going through some heart testing procedures.

John Ward fell off a ladder putting up Christmas lights and broke his right arm/shoulder.

Rich Kacprzak is recovering well from his surgery and hopes to be well enough to do the December meeting program.

Jim Wendorf is nearing completion of his radiation treatments.

Welcome New Members!

Cody Cavender – Madison, OH

Steve Hamm – Madison, OH

Bruce Call – Madison, OH

Dave Papajcik – Chagrin Falls, OH

Richard Bargor, Jr. – Painesville, OH

Articles, tips, or pictures for Trainwire

Members that provide items for the newsletter will receive a \$10 award certificate for a one page or longer article, \$5 award certificate for a modeling tip or collection of pictures (5 pictures minimum) covering a relevant railroading activity. The Trainwire editor has final decision over whether the material is used or not. For items to be eligible for an award certificate, the member must have played an active part in generating the information. Thus, submitting an article cut out of the newspaper or a magazine does not qualify.

The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
apparel*

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)
Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

*Many Restaurants
are located
within walking
distance of the
Crown Plaza
Hotel.*



Crown Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130
(855)797-6733

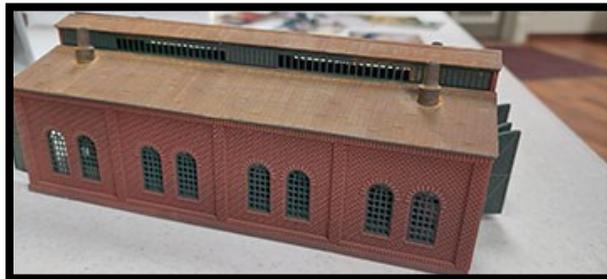
**EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!**

*Register or print out
a registration form
online!*

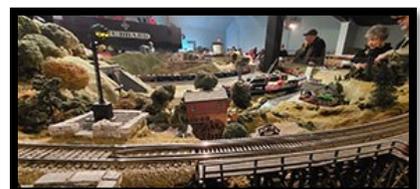
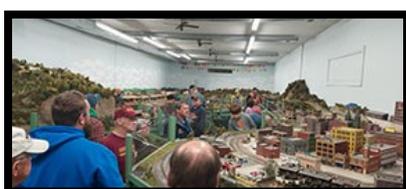
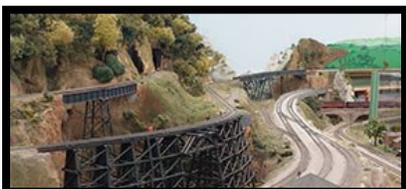
www.northcoastlimited2024.org



Bring & Brag



EVENTS



EVENTS



ARTICLES

A Trip to Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Model Train Show

A lot of you might think that I am crazy for driving that far just to go to a train show and you could have been right but it turned out to be a really good idea. A main reason for me and the wife going down was I keep seeing the same vendors at the shows up here. I was hoping that I would see different vendors and boy did I. There was only two that attended the Berea Show. The show was sponsored by our sister division, Division 7 and held at the Lakota West High School. Now, I am not going to lie and say that the drive down and back was enjoyable because it rained all the way down and all the way back which made the drive a little harder than it should have been. But, my wife was right when she said that I deal with this every day at work.

Upon entering the school, once we found it, you were instantly struck with how many children were there between the ages of 4-12 years old. What and why they were there became very apparent as you started to walk down the long hall of vendors that greeted you. Thomas the Tank Engine was everywhere. There must have been at least ten vendors that sold nothing but Thomas trains and the pieces parts that go with it. One of the best ideas about this is that they mixed these vendors in with the rest of the other vendors. This may be something to think about because these kids also started looking at the trains and rolling stock on the rest of the vendors tables.

The show was heavy with N, O, S, and G scales although there was also a lot (not as much) HO scale. Now as most of you know, my layout is focusing on the transportation of coal. My base railroad is the B&O with elements of the C&O, Virginian and Clinchfield. Even though I have faithfully gone to all the shows up here these railroad are hard to find. Well, apparently these railroads are not very popular down in Cincinnati as the tables were filled with everything I could have dreamed of. If all I wanted was B&O hoppers I am sure I could have walked out of there with at least 50-75 two and three bay hoppers, this didn't happen because my wife had me on a fixed income. I found a vendor that had nothing but sequentially numbered B&O boxcars, 10 of those made their way up north. Another vendor had a ton of Clinchfield two and three bay hoppers that have found a new home with me. As far as prices go they were comparable to what we see up here.

One thing that caught my eye was the vendors that didn't sell any rolling stock or engines. These vendors sold 3D printed accessories and loads for layouts. Some of these items were different era pop machines, ice machines, propane cages, generators, gas meters, electric meters and even MOW tools and equipment.

Another thing that caught my eye was the number of layouts from different clubs. These layouts covered all the most common scale (N, HO, O, S, and G) we see here in the United States. One room alone had five layouts from T-Track to a full

ARTICLES

size Garden layout. There were also several different scenic railroad organizations there with pamphlets describing their yearly trips.

On our way back from Cincinnati we stopped off at the Buckeye Express Dinner. This dinner sits on top of a hill just as you get off of I-71 at RT 97. Be leave it or not, you really can't miss it as it stands out like a sore thumb. The dinner has a 2-8-0 as its lead and as you can see they have made it look like a small passenger train. They have even set the "little" engine up for Hal-

loween I think. Either that of the Engineer stayed at his post a little too long.

I think that moving forward I and the wife might start making weekend trips to different shows in Michigan, New York, and even Pennsylvania.

If you get the chance to go to one of these out of the way train shows, I highly recommend it. You never know what you might find.

~Mike Carovac



AROUND the LAYOUT

“The ID found on the front seat says he’s a James Hoffa from Detroit” Later in the day a detective from Pittsburgh shows up and quickly determines things don’t add up. The wallet with James Hoffa ID was just a ruse. The body was dressed in a white and red striped sweater, a red and white knit stocking cap, and round rimmed glasses. This did not fit the description of James Hoffa. Checking the missing persons report there are numerous reports of a missing person fitting the description. He’s identified as a Waldo..no last name and no known address.



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NMRA

WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP

BUSINESSES ACCEPTING DIVISION 5 CERTIFICATES

Stewart’s Hobbies & Collector’s Toys
Hobby Town USA
Toy-N-Hobby Headquarters
The Painesville Railroad Museum

Willoughby, Ohio
Mentor, Ohio
Madison, Ohio
Painesville, Ohio



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!

Division 5 Officers (Terms expire June 2024)

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 2024)

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Chuck Limbert | 440-357-1864 | BOD@mcr5.org |
| Linda Kacprzak | 440-286-9690 | BOD@mcr5.org |
| Andy Yedlick | 440-298-1221 | BOD@mcr5.org |

Division 5 Appointed Positions (Terms expire June 2024)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
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| 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 | Mike Carovac | 440-497-8536 |

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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DECEMBER, 2023 EDITION

DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (65)

THE TRAINWIRE

The Trainwire is an official publication of Division 5 "The Western Reserve Division", Mid Central Region, of the National Model Railroad Association. It is published approximately once a month and mailed to all NMRA members residing in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties (Ohio) free of charge, as long as the Division has funds for mailing. Others wishing to receive it may do so for the annual fee of \$12.00 for a mailing or it is always available on the website (FREE).

Information regarding The Trainwire, Division 5, or the NMRA may be obtained by writing to 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 Central Region or Division 5.



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A non-profit educational organization



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