

# TRAINWIRE



**AUGUST, 2025 VOLUME XXI ISSUE 8**

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



## THIS MONTH:

### August 1

Division Meeting  
Hambden Town Hall  
7:30

### August 2

Division Picnic  
Penitentiary Glen  
12:00

### August 11

BOD Meeting  
Via Zoom  
7:30

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Well as I write this we are in the middle of a burning hot summer. Most people put model railroading on the back burner for outdoor activities. We don't have a meeting in July so everyone can focus on these activities. But I have been spending more time in the train room this summer because it's been so blistering hot AND the train room is the coolest (literally) in the house. So I have been doing some weathering and posting a couple of pictures on FB. I talked with Frank Foti and Saturday August 2nd is the division Picnic at Penitentiary Glen in Kirtland. It is looking to be a great time. He said that people from the TCA are in town that weekend and want to attend. So we have the Lakeshore Live Steamers, Division 5, and TCA all there. Plus other live steamers will be bringing their equipment from around the country to run on their track at the open meet. He said they have a gas grill we can use but if some one has a charcoal grill please bring it. I looked into reserving the pavilion but that goes a year in advance. Picnic tables are limited but there are some there. Please wear your name tag so we know who's who. Bring a lawn chair to sit in to watch the parade of trains. Train rides will also be provided. If

anyone has a folding table or easy up canopy please bring that if possible. If anybody has questions or suggestions please call me 440-254-0107 if I don't answer please leave a message I WILL call you back. Let's make this the best picnic ever. I will get there about 11:00 to start setting up. Please bring your cameras so we can show the pictures during the Christmas party slide show.....still working on the trip to AOS roundhouse. Also I will have the dates to the fall trip to Sebring and Youngstown clubs as soon as I find out Sebring's schedule so stay tuned.

I'm sure I'm forgetting something.....the program for this month is Terry Kolenc, Chasing Union Pacific's BigBoy, this looks to be a very good presentation so come to the meeting and check it out. The bring and brag theme (for those who stick to it) is loads. So bring some of those loaded freight and passenger cars and get a rewards certificate. We'll see ya Friday AND Saturday in August!

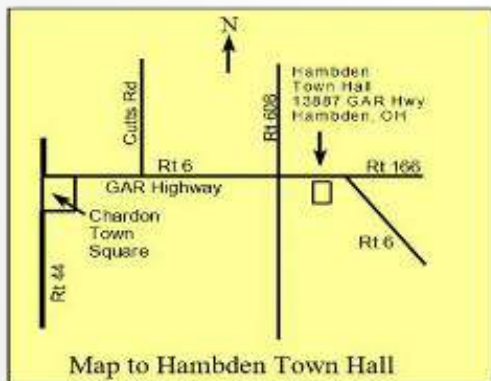
~Bill

# MEETINGS & EVENTS

## UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

<u>AUGUST 1, 2025</u>	DIVISION MEETING
LOCATION:	HAMBDEN TOWN HALL
PROGRAM:	TERRY KOLENC CHASING THE BIG BOY
BRING & BRAG	LOADS
<u>AUGUST 2, 2025</u>	DIVISION PICNIC
LOCATION:	PENITENTIARY GLEN 8668 KIRTLAND CHARDON RD, KIRTLAND, OH 44094
TIME:	NOON (11AM TO SETUP)
<u>AUGUST 11, 2025</u>	BOD MEETING
LOCATION:	VIA ZOOM
<u>SEPTEMBER 5, 2025</u>	DIVISION MEETING
LOCATION:	HAMBDEN TOWN HALL
PROGRAM:	MIKE CAROVAC GRAFFITI
BRING & BRAG	BOXCAR GRAFFITI



## UPCOMING Events

(GO TO [WWW.CLEVESHOWS.COM](http://WWW.CLEVESHOWS.COM) FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS)

### September 6

Iron and Steel Model Train Show  
St. Mary's Assumption Social Center  
356 S. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown, Ohio  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm Adm. \$7.00  
Phone: 330-503-5510

### September 13

TCA - Winter Train Meet  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
164 Eastland Rd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio  
10 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00  
Phone: 330-273-6404

### September 21

Model Train Flea Market  
Painesville Railroad Museum  
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm Adm. Free  
Phone: 216-470-5780  
Donations Accepted and Appreciated

### October 4 & 5

The Great Berea Train Show  
Model Train Show NMRA Div 4  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 E. Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights,  
Sat/Sun 10am-4pm Adm. \$10.00  
Phone: 440-785-9907

### October 12

Canfield Train and Toy Show  
Canfield Fair, 7265 Columbiana, Canfield  
10:00 am to 3:00pm Adm. \$8.00  
Phone: 330-651-1042

### October 26

Medina Train and Toy Show  
Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256  
9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$8.00  
Phone: 330-948-4400



# RAILFEST CORNER

## Railfest 2026

We are officially confirmed for Railfest 2026 at Lakeland for the weekend of Saturday March 21st and Sunday March 22nd 2026.

The planning for Railfest 2026 will begin the next few weeks so if you have any suggestions or want to assist with the planning, feel free to reach out to Railfest@mcr4.org.

Railfest Chairman, John W. Ward  
Assistant Railfest Chairman, Doug Riedel

**RAILFEST 2026**  
Model Trains - Collectibles - Memorabilia  
Saturday & Sunday  
**March 21 & 22, 2026**  
10am - 4pm  
Held at Lakeland since 1987

**Lakeland**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
7700 Clocktower Drive  
Kirtland, OH 44094  
State Rt. 306 at Interstate 90 - exit 193

**Free Parking**

**Admission \$9.00**  
Two Day Pass \$14.00  
Pair (2) \$14.00  
Family (max) \$16.00  
(2 Adults with Children under 18)  
Food Service Available at reasonable prices

**CASH Admission ATM Available**

**Featuring**  
\* Dealers \*  
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\* Exhibitors \*  
\* Operating Layouts \*  
\* Historical Displays \*  
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**For More Information:**  
[www.railfest.org](http://www.railfest.org)  
Email: [railfest@mcr5.org](mailto:railfest@mcr5.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow](https://www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow)

**Railfest**  
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Phone: (216) 598-8842

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**National Model Railroad Association**  
MCR - Division 5 Event  
Largest continuous running two day train show in OHIO!

**WESTERN RESERVE**  
DIVISION

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## August 2025 Trainwire Items

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August Meeting:            August 1, 2025 – 7:30pm – In-person meeting at Hambden Town Hall  
                                      Bring 'n' Brag: Loads  
                                      Program: Terry Kolenc—Chasing the Big Boy

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## Trainwire Pictures Now On Website

Pictures that appear in the Trainwire are now available on the Division 5 website ( <https://mcr5.org> ) in higher resolution. To get to the pictures, go to the News page of the website and under the image of the current Trainwire is a place to click to see the pictures. Note: The pictures will remain on the website for six months after they are first posted.

## Promo Day 2025 Coordinator Needed

Promo Day 2025 coordinator needed. We would like to hold our annual Model Railroad Promotional Day in November but we don't have anyone to coordinate the event. Please contact Bill Osborne or Matt Kross if you are interested.



**NMRA**

**WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP**

## BUSINESSES ACCEPTING DIVISION 5 CERTIFICATES

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



**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Division 5 NMRA - 2025 Program Schedule and Events

Meetings begin at 7:30PM Dates, programs and speakers can change

Month	Program	Speaker	Bring & Brag	Events
January				Christmas Party
February				
March				Div 5 Railfest
April	Scratch Building Part 1	Mike Carovac	Scratch Built	
May	Layouts	Bryan Persing	Coil Cars	
June	Scratch Building Part 2	Mike Carovac	Model Lighting	
July	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting	
August	Chasing the Big Boy	Terry Kolenc	Loads	
September	Graffiti	Mike Carovac	Boxcar Graffiti	
October	My Road Trip	Bryan Persing	Train Stations	Div 4 Railfest
November	Making Decals	Mike Carovac	Billboards	
December	Company Houses	Mike Carovac	Anything Christmas	

# ARTICLES

## 50's-60's Railfanning in HO scale

I was out chasing trains in the Ohpawva Wheeling area and came across these two B&O EMD switchers working in the yard. They have a daily routine of removing empty scrap gondolas and replacing them with loaded scrap gondolas at United States Steels large Ohio works open hearth plant. USS has 12 furnaces here and consume copious amounts of scrap. The B&O switches one of the three tracks that service USSs scrap house the other two are the mills interplant railroad. This satisfies a contract that dates back to right after the Civil war when this was Kemper iron works before it was taken over by USS in the early part of the 20th century. Apparently the B&O will switch this one track till Satan's Den is covered in ice.

Their day starts by rounding up the loaded gondolas in the yard and staging them in an out-

bound track. Then they will head to the mill to pick up the empties. When arriving they will open the gate and proceed in to couple to the cars. While this is happening the crane operator is unloading the gondolas in the other two tracks with a large electromagnet. It's important to keep the food coming to the hungry furnaces. Now they are ready to head back to the yard to drop the empties and retrieve the loads.

Once back at Ohpawva yard they will drop the empties on an outbound track and couple to the loaded gons. Once air pressure has built up its time to head back to the mill. Back at the mill they will spot the loaded gons in the scrap house, set the retainers, close the gate and return to the yard. Now it's time for lunch before they finish out the day banging cars around the yard.

~Bill Osborne













# ARTICLES

## Summer Fun

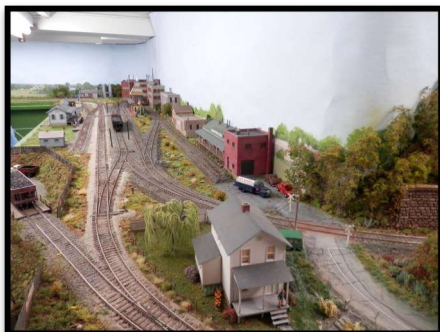
During the sweltering heat the last week of June, Rich and I had the opportunity to join Brad White from Division 12 and a small group on a tour of Dick Bradley's Pennsylvania & Maryland RR layout in Warren, PA. Dick is a Master Model Railroader, and these photos show the exceptional skill and workmanship in his superb layout. You can read many of his articles in the Builder's Plate, Division 12's newsletter. After we left Dick's house, we drove east past the Kinzua dam and then west past the Railway Express Agency building and a historic mural in Corry, PA.

Later in the week I took my Shell Oil depot micro-layout as well as a farm diorama and Bull's Salvage structure to the Chardon Senior Center for

display at the Arts and Crafts Showcase. It was an interesting experience. I heard several stories from seniors about trains set up on ping-pong tables and around Christmas trees in their youth, and was asked where they could buy the depot kit to assemble one. They were surprised to hear that the micro-layout wasn't a kit. One person asked me if I bought Bull's Salvage at Menards. I was really surprised that most seniors and their families who attended had no concept of what model railroaders actually do.

Finally, the summer issue of the e-magazine Micro-Model Railways Dispatch was available to read and escape the heat. The story plus photos of my Coke Oven micro is in it.

~Linda Kacprzak

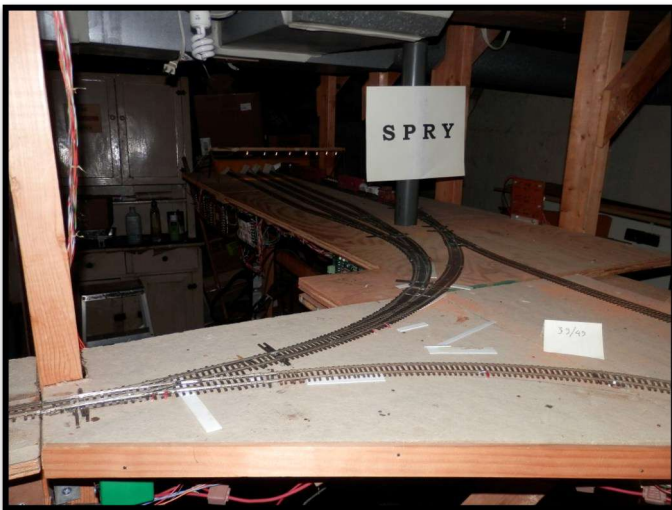








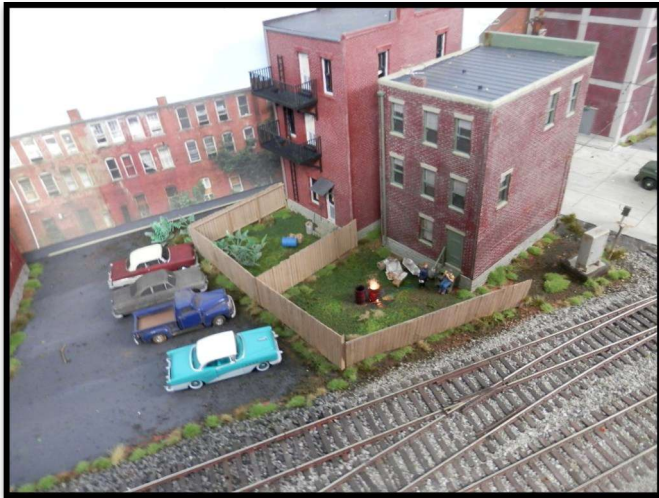














# ARTICLES

## Ringling Museum

As we do every summer, we make the trip to our home in Fort Myers to prepare it for hurricane season, and, as always, we try to find a relatively close railroad attraction. This year, we decided to take the 75-mile trip north to explore the John and Mable Ringling Museum in Sarasota. I'll skip the boring non-train-related items, such as the live circus performance, art museum, historical home, gardens, and circus memorabilia, and go directly to the two main attractions that caught my attention: the fictitious Howard Brothers Circus display and the restored Ringling Railroad Car, named The Wisconsin.

I'll start with the Howard Brothers Circus. This is a complete  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale replica of the famous Ringling Brothers Circus. You may wonder why he didn't call it the Ringling Brothers Circus, and there is a unique story behind that. Howard Tibbals, the creator, approached Ringling management in the past when he was building this display, and Ringling refused to let him use the name. So, Howard named it after himself and added Brothers to mimic Ringling Brothers. The ironic thing is, years later, when looking for a permanent home for this massive, impressive display, it ended up at the Ringling Museum. It took roughly an hour to tour this display, and the attention to detail is mind-boggling. I had to remember he carved and created almost every piece of the over 1,000,000-piece display sin-

gle-handedly over 60+ years. No detail is missed, and you have to stop and look closely to see all the action around. If you search for Howard Brothers Circus on YouTube, there have been many videos made of this display. I recommend viewing those if you can't ever make it in person to the display.

In another area of the museum sits the beautifully restored railcar named The Wisconsin. This was the personal railroad car of John Ringling and was manufactured by Pullman in 1896 at an original cost of \$11,325 and refurbished in 1905 with Ringling's specifications. Unfortunately, The Wisconsin was sold in 1916 due to New York City's ban on wooden railcars in tunnels. Years later, it was discovered in rather poor shape in North Carolina, being used as a fishing cabin. In the early 2000's, it took three years to complete exterior renovations, and then it was moved to its current home in Sarasota to complete interior work. You are not allowed inside the car, but they do have a ramp running the length of the car on one side so you can walk up and peek inside and see the masterful restoration job up close. When seeing it up close, you can just picture how much work went into this car to give the Ringling's every comfort of home on the road. These two attractions, along with all the others, made the \$30 ticket seem like a bargain.

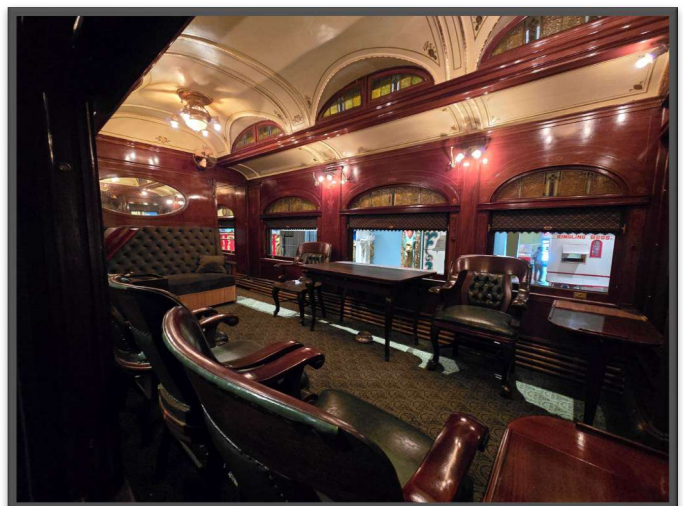
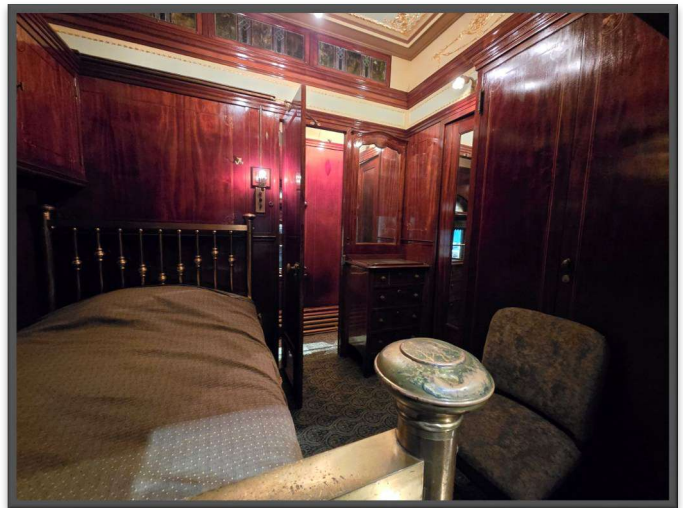
~Bryan Persing



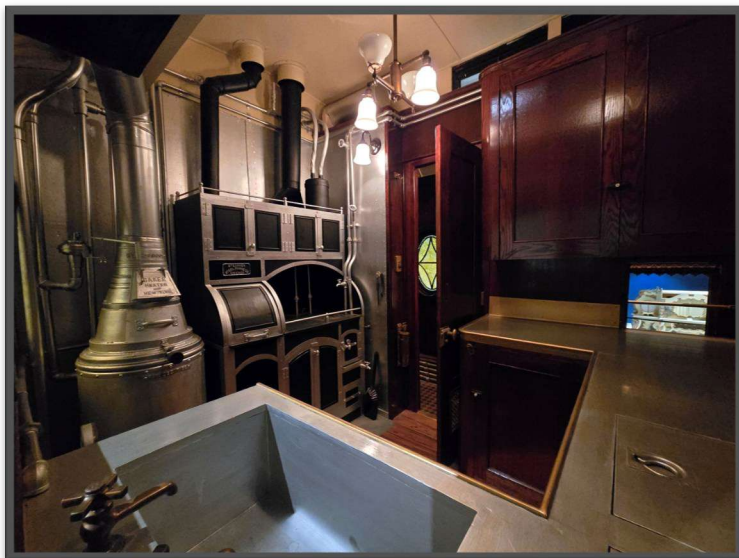
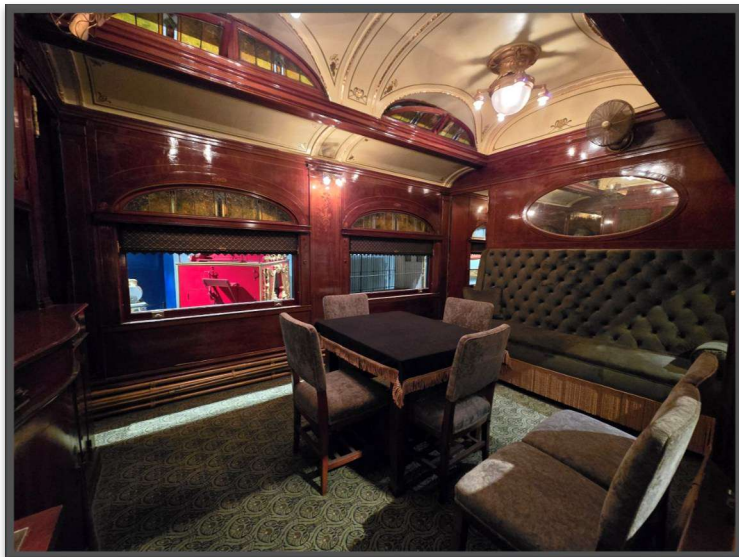












## The Wisconsin

### RAILROAD CAR

The great success of the Ringling circus in the early years of the 20th century was paralleled by important events in the business and personal life of John Ringling. The brothers successfully negotiated a routing agreement with their greatest rival, James Bailey, and John began branching out his investments into railroads, oil, and real estate. On the personal front, John Ringling married Mable Burton in Hoboken, New Jersey on December 29, 1905.

The Wisconsin, the private railroad car that John purchased from the Pullman Company in 1905, was the ultimate symbol of his success. From 1905 until 1916 this car transported the Ringlings across the country for business and pleasure. As the advance man, John traveled ahead of the circus train, planning the route and making deals for provisions. Occasionally he would cross the path of the circus train and The Wisconsin would join the train for some of his travels.

John and Mable Ringling also traveled for pleasure on The Wisconsin. The car carried them to Baraboo for family gatherings and allowed them to host friends and family on cross country journeys. It was this railroad car that brought the Ringlings to Florida in 1911 to finalize the purchase of the bayfront property in Sarasota.

News articles of the day described the quiet elegance of the car and made mention of the modern conveniences including electric lights and fans throughout as well as a well-stocked refrigerator. Today, the grandeur of the restored Wisconsin Railroad Car is a reminder of the great success of John Ringling as well as of the luxury enjoyed by the titans of the Gilded Age.

When The Ringling Museum acquired the Wisconsin in 2003, it was in poor condition, having spent several decades in Morehead City, North Carolina, serving as a fishing cabin for vacationing railroad officials. The wooden exterior was rotting and the beautifully inlaid wood panels that line the interior had been covered in eight layers of paint. Despite these problems, the basic structure of the car was still in good condition and almost all of the original stained glass was still intact.

Restoration of the exterior of the car took almost three years. The work, done at Edwards Railcar Company of Montgomery, Alabama, included the massive task of removing the paint from the interior, repairing the roof, cleaning the undercarriage, replacing the rotted exterior wood, and painting the Wisconsin the original Pullman Green that is a hallmark of the company's historic passenger cars.

In 2008 the Wisconsin was moved to The Ringling for completion of the interior restoration. Museum conservation staff, guided by private car historian David Duncan, completed the restoration of the original inlaid wood paneling and restored and reinstalled all of the car hardware and the stained glass windows. Careful exploration of the ceilings revealed the historic colors and decorations. The original appearance has been restored along with the decorative gilding both inside the car and on its exterior.

The carpet is a replica of a standard Pullman carpeting of the time, and the tiled floor is a recreation of the original green and red rubber tiling that had deteriorated. The upholstered sofas and berths, along with the light fixtures, are original to the Wisconsin, while other components, like the bathtub, which is identical to the one removed in an earlier renovation, are from the same period. The kitchen was faithfully recreated from the original plans.

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# 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

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DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (72)

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