



JANUARY, 2020 VOLUME XVI ISSUE 1

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



THIS MONTH:

Saturday January 11 Holiday Party Hambden Town Hall Noon

No BOD Meeting This Month

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!

With this issue of the Trainwire we close out 2019 and welcome in 2020; a new year and a new decade. We have seen lots of changes this past year in our division. We have welcomed two new board members (Mike & Ray) and said thanks for all the hard work to our departing members (Tom & Wayne). We have welcomed in a new Trainwire editor (Bryan) and sadly said goodbye, through his passing, the previous editor (Lenny). The division, through the hard work of its members and spearheaded by Jim, had another successful Railfest this past March.

Now with the closing of one year we welcome the beginning of another and with it new opportunities. This year is an election year, and because of term limits at least a new assistant superintendent. We also have openings (at least at the time I was creating this) for a refreshment coordinator and maybe even a trip master. I know Jim would like an understudy in helping with Railfest; and maybe taking over if Jim doesn't want to continue. (Although we hope that isn't for a very long

time) Remember our division is only as strong as its members; don't just belong become a participant.

Now with that said and done the New Year is also a time to maybe reflect on what you are doing in the hobby. It might sound weird but why not make a hobby New Year's resolution list. I know for myself last year I put together a list of areas and projects I wanted to finish in 2019. The biggest one was to finish my elevated line. I taped it to the area were I have my transformers so every time I went to run some trains I would see that list reminding me to get stuff done; and you know what for the most part it worked. It might be something as simple as clean up your layout, run trains more, or invite others to see your layout; or it could be really elaborate such as build a new module or undertake a large construction project on an area that is unfinished on your layout. No matter what happens in the upcoming year just remember the main thing is to have fun and be happy that we live in the greatest country were we get to play with and enjoy these "grown up toys".

~Bryan Persing

UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

LOCATION: HAMBDEN TOWN HALL

13887 GAR HIGHWAY (ROUTE 6)

CHARDON, OHIO

JANUARY 11, 2020

LOCATION: HAMBDEN TOWN HALL

EVENT: DIVISION 5 HOLIDAY PARTY

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

HAMBDEN TOWN HALL LOCATION:

TRAIN LOADS PROGRAM:

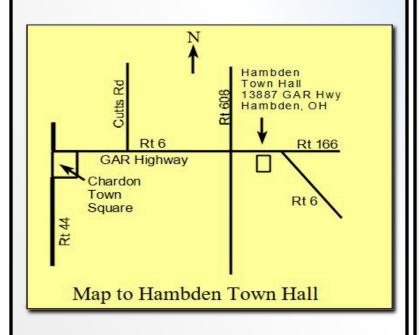
MIKE CAROVAC

BRING/BRAG: TRAIN LOADS

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

LOCATION: HAMBDEN TOWN HALL

BOD MEETING



UPCOMING Events

(SEE ATTACHED FLYERS IN TRAINWIRE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS FOR MOST EVENTS OR GO TO WWW.CLEVESHOWS.COM)

9-2 JANUARY 4

> **COLLECTABLE TOY SHOW** LAKELAND COLLEGE

JANUARY 4 10-3

> **SNOW DOGS TRAIN SHOW** CHEVROLET BLVD-PARMA

JANUARY 11 12-3

> **DIVISION 5 HOLIDAY PARTY** HAMBDEN TOWN HALL

JANUARY 25 10-3

TCA TRAIN SHOW

CHEVROLET BLVD-PARMA

FEBRUARY 29 10-4

MT HOPE TRAIN SHOW

MOUNT HOPE EVENT CENTER

March 7 10-3

INDEPENDENCE TRAIN SHOW

INDEPENDENCE HS FIELD HOUSE

MARCH 14 & 15

DIVISION 5 RAILFEST LAKELAND COLLEGE

March 14 5:30

RAILFEST DINNER

PAINESVILLE DEPOT

MINUTES

DECEMBER BOD MEETING

No BOD meeting scheduled for December.

DECEMBER MEETING

Division 5 Membership Meeting Minutes

Dec 6, 2019

The December 6, 2019 membership meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Assistant Superintendent Bryan Persing at Hambden Town Hall. 23 members and 1 guest were present.

Reviewed upcoming events such as the modular layout setups at Lake Farmpark's Country Lights event during the month of December.

Holiday Party RSVP and payment are due now.

Reviewed the results of the Division's recent Promo Day. The people attending were different from past years. They asked a lot of questions and stayed longer. LENS got a new member out of the event and the Division may also get one. The space was a little cramped. If we hold the event at the Depot again, we will probably rearrange where several the demonstrations are located. Steve Kaplan of Division 4 mentioned that their division focuses their advertising in non-model railroading locations (grocery stores, libraries, senior centers) in order to reach the people we want to attract to the event.

Some arms were twisted and we now have a Nominating Committee formed for the upcoming Division 5 elections. The committee consists of Bryan Persing, Bruce Lutheran, and Jim McCullum. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact one of these members.

Mike Carovac has agreed to run for Assistant Superintendent in the upcoming elections.

A few more Division surveys have been received. It is not too late to turn yours in.

Dave Neff said the work on the Region's clinician database will not begin until February.

Ted Wiese reported on the Company Store inventory and had the merchandise available for purchase at the meeting.

We are going to go ahead and try to rotate the job of Refreshment Coordinator between several people. We would like to have three people. We currently have two volunteers, Paul Emch and Chuck Limbert. Paul will start first and handle the February meeting. He will be at the Holiday Party in January to get the needed supplies.

Bill Osborne is our new Division Tripmaster. He has some ideas for our initial trips. One would be to an HO model railroad club in Coshocton, OH. Trips may use a bus or car pooling, depending on the number of people willing to go. It was generally agreed that the maximum trip duration should be 3 to 3 ½ hours one way.

It was noted that December 7th would be the last day of running for the year by the Lake Shore Live Steamers at Penitentiary Glen.

Webmaster Wayne Lette informed the members about a new feature being added to our Division website. It will be a "members only" area that requires a member to login. The new area will provide member contact information and Division member only information.

Bring & Brag: Theme: "Maintenance Of Way"

Bryan Persing Dave Neff Bill Osborne Matt Kross Dave Metzger

Program: We attempted to watch a video recording of an NMRA national convention clinic about unique prototype steam locomotives. Unfortunately, we again had difficulty playing the DVD and decided to stop before getting very far through the presentation. The problem appears to be with the DVDs we received from National.

Submitted by Matt Kross – Div 5 Clerk

Bring Et Brog













BUSINESSES ACCEPTING DIVISION 5 CERTIFICATES

Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's Toys

Hobby Town USA

Train Specialty Company

Toy-N-Hobby Headquarters

The Painesville Railroad Museum

CW Trains, LLC

Willoughby, Ohio

Mentor, Ohio

Chardon, Ohio

Geneva, Ohio

Painesville, Ohio

Mentor, Ohio

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!



Division Activities

New Membership Feature

Member Roster for NMRA MCR Division 5 Members ONLY

Are you needing to contact someone in the division and don't know how? Well now you can! The only people that can see your information are other current Division 5 members. However, if your membership has expired, you will no longer be able to sign in.

In a new section of the division website called "Members Info" we have everyone in our division listed. The list comes from the NMRA and is provided monthly to our Division Clerk in order to maintain our membership roster. To see this information, you must sign into the Member Login section of the division website www.mcr5.org. There in the lower right-hand side of the webpage you will find the link. This area of our website will allow you to edit your information that you would like to share with the other division 5 members. Only the information you enter will be shared.

While compiling the survey that different members filled out; people wanted to know how to get in touch with another member for various reasons. Because of the Privacy Laws, we are not able to publish a membership roster as we once did. So, this has been created for the use of the membership. You as a member have the control of what information you want to share with others. Remember to fill out the "Help/Advise" area if you are willing to help or advise when questions come up. Enjoy!!

How To Login

Click on the Member Login on the main page.



You must log in before you can view this information

	MCR5 Login
First Name:	
Last Name:	
Password:	
I fo	Login orgot my password!
	Help Me

To sign in for the first time, you must use the following information as it appears on your NMRA membership card. Enter your First Name, Last Name, and Password (the first six (6) digits of your NMRA #) (if you are a Life Member please enter an "L" in front of the first (5) digits of your NMRA #). Click Login.

Note: If you can't find your NMRA membership info, contact Division 5 Clerk Matt Kross at clerk@mcr5.org or 440-668-9462.

(Continued Next Page)

Dívision Activities

The first time logging in, you MUST use the first and last name that is on your NMRA membership card. For example, if you go by your middle name Mike but the NMRA has you listed by your first name of Alan, you must enter Alan as your first name. Or, if the NMRA lists you as William but everyone calls you Bill, you must enter William for your first name. Once you have logged in, you can change your first name in the Division 5 system to what you want to be known as and this new first name will be used for your future logins on the Division 5 website.

Once you have logged in, you can also change your password to whatever you want it to be but it must meet the password requirements specified (one or more uppercase letters, one or more lowercase letters, one or more numbers, and be at least six characters long).

Once you log in, you will be into the Members Info section. Click on any of the buttons to turn that column On/Off: Addresses, Phones, Emails, Help/Advise, All or Print. The 3 buttons at the top allow you to: Change your Info, View Private Member Only Information (i.e. Layout Tours, any other items that we need to get out to the group), and Log Out.

Keep in mind that this section of the website is still in the development stages and screens may change.

We would like all members to log in at least once and verify that the email contained there is correct, please put your correct email even if you are not wanting to share with members. (Matt may need to send out messages) Also, everyone should change their password from the default to something personal to them.

~Wayne Lette

Layout Tours

This past November some members of Division 5 and other model train enthusiasts in our region opened up their homes and layouts for the membership. Reports from the participants were very positive with most seeing at least 20 visitors viewing their work. Division 5 does this every year or so and it's a great way to meet fellow members and to showcase your work. Don't be intimidated about signing up because you think your layout is not "done" or you don't believe your skills are on the level of others. It's a great time to share your vision or if you can't host at the very least make an effort to visit those who are open to maybe pick up some pointers that you can use on your own layout. The division would like to thank the following individuals who hosted this past November....

Mike Buehner Dave Hanna Terry Kolenc Bryan Persing

John Penca Mike Rudder Tony Spena

Member Contributions

Articles

West Virginia Train Rides

On the Wednesday before Labor Day, Rich and I headed south for Elkins, West Virginia, which was our base for two nights. We had purchased tickets on-line to ride the Durbin Rocket on Thursday and the New Tygart Flyer on Friday. On our way to Durbin, we stopped at Seneca Rocks State Park, a scenic attraction popular with rock climbers, and Canaan Valley Resort State Park, where we celebrated our 50th anniversary several years ago.

A Short History

The Greenbrier Railway Co. was founded in 1897, extending the Chesapeake & Ohio north into Pocahontas County. By 1905 the railroad reached Durbin. Meanwhile, the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg RR, which was founded in 1881 to move coal and timber from the remote area around Elkins to larger eastern cities, completed their rail line expansion south from Elkins to Durbin in 1903. In 1905 the WVC&P RR integrated into the Western Maryland RR, and Durbin became the junction of the C&O and Western Maryland railroads. Durbin became a booming railroad center with hotels, stores and saloons catering to the lumbering industry and railroad workers. (Not much is left in Durbin

today.) The depot in Elkins was built in 1908 as the hub for the Western Maryland. By 1958 passenger service was terminated, and in 1985 CSX abandoned the line from Elkins to Cumberland, Maryland.

The Durbin Rocket

This ride covers 10.5 miles in 2 hours along the Greenbrier River in the Monongahela National Forest. The coal-fired steam engine, Heisler No. 6, has ties to the logging industry. It was built in 1929 in Erie, PA for a Pennsylvania coal and clay products company, sold to a Greenbrier County lumber company in 1939, and is now from Cass. It pulls an open car with bench seats directly behind the engine, various 1920's era coaches, and cabooses. Passengers on this day could ride in the open car, an open coach car, and a caboose in the cupola. On our trip we dropped off two cabooses on remote sidings overlooking the river, where families stayed overnight.

The New Tygart Flyer

This train, pulled by vintage Western Maryland engines, traverses mountain grades and goes through an "S" curve tunnel on the way to a scenic waterfall. The 4-hour, 46-mile round trip departs from the Elkins depot and runs along the Shavers Fork of the Cheat River. Seating on the train

is typical of dining cars, with tables for four. On the way to the falls, an all-vou-can-eat sandwich buffet is included in the ticket price. The 18' high, 150' wide High Falls of Cheat are located in a remote area of the forest. We stopped for 20 minutes to walk to a scenic overlook, where there were steps down to the base of the falls. Cookies and beverages were served on the way back to the station. We enjoyed pleasant conversation while riding across from a retired couple from the Columbus area. The parlor car on the train is an extra-fare upgrade that quickly sells out for the season. It has a separate buffet, tables for two, adult beverages, and is at the end of the train on the way back for a lighted view of the inside of the tunnel.

On the way home, we stopped for the night in Marietta, Ohio. The next morning we drove to Harmar Village to check out the railroad equipment and walked out on the bridge over the Muskingum River. We also drove through Byesville to stop at the depot and were stopped by an Ohio Central train at the railroad crossing nearby. (See Bruce Lutheran's articles in the *Trainwire* earlier this year.) Our last stop was in Zanesville at the park overlooking the Y-bridge and at the railroad yard.

~Linda Kacprzak



Maintenance shop in Durbin



The Durbin Rocket



Dropping off the first caboose



Adding water for the return trip



Siding overlooking the river



On the way back to Durbin



Elkins Station



The New Tygart Flyer



Our dining car



Cheat Falls



Parlor car



Abandoned trestle

New Jersey Hi-Railers

This is part II of my past October trip to the biggest O gauge train show located in York Pennsylvania. One of the best parts mentioned in my previous article is meeting all of my friends from across the country. Some of these friends include members of the New Jersey Hi-Railers, which is home to the biggest 3-rail O gauge club layout in the world. I was invited, along with other members of the O Gauge Forum, to attend their open house held the Sunday after the 3 day York show. So I battled the NJ traffic to arrive Saturday night and checked into a hotel near the Hi-Railers home in Paterson NJ.

I have seen pictures and videos of their layout but that didn't even come close to preparing me for what I witnessed as I walked into their club for the first time. I guess I should start by explaining that the layout is housed in an old silk warehouse and it takes up the entire 3rd floor of the building. The 3rd floor is over 285 feet long and the actual main layout totals 185x45 feet. When I say main layout I mean they have other smaller layouts including the actual famous layout used in the HBO series The Sopranos. The club also has their own fully operational kitchen and seating area for guest to relax when not viewing trains.

So getting back to what I witnessed when I walked into the club for the first time; what grabs the eye right away is the 2 models of the World Trade Center Towers. The layout is really themed around the NY/NJ experience. As I walked closer to the layout I quickly grabbed my camera and started taking pictures of The only problem everything. was that I had to change lenses, as I assumed that they would never let the public really close to the layout for fear of damage. So I had first put on my telephoto lens but this lead to some bad pictures, and after realizing my mistake I changed lenses since we were allowed to be so close. I think it took me close to an hour just to make my way around the layout the first time. After exploring from ground level I made my way up to the elevated platform to get a completely different viewing experience.

The layout has so many areas it is just so hard to explain them all. My favorite areas would be the elevated and underground subway lines, beachfront with glass hi rise building, and of course the Twin Towers. I would say that the layout is probably 50/50 on scratch built to commercial building and kits. There are numerous bridges, both modern steel and vintage wooden

trestle styles. Once again it is just so hard to explain what this club offers.

Speaking of the club there are around 65 full members and numerous associate members. Full members pledge to put in at least 8 hours of work time on the layout each month and are given 24/7 running privileges. One of the other great aspects of the club is that members have their own display cases so they can leave their trains at the club and don't have to pack and unpack each trip. Just seeing the amount of train power in the club was mind blowing.

I could have stayed there for the entire day and really not been able to fully appreciate the hard work that these members have put in to create this master-Unfortunately I had to piece. make the 8 hour drive home in order to get back to work on Monday morning. I could probably go on for pages describing more about the layout but as they say a picture is worth a 1,000 words so I have included some of my favorite picture out of the 300 I took that day. If you want to see more you can friend me on Facebook where I have close to 200 pictures and videos from that day or go to YouTube and search for NJ Hi-Railers.

~Bryan Persing





























CIRCUS TRAIN

Here are pictures of the former Ringling Brothers & Barlum & Bailey circus cars that were retired when the circus stopped performing about two years ago. These cars are on the property of the Kirby Family Farm in Williston, FL; that is about 20 miles NW of Ocala. The train line that goes to Crystal River runs about 100 feet or less from the Eastern edge of the Kirby Farm property line. On google maps, Kirby got 18 passenger cars. Since that time, two have left and two cabooses and two boxcars, all former CSX came in. Two large cranes were brought in to move the cars from the mainline to the track put on the property. It took two days to set the 18 passenger cars, 1 flatcar and an ex Air Force switcher engine. All of these cars were crew sleeping cars and their living quarters.

I went through most of the cars; there was even one car that somebody was camping in. It has a larger center door with steps that go down lower than the regular entry stairs on the ends of the cars. I am certain that car was for the head person of the circus and another top person. There must be one large room on either side of the center entryway and there will be a kitchen, closets, and a small living room. The other cars have differ-

ent types of living quarters. Most of them are small for one or two people. There is the Pullman type bed with some cabinets and a small closet and a sink. All the rooms have at least a microwave.

All of the cars have a laundry facility in the middle of the car. The next size room up is slightly larger with a small kitchenette with a two burner stove and a small refrigerator. The next size rooms have a toilet in the room and a bit more storage places for personal items. There was one car with two larger rooms with a double bed and a large closet with bi fold doors. The only thing is it did not have a wall between the hallway and the room area. A good curtain must have been in place. Each of those rooms had a more sizable bathroom. Some of the cars had a kitchen and small seating area on one side of the car. There are groups of cars with the same floor plan.

Sometimes I went through car to car from the inside, but usually I went back out to get pictures of the cars when I was passing along. All the doors going through the train were unlocked. Some rooms still had most of the personal items left behind. It showed how people lived and decorated their living area when they might spend a few years on the train going from city to city. Some rooms are partially stripped

of bedding, etc. I know they will get some time off to go to their regular home to see friends and family. In these cars, the aisle is not too wide at all. If I put my shoulder on the outside wall, I only have a few inches of clearance between my left shoulder and the wall for the rooms. All of the cars have been oriented where the aisle side of the car faces East and the rooms face West.

These circus cars were going to be scrapped and Kirby got in touch of the outfit managing these cars. They donated them to Kirby as Kirby would pay for shipping the cars and renting the cranes to transfer the cars from the live track to the track on the farm. There is a flatcar with two containers on wheels to move circus equipment to the venue and back. I saw the weather was going to be great on this day and there was the six gun western reenactment of western towns from a long time ago. They did it twice a year, but now I heard they are going to do it three times a year. They also do other things on the property.

I heard there is only one other place in the country which there are multiple former RB & B & B circus cars like this. There are single cars scattered around. One is at a VFW in Seffner.

~Paul Emch



















Member Profile

Meet Mike Carovac,

I have only been a member of the NMRA for a little over two years. I did not even know that the organization existed until 2016. I went to the Division 4 train show and asked one of their members about joining the organization. Sadly I did not get an e-mail address or telephone number. The following spring my son was driving pass Lakeland Community College when he noticed on their sign board that there was going to be a train show. I attended the train show and like all happy endings I became a member of Division 5. This past spring I was asked and accepted a position to become a member of the Board of Directors.

Since I can remember I have always been interested in trains. Growing up I lived just outside of Chardon and vividly remember the "long" black trains that ran through the south and west side of town on their way to

Fairport. The only bad thing was I was born at the very tail end of the steam era and do not remember them. I should have been born at least five years earlier. When we would visit the family back in Pittsburgh, my great aunt lived on the hill just above one of the yards. All night long you could hear the rumbling of the diesels and the clash of the cars coming together. Best night sleep I ever got.

I kind of got away from the trains after I enlisted in the Army where I spent a little over 17 years of my life. It was during this time I got into racing, jumping out of air planes and scuba diving, all of which I fully feel now. It was after I got married that I started to think about getting back to the rails but even then work and family took up most of my time. Between my niece and my son, I spent twenty years surrounded by horses. After my son graduated from his HVAC trade school, I had the time to do what I wanted and with the

support of my wife I got into fully working on getting ready to make a layout. Although I primarily model in HO, I do dapple in the N scale side also.

Although I wish I could retire, I am currently employed at Enterprise Welding as one of the company truck drivers. My primary responsibilities involve me driving all over Northeast Ohio doing drop offs and pickups. This affords me the opportunity to see a large amount of trains and train yards. On a weekly base I see the West 150th yard from two different angles, the Collinwood yard off of East 152nd, the Akron yard off of I-76 along with the rails that run along RT-8, the trains moving in and out of the scrap yard which is located between I-80 and RT-711 in Youngstown, and the lonely rails located outside of Jefferson. A lot of my ideas come from these locations.

~Mike Carovac



NMRA

WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP

2020 ISSUE 1 (JANUARY)



















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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 NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY, 2020 EDITION

DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (71)

THE TRAINWIRE

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MCR

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