



### AUGUST, 2020 VOLUME XVI ISSUE 8

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



#### THIS MONTH:

#### Friday August 7

Division Meeting @ 7:30 Bill Osborne's House

Monday August 10

BOD Meeting @ 7:30 Virtual using Zoom

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#### **Super Reflections August 2020**

Planning!? Who Can Plan Anything These Days?

The above heading says it all. We keep trying to plan ahead for when we can get back to normal and do some real model railroading together. But, the more we plan, the more things change, and the more we have to postpone or cancel. Every week I am seeing more announcements of train related events being cancelled. Division 4 just cancelled their August picnic but they are still planning to hold their train show in Berea on October 3 and 4. However, with the recent uptick in Covid-19 cases and the renewed lockdown, this is looking iffy. The Painesville Railroad Museum has been able to have a number of events this past month so we are hopeful that we won't have any problems holding our August Division 5 picnic and September membership meeting there. Keep your fingers crossed but keep checking your messages for last minute cancellations. Unfortunately, this is the way things are going to be for at least a few more months.

Time! I Finally Have Time!

Now that I'm retired, I have all the time in the world, right? It seems that so many things besides model railroading are vying for my time these days like yard work, household chores, church work, Division 5 administrative tasks, and some small software work on the

side that I am doing for a former customer. Plus, I can sleep more and take those wonderful afternoon naps! All you retired guys know what I am talking about. I always heard people say that they are so busy in retirement that they don't know how they ever found time for their job that actually paid the bills! Now I believe you. If you have any recommendations on how to remedy the situation, let me know.

Too Many Things To Do

I thought the first thing I was going to do in retirement was work on completing my six-foot long Ohio River bridge but I haven't touched that at all. I have all sorts of ideas for things I would like to build for my layout and I keep finding more! I am sort of paralyzed by all the possibilities to the point that I'm not doing much of anything. I recently decided to start playing around with the Arduino microprocessor that a lot of model railroaders are using for layout animation and control. This really is an easy microprocessor to learn. They have all sorts of tutorials and example applications for you. So now I am distracted playing with this and thinking of all the things I can use it for. Hopefully I can start getting things done and have something to show you when we finally have another Bring & Brag session.

See you down the line.

Matt

## MIEITINGS & IEVIENTS

#### **UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS**

(DIVISION 5 MEETINGS START AT 7:30)

LOCATION: HAMBDEN TOWN HALL

13887 GAR HIGHWAY (ROUTE 6)

CHARDON, OHIO

**AUGUST 7, 2020** 

LOCATION: BILL OSBORNE'S HOUSE

(SEE MAP PAGE 9)

PROGRAM: MOVIE NIGHT

BILL OSBORNE

BRING/BRAG: NONE

AUGUST 10, 2020

BOD MEETING-VIRTUAL USING ZOOM

AUGUST 22, 2020

LOCATION: PAINESVILLE DEPOT (2-5)

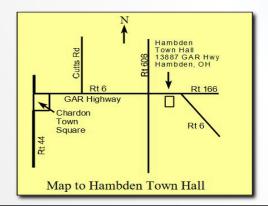
(SEE MAP PAGE 10)
DIVISION 5 PICNIC

<u>SEPTEMBER 11, 2020</u>

LOCATION: PAINESVILLE DEPOT

PROGRAM: TBD

Bring/Brag: Anything Goes



#### **UPCOMING Events**

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

Obviously with everything being the way it is right now it is important to confirm if an event listed will actually be held.

AUGUST 15 10-3

MODEL TRAIN FLEA MARKET

PAINESVILLE DEPOT

AUGUST 30 10-5

RAILROAD MEMORABILIA SHOW

PAINESVILLE DEPOT

OCTOBER 3,4 10-4

BEREA TRAIN SHOW
BEREA FAIRGROUNDS

## MINUTES

#### **JULY BOD**

BOD Meeting 13 July 2020

A virtual Division 5 BOD meeting was held on July 13, 2020 via online meeting using Zoom. In attendance were Matt Kross, Mike Carovac, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Ray Newnes, Bob Gittinger, and Linda Kacprzak.

There was enough interest from members that we are going ahead with having our Division 5 picnic on Saturday, August 22, 2020 from 2 to 5 pm at the Painesville Railroad Museum (Depot). Despite the information in the previous e-mail about the picnic, food and drink will be provided. The Museum has been serving food to their guests for the past month. The food will just be what the Museum normally serves (hamburgers and hot dogs). We will not have a cake this year. Hopefully we can be outside most of the time. Masks and social distancing are required per State mandate. The event is free to Division 5 members and their guests though we do ask that members RSVP to Matt Kross with the number of people attending so we have a rough idea for the amount of food. Matt Kross will send out an e-mail requesting the RSVP.

We are still planning on having our August 7, 2020 meeting at Bill Osborne's home for an outdoor movie night. We will be ordering pizza for the meeting and we will have limited beverages, mostly bottled water. There will be packaged chips and cookies, also. No Bring & Brag at this meeting. Masks and social distancing are required per State mandate. We need members to RSVP to Matt Kross with the number of people attending so we have a rough idea for the amount of pizza to order. Matt Kross will send out an e-mail requesting the RSVP.

We are still planning on having a physical in-person meeting in September, however, that is always subject to change and possible last minute cancellation. Hambden Township is not currently permitting any meetings at the town hall so our meeting will be held at the Painesville Railroad Museum (Depot). Due to Labor Day weekend, the meeting will be pushed back a week to Friday, September 11, 2020 at 7:30pm. We will have packaged chips and cookies along with water for refreshments. We will have to see if we can have any other type of food. We are going to try to have the meeting also available online using Zoom.

Need a program for the September meeting. Bring & Brag for September will be items that you have been doing during the lockdown.

The Board reviewed the revised Grant Request form. Some additional changes were requested. Matt Kross will update the form and send to the Webmaster to post.

Don Thomas will not be accepting Division 5 certificates in the future. He will accept existing certificates that list his company name "Train Specialties" but new certificates will no longer list him.

The next Div 5 BOD meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2020, 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

## NOTICE

The Cincinnati Division 7 Summer Clinic Fest at Cincinnati Marriott North, scheduled for Sunday August 9, has been <a href="#">CANCELLED</a>

Dear potential Division 7 Clinic Fest attendees,

Due to the distressing surge in Covid-19 cases in Ohio in the last few weeks, and particularly the high numbers in Hamilton and Butler counties, it has become obvious that the event we hoped to stage as our first "reopening" of in-person model railroad activities, as part of the gradual reopening of all events in the state, has become too risky to hold. Rather than being on a downward trend, as it appeared as recently as mid-June, the pandemic numbers look as bad or even worse than they did when we cancelled our Flea Market in early March. All the reasons that we cited to explain that choice still apply. The health and safety of both our members and our guests has to come first.

We will hope to reschedule this event sometime in 2021.

More information is always available on our website at: www.cincy-div7.org.

Use the time to be with your friends and family, and stay safe and healthy.

Regards, John

John Shields
Superintendent
NMRA Cincinnati Division 7

# Bring Er Brag

#### **DIVISION CERTIFICATE POLICY UPDATE**

Due to Covid 19 business closures, which includes hobby shops, the division is temporarily updating their division certificate deadline policies. The current policy is that you must use the certificate by the expiration date or it becomes expired and there is no reissuing of expired certificates. However, the board realizes that because of the current pandemic using the certificates has not been possible so we are temporarily fixing that situation. Any certificates expiring March, April, May, or June 2020 can be reissued for an expiration date in the future. In order to do this you would need to email/contact Bonnie before Tuesday of the next division meeting (currently scheduled for August) with the number on the certificate(s) that you will need to transfer. Those certificates would then be exchanged for new ones with a later expiration date (probably 4 months). If you have any questions contact a member of the BOD for answers.

#### **DIVISION FACEBOOK PAGE**

Remember that the division has a Facebook page (NMRA Western Reserve Division Group) and that if you want to share projects that you are currently working on you may do so there. Once we can begin having meetings again you may bring in those projects and still discuss them during our Bring & Brag time and earn division certificates.

#### **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!

#### **New Division 5 Clerk Needed**

Since Matt Kross is now Division 5 Superintendent, the Clerk position is available if anyone is interested. The Clerk is an appointed position. The biggest duty of the Clerk is to take meeting minutes for the monthly membership meetings and the BOD meetings. The Clerk is a voting member of the BOD. Other duties of the Clerk include: handling correspondence with various groups and Division members, generating and mailing ballots for elections and Division votes, publication of notices, and maintaining the Division Regulations. The complete set of duties are spelled out in the Division 5 Regulations (available on the Division website). If you are interested, please contact Matt Kross (440-668-9462 or Super@mcr5.org).

#### Meeting Program / Bring & Brag Coordinator Needed

Dave Neff has been our Program Coordinator for quite a few years (9 years?) and would like to take a break. The Division is currently in need of someone to take on this position. The duties include lining up a program for each membership meeting and deciding on our Bring & Brag themes. The meeting programs can consist of getting someone to put on a clinic/presentation, getting an outside person to speak on a topic of interest to the membership, showing a train related video, or anything else you can think of to entertain/educate those in attendance for about 45 to 60 minutes. This position keeps the BOD updated on the upcoming programs but is not a member of the BOD. If you are interested in this position, please contact Matt Kross (440-668-9462 or Super@mcr5.org).

#### **September Program Needed**

We need a meeting program for the September meeting. We are looking for a program that can be viewed both physically in-person and via Zoom so some type of electronic presentation would be preferred such as a PowerPoint program with the presenter narrating. If you have a program you are willing to put on for the September meeting, please contact Matt Kross (<a href="mailto:super@mcr5.org">super@mcr5.org</a> or 440-668-9462).

#### **August 2020 Division 5 BOD Meeting**

We will have our regular Division 5 BOD meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:30pm. The main focus of this meeting will be whether to hold an in-person membership meeting in September. This will be a virtual meeting on the computer using Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email Matt Kross at <a href="Super@mcr5.org">Super@mcr5.org</a> and a meeting link will be emailed to you. Alternatively, you can go to the Members Only section of the Division 5 website to obtain the meeting link. It is not required that you have a webcam but a computer with an internet connection is preferred in case documents are shared on the screen with meeting participants. As a last resort, you can just call into the meeting using your phone and just participate verbally.

#### August Div 5 Meeting - Outdoor Train Movie Night

Bill Osborne will host our August Division 5 meeting at his house and have another one of his outdoor movie nights. Here are the details:

This will be on our regular August meeting night of August 7, 2020.

This is a Division 5 meeting and sponsored event.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm – movies start after meeting once it gets dark.

Meeting will be brief/condensed.

Meeting program will be the movies.

Bill plans to show local Conrail video that he shot in the 1980s (different than the video he showed at the March meeting) along with an excellent video on the Milwaukee Road unless there are suggestions from others.

No Bring & Brag at this meeting.

No Raffle at this meeting.

Bring Your Own Chair (lawn chair) (and maybe a blanket, raingear, umbrella, mask).

Pizza, packaged snacks, and water provided (a designated person will serve these to you) – if you want something else, bring your own.

It is open to Division 5 members and anyone else that wants to come.

Masks and physical distancing are encouraged.

Bill's address: 12795 Carter Road, Painesville, OH 44077; phone: 440-254-0107.

#### **Division 5 Picnic**

We are going ahead with holding our Division 5 picnic.

When: Saturday, August 22, 2020 from 2 to 5 pm

Where: The Painesville Railroad Museum, 475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077

Who: Division 5 members and their guests

Cost: Free to Division 5 members and their guests

Food: Normal Museum offerings: hamburgers and hot dogs, water, soft drinks. We will also have

some packaged chips and cookies.

Restrictions: Masks and social distancing are required per State mandate. Hopefully we can be outside

most of the time.

RSVP: RSVP to Matt Kross (<u>super@mcr5.org</u> or 440-668-9462) with the number of people attending so that we know how much food will be needed.

#### September Division 5 Membership Meeting

We are still planning on having a physical in-person meeting in September, however, that is always subject to change and possible last minute cancellation. Hambden Township is not currently permitting any meetings at the town hall so our meeting will be held at the Painesville Railroad Museum (Depot). Due to Labor Day weekend, the meeting will be pushed back a week.

Physically meet at Painesville Railroad Museum on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Masks and physical distancing will be required per State mandate to help ensure the safety of our members.

Meeting attendance will be limited to about 30 people (this should not be a problem).

Those who do not wish to physically attend can attend virtually online using Zoom. We will have two computers running Zoom. One will be for the Superintendent and the other will use its web cam to show everyone in the meeting room.

We will conduct a normal meeting.

We will have a Bring & Brag. Those online can hold their model(s) up to their webcam at home to show the people at the meeting. We will use the Division video projector to display their models on a screen.

We will have a Raffle. Those online can indicate the number of tickets they want. They will be required to pay for their raffle tickets at the next meeting or event they attend. If a person online wins, they will not receive their award certificate until they pay for their raffle entries.

We will have a program which will be viewable by those people virtually attending the meeting online. Refreshments may be limited or non-existent.

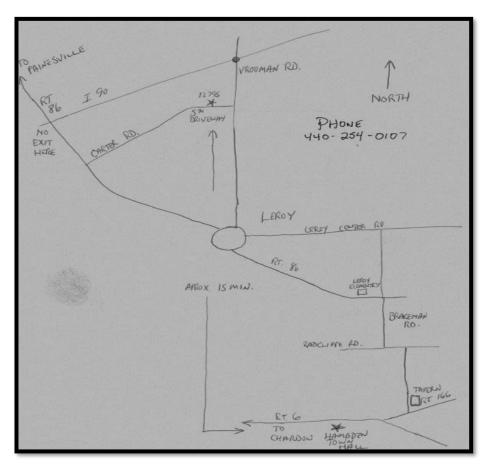
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Dear potential Division 7 Clinic Fest attendees,

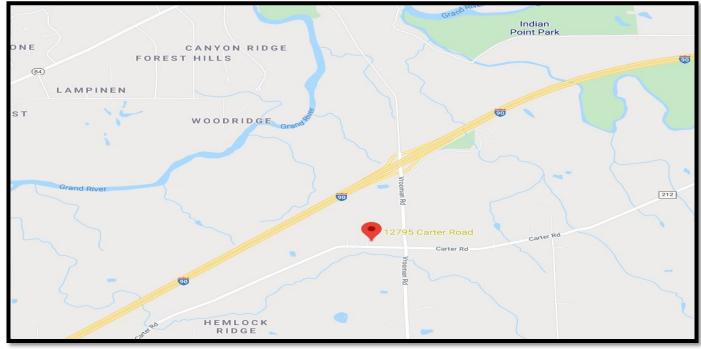
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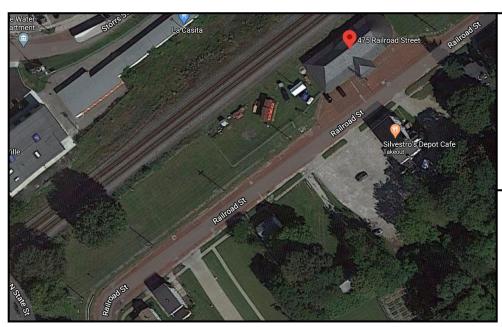
We will hope to reschedule this event sometime in 2021.

More information is always available on our website at: www.cincy-div7.org.

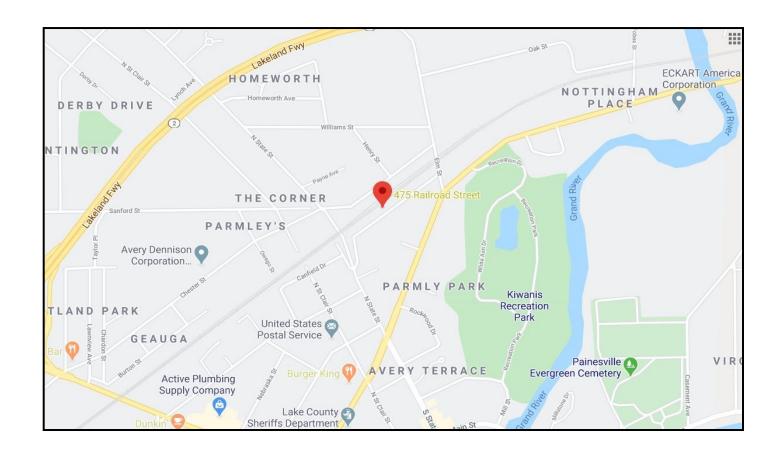


Bill Osborne
12795 Carter Road
Painesville, 44077
440-254-0107





Painesville Depot 475 Railroad Street Painesville, 44077



### **Articles**

### The Nightmare – Track Cleaning II

As I talked about track cleaning in an earlier article cleaning track can be very time consuming and labor intensive but, there is a way to simplify the task – let the layout clean itself! That right the track can be self-cleaning. By using track cleaning car (s) you can cut the work down to little or nothing. Now granted the cleanest your track will be is when you do it yourself the old fashion way but by using track cleaning cars you can maintain the track cutting down on how often you need to do a "deep cleaning". Track cleaning cars use the same basic technics as previously discussed, they either use the wet or dry method.

Dry Method – These cars, usually box or tank cars have a mount underneath the car between the trucks. An eraser is attached to a mount and as the car travels around the track, it cleans the track. Most of the mounts are weighted so pressure can be applied to the cleaning medium although some apply presser by use of a spring. Walthers Trainline uses this method but many other brands will be hard to find unless you locate one at a train show as most have been discontinued. It is not recommended to leave these cars on the train for long periods of time as they do use an abrasive. They should only be run around the track two or three times in order to clean the rails, depending on how dirty the rails are.





Another type of dry track cleaning car uses some form of pad made from cloth or felt. These cars also travel around the track cleaning as they go. Unlike the cars with erasers mounted to them these cars can be left on train until the pad wears out. The cars that use felt pads very because some use round pads while other use rectangular pads. These pads are mounted either by clips or screws. Some of the cars that use round pad also have motors attached to the mounts allowing the pads to rotate. I found one car (from Europe) that uses a nylon washer screwed onto a mount. I could not find any other info on how well using nylon cleans the rails so I guess I will have to try it.

Some other types of dry cleaning items simply mount to the trucks. Again these can either use an eraser or some form of pad. The most common of these are from Woodland Scenic and Noch. If you want a mount where you can replace the pad you can find these types of mounts on Thingiverse.

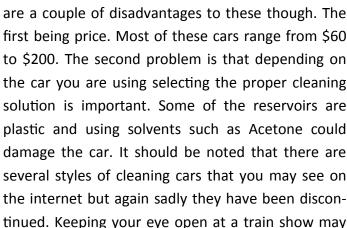
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### **Articles**

Wet Method – Again the wet method is nothing more than using some form of liquid applied to a pad or cloth. Now, yes a cleaning solution can be applied to the felt pads previously mentioned but there is one problem with doing this, the cleaning solution has to be reapplied constantly as it evaporates (depending on what you are using) off the pad quickly. There are several companies who have built



rolling stock that a reservoir. has This reservoir holds couple ounces of fluid which drips down onto the attached pad. The rate of "drip" is set by the user. These cars come in a wide selection of rolling stock styles and road name. There



Combination/Specialty Cars — There are a couple of companies that manufacture what could

be your best bet on finding these cars.

be considered combination or specialty cars. These cars can be set up to do one or two task at a time. These cars have the capability of doing dry and wet cleaning at the same time or do vacuuming and wet



cleaning. The two companies manufacturing this type of car currently are

Dapol and Tomix. These cars are a little pricey but they may be worth the cost. An added cost does come in as the replacement pads are not easy to find and must be purchased for a dealer or ordered from the company itself. Another problem is that if you have loose ballast on your layout the vacuum mode will most likely pick it up, this could jam or damage this mode. Atlas used to carry the Dapol car under its name but has since discontinued the line.

Home Made Cleaning Cars – There are kits on the market that will allow you to convert an old box car into a dry cleaning car or you can build one yourself using a piece of Masonite or sand paper



attached to a piece of wood and two nails. You can also make one that uses a felt pad or cloth. If you decide to make your own just remember to add a little weight otherwise it may

not work. These are the cheapest form of cleaning cars as most of us have most of the materials on hand.

(Continued on Next Page)

### **Articles**

I found a video (totally by accident) where one individual combined several different cleaning cars so he could get the best of both worlds. His first car was a tank car with an abrasive attached to it. The second car was one that had a vacuum capability followed by another tank car that was designed with a reservoir and felt pad. In the video he stated that he kept these three cars attached to each other. When he needed to clean his track he would just back an engine to them and let them run around the track a few times. When he decided that the track was clean, back to the staging point they would go. A great idea but a little bit pricey.

Here is an incomplete list of companies who manufacture track cleaning cars. These tended to be the most commonly used companies in the videos that I watched.

Aztec Bachmann Bear Creek Model RR Centerline Products CMX Products Con-Cor

Dapol Hawthorne Railways International Hobby Corp Many New Products Inc.

Ribbonrail Tomix Tomy Tec

There are some companies that no longer make track cleaning cars but are still around. Some companies are out of business or have been bought out by other companies. Although they are no longer manufacturing cars they can still be found at train shows or on eBay.

Athearn Atlas Life-Like Micro-Trains Revell Ulrich

Just in passing, several individuals were changing out there abrasive erasers with Scotch Brite sanding pads. These pads come in many different grades so I suggest if you're going to use them use the ones they recommended.

#### Scotch Brite Sanding Pads

Very Fine #7447B 360-400 grit Aluminum Oxide abrasive

Ultra-Fine #7448 2000-2500 grit Silicon Carbide abrasive

Super Fine #7445 2500+ grit Aluminum Silicates abrasive

~Mike Carovac



#### **NMRA**

### WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION GROUP











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Program, Bring & Brag	(OPEN)	

# 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

**PUBLICATION OF DIVISION 5** 2860 LORETO DRIVE WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO 44094

#### AUGUST, 2020 EDITION

#### **DIVISION 5 MEMBERSHIP (64)**

#### 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

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

330-715-3519

440-298-3075



Asst. Super:

Treasurer:

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www.mcr5.org A non-profit educational organization

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