A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN RESERVE DIVISION **DIVISION 5 - MID CENTRAL REGION - NATIONAL MODEL** RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



NMRA



The Trainwire

Inside this issue:

Scheduled events	2
Meeting minutes	3
Meeting pictures	4
BOD minutes	5
BOD minutes cont	6
New Members	7
John Armstrong	8
Short Circuit s	8
Short Circuits cont	9
Railfanning	9
Picnic flyer	10
Officer Info	11
Last Page	12



Superintendent's Report

Railroads and the Ag Business of Yesteryear

Lake Farmpark, Rt 6 in in Minneapolis. Kirtland, 8 pm, to allow our cotton travelled from the South HO and LENS modular groups to the woolen mills of New to have ample time for setup England. And of course coal for Saturday and Sunday's became the dominant fuel for Rails in the Park.

Unfortunately there will not be a Boy Scout RR Merit Box cars shipped just about Badge program this year.

Theme for the meeting will be an extended Bring and Brag, featuring ANYTHING agriculturally related, and with NO last-six month limitation on any project underway or finished during that time. We will NOT have a clinic program, but we will have our usual raffle and refreshments.

Railroading in its first hundred years was about land-grants, settling the west, and substantial shipment of agriculturally related and otherwise finished goods from the markets of the East to the new towns in the West. From the West to the

East came cattle to the stockhis month our regular yards in Kansas City and meeting will be held at Chicago, and grain to the mills Bales of the steam-powered beasts that hauled all of these products.

> everything, including grain--long before covered hoppers came into use. Iced wooden reefers carried perishables. Oil, coal, and manufactured goods also travelled far and wide by rail, but agricultural commodities still were a key mainstay of the railroad business.

Given the plethora of agricultural possibilities, dig deep and structures, barns and silos, bring ANYTHING related to dairies, tanneries, the ag business for show and you're displaying a simple tell the June meeting - reefers common piece of rolling stock for fruit, vegetables, milk, meat or structure, have a story to tell and beer (that's you Bill Ber- truthful or otherwise! ger); box cars with grain doors; cattle/pig/sheep live-



Dave Neff - Superintendent Division 5 NMRA - Mid Central Region

stock cars, drover cabooses; granaries, flour mills, fruit and vegetable packing/processor Even if

- Dave Neff



Please support these dealers!

Trainwire.

Volume XII Issue 6



UPCOMING DIVISION 5 MEETINGS

Division 5 monthly meetings normally start at 7:30 PM.

Location: Hambden Town Hall

13887 GAR Highway (Route 6)

Chardon, Ohio

Located on Rt. 6 between the intersection of Rt. 608 and Rt. 166 next to Hambden Elementary School east of Chardon.

June 3rd, 2016

Location:

8800 Euclid Chardon Rd, Kirtland, OH 44094

Farmpark

Program:No programBring & Brag:Anything agriculturally related

July 1st, 2016 No Meeting this Month

<u>August 5th, 2016</u>

Location: Hambden Town Hall Program: **TBA** Bring & Brag: **TBA**.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Division 5 BOD Meeting Hambden Town Hall Hambden, Ohio June 13

(7:30 pm)

Division 5 Road Trip NYC RR Museum Medina, New York July 23 (Time & Place to meet will be in the July Trainwire)

Division 5 PicnicAugust 6The Painesville Railroad Museum475 Railroad Street(RSVP to Tom Pescha)Painesville, Ohio 44077(2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Division 5 BOD MeetingHambden Town HallHambden, Ohio(7:30 pm)

August 8

August 28

Railroad Memorabilia ShowAuguThe Painesville Railroad Museum475 Railroad StreetPainesville, Ohio 44077 (10:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Model Railroader Magazines

Do to an impending move to Baltimore, Pat Flash has decided to part with a large collection of Model Railroader magazines. His nearly complete collection of magazines range from the early 1980's to 2015. Included in the collection are shelves for storage and the asking price is \$100.

Anyone interested can contact Pat at 440-862-0148.

(Time is definitely a factor.)

The Cost of Our next Field Trip

Our next Division 5 Road Trip is to the Medina, New York Museum on July 23 will be **\$25.00** per person.

This reasonable amount is payable to Bonnie **ASAP**. The June Meeting is preferably since there will not be a meeting in July!



Division 5 Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2016

The May 6, 2016 membership meeting was called to order by Superintendent Dave Neff at 7:30 pm at St. Michael's Church in Erie, PA. 34 members and 18 guests were present. This meeting was held in the Erie, PA area to make it easier for our new Division members that reside in Pennsylvania and New York, as well as those from that area possibly interested in joining the NMRA, to make it to one of our meetings to see what we are all about. Many thanks to Division 5 member Tim Clint for arranging and hosting this meeting at his church.

Superintendent Neff welcomed all the meeting visitors and provided an overview of **Division 5**. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Announcements of upcoming events and activities were made.

The benefits of the NMRA were presented.

The Division 5 Company Store items were on display and reviewed.

The **Division 5 picnic** on August 6 at the Painesville Depot was reviewed. Details are in the Trainwire.

The details of the **Division 5 road trip** to the New York Central Railroad Museum in Medina, New York were reviewed. More specifics will be in the Trainwire.

The June 3, 2016 Division 5 meeting will be at **Lake Farmpark** in Kirtland, Ohio. The module groups will be there setting up for the Railroads In The Parks weekend. We will have an abbreviated meeting that starts at **8:00 PM**. We will have our Bring & Brag but not a program.

Modeling Questions:

When painting an N-scale passenger, how do you mask the windows if you can't remove them? It was suggested to use liquid silicone. MicroMark sells a product called Liquid Mask that works well.

Bring & Brag:

Bill Berger	Matt Kross	Dave Neff	Bryan Persing
Bob Orlando	Gary Shaffer	Al Reibel	

Program: Jerry Skrypzak of Erie, PA provided a presentation on the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad from Erie to Greenville. He provided the history of the B&LE, the origin of the railroad's route, and many pictures, new and old, showing various locations along the railroad.

Submitted by:

Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk



Pictures from the May Meeting

Photos by: Tom Pescha





Division 5 BOD Meeting May 9, 2016

A **Division 5 BOD** meeting was held on May 9, 2016 at Hambden Town Hall. In attendance were Dave Neff, Dale Smith, Bonnie Lette, Wayne Lette, Matt Kross, Tom Pescha, Bryan Persing, Jim Wendorf, Don Bittner, Bob Gittinger, and Lenny Kessler.

Dave Neff gave a report on the **MCR BOD meeting** in April at the MCR convention. No additional counties will be added to Division 5 but, if NMRA members within a particular zip code all agree, that zip code can be added to our division.

One general topic that came up at the **MCR BOD** meeting was whether there are other local groups we can work with/partner with in addition to the Boy Scouts in order to promote model railroading, especially to youth. Some divisions are working with 4H clubs. We need to see if any of our members are involved with outside groups like this and see if there is interest in joining together on some model railroad projects.

Division 5 election results: 63 ballots were returned out of 105 mailed. Dave Neff will be the Superintendent and Bryan Persing will be the Assistant Superintendent for the two year term from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2018.

Reviewed the results of the Division May 6th meeting in Erie, PA. We had 18 guests and 34 Division 5 members present. The meeting was considered a success although we had hoped for even more people from the PA and NY area to attend. We will look at scheduling another meeting in the Erie area in the Fall of this year.

Based on the expansion of our **Division territory**, weather issues in the winter, and the number of members that have a problem driving at night, it was suggested that we might need to change our membership meeting day/time as well as our meeting location. The BOD will take this under consideration and get input from the membership. No changes are planned for the near term.

Due to a recent local bank merger and the resulting closure of a number of **Charter Bank offices**, the Division 5 Treasurer needs to change our accounts to a different bank. Information is being gathered and a decision as to which bank will be made soon.

Railfest income was \$13,500 this year. Lakeland Community College is reserved for Railfest 2017. We also have the tables reserved with Sun Rental for 2017. Railfest was awarded the grant request for Railfest 2017 advertising by the Lake County Visitors Bureau.

There is uncertainty if there will be a **Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge workshop** at Lake Farmpark during the Railroads In The Parks weekend. We are still waiting for a final decision. The outside G railroad that they use for the signaling part of the merit badge is currently non-functional. If there is a workshop, we have 15 complete car kits at Farmpark. We may need 15 more which shouldn't be a problem.

It was suggested that the Division may want to purchase a number of **basic tool sets** to have on hand for such things as the Boy Scout merit badge workshop, Promo Day, and other Division activities. No action taken at this time other than to get suggestions on what tools should be in the kit.

The cost details for the Division trip to the NYC RR Museum in Medina, NY are still being worked out. The bus will cost between \$1400 and \$1500, the museum entrance fee is \$7/person, the dinner cost will be around \$26/person, and we don't know if there will be a fee for the lunch the museum is going to provide.

Everything is all set for the **Division 5 picnic** on August 6^{th} at the Painesville Depot. There will be basic food there but we will ask everyone to bring an additional food item to share. RSVP will be to Tom Pescha.

As is normal, there won't be a **Division membership meeting** in July.

At this time, we do not have programs or Bring & Brag themes determined for any future meetings.

Matt Kross reviewed the various Division documents that need to be updated. These include the Division 5 brochure, the expense form, the New Model Railroad Reward Application, Membership Guide, and our Regulations. For the Regulations, we need to update the counties that are part of our territory. We also want to add a section that allows us to do an "Election By Acclimation" if we only have one candidate for each office. This allows the BOD to declare that the slate of officers has been elected without sending out a mail ballot since there is no one running against the candidates and we are not permitted to have write-in candidates. Any changes to the Regulations requires a review process by the membership and a mail ballot to be sent out. The proposed changes will be presented to the BOD at their next meeting.



Division 5 BOD Meeting cont....

(continued from page 5.)

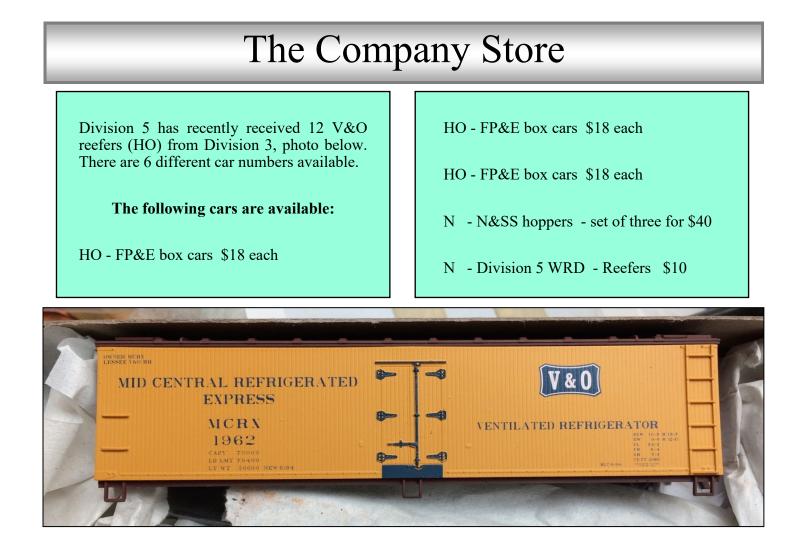
The BOD reviewed a funding request from the Lake Shore Modelers out of Erie, PA to help them build their new layout. A motion was passed to award the group \$500 per the standard Division 5 guidelines that they report back on how the money was used and that the project be displayed to the public to promote the hobby.

A Division member has offered to host a get together at his house some evening. Food would be provided and train movies would be shown outside on the wall of the house. Attendees would also be able to view the various railroad artifacts the member has collected. We are looking at the possibility of doing this in September. More information when details have been worked out.

The Treasurer reported that the Division tax forms for 2015 have been completed and submitted.

The next regular Division 5 BOD meeting will be June 13, 2016 at 7:30pm at Hambden Town Hall.

Submitted by: Matt Kross – Division 5 Clerk





Welcome New Division 5 Members

It has been awhile since we listed new Division 5 members in the Trainwire. We have a lot of new members from the new counties added to our division. There have also been a number of new members from our existing Ohio counties. The following are new members over approximately the last year.

Brian	Amsler	Corry	PA	Member - Div 5
Doug	Barry	Willoughby Hills	ОН	Member - Div 5
Tim	Bisaroe	Jefferson	ОН	Member - Div 5
Edward	Blenner	McKean	PA	Member - Div 5
Michael	Clancy	Conneaut	ОН	Member - Div 5
Timothy	Clint	McKean	PA	Member - Div 5
Dale	Desser	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
Larry	Dodge	Guys Mills	PA	Member - Div 5
William G.	Dopler	Dunkirk	NY	Member - Div 5
David	Ellis	Meadville	PA	Member - Div 5
Steven	Hamm	Madison	ОН	RailPass Member-Div 5
Michael E.	Hauk	Fairview	PA	Member - Div 5
John	Howell	Edinboro	PA	Member - Div 5
Mark	Kikel	Chagrin Falls	ОН	Member - Div 5
Greg	Marsh	Waterford	PA	Member - Div 5
William	Mattison	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
Paul	McFee	Eastlake	OH	Member - Div 5
Greg	Michaels	Kirtland	OH	Member - Div 5
Jacob	Miller	Middlefield	OH	Member - Div 5
Douglas	Murphy	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
Jim A.	Nagle	North East	PA	Member - Div 5
Ray	Newnes	Mentor	OH	Member - Div 5
Philip	Novak	Painesville	OH	Member - Div 5
Allen (Shorty)	Parker	McKean	PA	Member - Div 5
Brian	Pitzer	Edinboro	PA	Member - Div 5
Alfred C.	Reibel	Cambridge Springs	PA	Member - Div 5
Roger	Stevens	Willoughby Hills	OH	Member - Div 5
Dr. Frank	Theuerkauf	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
James D.	Watson	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
Brad	White	Erie	PA	Member - Div 5
Patricia A.	Wilsey	Middlefield	OH	Member - Div 5
Richard	Woodworth	Corry	PA	Member - Div 5
Philip	Zannella	Auburn Twp	OH	Member - Div 5



Obituary for John H. Armstrong

John Herbert Armstrong, an architectural model maker for many years and a World War II Veteran, passed away at the age of 94, on May 17, 2016 in Kirtland, Ohio.

John was a story teller about his life, war experiences, trains, railroads and his many travels. He had a remarkable memory and his wonderful stories will be deeply missed by all.

John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary June (Ogden) Armstrong; his son, Michael D. Armstrong and wife, Anne (Moore) Armstrong; his daughter, Jennifer H. (Armstrong) Park; sister-in-law, Nancy Armstrong; 3 grandchildren: great grandchild, Sofia, and several nieces and nephews plus many close friends.

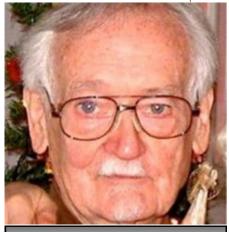
In 1942, John joined the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman and almost immediately was assigned to the Marines. By age 21, he was a Pharmacist's Mate, 2nd Class in C Company, 2nd Medical Battalion in the

2nd Marine Division, and was in battles at Funeral service were held at 5:30 pm Sun-Tarawa, also Saipan. Medals received by day May 22, 2016 at Brunner Sanden war's end included the Presidential Unit Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Cen-Citation (Tarawa); Navy Good Conduct; a ter. Combat Infantry medal. After serving in A private urn burial will be held at a later WWII John returned to Columbus and date in South Kirtland Cemetery. attended Ohio State University.

Trains and railroads were John's passion. He rode over 120 trains throughout the US, Europe and New Zealand and belonged to several scale model railroad clubs. As a youngster, he would hangout at the nearby train station near where he lived in Columbus just to watch the trains and sometimes a train engineer would let him ride, up front. What a thrill!

Over his years John worked in many different capacities and for many companies.

He was a member of The Second Marine Division Association, Life Member of the Marine Corps League, VFW and The American Legion.



John H. Armstrong 1922 - 2016

by: Dave Hanna

Layout Short Circuits

his article offers some suggestions as to how to prevent and find electrical short circuits on model train layouts. Discussion of locomotive and rolling stock short circuits are left to another article.

One of the best preventions is to frequently check out your layout as it is constructed and wired. Doing this during construction will usually find any short circuits easily. Carefully examine what has been built or wired since the last check out. Perhaps an electrical rail gap needs to be installed. Perhaps the rails have been improperly wired. Short circuits can be as robust as wires cross connected or as small as a minuscule strand of wire or a remnant of copper cladding on a printed circuit board tie. Sometimes short circuits will occur in or around track switches at the frogs or points. Internal contacts on switch machines have been known to short. Clip boards laving on the track have been known to cause a short.

DC layouts are usually wired by the "block" method with either toggle switches or rotary selector switches. If all of the blocks are turned off, the short should be gone. If not, then the problem could be the power pack or the wiring between the power pack and toggle or selector switches. This action can be done before removing any equipment from the track. Turning them back on one at a time should identify which block has the short circuit.

This article assumes that all equipment has been removed from the track and that the short circuit still exists. If anything else is on the track, remove it, even if it appears to be a non conductive material. DCC layouts can be much harder to find

shorts. Many layouts are wired with only one electrical district. A short circuit anyplace will shut down the entire layout. Dividing the layout into electrical sub districts with a power manager or circuit breaker board minimizes how much of the lavout shuts down for a short circuit. A power manager or

circuit breaker board should also be able to identify which sub district has the short.

One of the best methods to find a short requires a volt ohmmeter and a pair of good alligator clip leads. Good alligator clip leads have sharp teeth and a substantial wire size, such as number 18 or 20 wire. The volt ohmmeter needs to have a display that shows at least one decimal point when it is in the resistance mode. The cheapest meter from Harbor Freight is effective. This method works on AC, DC or DCC layouts.

Turn the layout power off and check that it is off. Put a clip lead on each meter probe and move them around a little bit to bite through any dirt or oxidation. Set the meter for the lowest ohms range Disconnecting the power available. supply may or may not be needed.

If there is any problem acquiring repeatable ohm readings, disconnect the power supply. If this is a DCC layout with sub districts, remove the power



Layout Short Circuits cont....

(Continued from page 8)

manager or circuit breaker board. Choose a location in the electrical district or sub district where the short is known to be. Clip both alligator clip leads to the same rail about one inch apart. Move the clips around a little bit to bite through any oxidation, paint, adhesive or dirt. Remove and reapply the clips a few times to be sure that you know how to get exact repeatable readings on the meter. Next put one clip lead on each rail at your chosen location. Write down the reading. It could be anywhere from about three ohms to as little a few tenths of an ohm. Now move several feet on

the same track in one direction, clip on the leads and take a reading. Write it down. If the second reading is less than the first, you are going in the right direction. If the second reading is greater, you need to go the other way. The idea is to work your way to the location of the lowest reading. That will be near the short. The resolution of a cheap meter probably won't let you determine exactly where the short is. Once you are close, start observing everything about the track and wiring. You may need to disconnect some wiring. It is easier to disconnect if terminal blocks or wire nuts have been used to join wires. This

method should work for you. It may take a few minutes or several hours.

A recent publication discusses a "battery test." An automotive battery is used with number 12 wire attached to the rails. The idea is to burn the short circuit open. **Do not use this method.** It is very dangerous. One hundred or more amps will flow through your track and wiring. Permanent personal injury may occur. Setting the layout on fire is very possible. Melting ties, rails and wire is another risk.

Good luck and may this help you find what can be difficult to identify. - Dave Hanna

Railfanning at the Depot



he Painesville Depot had its first Railfanning Day on Saturday May 7th, 2015. The Quaker Steak and Lube restaurant of Mentor, Ohio graciously sponsored this community family event. This fun event encourages the family to walk through the memories of a fascinating era of our national history. In addition to being able to participate in a model railroad clinic, visitors that came to our first Railfanning Day of the season





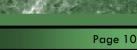
were amazed at the progress the unsung volunteers have accomplished in a few short winter months. Terry Mowery manned the grill that he donated and grilled the hamburgers donated by the Quaker Steak and Lube restaurant. In addition on the bill of fare one could find hot dogs, hot and cold beverages, Tom Pescha's famous hobo beans and a variety of pastries. There was plenty to see including 2 operating model railroads layouts. The kids, *of all ages*, enjoyed



being so close to the massive giants of the rails as they thundered past the Depot while being safe behind a fence on the property. If you were unable to attend this one, there will be three more this season in July, September and October. Plan on joining us in July and please remember to bring your camp chair and your sun screen and come down to the Depot for a few hours of fun and nostalgia. - *The Editor*









Page 11

Team Track	www.MCR5.org
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Bring & Brag	(Open Position)
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My memories of John H Armstrong

ohn Armstrong was a periodic member of Division 5 and 0 well known to long time members. I've know John since his days as a model maker at the former Austin Company. John loved trolleys' from the prototype down to N scale and was a great story teller as well. I had the good fortune to hear stories from his childhood, his service as a Marine Corp medic, his travels throughout the US and parts of the world, and his time as a zoning inspector. John led a most interesting life and always put his family first. John had another "talent" that few, if any, knew about. He had the talent to call just after my wife and I finished dinner. We never had a set time for dinner. It could have been any time from 4 pm to 8 pm. But John just seemed to know. His calls often relieved me of after dinner clean-up. Hour long calls were the norm and the subjects endless. John had many friends and I consider it a privilege being one of them. I will miss him and our frequent conversations.

- Don Thomas



Notice

I will be compiling the next Trainwire on the 22nd of the month and any articles or reports that come in after the 22nd will probably be published in the following issue. - *The Editor*



<u>The Trainwire</u>

Clerk:

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).

Matt Kross

Information regarding The Trainwire, Division 5, or the NMRA may be obtained by writing to 3257 Center Road, 44081 Perry, Ohio 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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