



Depot News from Painesville



THE DEPOT DISPATCH

Happy New Year



Inside

V.P. insight	1
Upcoming Events	2
Jim Hradesky	3
New T-shirt	3
Christmas Dinner	4-5
TCA Jan. show	7
Abe Lincoln B'day	8
'O' Gauge Train Sale	9
Railfest Dinner	11
Railfest	12
Membership Renewal	13

With the new year upon us, it is already looking like it will be another busy and profitable one.

We have added two events during our closed season. First we have added 'Celebrating Abraham Lincoln Birthday on February 13th. We are doing this as a joint venture with the Lake County Historical Society. (see page 8).

Second event that has been added is back by popular demand, we have added a second "O" gauge model train sale day on February 21st. (see page 9).

We will be at the January 24th, 2026 TCA model train show at Berea Fairgrounds. We are looking forward to another great day there. See page 7.

Railfest Dinner is just around the corner on March 21st, 2026 and Railfest Model Train Show will be here before you know it. See pages 11 & 12.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to report the passing of one

of our members, Jim Hradesky. See page 3.

We will be introducing our Memorial Plaque "Last Train Ride" at the January 13th meeting.

As we have now expanded our WiFi to the Engine Barn we are now in the process of adding new security cameras in the barn.

At the January 2026 meeting we will be voting for two of our BOD members. Frances Meinke and Dan Chuppa are up for re-election.

Membership dues are due as of January 1st, 2026. At the January 2025 , membership meeting we voted to revise our bylaws it will increase the membership dues by \$10.00.

Happy New Year to all!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Be
safe.
Tom

Dues are Due!

**This months Membership meeting is January 13, 2026
BOD meeting is January 27, 2026**



Upcoming Dates and Events

Jan. 13, 2026 Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm
Election of two BOD members

Jan. 24, 2026 TCA Train Show, Berea 10 am to 3 pm

Jan. 27, 2026 BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm

Feb. 10, 2026 Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm

Feb. 13, 2026 A President's Day Celebration, Depot
6 - 8 pm

Feb. 21, 2026 'O' scale model train sale, Depot
9 am - 3 pm

Feb. 24, 2026 BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm

March 10, 2026 Membership meeting, Depot 6 pm

March 21, 2026 Railfest Dinner Depot 5:30 pm

March 21-22 Railfest, Lakeland Community College
10 am to 4 pm

For a complete list of locations of Train and Toy Shows visit
www.cleveshows.com

Depot Dispatch

The Depot Dispatch is an official publication of The Western Reserve Railroad Association, Painesville Railroad Museum, Painesville, Ohio. It is published approximately once a month and is posted on the Depot Website free of charge. An electronic version of the newsletter will be emailed to members and a hard copy will be available at the Depot upon request.. Information regarding The Depot Dispatch, Depot activities and events may be obtained by writing to 3942 E. 364th St., Willoughby, Ohio 44094 or sending an e-mail to cleveshows@att.net. The Depot Dispatch and Depot activities and special events are funded by open houses, contributions, donations and annual fundraisers. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in The Depot Dispatch do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the Western Reserve Railroad Association.



THE WESTERN RESERVE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

DBA

PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org

501(c)3 Non-profit



President:	Jim Wendorf 11381 Labrador Lane Concord, Ohio 44077	(440) 357-8890	1lionelho@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Tom Pescha 3942 E. 364 Street, Willoughby, Ohio 44094	(216) 470-5780	cleveshows@att.net
Secretary:	George Anderson 228 Meriden Rd., Painesville, Ohio 44060	(440) 251-2031	baberuth342@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Ray Newnes 7137 Culver Blvd., Mentor, Ohio 44060	(216-312-2132	rnewnes@yahoo.com
Editor:	Tom Pescha 3942 E. 364 Street, Willoughby, Ohio 44094	(216) 470-5780	cleveshows@att.net
Assoc. Editor:	Paul McFee 1235 E. 348 Street, Eastlake, Ohio 44095	(440) 840-5164	usa_chief@yahoo.com

It is with a heavy heart that I have to report on the passing of Jim Hradesky.

Jim has been a member of the museum since 2019.

James E. Hradesky, age 82 of Eastlake, passed away December 15th, 2025 at Lake West Medical Center surrounded by his family. He was born October 30th, 1943 in Monaca, PA. Jim was a member of the Western Reserve Railroad Association. He enjoyed cars, model railroad trains, and spending time with his family. Jim was the loving husband of 58 years to Mary Hradesky (nee Bracale).

REST IN PEACE



JIM HRADESKY
1943 - 2025



New T-shirts for 2026

At the January 13th membership meeting we will be voting on a new T-shirt for the gift shop. We need to decide on color and neck style.



Collinwood 999



Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077



Christmas Dinner



Mother nature bless us with a great day for our Christmas Dinner. Just enough snow to add to the spirit of the season! We were blessed with 50 of our members and family attending. The food was once again outstanding from IGA Rideout and Texas Roadhouse. This year we even included HoBo beans thanks to Luisa.

Because of health reason, R.J. Price was unable to attend our Fundraiser Dinner to receive his Hall of Fame award. He was at the Christmas Dinner and George Anderson presented him with his well deserving award.

And a very big **Thank You** to Paul Hach for his donation to pay for the dinner!!!



A special thanks to Jim, Edna, Diane and Fran for serving the great food!





Happy Holidays



Snow Dogs Train Show

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Neither Wind, nor Rain, nor Snow will keep a train fan from a good train show!

Emidio & Sons Expo Center

48 East Bath Road

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

State Route 8 to Steels Corner Road or Graham Road westbound to State Road
South of Steels Corner Road North of Graham Road to East Bath Road.

Free Parking

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$6.00,



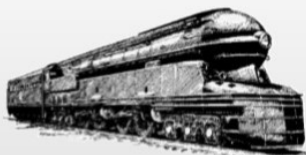
Kids under 12 years of age Free with paid adult

Boy & Girl Scouts admitted
free when in uniform.

**Operating Layout of several gauges
Many dealers to shop from.**

Good Food at reasonable prices

For Table Info call Leon:
440-650-8391



Show sponsored by Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association (www.cvsge.com)

TCA Winter Train Show

Train Collectors Association



Winter Snow Time Train Show



**Saturday
January 24, 2026
10am to 3pm**

**Join us at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
164 Eastland Road (gate 2), Berea, OH 44017**

Admission \$6.00 each, Families \$10.00, Kids 17 & Under FREE, with Adult

**2 Large Buildings Full of Trains & More Trains
Multiple Operating Layouts, Featuring the Mod Squad
And Much More!**

- **Plenty of FREE Parking**
- **Handicapped Accessible**
- **New & Old Trains**
- **Many Brands & Scales**
- **Parts, Repair Manuals, Etc.**
- **Expanded Kid's Play Area**

**Huge 14 foot Kid's Layout
Where the kids run the trains!!!**

- **\$5 Train Set Raffle**
- **Refreshments Available**
- **Test Track: check them before you buy**



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT: JOHN AT (330)273-6404 OR WWW.GREATLAKESTCA.ORG

The TCA Winter Train Show is on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Hours of the show are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and setup is 7 a.m. We have three tables.

Join us on Friday, February 13th, 2026 a President's Day Celebration at the Painesville Railroad Museum, 475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077.

Abraham Lincoln visited Painesville twice, the first time was on February 16th, 1861. President-elect Abraham Lincoln, stopped at the Painesville Depot on his way to his inauguration. The next time was his Funeral Train, May 5, 1865.

Meet John and Marian King as Abe and Mary Lincoln.

View videos of the Lincoln Funeral Train reproduction from its visit on June 5th and 6th, 2015.

Birthday Cupcakes and light snacks will be available for a small donation.

Admission is Free, Please register at www.lakehistorycenter.org

Donations accepted and appreciated.

Brought to you by The Painesville Railroad Museum and the Lake County Historical Society. Both are 501c3 non-profits.



Join us for an open house at the Painesville Railroad Museum to learn about the times President Abraham Lincoln stopped in Lake County.

Open House 6-6:45 – Presentation 6:45-7:30 – Free Birthday Cake 7:30-8

Free and open to the Public- please register at www.lakehistorycenter.org

Kids activities and Pictures with President Lincoln

Food available for purchase - a fundraiser for the Painesville Railroad Museum



Back by popular Demand!

Join us at The Historic Painesville Railroad Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot). This is a special one day only sale of 'O' Gauge Model Trains Sale is on February 21, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many items are new, never used, and some items are only slightly used. Items are from 2000 to 2010 MTH Railking and Premiere and Lionel in the box. This also includes many buildings and operating accessories.

Admission is FREE, Donation accepted and appreciated

Painesville Railroad Museum,
475 Railroad Street,
Painesville, Ohio 44077



ONE DAY SALE

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

'O' Gauge Train Sale

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

9 AM TO 3 PM

Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Some item NEW and some item slightly used!
Steam and Diesel - Passenger - Freight Cars
Buildings - Operating Buildings

Admission: Free!





www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org

501c3 Non-profit



Sponsored by KD TRAINS, LLC

8th Show in

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

TRAIN & TOY SHOW

SATURDAY, February 21, 2026



10:00AM—3:00PM All Gauge Model Trains 200 Dealer Tables Adults(Cash) \$8.00

Children under 12 FREE Operating Layouts Toys – New and Old Food, Door Prizes

Independence High School Fieldhouse (South near of H.S.)

6354 Selig Dr., Independence, OH 44131 (google maps)

Info/Tables – Dennis Pfeffer 216-642-0692 or

440-333-1111 (each Dealer of Show)

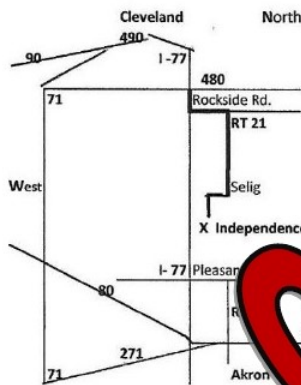
Organized by KD Trains, LLC Email: kaypeffer@yahoo.com

Dealer Tables @ \$30.00 ea.

ONLY, Saturday 6:30 AM-10AM day of show

RT 77/480 Rockside Rd Exit—East to RT 21- Turn right (South)

to Selig Dr., Turn right



Please Print—February 21, 2026 Vendor Application. No pack up before 3PM Dealers will accept full responsibility for any injuries or loss to them or their property while attending the show. All loading/unloading to be done at designated entrance. Dealers expressly release the promoters, KD Trains LLC. and the Independence Fieldhouse from any liability and agree to hold promoters harmless, therefore. **PREPAID WITH APPLICATION.** Paid by Feb. 14, 2026

I would like _____ (8ft. table(s) at \$30.00 each=\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED. (w/two admissions)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____ ELECTRIC _____ PERMIT# _____ (if Applicable)

If you are the holder of a transient or limited "Vendor Permit" you must give us the vendor's license permit number

Due to Ohio Revised Code 5739.17

Make check payable to:

KD Trains, LLC

Mail to: Dennis Pfeffer

5415 Hillside Rd.

Independence, Ohio 44131

Email: kaypeffer@yahoo.com

216-642-0692

Railfest Dinner

Join us on March 21st, 2026. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Eat your dinner in a 133 year old Train Station and enjoy the trains as they fly by on the CSX main line.

See the new addition to the museum, such as the new Interactive Display in the Engine Barn.

Guest Speaker: Dan Rager will present his new book "Ohio – Gateway to America". The subject is multifaceted and deals with Ohio's transportation, including Indian Trails, Stage Coaches, Building Canals and Railroads, just to name a few.

This dinner is not just for Railfest vendors, it is open to any and every one.

RAILFEST 2026 DINNER

12th Annual Railfest Dinner ☘ March 21, 2026

Will be held at Painesville Railroad Museum (aka Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Eleven miles east of College.

Have Dinner in a Historic Train Station!



Time:

Saturday evening, 5:30 pm, March 21, 2026
Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

Price: \$28.00 per person

SPEAKER & SUBJECT

Dan Rager - "Ohio - Gateway to America" deals with Ohio's transportation, including Indian Trails, Stage Coaches, Building Canals and Railroads, just to name a few.



RESERVATION DEADLINE

March 15, 2026

DINNER MENU

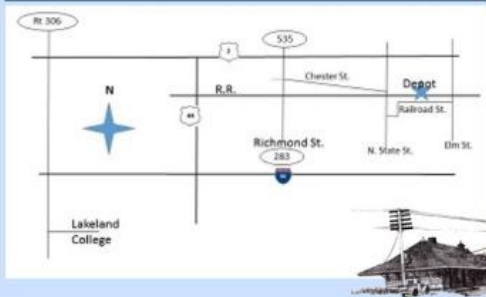
Tossed Green Salad
Italian and Ranch Dressing on the side
Chicken
Corn Beef and Cabbage
Red Skin Potatoes - Rigatoni

Beverages Stations:

Pots of Coffee - Pots of Decaf Coffee
Soft Drinks, Coffee Condiments: Creamer,
Sugar, Sweeteners

Direction to Painesville Depot

Exit College, turn right (North) onto Rt. 306
North on Rt 306 to OH Rt 2 (2 miles)
East on Rt. 2 (8 miles) to OH 535 / OH 283 (exit 223)
South on OH 283 for 200 feet, left turn (east onto Chester St.)
East on Chester St (0.7 miles) to North State Street
South on North State Street (under RR bridge) to Railroad Street.
East on Railroad Street to Depot.



This Dinner is open to any one that is interested in model railroading or trains in general.

Please retain this part for your information

Cut and Return

Cut and Return

Please mail back with Separate Check for the Buffet by March 15, 2026.
(Check will be held & deposited March 23, 2026)
Make Checks payable to: **WRAA**

Print your name: _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Check # _____

Please list and Print all Attending

Mail to:

Tom Pescha
3942 E, 364th St.
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Return this part

Flyer-DF-2026 Dinner 3-10-25 (#09)



Please return this part only

RAILFEST 2026

Model Trains - Collectibles - Memorabilia

Saturday & Sunday

March 21 & 22, 2026

10am - 4pm

Held at Lakeland since 1987



7700 Clocktower Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094

State Rt. 306 at Interstate 90 – exit 193

**Free
Parking**

**CASH Admission
ATM Available**

**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



Featuring

- * Dealers *
- * New / Used *
- * Exhibitors *
- * Operating Layouts *
- * Historical Displays *
- * Books / Magazines *
- * Apparel *
- * Collectibles *

For More Information:

www.railfest.org

Email: railfest@mcr5.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow

Railfest

PO Box 5081

Mentor, Ohio 44060

Phone: (216) 598-8842



THE NEWS-HERALD

www.News-Herald.com

Presented by

National Model Railroad Association

MCR – Division 5 Event

Largest continuous running two day train show in OHIO!



At our January 2025 membership meeting, our bylaws were revised, it increased our membership dues. This is the first increase in over 10 years. **Dues are due Jan. 1st.**

The Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077

email: prrm@att.net

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org



RE: Membership renewal

Dear Member:

It has been a pleasure having you as a member of the Painesville Railroad Museum. As the year is coming to an end, so is your membership. We wish to keep you as a member by having you re-new your membership.

Dues are due January 1, 2026.

Renewal cost is:

\$40.00 per year for single membership or

\$60.00 per year for family membership

Please provide name(s) and any of your contact information that needs to be updated, please do so by completing the form below.

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Make Check payable to
'WRRRA

The Western Reserve Railroad Association

Doing Business as

The Painesville Railroad Museum

A 501(c)3 Non-profit

Please Check Areas of Interest

Museum Volunteer _____

Typical Opportunities Tour Guide, Receptionist, Gift shop sales.

Museum Collections: _____

Typical Opportunities: acquisitions (additions to collections).

Building & Grounds Maintenance _____

Typical Opportunities: carpentry, painting, basic electrical, plumbing, grass cutting.

Model Train Layouts _____

Typical Opportunities: Operate and Maintain.

Food Service _____

Typical Opportunities: Baked goods, Food serving and set-up, clean up for special events.

Days Available

____ Tuesday ____ Wednesday

____ Thursday ____ Friday

____ Saturday



Revision Date: 9-25-25