

## Depot News from Painesville

# THE DEPOT DISPATCH

### Let it Snow!



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With Winter in full blast with both snow and arctic cold temperatures, we had to cancel the January BOD meeting.

At the January membership meeting, both Dan Chuppa and Fran Meinke will remain on our Board of Directors.

We did very well at the TCA Winter train meet, even with all the cold weather. A very big thank you to Eddy, Phil and Rob for manning the show.

We have added three 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 5).

The 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 6).

Railfest Dinner is just around the corner on March 21st, 2026 and Railfest Model Train Show will be here before you know it. We have 10 tables. See pages 9 & 10.

We have also added a ghost hunt on the anniversary of the Lincoln Funeral Train passing by our station on April 28, 1865. (see page 8)

The Memorial Plaque "Last Train Ride" is now complete. (see page 4).

New Collinwood 999 T-shirts have been ordered, both V-neck and crew neck. (see page 3).

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.

We are looking at redesigning our web page.

Be safe.

*Tom Pescha, V.P.*

### Dues are Due!

This months Membership meeting is February 10, 2026  
BOD meeting is February 24, 2026



# Upcoming Dates and Events

**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**

**April 14, 2026 Membership meeting, Depot 6 pm**

**April 28, 2026 BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm**

**April 28, 2026 Paranormal Investigation 9 pm to Midnight.**

For a complete list of locations of Train and Toy Shows visit [www.cleveshows.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org)

501(c)3 Non-profit



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## New T-shirts for 2026

At the January 13th meeting, the BOD approved ordering new Collinwood 999 T-shirts. It was decided to order both the crew neck and also the V-neck T-shirts. Brent Lane did a little photo shop on the pic and removed the telephone pole in front of the engine barn. The shirts should be done by the end of February.

Price will be the same for both the crew neck and V-neck.



# Last Train Ride

The Last Train Ride Plaque is now done and will be mounted at the museum.

As we played catch up on our members who have taken their last Train Ride.

In memory of:

- ◆ Bob Orlando 1945-2017
- ◆ Lenny Kessler 1941-2019
- ◆ Rob Bowers 1940-2021
- ◆ Phil Quick 1931-2022
- ◆ Tom Carr 1937-2023
- ◆ Mark Welch 1959-2024
- ◆ John Bowman 1940-2024
- ◆ Mike Cavoatta 1943-2024
- ◆ Dick Gifford 1951-2024
- ◆ Jack Blaser 1943-2025
- ◆ Jim Hradesky 1943-2025
- ◆ Dale Porter 1939-2025



Join us on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

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

Admission is Free, Please register at [www.lakehistorycenter.org](http://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](http://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 the years 2000 to 2010 MTH Railking and Premiere and Lionel in the box. This also includes many buildings and operating accessories.

Admission is FREE, Donations are accepted and appreciated

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



**ONE DAY SALE**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMANDED**

**'O' Gauge Train Sale**

**FEBURARY 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!**

**RAILKING** By MTH Electric Trains

**LIONEL SINCE 1900**

[www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org](http://www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org)

501c3 Non-profit



Sponsored by KD TRAINS, LLC

8<sup>th</sup> 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 (1/2 year of H.S.)



\*\*\*\*\*

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

KD Trains, LLC

Mail to: Dennis Peffer

5415 Hillside Rd.

Independence, Ohio 44131

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Email: kaypeffer@yahoo.com

216-642-0692

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

# Paranormal Investigation

On April 28th, 1865 the Lincoln Funeral Train past by our station on its way to Springfield, Illinois. Legend has it that on the anniversary of that day, you can still hear the ghost train as it passes by our station.

We are doing a Paranormal Investigation on April 28th to see if the legend is true.

Join the ladies of [The Haunted Housewives](#) for a paranormal investigation of the Painesville Railroad Museum (aka The Painesville Depot) on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 from 9:00 pm to Midnight! This historic building, built in 1893, was used as a passenger depot up until 1971. Also check out the trolley from 1865. This haunted building has more than its share of paranormal activity. Would you like to join a small group of investigators searching to discover the evidence to support that claim?

## Paranormal Investigation

Of The

### Painesville Railroad Depot

April 28, 2026 9pm to Midnight

Presented by the

Haunted Housewives

**The Painesville Railroad Museum**

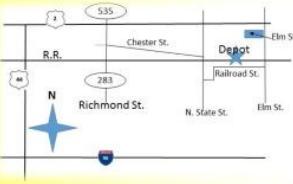
Painesville Railroad Depot

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077



On April 28, 1865 the Lincoln funeral train passed by our station on it way to Springfield, Illinois. Legend has it that on its anniversary you can still hear the ghost train as it passes by our station.

**VISIT THIS HISTORICAL TRAIN DEPOT**



**Direction to Painesville Depot**

I-90 (exit 200) to Rt. 44  
 North on Rt. 44 to Rt. 2  
 East on Rt. 2 (1.5 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.

A \$30 donation will be accepted. All proceeds from this paranormal exploration will go to the Painesville Railroad Museum, the group dedicated to the restoration of the NYC Painesville Depot. Visit <https://www.willoughbyghostwalk.com/special-events.html> for ordering tickets.

[www.painesvillerailroadmuseum.org](http://www.painesvillerailroadmuseum.org)  
 A 501(c)3 Non-Profit



01-04-2026 06:20:02AM

NIGHT

Channel 2

# Railfest Dinner

Join us on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 everyone.

# RAILFEST 2026 DINNER

**12<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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: WRRA

Print you 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Admission

**\$9.00**

Two Day Pass	\$14.00
Pair (2)	\$14.00
Family (max)	\$16.00

(2 Adults with Children under 18)

Food Service Available  
at reasonable prices



**CASH** Admission  
ATM Available

### Featuring

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

### For More Information:

[www.railfest.org](http://www.railfest.org)

Email: [railfest@mcr5.org](mailto:railfest@mcr5.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow](http://www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow)

### Railfest

PO Box 5081  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
Phone: (216) 598-8842



**THE NEWS-HERALD**

[www.News-Herald.com](http://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



### Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Membership Annual dues \$40.00**

Minimum age 18.

**Family Membership Annual dues \$60.00**

Membership is for one (1) year, January to January

If you join in August, September or October dues is \$30.00 for the balance of that year.

If you join after November 1st, your membership dues is \$40.00 and expires January of the following year, (15 months), Family Membership (Husband and Wife) \$60.00

Renewals are \$40.00 / \$60.00 per year no matter when you renew.

Make Checks Payable to **WRRA**

Mail to: **475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077**



The Western Reserve Railroad Association  
Doing Business as  
The Painesville Railroad Museum

A 501(c)3 Non-profit



Revision Date: 9-25-25