

SUMMERRAIL 2025

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Summerrail XXVIII has come and gone. Summerrail was once again held in Marion, Ohio, at the Palace Theater on the second Saturday in August. It is held in conjunction with the Marion Depot Open House Weekend. Some 300 railfans gathered during the weekend to celebrate railroad photography. Friday I spent at Marion Depot revitalizing friendships that had lain dormant for the past year. My hobnobbing would be broken when a whistle was heard or scanner blared signaling a train was coming. Then it was locate a position to capture a photo of the oncoming train, which I knew would make the next cover of Railfan and Railroad magazine. By 5:00 PM the Marion Depot parking lot was full, and cars were being parked in the lot across the street. Half of the railfans were smart enough to bring their own portable outdoor chairs, as I had. Mary Ann had stayed back at the motel as she said she could not bear the excitement of watching all the trains roll by the depot.

When the sun went down, it was into the Marion Depot to watch four railfans give half-hour PowerPoint presentations of "What I saw trackside last year." The four shows were excellent showcases that explored railroading in different areas of the country. Following the presentation, it was back out trackside to just yak and photograph trains in the dark. I returned to the motel at 11:00 PM.

The next morning Mary Ann and I got up early as we needed to be at the Palace Theater by 9:00 AM. Summerrail was based at the theater with the doors opening at 10:00 AM. It consists of two events: a railroad memorabilia sales area (no model trains) and the theater. Mary Ann, Jill Oroszi, and Myra Lindsey were the ticket sellers. Two types of tickets were sold: a \$5.00 ticket that got you into the railroad memorabilia sales area and a \$30 ticket that "Got you the whole Shebang!" just quoting Jill Oroszi. The railroad memorabilia sale ran from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Among the numerous sales booths was one manned by the Cincinnati Railroad Club. Mary Ann returned to the hotel after the ticket sales booth closed at 5:00 PM. She said she had had enough fun just talking to the railfan nerds she had not seen since Summerrail 2024.

The PowerPoint shows started at 1:00 PM, with the last show at 8:55 PM. The ten shows each lasted 20 minutes and covered a diversity of railroads and topics. The photos shown ran the gambit from good to beyond excellent. The music accompanying each presentation was well chosen and a delight to the ear. I think overall that this year's PowerPoint presentations were the best ever offered.

After the Summerrail PowerPoint presentations, it was back to the Marion Depot to listen to trains hit the diamonds in a symphony of bangs and clangs that assaulted the ears and bodies. I left the depot at 11:00 PM. The next morning, I was up at 6:30 AM and heading for the Marion Depot at 7:00 PM. There were already railfans at the depot when I arrived, with their cameras at the ready. Among these were Dave Oroszi and Scott Lindsey who told me they were going to

head over to Deshler about noon. I stayed at the Marion Depot until 10:30 PM talking and taking photos. Then it was back to the motel, collect MaryAnn, and take off to various Ohio railfan sites.



The Palace Theater, home of Summerrail



The ticket sellers: Mary Ann Bogart, Jill Oroszi, Myra Lindsey



The railroad memorabilia sales area



Xxx, Jonathan Higgins and xxxx man the CRRC booth



Inside the Palace Theater



Hawaiian shirt contest winners



Marion Union Depot and AC Tower



One of the two diamonds at the Marion Depot. From top left to bottom right is Norfolk Southern track and from top right to bottom left is CSXT track.



Among the trains sighted was this Loram rail grinder.



The back of the Marion Depot with railfans crowding the NS track as a train runs by.



Photo line at the Marion Depot



At the depot, Tom Bookout, Chris Mayhew, and Jim Corbett check out Chris's video of a CSXT train.



Norfolk Southern's Nickel Plate heritage locomotive leads a cut of coal cars past the Marion Depot.



NS 4175 and NS 5516 lead a string of empty coal cars past AC Tower and the Marion Depot's Erie Railroad display caboose.