

Lake Erie N Scale Society

May, 2002

Summer Vacation



LENS is taking the summer off. There are no set-ups scheduled and some difficulties need to be resolved. The May meeting will be the last for a while, and there will not be a newsletter until September.

What's summer without a picnic? We will still have the annual picnic in August, and possibly a work session or two; special flyers will be sent to announce those. Regular meetings will resume in September.

Welcome!

LENS is a group of people with a common interest in modeling N scale railroads using the "NTRAK" modular concept.

Any time we have opportunities to meet and/or display our work and promote this hobby, we would love to have you join us.

This means that ALL of us have chances to participate in the hobby by helping with any or all of the following:

- Setting up/tearing down**
- Running trains**
- Sharing your knowledge**
- Learning something new**
- Answering questions**
- Hosting a meeting**

Notice that NONE of the above requires a module. We need your help... so bring yourself, your enthusiasm, your interest and your trains.

Thanks in advance for helping! Hopefully, we will continue to see you at the meetings and display events.

Come and join in the fun!

The Lake Erie N Scale Society newsletter is published monthly for the sole use of its members by a crew of volunteers.

Opinions published here are solely those of the editor and/or the members of the Lake Erie N Scale Society.

This publication is intended to be a monthly newsletter describing the business, events and the common interest in N scale model railroading enjoyed by the members of the Lake Erie N Scale Society.

www.geocities.com/lensohio/

For information or questions regarding our Society, you may contact Clarence Hanold at 440-255-3901, or Dennis Lloyd at 440-352-7081

(dlloyd@apk.net)

Meetings normally start at 8:00 p.m., the fourth Friday of each month.

Last Month's Event

Last month's meeting was hosted by Chuck Limbert who supplied a video for us to watch.

Welcome to Ken Streobel who attended his first meeting (let's see if we scared him or if he'll return). Some "regulars" were missing and many "seldom seen" showed up resulting in a nice turn out.

Discussion revolved around a review of the set up and operation at the NMRA "Railfest" at Lakeland C. C. We also discussed the upcoming May 3rd to 5th set up at the Farm-park in Chardon, Ohio. Some last minute changes had to be made to the number of modules and the assembly order.

The attendees then broke for refreshments. Shortly after that, several items were offer for sale or trade at the monthly "swap meet", and Warren Evans made a special presentation to all the members. **Thanks again to Warren for this fine treat!**

Warren (Evans) then began to tell a story about his life as a prototypical trainman. It was very interesting to hear of his "adventures" while doing his job. I know that I have never been in an engine that "laid over" in a turnout! He has offered to tell more of these stories as a presentation at future meetings.

This Month's Meeting

This month Warren Lindner has graciously opened up his place for the meeting. The meeting will be on May 31 at 8 P.M. Note that due to the holiday weekend we are meeting on the **FIFTH** Friday of the month.

To get to Warren's, take Auburn Road past Quail Hollow. At Spear Road turn left. Just before the road ends, turn right. At the stop sign, turn right again. At the 4th or 5th street (Warren's) turn right. You're there!



Next Month's Meeting

No meeting scheduled until September.

STANDARDS

There has been a lot of discussion over the past year about our group's guidelines. One of these refers to the NTRAK module standards. Here are some highlights of these standards and some good practice track laying rules also.

We all realize that these modules are portable, and that while everything may have seemed perfect at home, things can change during transportation. For example, one of my 4 foot corners had a dent in one track that caused the 6th passenger car in a long consist to derail, no matter in what order the cars were run. The other corner had two spiked down switches that were picked by some trains. Either the switches were out of gauge or the wheels were. I will check the switches.

When a problem is found during a run, there are some short term fixes we can try. Repairs may be done, or trains may try running in the opposite direction. However, these are short term remedies. **IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, MODULES SHOULD BE ABLE TO RUN ANY TRAIN, IN ANY DIRECTION.** (2 exceptions: High cube stack trains and covered auto racks may not be able to run on some older modules. Also, the articulated steam engine made by Samhonga and imported by Atlas

was, according to several reviews, only able to run on perfect track.) There are items which need to be checked before the next set-up. Here are some of the standards:

1. Check clearances. Look for scenery or structures that are too close to the tracks. Remember, engines and cars overhang on curved tracks.
2. The last four inches of track on modules that are to join with other modules must be straight track.
3. Transition easements are recommended to ease into curves. Do NOT super elevate curves. Minimum radii of 24" is required on the red and yellow lines. A minimum radius of 18" is required on the blue line.
4. Reverse or S curves need to have a straight section of track in the middle as long as the wheelbase of the biggest car or engine.
5. Use flex track whenever possible. Avoid sectional track.
6. No grades are permitted on the red or blue lines. A mild 1.5% grade is permitted on the blue line. If such a grade is used, it must return to 0" for the interchange with the next module.
7. Check the gauge on all track, especially on turnouts.

If you have any questions about these standards or are having trouble meeting any of these standards, help is available from the membership.

“web.page”

www.geocities.com/lensohio/

This month’s “web.page” is being replaced with a review of the operation of the set up at the Farmpark.

As an opening comment, this “first time at a new venue” set up went fairly well. Modules were set up, electrical was connected and connecting tracks were installed in reasonably short order. The “MOW cleaning trains” were set out and all we had to do was put up the skirt, some Plexiglas, some buildings, etc. and we were done. Because the Farmpark wanted us out by 9:30, some items were left until the next morning. The bridge module, although a little tight because of location, worked very well (**thanks from those of us with failing knees**). ...and thanks to everyone that helped in the set up and tear down duties; many hands did make light work!

(Denny—please fill in your thoughts about the reason we were there and the crowd, etc.)

F.R.E.D.



See you at the next station!

Reminder

If you have surplus engines, buildings, rolling stock, modules, etc., bring them to any of the meetings to offer great deals to fellow members.

Our "Annual Swap Meet" is now available at every meeting!

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