



## **L.E.N.S.**

6051 Harrison St.  
Mentor, OH 44060

Monthly publication of the  
Lake Erie N Scale Society

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**N-TRAK**

**September, 2003**

**First Class Mail**

## Welcome!

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

Any time we 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/](http://www.geocities.com/lensohio/)

**For information or questions regarding our Society, you may contact Dennis Lloyd at 440-352-7081 - or - (dlloyd@apk.net)**

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

# Lake Erie N Scale Society

**September, 2003**

**Thanks Denny!**

...do you have any idea why it takes three or more, several hour sessions to put together one of these newsletters?

It is because for the last several years, Denny Lloyd and I have sat in front of his PC, or my PC laughing like fools and having the time of our lives; and (oh yeah), putting a few articles into a newsletter form.

There is the gathering of articles, the selection of a caboose picture, the typing, the spelling errors, the printing, the folding, the stapling, the stuffing, the labeling, ...well you get the idea. In addition, the camaraderie we shared will be missed. You see, Denny has decided to step down from the newsletter after only 200+ editions (almost twenty years).

This edition of the newsletter looks different because we decided to add a new column and try a new format. In the future, we will be trying an e-mail delivery version. But, none of this will be the same without input from Denny.

Actually, I asked him to write / edit one of the columns, so all is not lost. By the way, Joyce Lloyd also has spent countless hours helping to make this newsletter possible.

**Thanks to both of you for your efforts!**

## Last Month's Meeting

We “kicked off” the 2003—2004 season with a picnic at the home of John and Sally Evans (Chardon). This has become an annual event where our members and families gather for a picnic.



Everyone brings something to “grill”, a dish to share and a favorite beverage. John and Sally provide the location, fire and coffee. Although

lightly attended this year (as compared to last year), there was plenty to eat and lots of leftovers (see, you should have been there).

Actually, since we all had to much to eat, the loud sound of a “CRACK” was heard as one of the braces of the picnic table, gave away. This was followed by much laughter and good natured kidding.

John and Sally proudly showed off the new addition to their house, and Ken brought pictures from his recent trip to the Toronto convention. At dusk, the temperature dropped and people were seen sitting on the patio wrapped in blankets (looking like “mummies”).

**Hope to see you there next year**

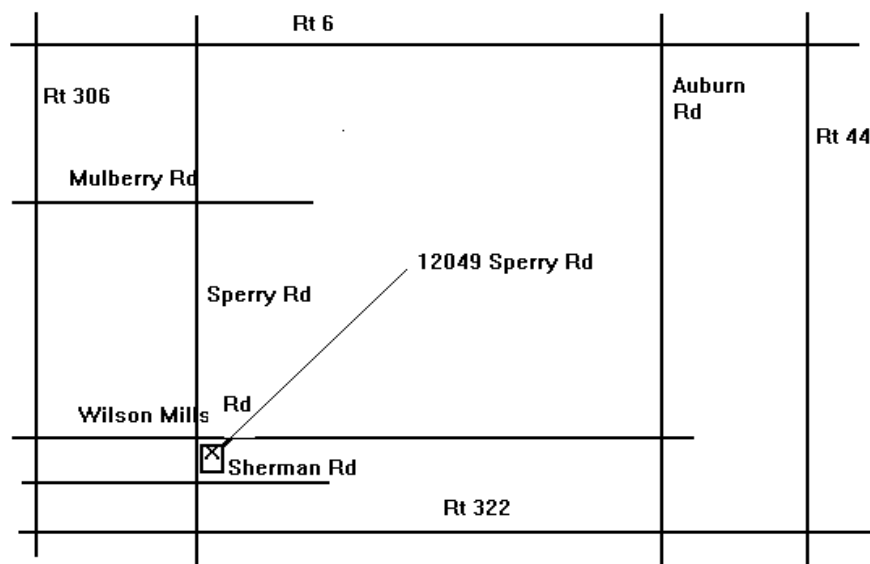
## This Month's Meeting

September's meeting will be at the home of Matt and Barbara Kross in Chesterland on September 26 at 8:00 pm.

We will finalize the Euclid set-up and discuss and decide upon several opportunities for fall and winter displays.

Usually we have time for a video or a demonstration after the business portion of the meeting. Or, since Matt has been working very hard on his new home layout, I would think there will be trains running for us to observe.

If you haven't seen the process of building a layout, this would be an excellent chance to see how a it looks during construction. "True to form", even though it's not completed, running trains was a top priority!



## Learning From Prototype

### Coupling and uncoupling locomotives and railroad cars

Did you know the air hoses between cars are attached manually and the knuckles attach automatically? Did you know the process is reversed during uncoupling? Here's how it's done...

The purpose of the couplers are to join the locomotive to the car behind it, and to join each of the cars in the train to each other. Major Eli Janney, a Confederate veteran of the

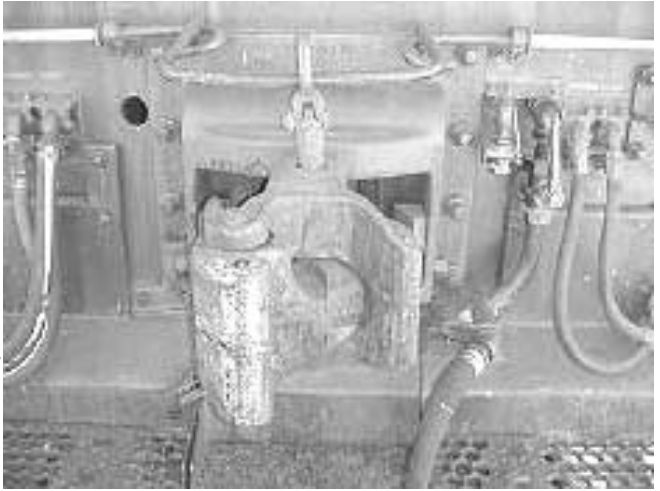


Civil War, invented the knuckle coupler in 1868. This semi-automatic device locks upon the cars closing together without

the rail worker getting between the cars. The air line hoses must then be connected manually by joining the "gladhands". A "cut" lever at the corner of the car releases the coupler knuckle making uncoupling safer.

The cut lever is on either side of the coupler. In the first photo, the pin is in the lowered position, which keeps the couplers locked together, allowing the locomotive to pull the train.

The locking pin is visible in the center of this photo. During uncoupling the cut lever and pin are raised and the coupler is allowed to open, as shown here. The "gladhands" then twist and break apart.



Have you ever heard the phrase "*It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop*"? This

is a reference to this coupler pin! If the engineer and brakeman work together so that the coupling is accomplished gently, the couplers join together so that the pin drops quietly enough to hear it go "clink". This phrase is one of many that originated on the railroad.



"Glad Hand" (also "Gladhand") = The metal coupling on the end of an air hose.

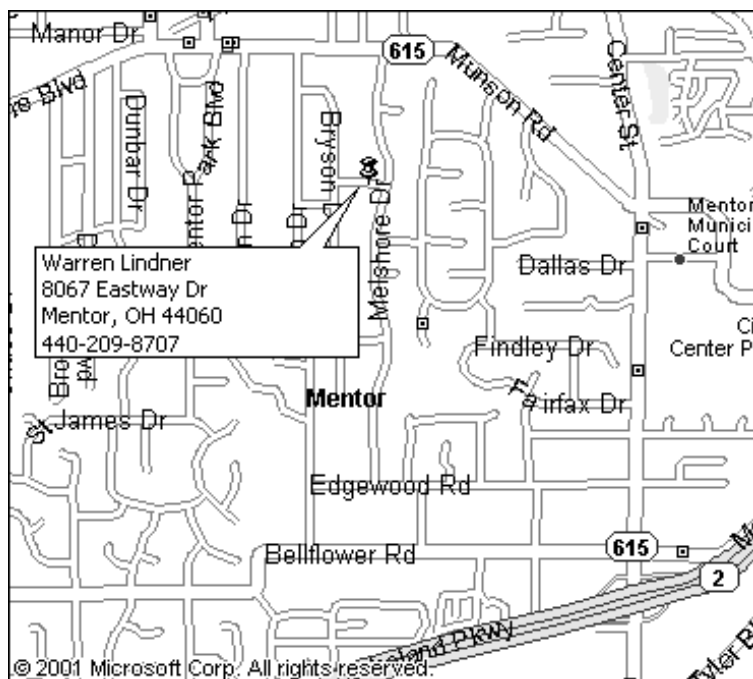


## Next Month's Meeting

October's meeting is scheduled to be held at Warren and Julie Lindner's new "station". Check the map below for the **NEW** address and phone number (in case you get lost).

This meeting will be used to discuss the upcoming fall and winter layout schedule. We must make final plans for who will be included at the next three events (especially the November setup).

Tentatively, Warren is planning to show a video (I'll bet it is about trains) after the business portion of the meeting is complete. Do you have a video to share with the club?





## Layout Planner

<u>Dates:</u> Satur- day	
<u>Set up Date:</u>	<u>Time &amp;</u>
<u>Tear Time</u>	<u>Down &amp; Date:</u>

**Sorry - CANCELLED!**

We have been invited to display once again at the Euclid Public Library's Community room. This will be the third time we have had the opportunity to set up at this venue.

Rebecca McFarland has indicated our display is a very popular event for the library and was sorely missed last year as the invitation came to late, and we were not able to accommodate their request.

We are calling for set up to start at 6:30 p.m. Although not everyone can get there that early, the idea is to put up as much as possible, in the hopes of getting done by no later than 10:00 p.m. (complete).

This is a great venue as we have easy and close access to the room. There is plenty of extra space provided in case anyone wishes to provide any type of demo or side display table.

**“web.page”**

## **2004 N Scale East Convention Announced**

We received an e-mail from Clint Hyde announcing the 2004 N Scale East convention. It will take place August 5th to the 8th, 2004, at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA.

Details regarding the convention can be found at [www.bigtrainlayout.org/](http://www.bigtrainlayout.org/). You can access that URL to register, read the latest rumors, see a layout map, etc. They are hoping to attract as many N scale modules as possible (there is room for 450 modules) to perhaps overtake the record set a few years ago in New Jersey. There will also be modules and layouts of other scales and a train show with 100+ vendors.

Clint is soliciting persons to present clinics at the convention. Here is an excerpt from his e-mail:

“...MY responsibilities: two things: local home layout tours (expect 12-15; I know the web-page says "dozens" but that won't happen) and the clinics.

There are likely to be two general categories of clinics: those that are Ntrak specific, and will be at the Expo Center, and "the rest", in the hotel.

The Expo Center will only be open to the public Saturday and Sunday, but we'll have the hotel at least Thursday and Friday too.

This means there is plenty of time for good clinics! Once again I probably won't get to attend even one of them.



So, I am soliciting from you: volunteer clinicians, and requested topics. Our preferred clinic here is a hands-on one, where you get to do or make something (and take it home if you wish).

For an example of this sort of thing, look at: <http://members.cox.net/chyde/PotomacDivision/Potomac-Junction.html>. Scroll down to the yellow schedule chart. Send your requests to [clinics.2004@nvnttrak.org](mailto:clinics.2004@nvnttrak.org), which will get to me properly.”

- Clint Hyde

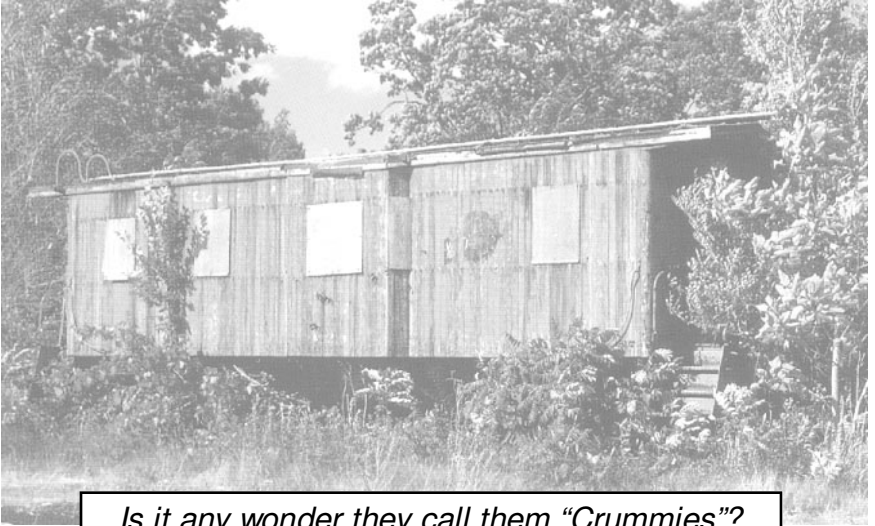


Ken Stroebel reports that he found a simple but complete barn kit, that was not too expensive. It includes the Ohio Bicentennial logo too! It can be found and ordered on

the web from Smoke “N” Hole Hobbies ([www.dannowicki.com/barn.html](http://www.dannowicki.com/barn.html)).

Visit our web site at [www.geocities.com/lensohio/](http://www.geocities.com/lensohio/)

**“F.R.E.D.”**



*Is it any wonder they call them “Crummies”?*

*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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