



L.E.N.S.

6051 Harrison St.
Mentor, OH 44060

Monthly publication of the
Lake Erie N Scale Society

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

N-TRAK
N SCALE MODULAR RAILROADING

October, 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/

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

October, 2003

Something new at Berea...

This year at the NMRA Div.4 "Railfest" at the Berea Fairgrounds, our sister group (BURNS) displayed their new "figure eight" module.

Basically the center portion of the cross is shaped like a "plus sign". The North-South & East-West portions are transition modules (which cross over each other).

The East-West direction is like a standard transition. The North-South direction runs over the other set of tracks. In order to achieve the grade for the cross over, another 4' module is added to each side of the bridge. The final measurement is then 4' by 12'. The "inside the loop" edges had sky boards.

A minor disadvantage may be that both loops of the "8" may not be the same size, which doesn't provide room for anyone to stand inside the smaller loop.



Last Month's Meeting

September's meeting was at the home of Matt and Barbara Kross in Chesterland on September 26.

We discussed the one day, static display that Charlie and Lou put at the Euclid Library (in lieu of our cancelled display). They set up a module, some G & Z scale trains, displayed books, constructed buildings and ran videos all day (for a total crowd of 35 people).

We also discussed the different opportunities for fall and winter displays. (Note: The Burton Library has scheduled the meeting room for another function & GATS would not accept our late entry. It appears at this time, that our next set up will be at the FarmPark in December.)

Usually we have time for a video or a demonstration after the business portion of the meeting. Matt was kind enough to provide us with a demonstration of painting clouds of his new layout. The process seems to be very simple yet creates some very fine clouds.

After showing how easy it was to paint heavy and light clouds, he invited people to "give it a try". A few of the attendees made an attempt, which produced some pretty good results! Others said they were afraid of making a mistake on Matt's layout to which Matt replied, "it's ok, this will be the part that is hidden anyway!" Thanks for the lesson Matt!

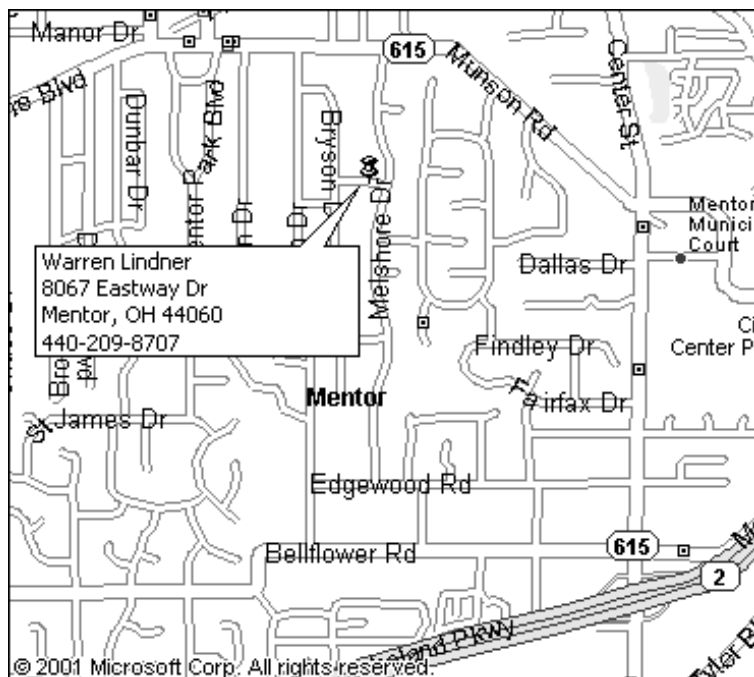
We also viewed the N / HO module that is being built in Matt's garage; it is part of the NMRA FarmPark project.

This 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's discussion topic will be the upcoming fall and winter layout schedule. We must make final plans for who will be included at the next event (especially the December setup and it's schedule).

Tentatively, Warren is planning to demonstrate how to correct the truck spacing, and ride height faults built into the Con-Cor Auto Rack, using an Alan Curtis kit.



Learning From Prototype

How do dynamic brakes work?

The basic principle of dynamic braking is that the traction motors are made to function as generators. The energy produced by the traction motors running as generators is dissipated in resistance grids mounted on the locomotive body. Fans are used to move air over the brake grids. Dynamic braking is generally used on descending grades to control train speed, but it becomes ineffective below 15-20 MPH. As the train speed reduces to 15-20 MPH, you have to use the air brakes to stop the train.

Explain the advantages of AC traction motors over DC traction motors.

AC or alternating current motors have been around for many years, but were never able to match the starting torque of the DC or direct current traction motors. DC motors provided high starting torque, but brought many limitations. DC traction motors are equipped with commutators and carbon brushes that are subjected to very high current loads or Amps. A DC motor having high current loads while not in motion or while moving slowly, would receive major damage or even burn-out if this high current would be applied for too long a period of time. At low speeds, the high amperage damage would occur within minutes. AC traction is favorable in that the motors are not equipped with the commutators or brushes, eliminating the limitations of the low speed, high throttle position. The latest locomotives to utilize AC current are the SD60MAC,

SD70MAC, SD90/43MAC, SD80MAC, SD90MAC, AC4400CW, AC60/44CW AC6000CW, and most recently, the SD89MAC. AC motors allow a locomotive to have more pulling power, eliminate stall burns in the traction motors, and have very low maintenance requirements. DC traction motors require high current levels or amps, to produce high power. Heavy conductors and traction motor leads must be used to carry this high current and the high current levels produce a great deal of heat, further limiting the DC traction motor. AC current eliminates the ammeter in the cab, replaced by a Tractive Effort Display. The AC motor will not allow dramatic wheel slip. The motor speed is controlled by the design of the motor and the frequency of the input voltage. Since the frequency is closely controlled by onboard computer systems, motors cannot run away as they would on a DC locomotive. The AC traction system, coupled with a very aggressive computer controlled wheel creep system, allow the AC locomotives to achieve much higher adhesion levels than DC locomotives.

What is a “Shoo-Fly” track?

A "Shoo-Fly" track is a track built and used for the purpose of detouring traffic while the permanent railway line is being reconstructed or repaired, or while some other obstruction prevents its use.

What are the three parts of the rail called?

The three parts of the rail are as follows. The part of the rail that rests on the ties or tie plates is the BASE. The top part of the rail upon which the wheels roll on is called the HEAD. The part between the BASE and the HEAD is called the WEB.

Next Month's Meeting

Normally our November meeting is held at Belle's dinner in beautiful downtown Burton, Ohio. We had intended to attend the GATS show in November this year. However, because we waited too long, our entry was not accepted. "You snooze—you lose".

The Burton Library on the other hand was not "asleep at the switch". They were able to schedule another event for their meeting room. As a result, we will not be able to display at the library in Burton after Thanksgiving this year.

Also, since the 4th Friday of the month is the day after Thanksgiving, we should probably skip a meeting for November. This will be discussed at the October meeting. The issue will be settled by a vote of the members.



Layout Planner

There are no layout set ups scheduled until the holiday time period, at the Farmpark Festival Of Lights in December.

Our intention was to set up and enter competition at the GATS show in Niles, OH in November. However, our entry was late and there wasn't any room for our display. In the meantime, the Burton Library meeting room was rescheduled for another event. As a result, we currently have nothing scheduled for November.

We must start to discuss the schedule for the Farmpark. In addition, we need to design and "lock in" run times for that event in advance—let's avoid any empty times this year!

We have been contacted by several libraries. Bob V. said he would check into those contacts regarding a set up in Ashtabula and/or Bainbridge. Gail from the Willowick Library has also invited us back in February, 2004. (I advised her this would be our fourth visit and we may already be scheduled elsewhere—giving others a chance.)

Dates:

T.B.A.

Set up Time & Date:

T.B.A.

Tear Down Time & Date:

T.B.A.

“web.page”

Most of us are familiar with the products of California Freight and Detail Company. Like many manufacturers, they have a web site where their current products may be viewed. However, this company takes its site one step further.



Drums on pallets

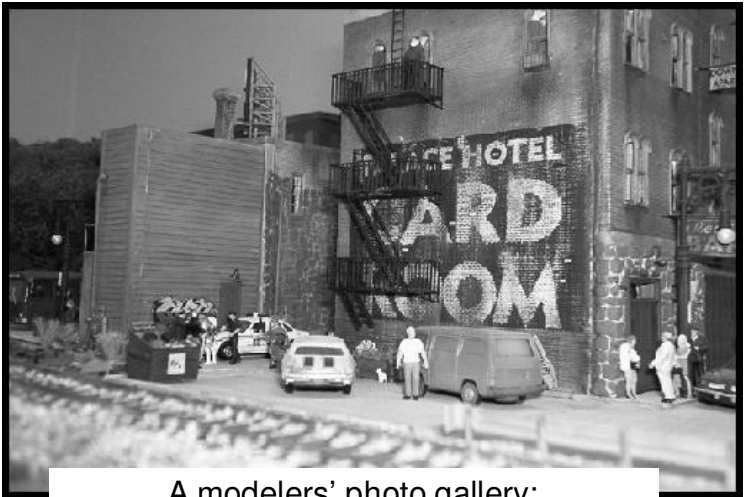


Bee hives



Smudge pots

In addition to current products, there is information on new products:



A modelers' photo gallery:

Scenery Articles:



Wire fences, easy forests, board by board fences, etc.

and Proto-photos to help with scenery, references to magazine articles, construction of building, and other fun stuff. You may visit at www.calfreight.net/.

Remembering “Kato Bob”

Have you heard of the recent passing of "Kato Bob." You may remember his sales booth because of the giant green and white “Kato by Bob” sign at many of the local train shows such as Railfest. It is understood that he lost a long battle with cancer. Prayers for a fallen fellow hobbyist would be in order. Just though you should know...

Visit our web site at www.geocities.com/lensohio/

“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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