

L.E.N.S.

Monthly publication of the
Lake Erie N Scale Society



INTERNET
VERSION

N-TRAK
N SCALE MODULAR RAILROADING

July, 2004

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!

www.geocities.com/lensohio/

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.

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

July, 2004

Liability Concerns—Incorporation Needed?

At the last two meetings the members present have been involved in a discussion regarding a need to “incorporate” our group to position ourselves so we are protected from a frivolous lawsuit. A concern was brought before the group pointing out that we may fall victim to someone bringing a lawsuit for “whatever” because of something at one of our setups (where they think they can find fault with something we did or caused).

We have contacted Jim FitzGerald (founder of the Ntrak standard), talked to lawyers (who are also model railroaders) and are currently checking with an insurance agent for ideas and guidance.

Both the lawyer and Jim F. eluded to a similar answer—each individual should consider a rider on his’ or hers’ home owners policy, or purchase some liability protection; not a bad idea whether or not you are involved in our setups.

If you have any thoughts or questions regarding this very interesting and important issue, feel free to contact “LENS” via e-mail at lensohio@geocities.com.

More information will be presented at this months’ meeting. Perhaps I will be able to report a conclusion to this issue next month.

Last Month's Meeting

As it turns out Charlie T.'s new GIANT basement is not even in his own house. Our reporter (who has been sent on assignment to discover if there are trains on Pluto) provided bad information. It's his sister's house and she is not using the basement area. He has set up a large part of his home layout, but is not yet ready to run.

The logo items were not ready but will be delivered at the next meeting.

Regarding the topic of "incorporation" and "liability": Lou D. contacted a lawyer (a model railroader) and Jim FitzGerald (founder of Ntrak). He read copies of several e-mails and more discussion ensued, Denny L. agreed to contact an insurance agent to add more information before we can decide to come to a consensus.

The membership reviewed plans for an electronic newsletter and voted to go ahead. We will still mail "hard copies" to those that do not have access (only 2 so far).

It was decided that those going to the Nscale convention (and bringing modules) to VA, would meet to certify the modules at an "offline" meeting. A time and place will be determined later.

Free to a good home.

I am cleaning house and have two boxes of Individual plastic boxes (originally from freight cars) that must find a new home. Contact Dennis Lloyd if you are interested.
(lensohio@yahoo.com)

This Month's Meeting

Skip G. has offered to open his home to this “motley crew” of model railroaders. As I recall, Skip does not have an operating layout. However, we have a number of items on the agenda that need your input during discussion. As always, there is an opportunity to share or learn about many things regarding our hobby at these gatherings.

The logo shirts, etc were delivered and will be ready at this meeting. Please remember your checkbook if you have not already paid for ordered items (*Thanks!*) (PS: We are working with a new vendor that has better service and maybe lower prices—more later.)

More information from an insurance agent will be available regarding the topic of “incorporation” and “liability”. We will once again be discussing this subject. Hopefully we can come to a consensus and put this item to rest.

**Charlie T.'s
new
GIANT
basement
layout**



Learning From Prototype

(...with apologies to U.P. fans everywhere)

U.P. yours...



We're a great big rollin' railroad
One that everyone can see
'Cause we're **Usually Parked** on sidings
That's why we're called U.P.

We're a million tons of cargo
Just a rottin' in the sun
We're the Union Pacific
And our meltdown's just begun



From the plugged up yard in Roseville
To our mainline filled with cars
It's a big congested mess
Like a railroad version of SARS

We're a thousand wheels of freight train
All being held for power
We're the Union Pacific
Makin' half a mile an hour

Bound from Omaha to Portland
Our customers are in luck
'Cause we're setting out their cargos
To load it all on trucks



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With Amtrak stuck in Oakland
And in Denver and L.A.
We're the Union Pacific
And you're not gonna move today



From the Valley to Dunsmuir
We are runnin' out of crews
But we'll deliver your great cargo
'Cause we're usin' DPU's

We're much safer and efficient
All thanks to remote control
We're the Union Pacific
Our bean counters say it's so



With our copyrighted emblem
We're gonna make 'em bleed
And the beatings will continue
'Til our tired crews succeed

Our investors are all waiting
With the shippers on their knees
We're the Union Pacific
And we'll deliver when we please...



BUILDING AMERICA™

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

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

Next Month's Meeting

Traditionally, we have not had a meeting in the month of August. Instead, John and Sally Evans open their patio for a social gathering. It is a chance for our members to bring a guest and meet with other members in a different setting (although we still talk about trains and stuff) .

NOTE CHANGE OF TIME: *the picnic will be held on the fourth SATURDAY of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.*

Bring a folding chair, a table setting, your favorite item for the grill, and a dish to share. John and Sally usually supply some beverages and a hot fire.

It gets cold there after the sun goes down—don't forget a jacket or sweatshirt if you hang around for conversation.



Map details
withheld from
web version
for security
purposes

Layout Planner

Venue	<i>"Capitol Limited" - 2004 N Scale East</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Event times</i>
Set up	Wednesday	8/04/04	Various / Multiple
	Thursday	8/05/04	Various / Multiple
Oper.	Friday	8/06/04	Various / Multiple
	Saturday	8/07/04	Various / Multiple
	Sunday	8/08/04	Various / Multiple

A complete schedule is available at...
http://www.ntrak2004.org/timetable_2004.php

Don't forget to register yourself and maybe one or more modules, for the "Capitol Limited" convention in August!
www.ntrak2004.org

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

*If you intend to bring a module, you must register it **NOW**.*

*Once you register it, there is a **CERTIFICATION** process that must be completed (in advance, or at the show) before it can be accepted for display.*

See the web site (above), or ask some of your fellow members for details.

[“web.page”](#)

We haven't looked at a layout for a while, so let's travel the Chicago Great Western in 1/160th scale.

Mike and Marshall Skibbe have built this 10 ft by 20 ft layout on spline roadbed using Peco code 55 track. It depicts Iowa and Illinois in 1968. It runs on DCC using the Wangrow system.

Included on the web site are photos of individual pieces of rolling stock and what was done to each to enhance the appearance of that car. Both freight and passenger cars are included. Oil paints seem to be their choice for weathering.



Additionally, track plans and drawings are shown from the various towns on the layout. Here is a shot taken at Carol Stream:



Here is the C&NW interchange at Byron....



Also included is a plan of the entire layout. For more information, see <http://www.cgwrr.com/>.

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!