

# L.E.N.S.

Monthly publication of the  
**Lake Erie N Scale Society**



**N-TRAK**  
N SCALE MODULAR RAILROADING

**February, 2005**

## 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/](http://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

February, 2005



[www.nscale.net](http://www.nscale.net)

This is your one stop information source for N scale model railroading. Join our N scale discussion forum. Check out the largest N scale related links database on the internet! Our news and article features cover the widest range of subjects of interest to the N scale community. Find N Scale related information on layout design and planning, DCC, scenery, prototype research, and more! With so many N scale related features there is something for (almost) everyone!

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While “surfing the net” the other night, I came across the site shown above. Although many of you may have already seen this site, I’ll bet not everyone in our group is aware of its existence.

I only spent a few minutes looking around (because I was researching something else), but I “bookmarked” the site so I could go back and visit it again, I found it to be one of the better resources of N scale & Ntrak news and information that I have ever seen.

Hopefully you will find this site to be interesting too.

## Last Month's Meeting

Bob V. offered to host the January meeting. Even though Bob lives in the heart of the "snow belt", the weather cooperated and it was actually a very pleasant night! In spite of that, several regulars were not in attendance.

We reviewed the past setup in Burton, and the Holiday setup at the Lake Farmpark. Everyone thought things were pretty smooth. However, there is some concern for the lack of participants at those two shows.

The NMRA Railfest at Lakeland Community College is coming up in March. In the next few weeks, we need to hear from those persons that will be setting up modules. E-mail or call Denny L. with your plans, so he can build a map and start a sign up sheet. Matt K. will provide a form for those persons that wish to sell items at Railfest. The form will help us keep track of the prices, money and inventory. An idea to donate a percentage of sale proceeds to the club was presented and voted down.

We discussed the renewed interest in adding another library to our schedule for February. Bob V. said he would make some contacts. Many libraries have suffered budget cuts forcing them to close on Sundays. Our requirements are at least two days open to the public, plus setup / tear down time. We then reminisced about short shows we have done in the past (ouch!).

Once again, we reviewed the cancellation of the Farmpark setup for May. A large number of members will be busy at the NMRA regional convention that weekend, and we have decided not to set up a display this year.

## This Month's Meeting

The February meeting will be held at the home of Warren L. starting at 8 p.m. (2?25?05).

We will be discussing the set up at Lakeland Community College. The final plans for the layout, the sign up sheet and the "Sale table" will be key subjects on the agenda.

In addition, the group will continue talking about new ideas as to where we might display our modules since currently the libraries are in budgetary crunches (Bob V. may have some news to share).

Recently, the Travel Channel ran a program (one in a series) entitled "Made In America". The show covered the GE Transportation Rail shops in Erie, PA (see pg. 6). We may have a copy of that video to show at the meeting.

Lou D. has promised to bring the video tapes from this past summer's convention in Chantilly, VA. These are unedited, random shots of the modules at the record setting layout. Most of the 500+ modules, and cameo pictures of Jim FitzGerald ("Mr. Ntrak") are included.



### Looking for LENS "gear"?

Contact Karen  
**(440-347-0938)**

to order your favorite items. Quality, prices & selection to fit every budget!



## Learning From Prototype

### GE Transportation Rail Plant Erie. PA

Recently a show was aired on The Travel Channel called “John Ratzenberger’s Made In America”. It showed a tour of the Diesel engine building facility in Erie, PA.



There is a web site available, that offers a huge amount of information about GE and its products and services as it relates to Railroading (amongst other things).

The following web site is for a “Virtual Tour” of what was shown on the program:

[https://www.getransportation.com/general/locomotives/virtual\\_tour/tour/planttour\\_default.asp?SMSESSION=NO](https://www.getransportation.com/general/locomotives/virtual_tour/tour/planttour_default.asp?SMSESSION=NO)

Here is a sample of the things they do at that facility...



*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*



*The frame and tanks, the alternator, truck assemblies and diesel engine are gathered from several locations and built up as a unit.*

*The unit is then sent to the paint shop to have its "colors", identifying marks and logos applied. It then is sent out to a test track for testing before it is shipped to the customer (or it earns it s way in a revenue consist.)*



***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

# RAILFEST 2005

We have been invited to participate in the NMRA Division 5's Railfest, held at Lakeland Community College (see page 9). Because of the amount of time spent at Railfest, we will not have a "monthly meeting" at anyone's house.

I believe we have a 12' x 40' space to fill with our layout; mark the dates on your calendar now—we need many modules to fill the space. Again, we will have access to a "Sale Table", where you are welcome to bring your surplus items to offer for sale to the public.

If you intend to offer items for sale, also plan on spending some time sitting at the table to monitor the items. Don't assume someone else will do it for you—you are expected to help in the effort.

**We will need all of the help we can muster for the set up and tear down efforts**—the more hands, the lighter the work.

Contact Denny L. if you intend to bring a module so we can include your module/s in the layout design.

If you have never been to a Railfest, it is the "east side's best model railroad show". There will be several operating layouts and over 100 vendors, "waiting to liberate your dollars"!



## Event Planner

Venue	<i><b>Railfest</b></i>	<i><b>Dates</b></i>	<i><b>Event times</b></i>
<b>Set up</b>	Friday	3/19/05	Starts 7:00 p.m.
<b>Oper.</b>	Saturday	3/20/05	10 a.m.—4 p.m.
	Sunday	3/21/05	10 a.m.—4 p.m.
<b>Tear Down</b>	Sunday	3/21/05	4:00 p.m.

Venue	<i><b>NMRA MCR Regional Convention</b></i>	<i><b>Dates</b></i>	<i><b>Event times</b></i>
	Thursday	5/12/05	T.B.A.
	Friday	5/13/05	T.B.A.
	Saturday	5/14/05	T.B.A.
	Sunday	5/15/05	T.B.A.

The folks who are organizing the 2005 T-trak layout at the 2005 NMRA convention in Cincinnati, are looking for a preliminary count of modules by next Wednesday (12/15/04). Contact Paul Musselman ([PaulMmn@ix.netcom.com](mailto:PaulMmn@ix.netcom.com)) if you are interested.

What's T-trak, you say? Check out details at:  
[www.ttrak.org](http://www.ttrak.org)

( *it's after 12/15/04, but write anyway if interested* )

[“web.page”](#)

## DECALS

This month we will look at decal sources other than the usual (Microscale, Walthers, and Clover House).

### Illinois Central Gulf Decals

<http://home.mindspring.com/~paducah/>

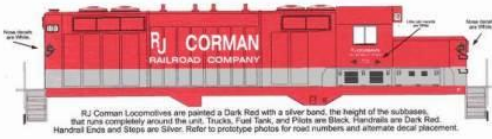
**Daniel Kohlberg, 7507 North State Route 159, Moro, IL 62067** produces decals for this road and some for the resulting Illinois Central, plus a few others. Here is an example or two.



## Highball Graphics Decals

<http://www.mgdecals.com/homepage.htm>

**Highball Graphics, PO Box 57, West Ossipee, NH 03890** specializes in decals from the Northeastern part of the United States. Here are a few samples.



RJ Corman Locomotives are painted a Dark Red with a silver band, the height of the subrosette, that runs completely around the unit. Trucks, Fuel Tank, and Pilot are Black. Handrails are Dark Red. Handrail Ends and Steps are Silver. Refer to prototype photos for roof numbers and alternate decal placement.



Ontario Northland GP-35-2T5 1806-1805 and SD-40-2's 1736-1737 are painted as follows: Carbody & Nose are Yellow, Cab, Battery Boxes, Roof, Sills and Pilots are Dark Blue. Cab roof, Snow Shield area, Handrails and front numberboard area is Light Blue.

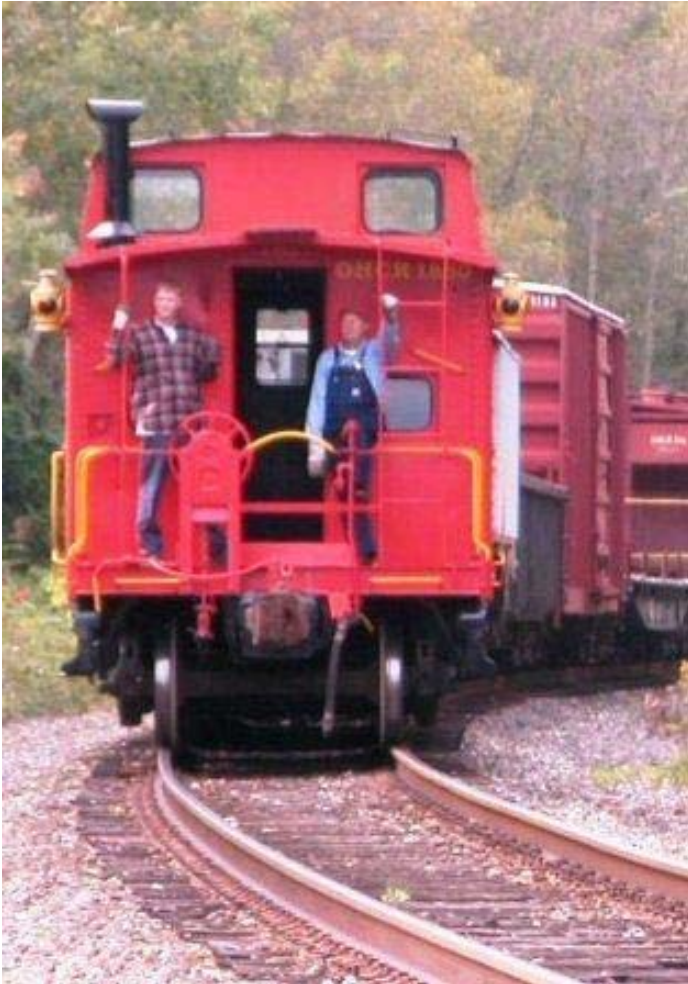


1736 12345678900  
1736 12345678900  
HIGHBALL GRAPHICS  
Set# LN-160  
Ontario Northland Blue & Yellow Hood Units



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

**“F.R.E.D.”**



*See you at the next station!*