



Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie “N” Scale Society

“L.E.N.S.”

April, 2005



**News and Opinions
Monthly Meeting Info
Web Sites of Interest
Learning from Prototypes
Show Schedules
and more!**

N-TRAK
N SCALE MODULAR RAILROADING

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

April 2005

Fire reported at Life Like Products

Early this week a four alarm fire was reported to have destroyed a warehouse of the Life Like Products Co. My understanding is that no one was hurt except one firefighter, who received minor injuries from falling debris. He was treated and released. The building was destroyed.

Life Like Products is a very large company with several divisions, representing many products (among them are N scale model trains). As best as I can tell at the time of this writing, the fire occurred at one of the following two divisions.

LIFOAM is a division of Life-Like Products located in Baltimore, MD. They manufacture leisure products such as the Super Wacky Noodle, Foam Can coolers, NFL & MLB licensed coolers, etc.

Another division, Tech Pak (also located in Baltimore), is a leading manufacturer and distributor of proprietary molded foam insulated shippers, gel packs and other products for the safe transit of temperature sensitive products in the healthcare, biotechnology, seafood and food industries.

It appears the fire did not effect model train manufacturing facilities. Although a terrible loss for the company, I don't believe there will be much impact on those of us who operate Life Like locos & rolling stock.

Last Month's Meeting

RAILFEST 2005

We participated in the NMRA Division 5's Railfest, held at Lakeland Community College filling a 12' x 48' space with our layout.

There were a couple of annoying problems that seemed to make tempers flair and attitudes become pronounced. We also seemed to have trouble getting enough people to fill all of the available time slots with running trains.

After 20+ years of enjoying the hobby, I have to say I was very disappointed with our club this year! I don't want to spend my free time feeling bad—that's what I do all day at the office!

Remember that we are chartered to present our hobby to the public. That means running trains and answering questions, while enjoying the hobby and each other's company.

If **we** can't do the above any more, let's disband the club.

If **you** can't do above any more, quit the club and do something else with your time.

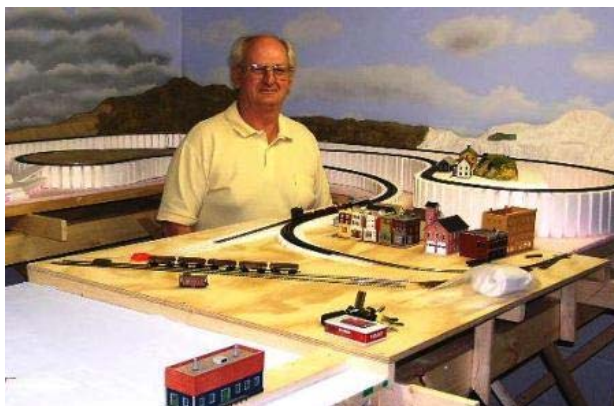
Everyone involved has invested plenty of time in making LENS the best club around. Let's "get back on track"!

— Lou D.

This Month's Meeting

April's meeting will be held at the home of Charlie T. on the fourth Friday (22nd), starting at 8:00 p.m.

We will have a short review of the recent Railfest set up, and talk about where we go next (nothing is scheduled until November).



Perhaps we will get a chance to see more of the (alleged) Chantilly, VA N t r a k convention video.

Let's join Charlie to see what progress has been made on his new layout (or is he still standing there grinning?).

Stewart's Hobbies & Collectors' Toys

38033 Euclid Ave.

440-942-6632

Microtrains Dealer

You've seen Rob & Sandy at Railfest — why not visit their store in Willoughby when you get a chance

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.

Learning From Prototype

A Brief History of Container Transport

When the modern container first arrived it was transported by flat car. This is still done to some extent today, as illustrated below:



Phase 2 was the development of stack cars. Because of a distrust of Inter Box Connectors (IBCs) the need for bulkheads was assumed to be needed to restrain the upper container. Both Thrall and Gunderson developed bulkhead cars, the Gunderson TwinStack being the more numerous.



Eventually IBCs were built that eliminated the need for bulkheads, saving considerable gross weight. These well cars came in 40 foot and 48 foot sets (there were some rarer sets that mixed in 45 footers).



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

These 40 or 48 foot wells could be stand alone cars, 5 unit articulated sets, or stand alones that were semi-permanently draw-barred together. As container lengths grew, so did the wells. New construction centers on 53 foot wells for domestic containers. Interestingly, a return to new 40 foot wells (or shortening 48 foot wells) continues with the influx of international containers. Also, since UPS uses 28 foot containers, a 56 foot well car has been developed to hold 4 of those containers.



The last major type of carrier is the spine car. These cars have just enough structure to hold the container (and trailers if they are duel-purpose cars). Below are 2 container only cars and a duel-purpose car.



Next Month's Meeting

May's meeting will be held at the home of John A. on the fourth Friday (27th), starting at 8:00 p.m.

The last time we visited John's home, he provided us with a casting demo. Perhaps he will present another demonstration, or Lou D. will bring his video of the Ntrak convention in Chantilly, VA.



We will also be reviewing the NMRA MCR Convention and talking about future set up opportunities.



Something new from ATLAS; the all-new, exciting line of ATLAS TRAINMAN™ products! They'll be updating their web site regularly with the latest news and product information, so stay tuned! N scale products are slated for 2006.

The new products offered, created from the latest CAD/CAM software, drawings and steel molds, are the result of painstaking research, design and development by Atlas' prototype pros! They've combined handsome new paint

(Continued on page 9)

Event Planner

Venue	NMRA MCR Regional Convention	Dates	
	Thursday	5/12/05	
	Friday	5/13/05	
	Saturday	5/14/05	
	Sunday	5/15/05	

(Continued from page 8)

schemes with state-of-the-art detailing, engineering and construction, for many hours of high-performance, dependability and smooth, reliable operation; bringing you exceptional value at popular prices! All ATLAS TRAINMAN™ units are designed for compatibility with existing lines, so modelers can easily add them to their layouts!

Examine them for yourself! <http://www.atlastrainman.com/>



Looking for LENS “gear”?

Contact Karen
(440-347-0938)

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

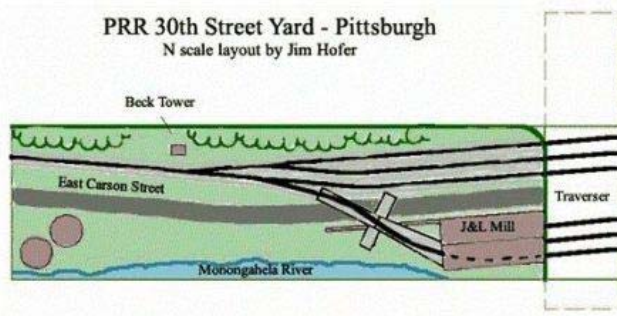


[“web.page”](#)

So, you don't think you have room for a layout? Then check out a site that was brought to my attention by an acquaintance at Railfest and also listed in Lionel Stang's MR list of favorite sites, Microlayouts for Model Railroaders at www.carendt.com. Here you could find layouts as small as one square foot in various scales and gauges.



This is a 42" x 27" On2.5 layout that could easily be shrunk to N in about 8" x 12".

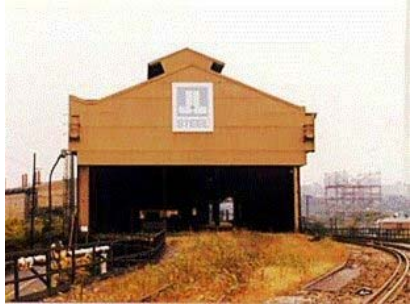
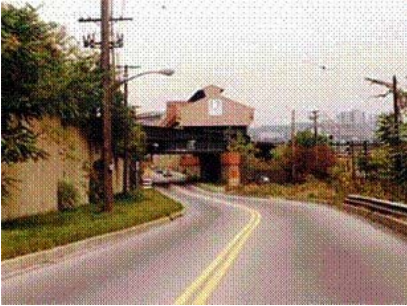


Here is an N scale layout in 12" x 42" depicting the P R R — M o n C o n interchange at J&L Steel.

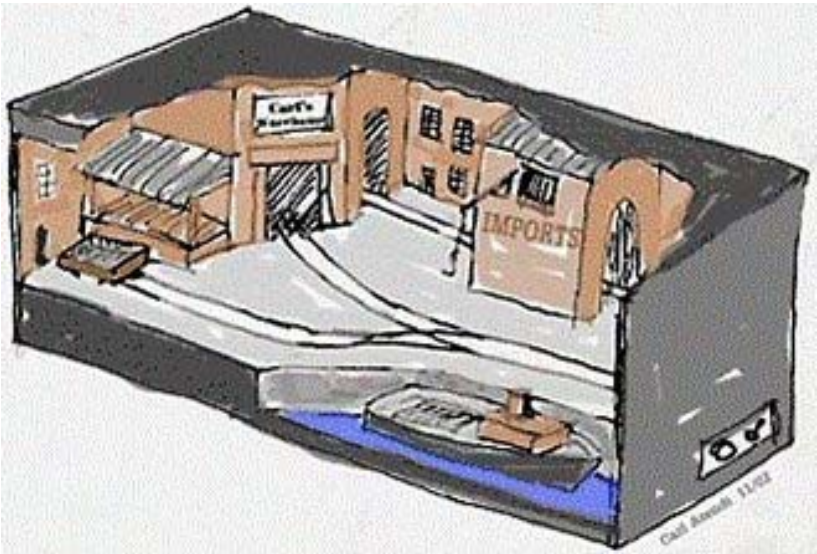
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(Continued from page 10)

Below are 2 prototype photographs of that scene.



To finish up, here is an idea for a layout in a shoebox.



The only remaining question is how many of you will check the internet to see if this is real or just an April Fool's joke.

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!