



Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie “N” Scale Society

“L.E.N.S.”

May, 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

May 2005



Railfest 2005 Memories

<<< Bob, about to get
“hammered” during set up.

“ Really, it’s not that bad! “



Photos by
Ken S.

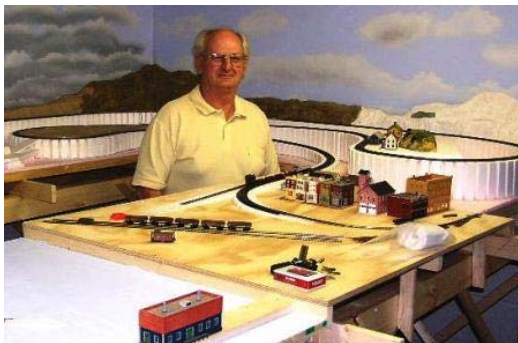
Last Month's Meeting

April's meeting was held at the home of Charlie T.

We had a short business meeting to discuss everyone's involvement in the NMRA MCR regional convention. Dave N presented an idea to have a layout tour for LENS members (since many of the members would be busy at the convention and not able to take the tours—see pg. 8).

There was a quick review of the recent Railfest set up, and we talked about where we could go next (nothing is scheduled until November). Denny L. & Lou D. will check out a site in Burton and Bob V. will report on library sites.

We were able to see the first half of the Chantilly, VA Ntrak convention video. Lou D. will bring it to future meetings so we can view the remaining footage.



Not much is happening; the convention has everyone busy.

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

This 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.

Bob G. wrote with some ideas regarding future set ups and how they can be made to go smoothly. He can present those thoughts to the group if he is in attendance.

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

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



Wigwag Flagman Signals

A Wigwag is a type of crossing signal that was used to warn drivers of oncoming trains at crossings. There were different types, but a typical one used a semaphore suspended from a mast. It oscillated right and left through a 70 degree arc, at approximately 120 times per minute. There was also a gong that rang out for added warning.

Wigwag flagman crossing signals were built by at least three different manufacturers, the Magnetic Signal Company, Western Railroad Supply, and Union Switch and Signal. On the West Coast, the Magnetic Signal Company's "Magnetic Flagman" was most commonly used. In the Midwest and parts of the East, Western Railroad Supply's "Autoflag" prevailed. The Union Switch and Signal "DW Automatic Flagman" was used by a few roads on the East Coast, but was pretty rare.

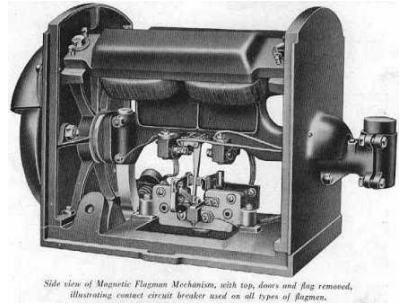


Most wigwags were installed from the mid 1910's through the 1940's. Initially, the Magnetic Signal Co. used a motor, gears, pinions, etc. to operate their Wig Wag. However, it

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was troublesome and used “excessive amounts” of power. In 1914, the company developed a version that used magnets and a swinging armature. This became the defacto standard in the industry. By the late 1940’s, most states outlawed further installations. Today, most crossings are protected by a cross buck with alternating flashing lights and a gate.



Side view of Magnetic Flagman Mechanism, with top, doors and flag removed, illustrating contact circuit breaker used on all types of flagmen.



Next Month's Meeting

LENS LAYOUT TOUR - SATURDAY JUNE 25

Thanks to popular demand, we are going to do a 'group' layout tour on Saturday June 25! ***This will be our June event, NO meeting on the "fourth Friday night"*** (I really did count this time!).

Beginning at around 9:00 a.m., we'll make the rounds as a group to view the layouts (and progress or lack of same!) at several of our members' homes, ending up at Warren Lindner's for a final stop and barbeque about 5:30 p.m. Assuming the weather cooperates, the POOL WILL BE OPEN, and wives are encouraged to either travel with the group, or come on over to Warren and Julie's late in the afternoon. We'll work out meal plans later with those who commit to participate.

By **June 12 latest**, however, I need to know WHO WISHES to have their layout be included in the tour. We'll start out at the farthest out first and then wind our way back in, finally ending up at Warren's. As the 'Tour Nazi' I'll keep a tight reign on the schedule, allowing sufficient travel time between venues, but probably no more than 40 minutes maximum at each stop as I plan the itinerary! No one need spend all day if you do not wish, you can join in anytime.

Please email me if you wish to have your layout visited! A bit of first come-first serve as it will be impossible to include

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Event Planner

Venue		Dates	

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visiting everyone in an 8-9 hour jaunt.

NOTE: Both the Tour and the BBQ are OPTIONAL! You can do one or the other, both, or NEITHER.....But please **RSVP by June 12th Latest!**

Dave N.



Looking for LENS “gear”?

Contact Karen
(440-347-0938)

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

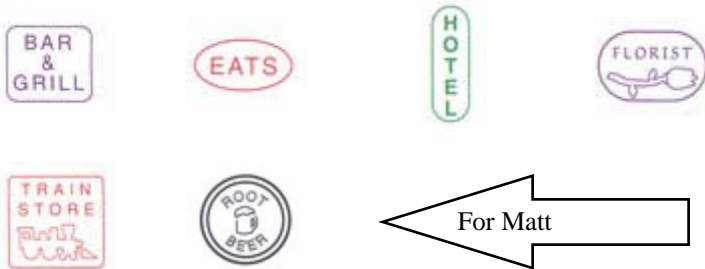


[“web.page”](#)

One area that many LENS members seem to enjoy is adding electronic highlights to the modules. Here is a site that provides both electronic components for the “build-it-yourself” folks and some ready-made products for those with limited time or who want to learn electronic assembly but have not gotten a “round tuit”

Miniatronics is located in Deer Park, NY. Many of their products are the result of items wanted by modelers. In addition to LED’s and lamps, here are some ready-to-run products you may find of interest.

Neon signs add interest to downtown buildings. Many of these are alternate flashing signs (first one part of the sign is lit, then the other).



Alternating flashing signs



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Below are some N scale lamp posts that are available:



Also available are units for special effects:

- Fire and flame
- Arc Welder
- Flashers
- Beacons
- Strobes
- Light House Warning Beacon
- Chase lights
- Mars Lights
- Ditch lights



Look for their display rack in local hobby shops or order direct with their secure shopping cart.

www.miniatronics.com

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!

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