



Monthly publication of the

# Lake Erie “N” Scale Society

*“L.E.N.S.”*

June, 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/](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

June, 2005

## **LENS Member's Layout Tour**

Our regular monthly meeting will be replaced by a tour of model railroad home layouts, built by members of our group (see page 5). Not only will N scale be represented, but HO, G and possibly N (narrow gauge) will be available for viewing.

Dave N, proposed the idea that as long as several of our members had their layouts in “tip—top” shape for the recently completed NMRA regional convention, it would be an ideal time for us to get a chance to see the work that we normally don't get to view. Usually we only see the modules. However, many of our members have “hidden treasures” in their homes.

This is a unique opportunity for you and your family to see several model railroads in one day, followed by a picnic. You may join or leave the tour at any point along the way. Everyone is welcome to join Warren L. at his home (the last layout on the schedule), for a picnic.

Dave N. and Warren L. need a solid count of how many people (and family members) will be in attendance. Please RSVP if you have not already—this is less than a week away!

***Don't miss out. This may never happen again!***

## Last Month's Meeting

May's meeting was held at the home of John A. in Kirtland.

We began the meeting with the traditional "business" meeting, where a few items on the agenda were discussed. We talked about the recently completed NMRA convention and the LENS member's layout tour.

There was discussion regarding the state of the group and how it seems to be changing. We also talked about the lack of layouts that we are currently doing and why the usual venues have dried up. There may be some new opportunities for us to display the modules in the future, and those are being looked into currently.

A number of items were exchanged or given away and a few newly acquired items made the rounds for "show & tell".

After refreshments, we adjourned to the basement to view John's layout. Lou D. ran a new Life Like Berkshire (that's Steam, Denny) that had arrived in the mail that day. The engine ran well and quietly. Everyone seemed surprised by the quality of the unit (for those of us that remember older offerings by Life Like), as it pulled a consist with excellent low speed response.

### **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

### 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 at several of our members' homes, ending up at Warren L.'s for a final stop and barbeque (5:30 ish). Assuming the weather cooperates, the POOL WILL BE OPEN, and families 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.

Please e-mail me if you wish to have your layout visited by ***June 12th latest***. I need to know who wishes to have their layout 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. No one need spend all day if you do not wish, you can join in anytime.

NOTE: Both the Tour and the BBQ are OPTIONAL! You can do one or the other, or both.

Dave N.

## ~~Learning (???) From Prototype~~

### **How do brushless motors work?**

Here's my take on it, but I'm no expert. This is just my Texas logic and experience working together to arrive at an intelligent conclusion. Some of you DCC experts might be able to explain this more intelligently.

SMOKE makes all things electrical work! Remember the last time the smoke escaped from your power pack after you connected it backwards? Didn't it quit working? How about some of those expensive signal lights? I don't know what a resistor is and I didn't use one, but I expect it helps control the smoke, because when I hooked the signal light up to the 12 volt accessory poles it flashed real brightly and leaked out smoke and quit working.

Nearly the same thing happened to one of those Mars headlight chips Jim Hinds sold me! I took one out of an F unit and was going to put it into another one. I tested it on that ACC line after pulling it out and the smoke escaped out of one of those little round chips on the board and it never worked again. Makes me wonder if Jim is selling top quality products if the smoke can leak out so easily.

Remember when that Bachmann diesel blew smoke out and quit working? They have cheap wiring because they leak smoke more often than the Katos. I had the same thing happen to one of my motors controlling a turnout that was impossible to reach. It sprang a leak, all the smoke leaked out, and it quit working. And it's just out of reach.

Some electrical systems require greater quantities of smoke to

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operate properly; that's why the wires going to them are so big.

And what about your auto's engine? As the smoke increasingly leaks out the tailpipe, doesn't the performance of the engine decrease? Of course it does.

Ever see someone blow an engine while racing, letting all the smoke out at once? What a mess! Then they have to replace the motor. Right?

As with any controversial new theory, there are some aspects which require further investigation. For example, one would think that people who smoke would be much healthier from ingesting all that smoke. Perhaps smokers actually exhale more smoke than they inhale. Has anyone ever measured?

I recently took the opportunity to observe a group of young people smoking heavily at a rock concert. Evidently, they were replacing smoke they had previously lost. It seemed the more they smoked, and the longer they held the smoke in, the better they felt.

Hey, don't just take my word for it. Test this out on your layout. Turn the power pack on full power and place a metal object across both tracks until the smoke escapes out of the power pack. My bet is that it won't work after all the smoke has leaked out. I rest my case....

Bob Batson

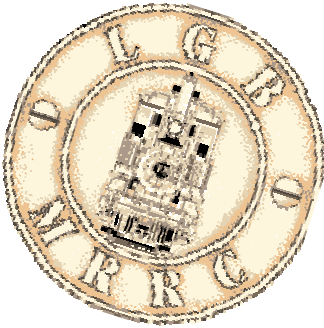
[www.texascentralrr.org](http://www.texascentralrr.org)

Lubbock, TX

***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



July's meeting will be held at the home of Robert T. Friday night's meeting will start at the usual 8 p.m. This meeting is slated to be held outside in the backyard, with a "rain out" location TBA.

Robert has an extensive G scale layout in his yard that covers three separate areas.

As many as 7 trains can be run simultaneously. This could easily be one of those "hidden treasures" that we need to discover!

We will be discussing the LENS layout tour and its success and / or failure, future layout venues, the state of our treasury and the group in general, a proposal regarding an N scale convention being planned for Louisville in 2008 and what we can do to find more opportunities to display our modules.

In addition, we will need to discuss plans for our annual LENS picnic (August), and talk to John E. to find out if he is again willing to host the event.





## Event Planner

Venue	<i>Add your layout to the tour list</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<b>Deadline</b>	Sunday	6/12/05	Midnight

Venue	<i>LENS layout tour</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
	LENS layouts tour	6/25/05	9 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Venue	<i>LENS annual picnic</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
	LENS annual picnic	8/27/05	8 p.m.—???



### Looking for LENS “gear”?

Contact Karen  
(440-347-0938)

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



[“web.page”](#)

This month will be a mixture of web sites. First, let's look at some on-line stores for your buying pleasure. No store (except maybe Caboose Hobbies in Denver) can carry everything, so I checked out a variety.

The first is **Brooklyn Locomotive Works**, found at:

[www.blwnscale.com](http://www.blwnscale.com)

While not consistently the lowest price, they seem to ship stuff the fastest. Pete has also been in business forever, it seems.

Next is **Rio Grand Hobby**. They seem to list new products very early.

[www.4nscale.com](http://www.4nscale.com)

The third is **TexNrails** at:

[www.texnrails.com](http://www.texnrails.com)

All of the above businesses have given reasonable service.

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Let's also look at some manufacturers...

The first of these is **NJ International**. They can be found at:

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[www.njinternational.com](http://www.njinternational.com)

These folks produce a series of products in several scales, including signals, switch stands, trackside cabinets, operating crossing flashers, street lights, signal bridges, structures, maintenance platforms, and gate towers,

Next is **Hobbytown of Boston**, another old company. This company presently only produces locomotive kits and parts in HO, but some members model in more than one scale. They are located at:

[www.bearlocomo.zoovy.com](http://www.bearlocomo.zoovy.com)



Now, can anyone guess the one thing they all have in common (besides being in the model railroad business)? Any guesses?

None of the web sites reflect the location of the business. BLW is not in Brooklyn, Rio Grand is not there, TexNrails is not in Texas, NJ International is not in New Jersey and Hobbytown of Boston is not in Boston!

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

**“F.R.E.D.”**



*See you at the next station!*