



Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

"L.E.N.S."

December, 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 - (dennis.lloyd@comcast.net)

Meetings normally start at 8:00 p.m., the fourth Friday of each month.

Lake Erie N Scale Society

December, 2005

New Wiring Standard Added To Specs

As of 11/20/05, the Ntrak standards have been updated to include a new RP (recommended practice). In addition to the familiar Cinch-Jones connectors used on the low voltage lines, a new type of connector has been approved for use; this after much discussion by several people throughout the Ntrak community.



Eg. Track Bus Connector, Left End

Anderson 30A Powerpole connectors can be used on new modules, or to retrofit an old one. The new standard is published on the Ntrak web site in great detail. The information there also shows how to build “conversion pigtails”, so the older style wiring and the new can be linked “side by side” in a layout.



Mated Powerpole connectors

The new standard's specs, reasons why, discussions, drawings, FAQ's and photos are all available in great detail. Please reference:

<http://www.ntrak.org/news.htm>

In Memoriam

John Evans, a long time member of the Lake Erie N Scale Society died unexpectedly at age 67. John was a very active member of our club and the NMRA, and a respected model railroad builder. A stickler for detail, his modules are well received by the public when set up for display. His passion for the hobby was well known.

He enjoyed his retirement years by continuing his hobby and teaching young people the art of wood working. As a fellow modeler put it "...it was just his way of doing things, to put his all into everything he did. We will carry his qualities with us for a long time."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Sally and extended family in this time of grief. John will be missed.

My Friend John

by Matt Kross

I knew John Evans for about 15 years. This was a good example of the great friendships we can develop within model railroading. I first met John at a Division 5 meeting sometime around 1990. We both were beginning to get active in the NMRA and in the Lake Erie N-scale Society (LENS). We both built our N-TRAK modules around the same time and began participating in the LENS module setups.

John and I took our N-Trak modules to several
(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

conventions and set up together. We had a fantastic time at all of these events. We went to the N-scale East convention in Alexandria, Virginia in 1996, the NMRA national convention in Madison, Wisconsin in 1997, the N-scale East convention in Edison, New Jersey in 2000, and the NMRA national convention in Toronto, Canada in 2003. Through these “adventures”, club meetings, various railroading events, and over 50 local area module set ups, John and I became very good friends.

John was a kind, decent man who would do anything for you. Most recently, John had been a very active participant at the work sessions on my Brandt River Railroad layout. John went and picked up the lumber for my spline roadbed and had it planed to thickness. We cut it into the strips for the spline on his table saw. He was there helping to glue it up and get in place. He took care of installing quite a few switch machines, built the frame for my river crossing, and helped with some early scenery, as well as doing a number of other smaller tasks on the layout.

John and Sally would host the LENS summer picnic at their house in August every year. They were always very gracious hosts and we always looked forward to seeing their beautifully manicured yard and flower gardens. We also looked forward to seeing what new thing John’s handiwork had created.

John was a superb and meticulous modeler, a real
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

craftsman. He scratchbuilt many of the structures on his modules. He also had many great ideas on how to add interest to his modules or our LENS layout as a whole.

John was a doer. We would sit around talking about some idea at one of our LENS meetings and the next thing you know, John would have it built! He built the box that houses our concealed trackside camera and supports the video monitor. He did much of the work on our LENS lift bridge module.

John loved kids, especially teaching them how to do things. That's probably why he was a school teacher and coach for 34 years. In his retirement, he did many projects in his workshop with the kids in the neighborhood and his grandkids, as well as he and Sally participating in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program.

John would step forward when there really was a need. One Division 5 project that John really took off with was the model railroading display in the Chardon Office Supply window in November for National Model Railroading Month. For several years, John would come up with all sorts of things to put in that display window. Most recently, John was handling the sales of the Division 5 Western Reserve HO and N reefers.

Of course, there was always a lot of kidding that went on. John used to use a lot of duct tape to pack up the equipment for his modules and he soon became known

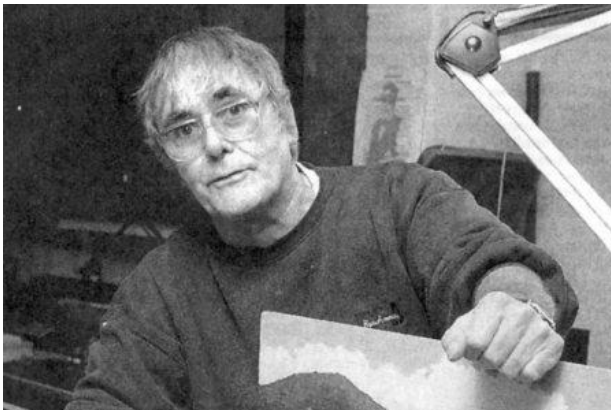
(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

as the Duct Tape King. Of course, once we saw what a good idea it was, we all started using Duct Tape also! John liked to “spread his stuff out” when we had a modular setup. We would always set up two tables inside the modules and kid John that one was for him and the other was for the rest of us! He also got kidded about color coding the bolts he used on his modules (actually, it is a really good idea). We told him we could tell that he was retired if he had time to sit around and paint bolts! John took the ribbing good naturedly and could give it back to us just as well.

All in all, I feel really privileged to have met this man and been his friend, which came about through our mutual love of model trains. I hope that you had the opportunity to know this great guy.

I will greatly miss my friend John.



(Some of John's work is shown on the cover this month.)

Last Month's Meeting

It's hard to believe, but the set up at the library in Burton, OH over Thanksgiving weekend was almost the 30th year in a row that our club has displayed Ntrak modules at that venue. Some of our members aren't even that old! (*Sadly, some of us remember every one of those set ups...*) This setup has outlasted the city's Country Hearth Christmas event, which was one of the reasons we started to set up in Burton.

We had a great turn out for the set up and the many hands worked well together. The modules were up and running and fully "decorated" in a little over 2-1/2 hours. That's an improvement over some troublesome set ups in the past. (Of course that meant we were able to get to Belle's for pie a lot sooner).

As in the past, the crowd was not very large, although there were times when it was crowded. I think a story hour lets out and everyone runs to the second floor to see the trains. The folks that did attend indicated they enjoyed what we presented, and said they look forward to the display every year. Once again the library offered a stipend to help our treasury.

We discovered three areas of trackage that had minor problems, but adjustments were made and hopefully they will be corrected before our next setup in December.

The consensus is that we still enjoy setting up in Burton, and will continue to do so as long as we are invited.

This Month's Meeting

For the last several years we have set up at the FarmPark in Chardon, OH., and we have been invited to attend once again to help them as part of their Country Lights event .

Mark your calendar for set up and run times, as we have 6 solid days of time to fill, including some times early in the evening. There are plenty of opportunities to run and lately we have had trouble filling all of the slots. ***Come and join the fun!***

A sign up sheet was started in Burton, and will be available during the set up on Saturday (see the schedule - page 13). If you are not able to make the set up, you may contact Denny L. to reserve a time slot. Typically people have signed up for a two hour slot (early or late), but you are welcome to come anytime.

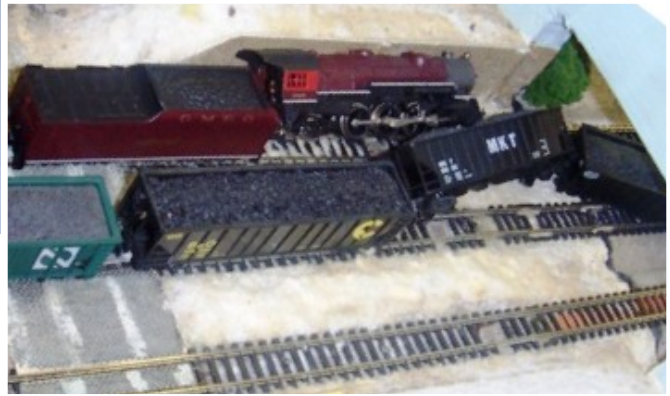
This is the toughest venue in regards to crowd control. We need extra hands during all time slots to stand outside the modules to "control the traffic, etc.". To run a train - save a slot; otherwise just show up to help.

Use the service drive to the west of the main entrance. Go past all of the parking lots, and turn left at the intersection. Entry to the building is through the office door off of the parking area. Walk through the offices and continue left down the hallway to the classroom area.

Please make an effort to help with this display. They may even be serving "mystery meat" sandwiches again!

~~Learning From Prototype~~

“Learning Form Prototype” will return in future issues. Because of tight time constraints this month, it was thought you might enjoy some photos instead. AS you know, we like to keep trains running all the time. Here are some rare moments when the trains were “tired” and needed a nap...



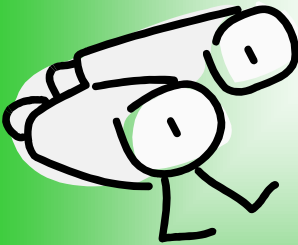


Our "Annual Swap Meet", is now available at every meeting!

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

*We're looking for
a place to hold the
January meeting.*



Want to volunteer?



Stewart's Hobbies & Collector's 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*

Event Planner

Venue	<i>FarmPark</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Set up	Saturday (day time)	12/17/05	1 p.m.
Operate	Saturday (same day)	12/17/05	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Operate	...through Friday	12/23/05	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Venue	<i>Willowick Library</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Set up	Friday	2/11/06	6:00 p.m.
Operate	Saturday	2/12/06	9 a.m.—5 p.m.
Operate	Sunday	2/13/06	1 p.m.—5 p.m.

Venue	<i>Railfest 2006</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Set up	Friday	3/17/06	6:00 p.m.
Operate	Saturday	3/18/06	10 a.m.—4 p.m.
Operate	Sunday	3/19/06	10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Looking for LENS “gear”?



Contact Karen (440-347-0938) to order your favorite items. Quality, prices & selection to fit every budget!



For discussion at a future meeting....

I have a few comments (constructive criticism) about the set-up. This deals mostly with the skirting.

Suggested change #1

A. (the easy part...) We have to fumble around with three different tools when securing the skirting. To speed things up, all Plexiglas could be secured to the modules with **hex head** 1/4-20 bolts. Any slotted or Phillips screws should be replaced with hex head.

B. (the not-so-easy part...) All Tee nuts could be at a standard height. (Track base minus two inches, perhaps.) Yes, I realize that this means that most modules would need to have the existing tee nuts repositioned, as well as the Plexiglas re-drilled. If this were done, there would be little reason to have to fold the seam to reach the proper height from the floor on each module. This obviously would work only on a "standard" module. Modules that have the front carved down (as on Matt's) would still need to be folded.

Suggested change #2

Each module would have its own section of skirting. The module owner would be responsible to bring it to the set-up. The skirting would be an inch or more wider than the module with Velcro sewn on the edges, standardized with hooks on the left (as seen from the front of the module) and loops on the right. Then the skirting could be attached as soon as the module is assembled. The skirting would

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

now be the responsibility of the module owner. This would eliminate the production number of two or three people securing the skirting using tools and push pins.

And finally, as it was so nicely stated in the movie Hud, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." When someone is attempting to use "Le Stiq" to measure the roadbed height, use the words "IN" and "OUT" to indicate how to adjust the **bolts** on the legs.

-- Bob G.



I want to see Denny L. model this one!

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!

Copyright 1999-2005 The Lake Erie N Scale Society

www.geocities.com/lensohio/