

Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

"L.E.N.S."

January, 2006

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.

January, 2006

Happy New Year Everyone!

I don't know about you, but I was happy to get out of 2005. It seemed that the last few weeks were filled with a lot of bad news as well as the joys of the holiday season.

Looking forward, we have some encouraging things to get involved with, as it pertains to our hobby. In February, we have a small display at the Willowick Public Library, followed by the annual Railfest at Lakeland Community College, and then back to the FarmPark for a display in May.

I for one was encouraged by the level of participation by our members (on a number of fronts) during the past two displays. Those were the smoothest set ups that I remember in a long time. *Did we finally get it right after almost thirty years?* I didn't think so either, but we had a lot of fun doing it.

We hope to use the next few meeting to "get back to basics", by building a module or two. If you do not currently have a module, now is the time to step up and learn. What better way to learn a new skill or two, than to actually build a module.

Let's continue to work together in the coming months to enjoy our hobby and each others company. Think too of the valuable gift of entertainment and knowledge we provide to the public.

Last Month's Meeting

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

During the 6 solid days of run time there were plenty of opportunities to run and those in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves. Santa and Rudolph were spotted once in awhile during the week!

This is the toughest venue in regards to crowd control. We had extra hands during all time slots and it seemed as though everything went fairly well.



The set up and tear down were very smooth. Thanks to everyone that was able to make either one or both events, and

thanks to everyone for covering all the open time slots. The last two displays that we have done, were the smoothest, most enjoyable ones in recent months (and I am drawing from over 25 years of experience).

Congratulations to all of you for making your hobby something enjoyed by people outside of our club by sharing your talents, while enjoying the social contact provided by each other.

This Month's Meeting

Chuck L. has agreed to host the January meeting of our club. As is usual and customary, the meeting will start at 8 p.m.



We will be making the final plans for and discussing the layout to be set up at the Willowick Public Library. Please advise Denny L. if you are able to include your module in this set up.

Our plan for this meeting is to begin a series of “back to basic” module building demonstrations. We will start by building a frame, adding a top and laying some track.

This process will continue each month, until we have completed a basic module. Once built, someone can become the proud owner by covering the costs.

If you have ever wanted to build a module and were not sure how to begin, or thought it was beyond your level of talent, we are going to show you the steps that will quell those fears. These concepts will apply to not only the standard 4' x 2' straight module, but to the newer iterations of modules that have appeared over the last several years.

We should also be discussing the set up for “RailFest 2006”. Dovetailed to that we need to discuss using a process to “qualify” modules like we did in Chantilly, VA.

Learning From Prototype

A **railroad switch** (known in British and Australian English as (a set of) **points** or, in technical usage, a **turnout**) is a mechanical installation provided at a point where rail track "A" divides into two tracks, "B" and "C".

Each switch contains a pair of linked tapering rails (point blades) that can be moved laterally into one of two positions, determining whether a train coming from "A" will be led towards "B" or towards "C." A train coming from "B" or "C" will be led to "A" anyway if the moving parts of the switch are not locked (passage in this direction through a switch is known as a "trailing movement"). It is normal to set switches in the appropriate position for trailing movements. End "A" is referred to as the *facing-point end*.

The position of the switch is usually changed electrically on main lines and controlled from a remote control center or signal box, from where staff also alter semaphores or light signals correspondingly. In rarely-used sidings, low-traffic branch lines, self-contained marshalling yards, etc. a switch might be manually operated with a points lever. Prior to the widespread availability of electricity, switches at heavily traveled junctions were operated from a tower constructed near the tracks through an elaborate system of rods and levers.



Switch "Frog"

With a **right switch**, "A" and "B" form a straight track and "C" is to the right of "B," with a **left switch** "C" is to the left. A switch may also be symmetrical, or tracks "AB" and "AC" may be curved at different radii in the same or different directions.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Types of switches

Double slip - “A&B” and “C&D” crossing at a small angle

Single Slip - “A&B” (right or left) to “C”

Crossover - a pair of switches - joins two parallel tracks

Stub Switch - lacks sharpened points - rails bend

Three Way - used where there is a lack of space

Derailer - single switch point used to stop stray cars

Catch Points - similar to Derailer, but uses both rails

High Speed Turnout - much longer; finer crossing angle



Three way switch

Components

Points - movable rails which guide wheels

Frog - crossing points of two rails

Guard Rail - ensure wheels follow correct flangeway

Switch Motor - electric or pneumatic mechanism

Points Lever - linkage used to align points

Sleepers - (aka. railroad tie) used to mount hardware

For greater detail and more information see:

www.answers.com/topic/railroad-switch

Our “Annual Swap Meet”, is 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

February's meeting has not yet been planned. Even though we are going to meet at Willowick the week before, not everyone will be present at the same time.

This meeting is used to plan for Railfest 2006 layout. We usually need all the help planning as possible. Please plan on attending.

However, we need a location. Please advise Denny L. or Lou D. if you would like to host our February 24th meeting.



Listen kid... you mess with my trains, and... well, see that guy over there?

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>Willowick Library</i> | Dates | Times |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 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> | Dates | Times |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 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. |

| Venue | <i>FarmPark</i> | Dates | Times |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Set up | Friday | April (tba) | (tba) |
| Operate | Saturday | April (tba) | 9 a.m.—5 p.m. |
| Operate | Sunday | April (tba) | 9 a.m.—5 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 ”

The long awaited update to the format of LENS' web site's Photo page is complete. I will be adding more photos as time permits, and intend to add more pages to accommodate the various photos that I have on file.

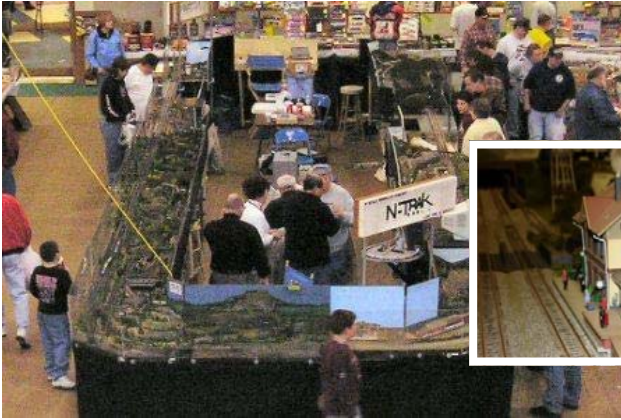
Since each photo added, needs to be changed and/or edited (so it downloads quickly), adding photos takes a bit of work.

Since I am using a “free” web server, there are limited capabilities. However, I think this site, put together by volunteers (me!), on a free server, with free software, rivals many of the “professional” sites published.

Give it a try and let me know what you think.



...some other photos that will be found soon on the web.



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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!

Copyright 1999-2006 The Lake Erie N Scale Society

www.geocities.com/lensohio/