



Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

"L.E.N.S."

June 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.

Lake Erie N Scale Society

June, 2006



April's meeting was replaced by a set up and running of trains at the Farmpark of Lake County . A number of our regular members were away at a meeting and were not able to attend. However,

everything went well because our members "stepped up" to help.

The program, started a few years ago, is called "Railroads in the Park". The first year we were there, it was our group and the NMRA HO modules. Things have grown, and this year there were operating layouts in "N", "HO", "S" & "G" (both inside and outside).

The Boys Scouts also had Model Railroading merit badge classes in progress. Once class was completed the scouts were "turned loose" to tour the layouts and to get a chance to operate the trains.



Last Month's Meeting

The May meeting of LENS was a break from tradition. At the request of a few members, we tried a Saturday meeting at 7 p.m. There were a surprising number of members that showed, but that may have been due to the long holiday weekend.

We met at the home of John A. and reviewed the set ups at Railfest and the Farmpark to see if there was anything we needed to change to make things smother (although things seem to be running smother than they have for a long time).

We also discussed plans for the next few set ups as we have been invited to some new venues this year. In July, we are going to set up an "L" shaped layout at the Burton Steam Show. This is a new venue and should prove to be interesting.

The "Build A Module" project is currently on hold because of the locations of the next few meetings. Keep in mind; the finished project will be available for sale (cost of the materials) to any member of LENS. If there is more than one person interested, we will hold a raffle. Even if you loose the raffle, I'm sure that no one will be left out; any member has a huge amount of resources available in our group from which to draw.

It was suggested we hold our next meeting at the Middlefield, OH Historical Society. They are looking for help from interested parties to restore an N scale layout. The folks from the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum (Mentor , OH), have also offered their facility as a location to hold a meeting, giving everyone a chance to become familiar with their existence and operation.

This Month's Meeting

Our June 23rd meeting will be held at the Middlefield, OH Historical Society starting at the usual 8 p.m.. See the newsletter for a map.



At one time, there was an N scale club in the Middlefield area, and they rented space from the historical society to build a large layout. The group no longer meets there, and they have abandoned the layout. When they left, they took a lot of the building structures and rolling stock. Some new buildings and rolling stock have been acquired. There are also some problems with the electrical wiring.

The historical society is interested in having a group of volunteers come in to help them restore the layout to an operating condition. A team of folks have already met and determined a "game plan" for the work to be done.

It was thought we could travel to Middlefield for our meeting to give our members a chance to see the layout. No one is under any obligation, but we want to encourage individuals to see the project and perhaps give some time and effort towards the goal.

Ken B. has asked Rick Roose of the society to invite any folks in the area that might be interested in LENS or helping with restoring the layout.

Learning From Prototype



Caboose became a uniquely American tradition. Overseas, their use had always been rare, or was eliminated many years ago. Even in the United States, technological change began eliminating the need for cabooses before the turn of the century.

The spread in the 1880s of the automatic air brake system invented by George Westinghouse eliminated the need for brakemen to manually set brakes. The air brakes were soon followed by the use of electric track circuits to activate signals, providing protection for trains and eliminating the need for flagmen. Friction bearings were replaced by roller bearings, reducing overheated journals and making visual detection by smoke an unlikely event.

Trains became longer, making it difficult for the conductor to see the entire train from the caboose, and freight cars became so high that they blocked the view from the traditional cupola. The increasing heaviness and speed of the trains made on-board cooking hazardous and unnecessary. New labor agreements reduced the hours of service required for train crews and eliminated the need for cabooses as lodging. Cabooses, when used at all, were drawn from "pools" and no longer assigned to individual conductors.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Eventually, electronic "hotbox" and dragging equipment detectors, which would check moving trains more efficiently and reliably than men in cabooses, were installed along main lines, and computers eliminated the conductors' need to store and track paperwork.

Today, the ends of freight trains are monitored by remote radio devices called "End of Train" devices, or EOTs. The small boxes fit over the rear coupler and are coupled into the train's air brake line.

The EOT radios information to the engineer regarding the brake pressure at the rear of the train, whether or not the last car is moving, and whether or not the flashing red light is working (activated at night by a sensor). The EOT also allows the engineer to set the air brakes from the rear of the train in case the train breaks in two, thus, in an emergency, setting brakes on both halves of the train. UPRR began using EOT devices in 1984.



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

Antique Power and Steam Show

Old engines whistle, puff smoke, saw wood, thresh grain and demonstrate the power that made the horse obsolete. Don't miss the exhibits that highlight the power of these amazing machines. Many vendors; excellent shopping. A great family event!

Our monthly meeting will be replaced by setting up a display at this show. If we have enough modules, we are planning an " L " shaped layout. Details will follow in next month's newsletter.



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

	Burton - Steam Show	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Set up	Friday	7/28/06	7 p.m.
Operate	Saturday	7/29/06	---
Operate	Sunday	7/30/06	---

	Annual LENS Picnic	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Operate	Saturday	8/28/06	---

	September Meeting	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Meet	Friday	9/22/06	8 p.m.
Operate	G Scale Layout		

	Burton Library	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Set up	Friday	11/24/06	1 p.m.
Operate	Saturday	11/25/06	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Operate	Sunday	11/26/06	1 p.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 ”

I am beginning with a bit of editorializing. It really gripes me when some people complain that a magazine like MR doesn't have many articles on N scale layouts or structure building or ... Just because an article is not about N scale doesn't mean it does not contain tips or ideas usable to us.

To make this point, this month's web site is the Pacific Coast On3 site (www.pacificcoastairlinerr.com/). It contains several clinics on scenery that we can apply to our modules or layouts.

Available are the following useful articles:

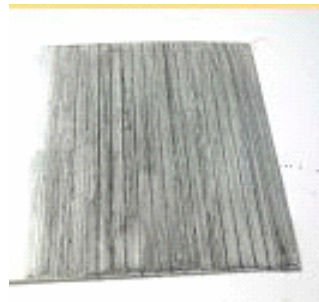
1. Dirt & clay roads



2. Loose dirt



3. Making styrene look like gradually aging wood.



(Continued from page 10)

4. Making bushes



5. Making an eroded hill

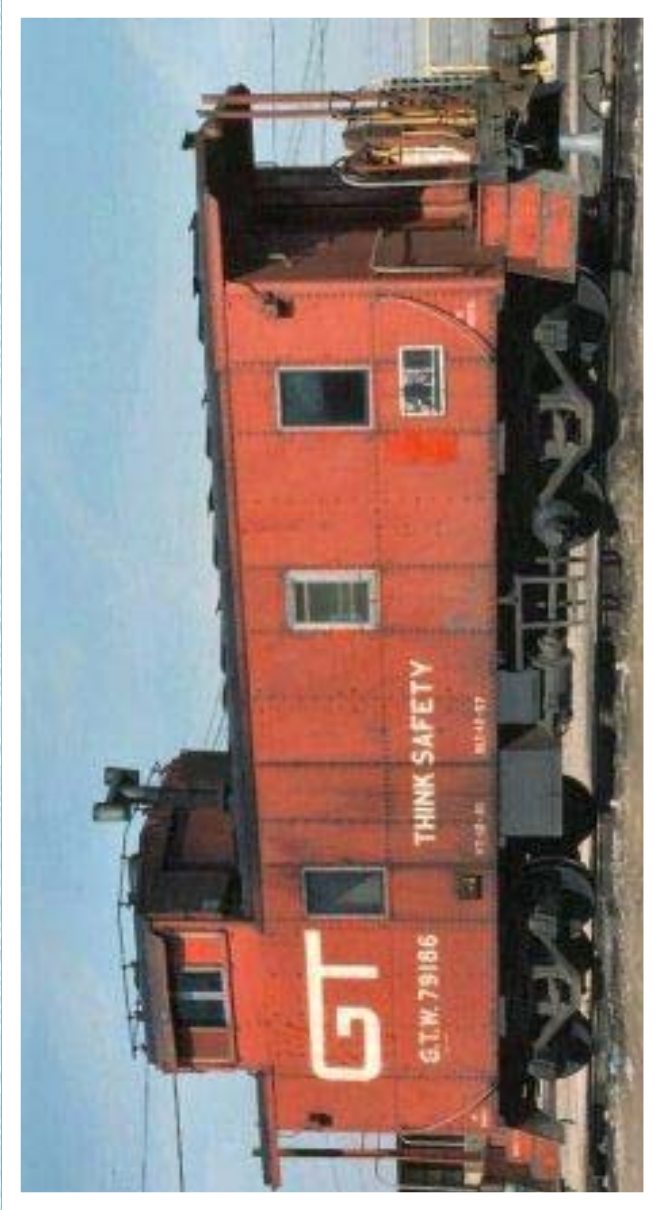


As you can see, any of these techniques are not scale specific. Expand your horizons and add to your experiences. Happy modeling!

Denny L.

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/