



"L.E.N.S."

Monthly publication of the

Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

July 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.

July, 2006

Short lines

The information website for the 2008 N Scale Convention is at www.2008-National-N-Scale-Convention.com . It is still "under construction", but it will be expanded and updated as things progress. Let Paul Downs know if you have any comments on the site (his e-mail link is there).

Recent changes in the National Electric Code and International Fire Code restricting the use of Power Strips and Extension cords is concerning the folks at N-trak. While aimed more at Home Office and Dorm rooms and their use more as permanent wiring than our weekend layouts use them, we must be aware of the code being enforced by Fire Marshals in public buildings. Link to www.ntrak.org/power_strips.htm for details.

Wayne L. stumbled across this link www.cuttergraphics.com/N-trak/N-Trak%20Super%20Light.jpg - Super Lights Modules.

The Bedford Model Railroaders are hosting their second "N-Scale Weekend" 8/24/06 - 8/27/06 in Bedford, Pennsylvania. This event is not a convention but a weekend dedicated to running N-Scale Trains & Fun! Contact Mike Phillips at 814-623-2239 for details.

September 10 - Lorain & West Virginia Railway Trip - NMRA Div. 5 event (LENS invited) - \$9 per person (may drop if lots of people sign up).

Last Month's Meeting

Our June meeting was held at the Middlefield, OH Historical Society, where it was explained to us that 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.

The historical society is interested in having a group of volunteers come in to help them restore the layout to an operating condition, as they want it open to the public again. A team of folks have already met and determined a “game plan” for the work to be done.

Our hosts were happy for the interest expressed by many of the people in attendance. 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.

We also discussed the final plans for the upcoming layout at Burton, OH



This Month's Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be replaced by setting up a display at the Antique Power & Steam Show in Burton, OH. This is the first time we will be attending this show, so it should prove to be interesting. If we have enough modules, we are planning an "L" shaped layout. Contact Denny L. if you would like to bring a module and have not yet told him.

Set up is slated for Friday night (7/28/06), starting at 7p.m.; tear down to follow the show on Sunday. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. We have had lots of help at the last two set ups, which make things go very easy. Please try to set aside some time to help and then come out and run trains either Saturday or Sunday. Hope to see you there!



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!

Learning From Prototype

Railroad Reporting Marks

Reporting marks, along with the car serial number, are used by shippers and railroads to identify specific pieces of rolling stock. ALL organizations with cars in interchange service are assigned reporting marks by the AAR*.

Some reporting marks may still be registered even though the organizations no longer have cars in interchange service or may still be awaiting delivery of ordered, but not yet available, cars. The uniform ALPHA code is assigned by the AAR to all organizations that may be involved in handling rail equipment. The ALPHA code usually, but NOT always, is the same as the reporting marks and, in the case of an organization that has no current or planned interchange equipment, is NOT to be considered as reporting marks until so assigned.

The ALPHA code is used by shippers and railroads to identify car-handling organizations for purpose of routing, billing, division of charges, etc.

An AAR reporting mark is a sequence of two to four letters that uniquely identifies the owner of a piece of railroad rolling stock. The ampersand symbol (&) is not considered part of the reporting mark. In general, the reporting mark is derived from the assigned company's initials.

Marks that end in *X* are assigned to rail car owners that are not common carrier railroads themselves (typically these are private car owners, leasing companies or railroad museums). Marks that end in *Z* are assigned to trailer

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owners/operators for use on equipment that does not have flanged wheels but that will be used on North American railroads in intermodal service.

Marks that end in *U* are assigned to container owners/operators for use on equipment that will be used in intermodal service. Marks that end in any other letter are assigned to railroads for use on railroad equipment in interchange service.

See: www.rpicturearchives.net/railroadList.aspx



* The **Association of American Railroads (AAR)** is an industry trade group representing the freight railroads of North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States). Amtrak and some regional commuter railroads are also members.

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

Annual Picnic



Traditionally, we have not had a meeting in the month of August. Instead, we have a “cookout / pot luck” picnic. It is a chance for our members to bring a guest and/or families, to meet with other members in a different setting (although we still talk about trains and stuff).

NOTE CHANGE OF TIME: the picnic will be held on the fourth SATURDAY of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.

You will need to bring something to grill, something to share, plates and utensils, and a beverage. Also bring Frisbees, baseball gloves / bats / balls, footballs, or anything else you think will entertain the attendees. Andy Baker of the Farmpark, has agreed to reserve one of the pavilions for us. There should be plenty of tables; if you prefer, you may want to bring a folding chair,

It may get cold there after the sun goes down— so don't forget a jacket or sweatshirt if you hang around for conversation after dinner.

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	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Operate	Sunday	7/30/06	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

	Annual LENS Picnic	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
Operate	Saturday	8/26/06	(see article)

	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 ”

This month we'll look at a site called Castle Graphics ...

<http://www.castlegraphics.com>


This site contains pictures of trains (obviously), both old and new. It also contains pictures that might make suitable layout backdrops, as well as pictures of castles, barns, vintage autos, and more. Here are some samples from the site.

Older trains:



Newer Trains:



The site does have a search engine, but it did not work very well for me. I am sure that most people will find something of value on this site. 

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Barns:



Scenery:



Vintage cars:



I found if you "checked" the FILENAME box in the search parameters, it worked much better! -- Ed

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!

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