



Monthly publication of the

# Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

*"L.E.N.S."*

AUG 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](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 - (dennis.lloyd@comcast.net)**

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

# Lake Erie N Scale Society

**Aug, 2006**

- \* Bob A. (a LENS member from the past) is offering a **Free** P.O.F. (plain old 4 foot) module to a good home. It has several amusement rides on it, although it may need some repair - it has not been used for 10 years. Contact Denny L. if you are interested - we may need to have a raffle.
- \* Speaking of raffles - once the winter months roll around, we will be completing the "build a module" project with some lucky winner taking home the finished project.
- \* We want to welcome some new members to the club, but other than putting your names on the mailing list, we have yet to meet you. The annual picnic is this month & a "G" scale layout tour is next month. These may be great opportunities to come and socialize with our club. Hope to see you soon!

<http://www.rmcp.mixedpk.com/>

something a bit different...  
(go figure!). Anyway I thought you might enjoy done there, and they model a lot of American prototype minute to visit their web site. A lot of nice work is being do most of their work in "N" (but not N-trak). Take a



\* G'day mate! There is a Railway Modeling club on the east coast of Australia. Although they model in several scales, they

## Last Month's Meeting

Our monthly meeting was replaced by setting up an “L” shaped layout at the Burton, OH Antique Power Equipment show. The layout was located in the same building as the food concession, in order to draw visitors to the layout.

It was a very HOT day. Open doors at either end of the building and a fan provided the only relief from the heat and humidity. Although this didn't seem to effect the operation of the trains, it did create an uncomfortable setting for those members that showed up to run.

Speaking of that, we had a good turn out for set up & tear down, but only a few members showed up to run trains. The choice then is for a few people to stay for a long time (not fair) or to leave an empty track (not desired). This is the first time in a long time that we have run during the summer months; this may be one of the reasons (do you “old timers” remember if we had trouble getting people to run in the summer?).



As with the Willoughby Hills Show that we used to do, the attendance by the public was good on Saturday but light on Sunday. People seemed genuinely interested in the trains, and asked

questions. The crowd was similar to that of any of the “library shows” that we have done.

It was nice to see Bob A. again (a past member that resurfaced to help set up & run) - he has asked to be added back to the mailing list - welcome back!

# This Month's Meeting

## Annual Picnic

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



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 of course!).

Andy Baker of the Farmpark, has agreed to reserve one of the pavilions for us. I understand we will have an electrical hook up & lights (layout? - run trains?). There should be plenty of tables. Or, if you prefer, you may want to bring a folding chair,

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.

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.

# Learning From Prototype



## “Critters”



Loosely defined, a “critter” is a 300-1000 h.p. light-duty or industrial switching locomotive that weighs less than 100 tons, although most tip the scales at less than half that weight. In the 1920's, non-common carrier railroads and industrial customers needed a smaller, lighter, and less costly locomotive to replace the typical 0-4-0-type steam engine. The small internal-combustion locomotives that subsequently appeared were designed to handle the light rail and tight curves common to industrial railroads.

Critters generally can be divided into "big" critters (44 tons or more) built for common-carrier railroads and "little" critters built for non-common carrier and industrial customers. A steam locomotive requires the services of both an engineer and a fireman. But the newfangled critters didn't require a fireman. An agreement was reached in 1937 that allowed a common-carrier railroad to operate without a fireman if the weight of the locomotive was less than 90,000 pounds. This led to the development of the 44-tonner, which tipped the scales at 88,000 pounds.

Although 44-tonners were built by several manufacturers, GE took first prize with 334 units sold between 1940 and the end of production in 1956. Many GE 44-tonners have trickled down to short lines and industrial customers. Several Class I railroads also owned "little critters."

Because "little" critters often are built to a customer's specifications, they tend to be a bit quirky-looking. Many, for  
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example, sport close-clearance cabs to clear obstructions inside cramped steel mills or mine shafts.

During the steam era, the lion's share of the "big" critter market fell to GE. However, from 1909 to 1999, "little critters" were built by Plymouth Locomotive Works, 55 miles south of Cleveland, OH.



Plymouth was one of the world's most prolific builders of small industrial locomotives, with over 7,500 constructed of which 1,700 are

believed to still be in active use. More info & pictures can be found at:

[www.northeast.railfan.net/diesel81.html](http://www.northeast.railfan.net/diesel81.html)

[http://experts.about.com/e/p/p/Plymouth\\_Locomotive\\_Works.htm](http://experts.about.com/e/p/p/Plymouth_Locomotive_Works.htm).



***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

September's meeting will be held at the home of Robert T. Friday night's meeting will start at the usual 8 p.m. and is slated to be held outside in the backyard, with a "rain out" location of the Denny's Restaurant if the weather does not cooperate. Please bring a lawn chair for yourself.

I understand that 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! Since



It will be getting dark and may be cold out, it is suggested to dress in layers.

We will be discussing the new location of the annual LENS picnic and its success and / or failure, future layout venues, and our group in general. We will need to discuss the 2006 / 2007 show schedule to see if we have any set ups planned.

### **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

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

	“N Weekend” - Bedford, PA	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<b>Event</b>	Saturday	8/22/06	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<b>Event</b>	Sunday	8/26/06	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

	L&WV Ride	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<b>Event</b>	Sunday	9/10/06	1:30 p.m.

	Burton Library	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<b>Event</b>	????		

	Louisville “N” Convention	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<b>Set up</b>	Wednesday	6/25/08	TBA
<b>Operate</b>	(from) Thursday	6/26/08	TBA
<b>Operate</b>	(thru) Sunday	6/29/08	TBA

## 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 will spotlight a manufacturer of mostly N scale products. Moncalvia Model Works produces an amazing array of parts and kits for the model railroader. These cover a variety of areas.

***Need tombstones to go with that Woodland Scenic's burial scene? How about both rounded and square.***



***Tired of those empty cars? Try loads:***



Ballast



Gravel



Sugar beets

***Or how about ties or pipes in various colors:***



***Perhaps you would like some easy conversion kits:***

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Ballast conv. for DI  
(works for Atlas)



Ballast conv for  
MDC/Athern



Reefer conv

***Maybe structures:***



Lineside box



Loading ramp



Auto loader

***Or maybe siding or truck accessories:***



Black

Rusted



Tool Boxes



Utility Beds

<http://mocalova.tripod.com/nscalecatalog.htm>

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

**“F.R.E.D.”**



***See you at the next station!***

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