# Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

April, 2007

"L.E.N.S."


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 - (denlloyd@gmail.com)**

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

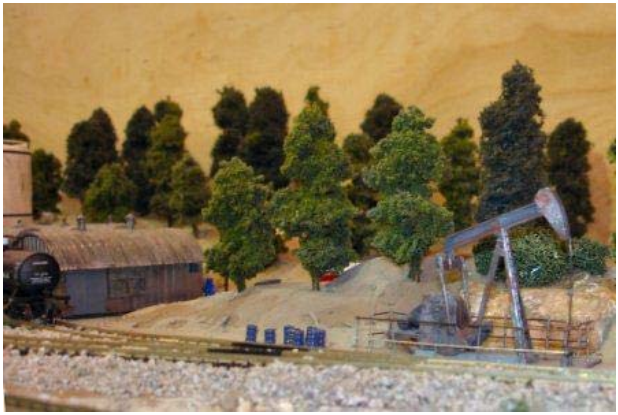
## April, 2007

LENS populated a 5’ x 6’ display case at the Perry Library to help promote model railroading as a family activity. On April 21 & 22, we will be running trains there as well.

# RAILFEST 2007

Once again, we participated in the NMRA Division 5's Railfest, held at Lakeland Community College. Because of the amount of time spent at Railfest, we traditionally do not have a "monthly meeting" at anyone's house. Instead, we set up a 12' x 48' layout. There was a "Sale Table" for members to bring surplus items to offer for sale to the public.

The weather outside was cold and damp - perfect for enticing people to come to a train show!



Thanks to everyone that made the effort to help with the set up and tear down of the modules; there was a lot of help. However, we need more people to volunteer to actually run trains at this and future events. This is the first time in over 25 years that we didn't have enough people to fill all of the slots on the sign up sheet.

If you have never been to a Railfest, it is the "Largest Model Railroad Show in Northeastern Ohio". There were several operating layouts and over 100 vendors (>250 tables) located in four areas, in addition to two rooms housing several ongoing clinics.

# This Month's Meeting

The folks at *"The Lodge At Geneva On The Lake"* will be hosting a very special meeting in April.

They are looking to our group to help them decide how to offer a "getaway weekend package" based around model railroading. In return they are providing us with one of their meeting rooms for our meeting.

In addition to answering their questions and offering suggestions, we are hoping to do some more work on the "Build A Module" project. This month we will add track and ballast to the module as a demonstration. Remember;; some lucky member will end up with this module, once it has been completed.

Also slated to be discussed is a review of the set up at Railfest and the Perry Library, planning for the set up at Railroads In The Park (May 5 & 6), the shortage of people to run trains at the displays, continued discussion of electrical standards, etc.

Mark your calendar for the 4th Friday in April.

# Learning From Prototype

An Automatic Equipment Identification ( AEI ) system operates on the principle of modulated backscatter. The reader sends a continuous unmodulated radio frequency (RF) signal, which is received by the tag (transponder). The tag encodes its data by altering the strength of the signal (amplitude modulation) it reflects back to the reader. A mirror operates in a similar fashion to a tag except a mirror reflects light instead of RF energy. A mirror reflects different colors or frequencies of light. The tag, functionally similar to the mirror, will reflect different radio frequencies. This capability to operate at multiple frequencies is extremely important when tags are mounted on containers that travel internationally. Each country to which a container can travel has its own limitations on allowable radio frequencies and power levels. There is not one single radio frequency that can be used in every country. Therefore, a single tag mounted on a container must have the capability to be read at different frequencies and power levels. Amtech's tags have this unique ability, and this system is the only system that meets the current ISO 10374 standard for container identification.

There are two types of Amtech Transportation Tags, Beam Powered and Battery Powered. The Beam Powered Transportation Tag does not contain a battery. It must get all of the energy needed to operate its internal circuitry from the reader's RF signal. Because of this constraint, its maximum range with a 2 watt 915 MHz reader RF source is approximately 20 feet, and its normal operating range is 12 feet. The Battery Powered Transportation Tag contains a battery to operate the tag's internal circuitry. Once this battery is installed in the tag, the tag's internal circuitry will operate continually whether or not the tag is being read.

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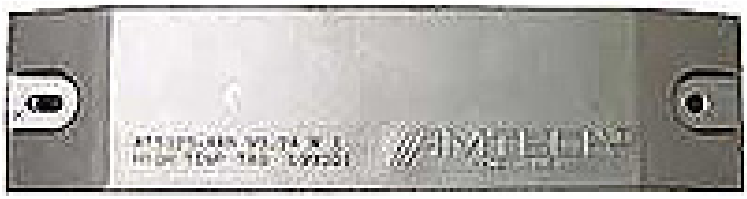
There is enough energy in this battery to operate the tag continually for 15 years, but since the battery's chemicals deteriorate over time, the expected battery life is approximately 10 years. The Battery Powered Transportation tag has a maximum range with a 2 watt 915 MHz reader RF source of 200 feet, and its normal operating range is 60 feet. This tag's ranges will decrease at lower reader RF power levels and at higher reader RF frequencies.

Because the railways do not need long read ranges, the AAR standardized on Amtech's AT5110 Beam Powered Tags. Amtech's Battery Powered Tag meets the ISO identification standard for containers.

The tags can store up to 120 bits of user data and be programmed in the field. This feature is extremely important to the railways since they want to encode rail car information into the tag immediately before mounting the tag on the car. Information the AAR specified to be encoded in the tag includes the rail car owner's code, car number, number of axles, bearing type, and length. Tags can be reprogrammed in the field up to 10,000 times.



***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

***5/25/07***

**"T.B.A."**

**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

| | Perry, OH Library | *Dates* | *Times* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Set up** | Friday | 04/20/07 | 6:30 p.m. |
| **Operate** | Saturday | 04/21/07 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| **Operate** | Sunday | 04/22/07 | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. |

| | RR In The Parks | *Dates* | *Times* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Set up** | Friday | 05/04/07 | 7 p.m. |
| **Event** | Saturday | 05/05/07 | T.B.A. |
| **Event** | Sunday | 05/06/07 | T.B.A. |

| | | *Dates* | *Times* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Set up** | | | |
| **Event** | | | |
| **Event** | | | |

| | Louisville "N" Convention | *Dates* | *Times* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Set up** | Wednesday | 6/25/*08* | T.B.A. |
| **Operate** | (from) Thursday... | 6/26/*08* | T.B.A. |
| **Operate** | ...(thru) Sunday | 6/29/*08* | T.B.A. |

## *Looking for LENS apparel?*

Say It With Thread Embroidery

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


Denny L. (well known for his talent as a “decal wizard’) has said in his model railroading clinics that it is not a good practice to mix fonts, as it is not prototypical. However, he sent me an example that shows you may find anything in prototype if you look hard enough!

# *Quick Trees!*

I found an informative web site that has some very interesting ideas. One of the articles has been paraphrased in order to fit. Follow the links to see the full article and other thoughts and ideas:

Home page: http://www.xs4all.nl/%7Eraicho/main.htm
Tress: http://www.xs4all.nl/~raicho/mcorner/trees/quick.htm

*If you want a large forest on your layout, try modeling simple trees. When planted closely together, the trees do not have to be super-detailed. The results of this quick method will certainly look good when planted together in large groups. You'll need:*

- *Dried plants, available from model shops or free from your garden or along the road.*
- *A pair of scissors*
- *Leaf material (Woodland Scenic's' "turf" or equivalent)*
- *Hairspray or matte medium*
- *Clamps*

***First:*** *Cut the dried plant to the desired shape with the scissors. For an idea of the shapes, see the picture below. (...actually, go the web site)*

***Second:*** *Spray the cut and dried plant with hairspray or matte medium and immediately apply the leaf material. Work above a sheet of paper to save the excess leaf material for later use. Then finish your tree by applying a second spray with hairspray or matte medium. Let your trees dry, by hanging them on a line.*

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

# “F.R.E.D.”


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