



Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

"L.E.N.S."

November, 2007



News and Opinions
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and more!



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.

Lake Erie N Scale Society

November, 2007

We are about to begin the busiest part of the year as it pertains to our hobby. In the next few months, we will have at least 2 opportunities to set up the modules, with the set up at the FarmPark requiring the most effort.

Please consider making yourself available as much as possible to help with set up, running and/ or tear down, as "many hands make light work". These activities are a great way for someone that has just joined our group, to find out how the concept of modular model railroading works. It is also a great time to renew old acquaintances and friendships.

With that in mind, the recent "letter writing campaign" was unfortunate to say the least. Feelings were hurt, and some things will never be forgotten or corrected. However, we all must focus on the fact that we all are in this hobby together; equally. That's what has made this group work for well over 25 years! If you don't know what this is referring to, perhaps that is all the better. I am moving forward and will not let the event spoil my enjoyment of your friendship and the hobby of model railroading.

Let's all work together to show the public what we have worked so hard to perfect, and that we are proud of our hobby.

Working on this newsletter is making me hungry. I look forward to our traditional "pie eating contest" at Belle's...

Last Month's Meeting

In October we met at Charlie T's (layout) home. First up for discussion were the future set-ups. The first is the



Farmpark Christmas set-up. We will set up the modules on the afternoon of Saturday, December 15. We will run daily from the 15th through the 23rd, tearing down on that Sunday at 9 pm. We will need lots of members to help with the running of the trains and crowd control.

We will also be setting up for the following events:

Winterfest (Geneva) Feb 2-3, 2008

Railfest (Kirtland) March 15 and 16, 2008

Railroads in the Park (Kirtland) May 3 and 4

June (Louisville) NTrak Convention

The newsletter was discussed. Members felt it was great as is, much better than the Burning River newsletter. No one desperately wished to take over as editor, so I guess it will regress to the former editor. Hopefully, Lou can continue the electronic distribution.

Charlie T described how he made his Scenic Express trees. He also mentioned that the old ConCor SW1500's with Kato drives run on code 55 track.

This Month's Meeting

For many years, instead of having a meeting in November, we set up in Burton, OH during the Thanksgiving weekend. Traditionally, we would set up, then re-convene at Belle's Diner for pie and coffee.

Bob V. has so many modules, he now does that show by himself. However, he will not turn down help setting up and tearing down. Then we will move to Belle's Diner for pie.



Set up will be Friday (11/23) at 1 p.m. Bob has invited everyone to join him running trains, but reminds us that some modules do not strictly follow N-trak standards. Run times will be 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Tear down will follow operations on Sunday; help would be appreciated.



Learning From Prototype

Railroad Tool Box

Engineers were folk heroes during the era of steam locomotives. People admired their adventurous lives and control over mammoth trains. Poets, songwriters, and novelists all commemorated their exploits.



Lester Raynesford worked as an engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad in the first half of the 20th century. For a time, he drove the “Salt Run” freight train which hauled salt from mines in the Ellsworth area. This box--containing spare clothing and tools—accompanied Raynesford on his runs. The sheet metal container was made by John R. Brazelton of Trenton, Missouri, who is listed on the label as a “Manufacturer of Enginemen’s Perfection Clothes Box.” The box was kept in a locker at the roundhouse between runs.

Born in West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1875, Raynesford’s long career with the Union Pacific (UP) began at the Ellis, Kansas, shops in 1898. He worked as a UP engineer for over 40 years, from 1903 until 1945. He worked for the UP during its 20th century heyday. He ran freight trains from Salina to Junction City for many years, and finished his career on the “City of Salina” passenger train between those two cities.

Throughout most of the steam era, engineers were
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assigned locomotives which they alone drove. As a result, engineers developed a personal pride and affection for their machines. Raynesford operated Locomotive No. 2260 on the "Salt Run" hauling salt from mines. As engineer, he would have driven the locomotive from its cab, keeping his left hand on the throttle lever and his eyes on the track. Within easy reach from his perch were the reverse gear lever, air brake valve, injector valve, and whistle cord. He also was responsible for keeping a close watch on the steam and air gauges, and checking the water level of the boiler.

Lester Raynesford retired from the UP in 1945 and died in 1954. His tool box is on display in the main gallery of the [Kansas Museum of History](#). Besides the tool box, the museum also received his tools, a lunch pail, a flashlight (always carried in the toolbox), UP engineer's pin, and several certificates of examination.

A few railroads survive and remain important to the Kansas economy today. They still haul out much of the grain crop and bring in much of the heavy freight. Limited passenger service is available through Amtrak trains.

For information on another railroad artifact in the Kansas Museum of History's collections, see [Locomotive No. 132](#) from the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad.

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



No meeting in December. However, we will need your help running trains at the Farmpark display, 12/16 through 12/22.

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, OH Library	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Friday	11/23/07	1:00 p.m.
<i>Run</i>	Saturday	11/24/07	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<i>Run</i>	Sunday	11/25/07	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

	FarmPark	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Saturday (early)	12/15/07	1:00 p.m.
<i>Run</i>	Saturday (evening)	12/15/07	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
<i>Run</i>	(through) Sunday	12/23/07	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

	Geneva Winterfest	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Friday	02/01/08	7:00 p.m.
<i>Run</i>	Saturday	02/02/08	t.b.a.
<i>Run</i>	Sunday	02/03/08	t.b.a.

	Railfest '08 - LCC	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Friday	03/14/08	t.b.a.
<i>Run</i>	Saturday	03/15/08	t.b.a.

	RR in the FarmPark	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Friday	05/02/08	t.b.a.
<i>Run</i>	Saturday	05/03/08	t.b.a.

	Louisville "N" Convention	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>
<i>Set up</i>	Wednesday	06/25/08	t.b.a.
<i>Run</i>	(from) Thursday...	06/26/08	t.b.a.
<i>Run</i>	...(thru) Sunday	06/29/08	t.b.a.

“ web.page ”

I was looking for a story written by another modeler. Here is an excerpt from a web site I ran across, where the author tells of his experience building a small layout from a Woodland Scenics Kit. The web site for the rest of the story is...

www.visi.com/~spookshow/layout2.php

The Scenic Ridge Project (2005-2006)

To quote Michael Corleone, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" After getting tired of model trains four years ago and getting out of the hobby, I now find out that [Atlas](#) has released my dream locomotive in N scale - the EMD MP-15DC yard switcher (with factory-installed decoder no less). Well, how can I pass that up? I guess it's finally time to dip my toes back into the model railroading pool.

Unfortunately, I still don't have the kind of space available in my basement that I would need to build the model railroad of my dreams (curse my friends and their pool playing ways), so instead I'm going to give this [Woodland Scenics](#) "Scenic Ridge" prefab N scale mini-layout a try. I

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Looking for LENS apparel?



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



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should be able to store the whole dangd thing underneath the pool table when I'm not working on it, allowing me to at least scratch my model railroading itch in some small way until such time as I do finally decide to part with the pool table (or at least temporarily store it) and build that really big layout I've always dreamed of. Watch this page for updates as I progress.

12/07/05 - I picked up the Scenic Ridge "Town and Factory Building Set". I ordered it from [Brooklyn Locomotive Works](#), who seemed to have as good a price as anyone (\$90 shipped). I placed the order on their website and had the package in my hands two days later, so no complaints there. I imagine I'll be doing most of my business with BLW from now on. This is quite the package- 13 buildings (styrene), details, accessories, decals, the works. This should keep me plenty busy for a while.

Putting together model kits doesn't require a whole lot in the way of specialized tools. Pretty much all you need is an Exacto knife for cutting the parts off the sprues (bend and twist at your own risk, this stuff breaks easily), a few files (or sandpaper) for smoothing edges, and a good quality liquid cement. I prefer Model Master mainly because the handy metal applicator tube allows you to apply the glue right from the bottle and still have fine control over where it goes.

This is a loong story, but interesting in its content. Take a few minutes to read it. I found it to be enjoyable reading.

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

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!

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