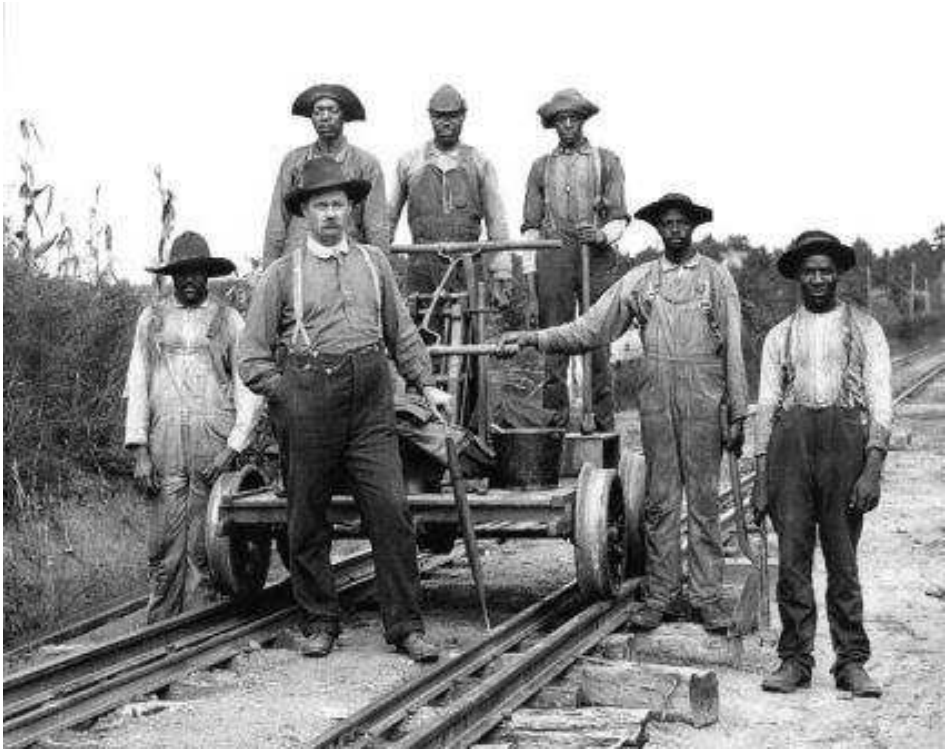
Lake Erie "N" Scale Society

"L.E.N.S."

August 2017



N-TRAK
N SCALE MODULAR RAILROADING

Over 30 years of promoting model 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.lensohio.org

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 7:30 p.m., the fourth Friday of each month.

Last Month's Meeting

There were no June or July meetings.

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be at 7:30 PM on August 25th at the home of Richard F. We will recap the Painesville Depot set-up, the N Scale National Convention, and the Jefferson set-up. Hopefully we will see Richard's layout operating for those that could not get to his last two operating sessions.

Next Month's Meeting

We need a ~~victim~~ volunteer for the September meeting.

A Photo of Richards module as seen in the last NTRAK newsletter.

There was some discussion about railroad ties at the last meeting. Below is some information gained from a industry publication.

Column1	Wood Ties	Concrete Ties	Composite Ties	Steel
	Class 1 Rail-roads			
BNSF	2,700,000	140,000		
CN	2,200,000	55,000		
NS	2,300,000			
CSXT	2,797,300	2,700	inc with wood	
KCS	645000 (type unspecified)			
FXE	170,000	297,000		
	Regional/Short Lines			
OmniTRAX	75,000			
CR	35,000			
IHB	20,000			
BR of Chi	20,000			
CM&Q	40,000			
RBMN	15,000			
INRR	40,000			
Carload Express	20,000			
WNY&P	17,000			
RRVW	25,000			
DMVW	3,500			
AM	15,000			
Pacific Harbor Line	500			
Iowa Northern	24,400			
Great Western	20,000			
LAL	2,000			
NYSW	20,030			

North Shore	2,500		
FGLK	15,700		
Tacopma Rail	2,000		
Palmetto RW	7,500		
NOPBW	16,000		6200
Copper Basin	1,000		1000
Florida Central	4,200		
Madisin RR	8,000		
B&H Rail	2,000		
Riverport RR	4,000		
Mississippi Export	3,072		
Battle River	2,000		
Vermont RR	35,000		
Ioiwa Interstate	40,000		
	Passenger		
Amtrak	978,000	47000	
Regional Transit			
Denver		29130	
MTA (NYC)	36,630	1750	
Metra	40,000		
MTA (Long Island)	31,380	25000	
MTA (Metro North)	44,200		
Sound Transit		255	
BART			2000 (inc Wood)
Metrto Atlanta RT	50-100		
PATCO	500		
N Indiana Commut-er	12000		
Santa Clara Valley	50		
Metro Transit Auth (Texas)			400
San Diego Metro	35,000	320	
Trinity RW Express			7261
BR of Chi	20,000		
CM&Q	40,000		

Charlotte Area Transit		40000		
DART	800-1000 (including Com-posite)			
MTA Staten Island			2978	
Totals	11,845,462	638,155	10,639	7,200
Source: April 2017 Progressive Railroading				

From an unknown source:

Blackened Buildings

If you've ever looked at old photos of brick buildings, you might notice that into the 1960s many of them looked dark gray, blackish brown or faded black, not the familiar brownish red or cream color we associate with brick. In the era of steam locos and coal for home heating, smoke particles stained porous brick and concrete surfaces. If you model the steam era, the staining is relatively easy to model using washes on painted brick.

Once you've painted your structure, you can achieve the stained brick effect by spraying or brushing on an India ink solution. Mix four drops of India ink into a half cup (4oz) of rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol. Working in a well-ventilated area, use a spray bottle to apply a mist of the solution or use a paint brush. Do NOT apply this mixture to anything that has been sprayed with a flat clear coat as it will react and ruin your finish. Once dry, if you don't feel the coverage has aged your brick enough, apply another coat, and repeat the process until you're satisfied with the results.

Lighting Structures with LEDs

Technically, there are NO 12 V yellow LEDs --- although you can buy yellow LEDs with resistors built in, and you can safely apply 12 volts across the series combination of the LED and its built-in resistor. Most typical yellow LEDs have an inherent voltage drop of about 2.4 volts, and most white LEDs have an inherent voltage drop of about 3 volts --- it's their choice, not yours.

If it were me, I'd string four Golden White 3 mm LEDs in series with a series resistor, and apply 12-14 volts across that. Putting several LEDs from the same manufacturer in series minimizes the current when you have plenty of voltage, minimizes the waste heat, simplifies the connections, saves resistors, all of the LEDs will be the same brightness (because they are in series and will receive the same current), and that brightness can be adjusted by just adjusting that single resistor.

Here's what I recommend for a building interior lights: Get a piece of shirt cardboard or something similar, and cut it to fit the inside ceiling, so it easily but snugly fits inside the building. Insert a 3 mm LED through the cardboard close to each corner, and bend the leads flat against what will become the hidden side of the cardboard. Wire the LEDs in series and run the common (+) and (-) wires from the last LEDs at each end of the string down from one corner, so that they can be routed down one corner of the building. After testing the hookup, cover all bare wires on the hidden side with clear packaging tape (insulation really isn't absolutely necessary, but the tape keeps things from shifting around during handling). This can all be built and tested on the workbench. Don't forget: the long lead on a 3 mm LED is (+), and they should be connected elephant-style (plus to minus) when in series.

Install the lighted cardboard in the building, run the wires down to the layout base and through a hole in the base. Under the layout, connect the resistor in series with either wire (which one doesn't matter) and then connect the circuit to your power source. Having the resistor under the layout makes it easier to change it if you want to change the brightness.

Jim Hinds

“F.R.E.D.”

See you at the next station!