



Lake Erie “N” Scale Society

“L.E.N.S.”

October 2018



**New NS Bridge in Painesville
(News Herald Photo)**

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

- Last month's meeting was held at the home of Beverly and Judson Elliott. A map is attached to the email. We needed to finalize the plans for the three foot modules.

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This Month's Meeting

We will have the October meeting at 7:30 PM on October 26th at the actual home of Charlie T. We hope that he has not expanded his layout to the point where there is no room for LENS members. We should be making preliminary plans for the set-up at FarmPark for Country Lights. Remember that we are starting right after Thanksgiving and will run for two full weeks. Also, remember that we will NOT be setting up with the horses (sorry, Callie) but will be in the main building. Yeah!!! See you at Charlie's! (Map Attached)

Next Month's Meeting

The November meeting time and place will be determined at the next meeting. If we have one, it will be earlier than normal because of the set-up and running at the FarmPark Country Lights show. Set-up will begin at 1 PM on November 23rd with running nights (5PM—9 PM) from November 23rd through December 7th. Tear-down will be immediately after the December 7th run.

The Three Foot Modules

There have been two work sessions at Scott G.'s home. The tracks are ballasted and the initial layer of plaster has been added. The modules are scheduled to be painted and the first layer of scenery put down on October 16th. Scott sent out an email of dates available for work sessions. Thanks to those who have helped already.

From the Web

New FRA Regulations concerning Molded on Grab Irons...



Older cars like this one have molded-on grab irons...

Washington DC (April 1, 2013)— FRA OUTLAWS MOLDED-ON HANDGRABS

The Federal Railroad Administration today outlawed molded-on plastic hand grabs on all freight and passenger cars on model railroads, citing safety concerns. "The little people employed in yard, train and engine service on these pikes are being injured when they appear to reach for a handgrab expecting it to be real wire and find out too late that it's solid plastic," a spokesperson explained. This effectively removes a lot of kit-built and "RTR" rolling stock placed in service before about 1999, and even a large swath of cars supplied more recently. Smaller scales and the more marginal pikes in all scales will be disproportionately affected and it might not even be practical for them to retrofit existing rolling stock with wire hand grabs. Owner/

operators have only until 12:01 AM July 1, 2013 to comply. "What are we supposed to do?" quipped the General Manager of a well-known N-scale road, "file for abandonment? The minute we do that, the right-of-way will revert to other uses such as washers and driers; you'd never get it back."

Asked how the ban might affect cars that were furnished with owner-applied hardware and/or may have no hand grabs at all, the spokesperson explained: "Despite some vague anecdotal evidence that the process of applying wire hand grabs leads to psychiatric illness in some people — especially in HO scale and smaller — we simply cannot allow this to stand in the way of safety. Properly secured owner-applied hardware is acceptable. But we will be going after the scofflaws that are not making any attempt to apply them — even in Z-scale." He went on to explain that some figures in the scale railway industry had been caught beneath the wheels of passing trains after losing their grip on a solid plastic handgrip and had suffered scrapes, scarring, and — in some instances involving the larger scales — even visible indentations that could only be addressed with topical treatments and that in most such cases an actual cure was impossible. In at least one known case, a mishap resulted in a fall about four feet to a concrete slab. The victim was immobile and had to be scraped up with a file card.

Wm. K. Walthers and other firms will be ordered to provide lists of customers who the firm had supplied with rolling stock that was furnished with user-applied hardware items as a kit. Effective immediately, pikes will have to submit paperwork documenting application of wire hand grabs on every car placed in service. "We run our pike on our own time," quipped another owner. "We don't have a staff that can deal with these new regulations. And during the summer, a wheel might not turn for weeks at a time." Frodo

Proto, a Walthers spokesman, was more sanguine: "Look, everyone knew this was coming. That's why we recently announced that all our cars would have factory-applied wire hand grabs going forward."

One reporter, noting that many of these workers appear to have a condition not unlike rigor mortis and cannot visibly bend their hands or arms without assistance in the first place, was greeted with the retort that the law requires that little people with disabilities — including chronic severe plasticized systemic stiffness (CSPSS) — had a right to work just like other little people, even if they had no visible signs of any active organic functions. "The minute we start making exceptions, people will stop taking us seriously," the spokesperson said.

(From the "Along the Right of Way" website)

NEW PRODUCT

New from Scale Trains is the 5188 cu ft 3 bay covered hopper as manufactured by Greenbrier (Gunderson). It comes in two body styles:

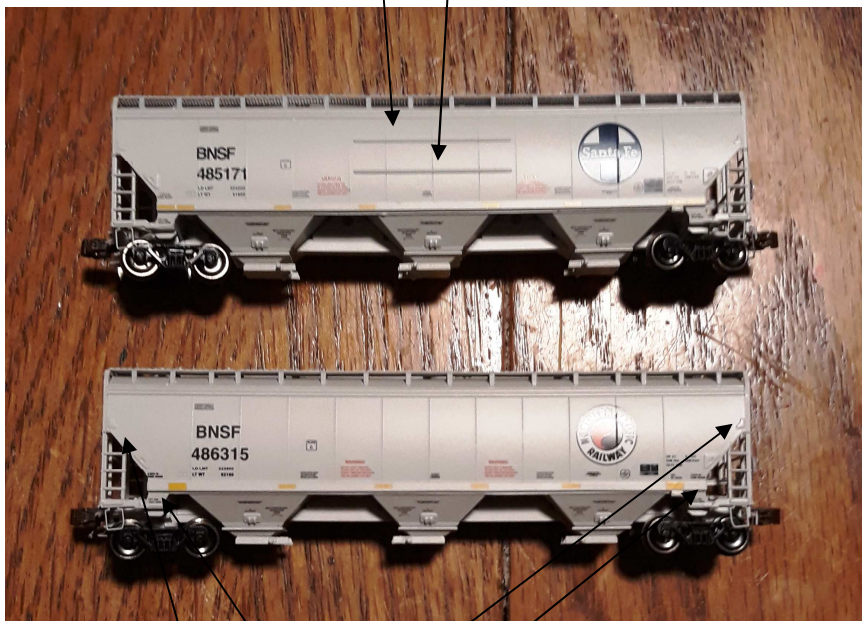
1. 2 stiffing ribs in the center of the body
2. 4 reinforcement panels, one each above and below the side cut-outs.

The model includes etched metal roofwalks and end cross-over walkways, body mounted knuckle couplers, metal wheels, and detailed printing on the sides, ends, and hoppers.

Roadnames include BNSF (both brown and three heritage schemes), UP, CMO, and KCS in multiple road numbers—two to fifteen except for the heritage scheme, which have one number each. These retail for \$39.99 but are

available from the manufacturer for \$27.99 to 31.99 depending on the quantity ordered.

Stiffing ribs



Reinforcing panels

“F.R.E.D.”



See you at the next station!