

Lake Shores Limited

Newsletter of the Lakeshores Division of the Niagara Frontier Region,
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

VOL. 1 NO. 6

ROCHESTER, NY

JUNE 2011

Next LSD Meet – Summer Picnic – July 23, 2011 – Finger Lakes Live Steamers



The Gazebo at night on Ray Howard's Seneca Lake, Ontario and Western model railroad, Geneva, NY.

Lakeshores Division Annual Picnic

NMRA AP – “Cars” *by Harold Russell, MMR*

News from the Division Superintendent *by Ray Howard*

How to Improve Commercial Pine Trees *by Richard Senges*

ELECTED**Superintendent**

Ray Howard
16 Ada Street
Geneva, NY 14456
rhoward1@rochester.rr.com

Assistant Superintendent

Dave Mitchell
1106 South Creek Drive
Webster, NY 14580
dbmitch@rochester.rr.com

Chief Clerk

Richard Senges
1231 Wellington Drive
Victor, NY 14564
(585) 924-8379
OCR@frotniernet.net

Paymaster

David Coon
260 Sunnyside Drive
Rochester, NY 1462
davidcoon@frontiernet.net

APPOINTED**NMRA Achievement Program Representative**

Harold Russell, MMR
17 Dover Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
haroldrussell@juno.com

NMRA Member Aid Chairman

Ned Spiller, MMR
8441 County Road 87
Hammondsport, NY 14840
(607) 569-3428
edward.spiller@frontiernet.net

Lake Shores Limited Editor

Richard Senges
1231 Wellington Drive
Victor, NY 14564
(585) 924-8379
OCR@frotniernet.net

Advisory Board

Richard Wagner
4 Edgewood Lane
Bergen, NY 14416
(585) 494-1581
kcsdaddie@yahoo.com

News from the LSD "Super"

"Its summertime summertime sum sum summertime Summertime"

That good old song has been running through my mind and its time to get together for our Summer Picnic on July 23rd. We have the final approval to have our picnic at the Finger Lakes Live Steamers in Clyde, NY. So save the date of Saturday, July 23rd. to have a fun day with the NMRA and lots of outdoor trains. What a day we have planned for you! Don't miss it!

There is a lot of information about the picnic later in this issue. Just a reminder that it is helpful to have a count of how many people we will have attending for the day. So please let me know if you plan to attend. We hope to see a lot of you that day. I guarantee you have some fun!

We want to hear from you. This is your NMRA Division! Those of us serving as officers want and need your input and help to be able to give you the best of the best for program. Please let us know what interests you most in the hobby. What would you like to learn more about? What activities and clinics would get you out to our meets? What can you offer us from your experience in the hobby? We could also use some articles for the Lake Shores Limited. I know you have something you can share with us! Take a few minutes and write an article about something you have done.

We need a couple helpers at the Picnic. A person to help with nametags at the registration table and to pass out info, and someone to sign in the models for the Modeler's Showcase (Show and Tell) would be a great help. Getting involved is a good thing, and a lot of fun!

Plans are already in the works for a Fall Meet. Hope to have some info in the next issue. *See you at the picnic!*

PRESIDENT of the NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION, NMRA

Dr. Richard Roth, PhD
PO Box 309
Waterford, PA 16441-0309
(814) 796-0133
nfprez@hq.nmra.org

Lakeshores Division Annual Picnic

July 23, 2011 at the Finger Lakes Live Steamers, Clyde, NY

What: NMRA NFR Lakeshores Division Annual Picnic

When: July 23, 2011

Where: Finger Lakes Live Steamers, Clyde, NY just NE of the Waterloo Mall, 30 miles and minutes east of Victor, NY

Timing: Members can arrive as early 9AM. Set up crew should plan on arriving around 9AM. Registration for the LSD will start at 11AM, with lunch at 12 Noon. LSD will provide the program for our membership and be done around 2PM. Our members can stay out at the club for the remainder of the afternoon.

Program: There will be *Timesaver* modules for people to try their skill switching cars. The one Ray Howard has is an "Inglenook" style. Also there will be a "Modelers Showcase", an adult show and tell. The Finger Lakes Live Steamers will talk about the Large Scale equipment they have and present information about their club. Rides will be available both morning and afternoon on their equipment.

Other information: Any adults bringing children with them must be aware that the Parents/Grandparents are responsible for the children's supervision at all times. There is no potable water on site. You should bring our own water as individuals for the day. Also, as in the past, we that ask each person/family bring all their own picnic lunch for the day. Gas grills for cooking will be provided.

Contact: Please contact Ray Howard and indicate how many of you will be there. Also please bring a folding lawn chair as there is limited picnic table space.

Ray Howard, LSD Superintendent at: rhoward1@rochester.rr.com

Map: see: <http://www.fingerlakeslivesteamers.org/quickmap.htm>.

The NMRA's Achievement Program Master builder – *Cars Award*

by Harold Russell, MMR

The following is a synopsis of information found on the NMRA's web site with my comments added. The requirements for the Master Builder - Cars Achievement Award are easier than you might imagine:

A. Build eight scale models of railroad cars that operate i.e. roll down the track but are not self powered. There must be four different types of models represented one of which has to be a passenger car.

Different A steel sided box car and a wood sided reefer would be considered different while a 40ft box car and a 50ft box car probably would not. A conventional flat car and a depressed center flat car would.

A passenger car is anything that would be normally be found in a passenger train. This includes a baggage car and express reefer. A caboose is considered a freight car not a passenger car. A consist of a (1) passenger coach, (2) caboose, (3)reefer, (4)flat car, (5,6,7,8) four box cars would qualify but it might be better to have and a little more variety in the freight equipment.

B. Eight of the models must be super detailed using commercial or scratch built parts. Assembling a plastic car kit will not do. Four models must be scratch built.

Here is what NMRA means by these underlined words.

Super Detailed: For a car to be super detailed it should have individual, not 'cast on' brake equipment, brake piping, roof walks, doors, grab irons, and cut levers for example. If the doors and brakes operate, all the better but this is not essential. A passenger car should have full interior detailing

Scratch Built: This term implies that the modeler has done all the necessary work such as cutting, fitting and attaching all the parts to accomplish the model. It does not mean that you must fabricate all the parts although this would be a plus. Assembling a laser cut wood model qualifies it as scratch built. The kit manufacturer has provided the parts and instructions but you have to do the work. A step above this would be making your own plans, cutting your own wood, etc.

The following items will not hurt a model from the scratch built category: trucks, couplers, brake fittings, paint, decals, basic shapes of wood and plastic.

C. Four models have to score at least 87 1/2 points in a NMRA contest or separate individual Merit Award judging. Call me at 585-427-9159 or E-mail at haroldrussell@juno.com if you want a model judged. I am willing to travel within the Lake Shores Division's territory to do this judging. If a model is to be judged at a LSD meet, some advance notice would be best.

Some tips for a model to be judged. This will be done by NMRA standards looking at Construction, Conformity, Detail, Finish, and Degree of Scratch Building. To increase the model's chances, it is best that it be weathered and have some degree of scratch building. A model does not have to be specifically built to qualify for any of the above. In many cases taking a model from the layout, upgrading it and weathering it will suffice. There is nothing in the requirements that say the models have to be in the same scale.

D. The last step is to fill out NMRA's Record and Validation, and their Statement of Qualification forms. (These forms are available from NMRA'S web site or I can send them to you.) In addition to the required documentations, include photographs of the models. I can help you do this. Be careful not to overdo all the documentation as too much can be worse than too little. The next step is to send all the "paper work" to me. I will scan it and transmit it to the NFR's Achievement Chairman, Peter Nesbitt, in Ottawa who will inspect and approve it. He then will forward it to the National. In a short time you will receive your certificate.

Good Luck Go for it - and remember I am here to assist you.

How to Improve Commercial Pine Trees

by Richard Senges

Many commercial pine trees leave something to be desired relative to their realistic appearance, but have the advantage of saving many hours in construction time. The trick is to purchase an inexpensive pine or conifer tree and “spruce” it up without expending a lot of time and money.

One way to do this is to improve the trunk area. Some of these trees have a brown or gray painted rubber hose over twisted wire for a trunk or just the twisted wire sticking out under the tree branches. This trunk is usually too small in diameter and not very realistic.

This can be improved by adding a real tree trunk over the twisted wire. First, find a real pine or conifer tree that has the bark formation and size that would look good as pine tree trunk. Then cut a portion of this real branch, pull out all the needles, and cut the branch to an appropriate height for your commercial tree’s exposed trunk area. The piece may be about 2 inches long when cut. Try to have one on the ends larger than the other to simulate the bottom of the tree trunk.

Take this tree branch section and drill a small hole into the branch from one end. A drill press helps with this process. Then drill a hole from the other end. Try to stay in the middle of the branch so not to stray and cut into the bark area. Connect the two holes so that a hole is completely drilled through the branch.

Next put some white glue into the drilled hole and stick the original wire trunk into the hole letting the wire protrude through the hole in the larger end of the trunk. Eureka! A better looking real wood conifer tree trunk! The protruding wire will aid in planting the tree on your layout.

One feature that needs help on the bottle brush commercial trees is the fibers are sometimes stuck together rather than looking like individual fibers. This is caused by the sisal or hemp fibers bunching up and then glue sticking them into a glob. When the ground foam is applied, a glob is formed leaving a thick and unattractive area. This can be remedied by taking an ice pick and picking apart the fibers separating them into individual fibers. Ice picking the tree can also align the fibers so there appear more attractive.

Another feature of these commercial trees is that they are all the same color. The ones I am using are all dark green. Even if you purchase a hundred trees they are all the exactly same color – dark green.

To vary this color, take those pine needles you pulled of the conifer tree branch, put them into a blender, and pulverize the needles into a powder. Then sift the ground pine needles through a fine sieve to get fine powder. Spray the conifer tree with a fine mist of spray glue or hair spray and carefully sprinkle some of the finely ground pine needle dust on the tree. This will change the color slightly giving it a more light greenish or yellowish tone. Vary the amount of dusting on each tree so all the trees are not the same color. You can also sprinkle fine conifer green ground foam on the tree to change the color. Spices also work well for changing the color of your conifer tree.

One defect on all commercial trees I have seen is the unsightly extra fibers that stick out where they shouldn't. These are easily remedied by taking a scissors and cutting off these extra fibers.

Not to "opine" any longer on how to improve these commercial conifer trees, I hope you enjoyed this short article and you try your hand at "sprucing" up some of those miniature trees.



Photos
by
Ray
Howard

Scenes from the
Finger Lakes
Live Steamers
Location of the
Next LSD Event
The Summer Picnic



Future 2011 Lakeshores Division Events
Summer Picnic – July 23
Fall Meet – LV Day – Shortsville, NY
**If any member would like to help out at either of these events,
please contact Ray Howard at: rhoward1@rochester.rr.com**