

Lake Shores Limited

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

VOL. 4 NO. 37

ROCHESTER, NY

SEPTEMBER 2015

Next Lakeshores Division Event: November 21, Hammondsport, NY



Scene from Bruce Shepard's layout - on tour at the NFR 2015 Convention. Photo by Bruce Shepard.

News from the Division Superintendent *by Ray Howard*

Scenes from the 2015 NMRA NFR Convention

Some Food for Thought *by Steve Haas*

News from the LSD "Super"

Greetings fellow Model Railroaders! It has been a while since the last issue of the Lake Shores Limited. That was way back last February. I think we needed a well-earned vacation after the Mortimer Junction Convention. Speaking of the Mortimer Junction convention, it was a great success with everyone attending having a good time. I want to thank all those people who worked so hard to put together a wonderful weekend for the Region.

Ray Howard, Convention Chairman
 Dave Coon, Registrar/Treasurer
 Ned Spiller MMR, Clinics
 Dave Mitchell, Rail Tours
 Bob Achilles, Layout Tours
 Gordon and Jeanne Spalty, Silent Auctions
 Ron Stacy, Publicity
 Otto Vondrak, Publications, RITMRC Alumni Advisor
 Rich Wagner, general helper for anything needing to get done
 All the membership of the Rochester Institute of Technology Model Railroad Club for Co-hosting the convention especially: Elliot Courtney, RITMRC Liaison to the committee and Dave Scheiderich, Club Advisor

I also want to thank Richard Sparrow (ID Superintendent) whose experience and helpfulness were a huge help to me in getting everything done for the convention.

Thank you to all those who presented wonderful clinics for us:

Otto Vondrak – “Protolancing on the Genesee Route”
 Bill Brown MMR – “Planning and constructing a Scene from Research to Execution” and
 “Digital Photography in Modeling Part 1 and Part 2”
 Tom Stanton – “Making it Look Real”
 Bernie Messenger – “Mix Your Own Paint”
 Dave Coon – “Railroads at Mortimer Junction”
 Leo Adamski – “Personalizing Your Models”
 Barry Rosier and Mike Dettinger – “TCS WOW Decoders”
 Ken Akerboom – “Modeling the Boston and Maine”
 Ron Kosmider – “Designing a Laser Kit”
 Nancy DeRycke and Dr. Therese Lynch – “She’s Been Working on the Railroad”
 Harold Russell – “Field Measuring”
 Ron Stacy – “For Cheapskates Only”
 Peter Darling – “Modeling a Scene”
 Jim Otto and Ken Freeman – “Industries along the Hojack in Hilton and Hamlin”
 Caroline Spiller – “Paper Flower Artistry” Make and Take
 Clark Kooning MMR – “Scratchbuild a Bridge” Make and Take

Also a big Thank You to those folks who opened their layouts on tour! Richard Senges, MMR, Harold Russell MMR, Ron Stacy, Rochester Model Railroad Club, RIT Model Railroad Club, Gordon Spalty, Adam Lloyd, Dave Coon, Peter Darling, Bob Achilles, Bruce Shephard, Dave Mitchell, Genesee Society of Model Railroaders, and Mike Pyszczek.

Fall Meet:

We’re working on it! Breaking News... The LSD 2015 Fall meet will be held at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport on Saturday Nov. 21. Registration will begin at 9AM with program starting at 9:30AM. More information will be forthcoming.

News from the LSD "Super"

Petition to move the LSD from the Niagara Frontier Region to the Northeastern Region:

About 3 years ago The President of the NFR contacted the American Divisions in the NFR and posed a question to us. Do we feel that we would be better served being in a Region that is organized in the US rather than being part of the NFR (in Canada)? This is not a new issue by any means and has been talked about at the region level off and on for over 20 years.

The straw pole of all the American NFR Membership came back around 90% saying that we would be better served being part of a US Region and want to leave the NFR. Our Division was 91% IIRC. That survey took almost 2 years to complete. Some of us are very hard to get in touch with.

At the Annual Meeting of the Region I was asked by one of our members to list some reasons for Petitioning National to move the Division to the NER. So with that in mind, here is a quick list of my thoughts:

1. We want to provide the very best program to our members that we can. 91% of you say that would happen in a different Region.
2. The border crossing between the US and Canada has become difficult in recent years. That is one reason why there is very, very little participation in Region Activities. You have to have an International Passport, and may be asked to declare your models and any other items you take across the border. Result; over the last decade the most people we have had attend a Region Convention in Canada was 7 people (2 couples and 3 other guys).
3. There are financial, bookkeeping, and other issues where moving would be easier for both the Region and our Divisions.

Why join the NER?

1. We already have an excellent working relationship with the Central NY Division. Over the years we have held many combined Meets with them and being in the same Region may promote more events that we can work together on.
2. Most of their conventions are within driving distance for our membership with no Border Crossing issues.
3. A large number of you have expressed a desire to move in that direction.

Any questions on this, please contact me and I will do my best to answer you!

National's "New" Three Times and Your Out rule:

Here's the policy: **Visitors are allowed three visits to an NMRA meeting IN THEIR LIFETIME. If they don't join by their third visit, they cannot attend any more meetings.** This is mostly a matter of insurance policy. Should there ever be a claim we will be required to submit attendance records to the insurance. Not being in compliance puts your officers at liability! This is not new. This came out in 2007. It is now being enforced. The policy only refers to people who are not NMRA members but want to be part of everything for "free". Anyone who is an **NMRA Member** can attend any NMRA event anywhere in the world! This also doesn't affect open events such as NMRA Train Shows, etc. where the public is invited. This has not been a problem in the LSD.

Superintendent

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Lakeshores Division Website

www.lakeshoresdivision.org

Some Food for Thought

by Steve Haas

(Note from the Superintendent: The following article was taken from a discussion on the NCE-DCC Yahoo discussion site. Steve has given permission for us to reprint in our newsletter. I think it gives us many things to think about in our hobby and some things to talk to people about when "Selling" our hobby! My thanks to Steve for letting us use this. -Ray)

"Ones life is a life-long learning experience after all. Whether we think of it like that or not."

As a corollary to this, I've always considered the acquisition of new and the improvement of existing skills as one of the primary reasons for participating in this hobby.

Room Prep: Carpentry, electrical and finishing skills

Bench work: Carpentry and finishing skills

Layout wiring: Low voltage electrical, soldering, proper connections, correct use of tools,

Track work: Mechanical standards, including proper alignment, smooth transitions,

Scenery: Both an understanding of actual geography and geology, and the ability to develop techniques to accurately represent and present those elements in miniature on our layouts,

All hobby efforts: Project management skills, including timely material acquisition, finance and budgeting, actual tasks, prerequisites to tasks, etc. This is particularly useful when one enlists the help of fellow hobbyists to build and maintain your railroad – proper planning and preparation multiplies the progress made on during any work session.

Critical observation skills: Applies to just about everything listed above; Operations specialists will concentrate on the details of prototype operations, scenery enthusiasts will pay particular attention to geographical, geological, flora and man made details. The subtleties of weathering (all facets) comes into play here, too.

Final appearance: involves the integration of many of the above: does your bench work and fascia designs lend them selves to the addition of skirting, etc.

Adherence to the prototype: Research skills, including Macro (train movement) and micro (car movement) operations, appropriate equipment for the era and locale modeled, etc.

Putting it all together to achieve the overall result one is looking for is a major exercise in systems integration – I referred to this above in “Final appearance”. In the end, it all has to come together to achieve the results you are seeking.

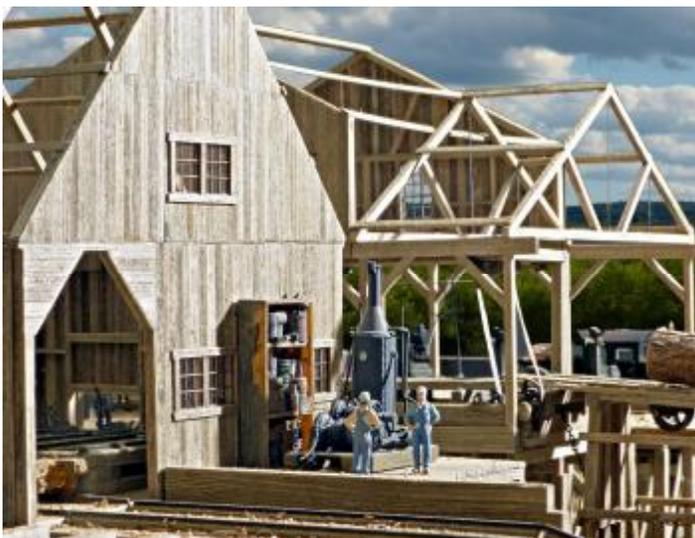
Granted, given our wide variety of goals and objectives, each of us will have varying degrees of interest in acquiring these skills. But, every skill you take the time to acquire and eventually master will improve your hobby experience from the time of that skill acquisition to the end of your hobby days.

Having said the above, I'll freely admit that despite previously acquired skills with 110 volt wiring, insulation installation, Hanging sheetrock, mudding, finishing and painting, at this point in my life it makes more sense and is financially doable, to have the new layout room finished off by contractors. In this situation it makes more sense to “git ‘er done” so I can get on with the process of planning and building the railroad.

Each of us will have different skill acquisition “Givens and Druthers”, but none of us should shy away from taking the time to learn many of the basic skills that are useful in Model Railroading.

The basics of many of these skill sets are easily acquired, and easily mastered with a bit of practice. I'd encourage more of us to take the time to acquire these skills – the time spent will pay dividends down the road.

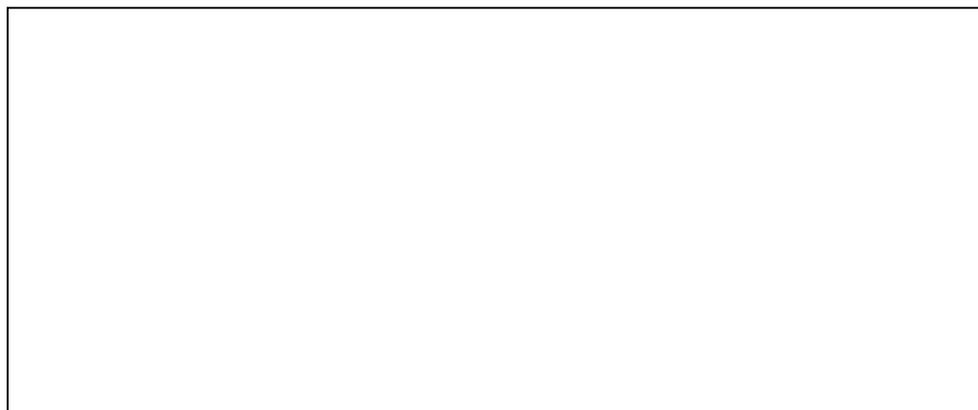
**Layouts Scenes from the May 2015
NFR Regional Convention**



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NFR Regional Convention**



**NMRA NFR LSD
c/o Ray Howard
16 Ada Street
Geneva, NY 14458**



**QR Code
to the NMRA
Lakeshores Division Website**



Call for Clinicians

**Our Lakeshores Division is planning a 2015 Fall Meet.
Please contact Ray Howard if you are interested in giving a clinic.**

Next LSD Meet – November 21, 2015

Glenn H. Curtis Aviation Museum, Route 54, Hammondsport, NY