

# *Lake Shores Limited*

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

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ROCHESTER, NY

AUGUST 2011

**Next LSD Meet – Fall Meet – LV Day in Shortsville, NY – October 22, 2011**



Fun at the LSD 2011 Annual Picnic held at the Finger Lakes Live Steamers, Clyde, NY.

## **Lakeshores Division 2011 Annual Picnic**

**NMRA AP – Scenery**

*by Harold Russell, MMR*

**News from the Division Superintendent**

*by Ray Howard*

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**News from the LSD "Super"**

August already? Wow, summer has gone by very fast I think. I'm sorry so many of you missed our great Summer Picnic a few weeks ago. We had 15 members, spouses, and guests attending. I think we all had a great time out at the Finger Lakes Live Steamers. We will plan for another event sometime in the future at their club, and we thank them for their kind hospitality and all the train rides!

Over the next several months, you will be hearing about some changes at National designed to gain and retain new members as well as better serve all of us in the division and region. I will pass on news to you as soon as get it.

The Fall Lakeshores Division date for the Meet will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Lehigh Valley Museum in Shortsville, NY so mark your calendars. I can tell you that much of the program will center around the Lehigh Valley RR. We have one clinic already for the meet (I know it will be of interest to all of you!), there will be some contests, and we have a unique building kit that has been donated to the LSD as a fund raising item. This will be offered as a "Silent Auction" during the Meet.

Stay tuned for much more detailed information next month.

Don't forget, I can always use some help at the meets. There is a need for someone to help at registration, sign in models for contests, help with refreshments, and set up and clean up after the morning session. Getting involved is fun.... Really! Let me know if you can help out.

Remember I am always looking for programs of interest for our membership. If you have an idea for a clinic or program, let me know. We, as a division, are only as strong and successful as each of us make it.

Hope all of you are getting ready to find your layout rooms again as fall approaches (I know that summer never gives me much time to work on the layout). I hope to see each of you at the Fall Lakeshores Division Meet! This should be a great event.

## Scenes from the Lakeshores Division Annual Picnic



Number 112 sits read for duty at the Finger Lakes Live Steamers National Model Railroad Association Lakeshores Division Picnic on July 23, 2011.







# The NMRA's Achievement Program Master Builder - Scenery

*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 - Scenery Achievement Award are not too difficult once you study them in detail.

To get the Scenery Achievement Certificate you will be judged on your terrain, prototypical placement and suitability of structures, background, lighting and realism. If your layout is scenicked, chances are you are well on your way. The minimum size of the area to be considered is 60 sq. ft in O Scale; 45 in S; 32 in HO; and 18 in N. Your layout does not have to have one contiguous section. It can have several to make up the area requirement. Besides your layout, your work on a club layout, a friend's layout and/or a module can be considered. Each however must be no smaller than 8 square feet and each segment must meet the minimum 87 1/2 point merit award requirement.

The NMRA does not specify a minimum area requirement for garden railways. I would estimate 120 square feet. To gain a merit award, the layout must model typical railroad scenes with prototype structures and terrain. Just running through the flower beds will not count.

Before applying I suggest that you visit the layouts of some of the accomplished modelers in your area. Ned Spiller, Dick Senges, Ray Howard and Ron Stacey's layouts are great examples.

Let's look at the five elements that will be considered by the judges who view your work.

A. Terrain - 35 points. By terrain, NMRA means natural features, soil, types of vegetation, rocks, water, and trees. It also includes man-made features such as highways, roadbed, ditches, tunnels, cuts, etc. The judges will be impressed by signs of wear, oil stains in roads, man-hole covers, ruts in dirt roads, etc. The transitions between types of terrain should be gradual.

B. Structures - 20 points. Structures will be considered for their prototypical suitability, placement and appearance only. 'Structures' not only means buildings but bridges, culverts, fences, signs, walls, utility poles, crossing gates and crossing shanties. Structures should be in the ground not just placed on it and their appearance should be consistent with the scenery. Shiny out of the box plastic structures are not acceptable. Weathered structures and tiny details will be considered a plus. Above the layout turnout operators if not prototypical should be well disguised.

C. Background - 25 points. By background NMRA means your treatment of walls, and/or ceiling to depict depth and distance. Your background should have the illusion of reality to compliment your scenery. The transition between the two should be gradual. If a wall is your backdrop, its texture should smooth. A sky blue concrete wall will not do.

D. Lighting - 20 points. Three aspects will be considered: railroad cars and signals; buildings streets and roads; and overall room lighting effects. It is not necessary for every scene to contain these elements. A farm scene for example would not be expected to have street lights. Also, your room lighting can depict daylight only. It is not necessary to depict night time. It might be good to show that building lighting and street lights work even in daylight.

E. Realism - 25 points. In this judging area the judges will evaluate how well you did overall. Your entire layout does not have to be considered - just the area in the minimum space requirement.

## The Application Process:

### Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.



Your work must be judged and receive its merit award. Contact me at [haroldrussell@uno.com](mailto:haroldrussell@uno.com) or 585-427-9159 in order to do this.

Your application should include the following:

1. Signed Merit Award Judging Form showing an award of at least 87 1/2 points.

2. Completed Statement of Qualifications Form

These forms can be obtained from NMRA's web site or I can mail them to you.

3. Overall photographs of your work and a written description describing the setting of your model railroad.. The photograph(s) should show the total of what was judged. Additional photographs should be used to show the intimate details of your work. Each photograph should have a description of what it shows attached. The photos do not have to be professional quality.

4. A description of the materials and methods used in creating the terrain, background and lighting. Just simple statements are necessary. Length can work against you.

5. Send items 1 through 4 above to me for processing through the regional and national officials. This can be done electronically or my mail. Contact me for the address to use.

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

## Show and Tell at the LSD 2011 Annual Picnic



John Galvin shows off his very complex and well done Blast Furnace – Stove Section. Quite an accomplishment John!



Ray Howard shows his intricate and well made Engine House. This Engine House will be part of the 12 models Ray will construct toward achieving his NMRA AP – Structures Certificate.

### **Future 2011 Lakeshores Division Events**

**Fall Meet – LV Day – Shortsville, NY**

**Date – October 22, 2011**

**If any member would like to help out at either of these events,  
please contact Ray Howard at: [rhoward1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rhoward1@rochester.rr.com)**