

# *Lake Shores Limited*

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

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**Next Lakeshores Division Event – October 5, 2013 – Oakfield, NY**



The indoor model railroad of Mike Pyszczek. Mike's layouts will be on tour October 5, 2013.

**The Model Railroads of Mike Pyszczek**

**The Next LSD Event – Oakfield, NY - October 5, 2013**

**News from the Division Superintendent - by Ray Howard**

**Keeping Them Running – Advice to the Nantucket, MA Whaling Museum by Richard Senges, MMR**

## *News from the LSD "Super"*

Ahem! OK, this month I am going to hand the microphone to Pete Magoun, MMR current NMRA Central District Director:

### **Recruiting Tools**

Pete Magoun, MMR

As I travel around the NMRA I hear a common theme rumbling at Division and Region levels: "How do we attract more members to the NMRA?" Sure, there are variations on this theme, like "What's 'National' doing to attract new members," or "What tools do we have to attract new members," but the underlying theme doesn't change. We need new members if the organization is to survive. That job is for each of us.

This discussion came up awhile back at a Region convention, where I had been asked to comment after the banquet. The term used was "After-Banquet Speaker," which is generally not a good idea around me, because I can talk about the benefits of the NMRA for a long time. This is a great hobby, and the NMRA makes it even better. But I digress....

The festivities included a slideshow of host Division activities, including modular shows in shopping areas, open houses, road trips and so on. That slideshow triggered a major change in my intended remarks, for I realized that it could be the basis for a completely different presentation. So let's have a look at the discussion. It's Tool Time!

There are really only three tools you need to conduct a successful membership growth campaign. They're inexpensive, and all of us have them. We simply need to use them!

The first is our eyes. We need to make eye contact with a potential member. We can smile with our eyes (try it – it works!), and our eyes tell the new prospect a great deal about who we are and where we're going. When we're happy, enjoying ourselves and proud of our organization, this shows in our eyes. [So does the Grumpy Old Man part, so be careful!]

The second is our mouth. We can smile with our mouths, and we can say a lot about the educational opportunities, fun, fellowship and so on we're enjoying within our little corner of the NMRA. We can answer questions, provide invitations, and make folks feel welcome.

The third is our hands. Use them for handshakes. Invite people in with a handshake. Make folks feel welcome. It's not difficult, and it makes a world of difference to a prospective member.

At some point in our NMRA experience, someone smiled, extended a hand to us, made us feel welcome, and invited us to join the fun. It wasn't difficult, and it opened the door to us. Be that someone! Go for it!

#### Superintendent

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#### Lakeshores Division Website

[www.lakeshoresdivision.org](http://www.lakeshoresdivision.org)



## Lakeshores Division, NFR, NMRA 2013 Fall Meet – October 5<sup>th</sup>

### Location:

**Oakfield Alabama Baptist Church  
2210 Judge Road  
Oakfield, NY 14125**

### Morning:

- 8:30 to 9:00 Registration, Meet and Greet, register Models/photos for Contest
- 9:00 to 9:05 Welcoming remarks – Ray Howard/Mike Pyszczek
- 9:05 to 9:50 *Clinic* – Modeling projects with surface mount LEDs
- 9:50 to 10:00 Break and Voting on Popular Choice Model Contest and Photo Contest
- 10:00 to 10:40 Clinic - Track Ballasting Methods
- 10:40 to 10:50 Break
- 10:50 to 11:30 Introduction to Genesee Valley Transportation (prelude to afternoon tour)
- 11:30 to 11:45 Door Prizes, Raffle, Announcements, Maps, etc. – Ray Howard

Lunch - on your own.

- Afternoon:
- 11:45AM – 1:00PM Genesee Society of Model Engineers
  - 2:00 PM – Tour of GVT Facilities Batavia
  - Open all Afternoon – Mike Pyszczek's Genesee Northern

### Notes:

Cost: \$3.00 members and \$5.00 for guests.

There will be a raffle on a  
*NYO&W Standard Watchman's Tower - Laser Modeling 3.*

We will have a "Modelers Choice" Model Contest and a Modeler's Choice photo Contest

## **The Next LSD Meet**

**October 5, 2013**

### **Directions to the Meet from Thruway Exit #47, Batavia:**

**From the toll booths continue straight across the intersection (Rt. 98) onto Park Rd. Park road will become Veterans Memorial Drive.**

**Turn Right onto Rt. 63 and continue to Oakfield, NY. Just North of Oakfield Rt. 63 will bear left and become Rt. 63/Judge Rd. (You will see the Oakfield Alabama Middle School/High School just before it bears left.**

**Continue about 4 miles on Judge Road (Rt. 63).**

**The church will be on your left just past the Fire House and Town Hall.**

**Contact: Ray Howard by email: [rhoward1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rhoward1@rochester.rr.com) or by phone: 315-789- 4801**

Scenes from Mike Pyszczek's model railroads. His layouts will be on tour October 5, 2013.

*Photos by Ray Howard.*





## Advice to the Nantucket Whaling Museum, Nantucket, MA, 2013

Tony -

RE: *Model RR Maintenance*

As you requested, here are my comments about maintaining your museum model RR.

### Track Cleaning

One must clean the track periodically. I use lacquer thinner on a small piece of dense felt - 1 3/4" x 1 3/4" x 5/16". I dip the felt into the lacquer thinner slightly and then rub it on the track. For hard to reach places, I use a stick to push the felt along the track. This is probably the "best" cleaner, but it has some drawbacks. It smells. You do not want to breathe it. It will eat plastic. But it really cleans the track well.

You can also take a Q-Tip and carefully clean metal wheels on the locomotive. Do not touch plastic or plastic wheels. Turn the loco upside down and carefully clean each metal wheel. If there are metal contacts, clean these also. After I clean my track and metal wheels, I put the felt in my paint booth and exhaust the fumes. Or you can just set the felt outside to dry.

Other folks use cleaners such as acetone, isopropyl alcohol, denatured alcohol, or a commercial track cleaner. These will work and have less smell, but in my opinion, do not clean as well.

Never the less, model RR track and wheels need cleaning. Plastic wheels collect even more dirt and must be cleaned frequently.

Some folks use *Bright Boy* from *Walthers* - a very abrasive eraser. I would not advise this as it will scratch the track. Then the nickel-silver track will attract more dirt. I use a less abrasive thinner eraser type material - 2" x 3" x 3/4" - no brand name. This would be used if the track is oxidized and the lacquer thinner is not cleaning the track properly. Also I use 600 grit sandpaper wrapped around a piece of *Homasote*.

Once a track is clean, it is easier to keep it clean using lacquer thinner.

### Running Backward

Never a really great idea to run a train (cars and engines) backward as the engine is pushing the cars and not pulling the cars. Problems occur especially when pushing on a curve or S curve. The problem is exacerbated by cars of different weights and also couplers that are not exactly aligned, both vertically and horizontally. I avoid doing this on my layout except for minor switching operations. Also, I use powdered graphite on the moving parts of the couplers so they work properly when coupling. Switching operations on model RRs are done manually, not using automatic automation.

I noticed that you are running only the engine forward and backward. And from our conversation, you may have done this with cars in the past. Running the engine only may not be such a bad idea considering all factors. If one was to run a train backward, one should run very slowly especially through turnouts (switches) and be careful not to derail. For your automatic automation display, doing this with cars attached I believe would be difficult unless you have perfectly straight and level track, and the rail cars properly weighted and aligned.

### Engines

With the amount of running that occurs in a museum, you will actually wear out an engine and the wheels. So you may want a couple of new spare engines on hand. Engines today are inexpensive and not worth fixing per se. Not sure what you are running, but it looked like On30, that is O scale, narrow gauge, 30" gauge. *Bachmann* makes some good On30 engines. You can get these at a good price from *Micro-Mark*.

Hope this helps.

Richard Senges,  
Master Model Railroader # 483

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