

April 2010

The Monthly
Newsletter of
the North
Atlanta
O-Gauge
Railroad Club



Paul M's Post War Lionel 2025 from 1947. Only year it was made with an aluminum smoke stack.

Upcoming Spring Layout Tour

We are all set for the Spring Tour of Member's Layouts on May 15th.

Dean B. 9:30AM - 10:45AM

Rick B. - 11:15AM - 12:45PM- Lunch

Bill D. - 1:15PM - 2:30PM

Eric S. - 2:45PM - 4:00PM

More information, maps and directions will be emailed out to the membership on May 2nd.

Our online forum is a great way for Club members to communicate with each other and share advice and ideas for train collecting and layout building. Go to <http://www.ogauge.org> and click on Forum.

New ideas for Club activities from Club Members are always welcome. Please email the Secretary at newsletter@ogauge.org



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The North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club (NAOGRRC) seeks to share the joy of our experiences with 3-rail O-Gauge toy trains. Club activities include: running O-Gauge trains; building train layouts; workshops; field trips; tips, advice and having fun.

The website for the Club is <http://www.ogauge.org/>

North Atlanta
O-Gauge
Railroad Club



Hobby Town Layout Update

The Ivy League

by Bill D.
photos by Ron S.

The layout is moving along. We are working on the center of the table and are waiting for some bridges to be completed. We are also getting close to finishing the swamp area. The gorge is well defined and might be ready for water soon. Dean and Rick have been doing a great job on scenery this past month.

Electrically- all 4 track lines are working now.

Rick K. has been working on the swamp and surrounding area. There are tracks around and through the swamp, although the track through the swamp met with some problems....

Finishing touches on the stone walls include ivy, moss and some weathering for a realistic effect.

Check the calendar on Page 7 for work session times and join us when you can.



Happy worker Rick K.



Featured Columns

Wisdom, advice, ideas and history in monthly columns.

Train Dr. Ted









What gauge wire do I need to use on my layout and how often do I need to attach it to the rails?

Over the years I have seen many layouts. As you can probably guess, I am as interested in what is under the layout table as well as what is on top of the table. My normal expectation would be that layouts would use thin wire and have too few track connections. Not so with our Club Members who use heavy gauge wire and more track connections per ‘scale mile’ than the power company uses. Track wiring for major and minor layouts should each follow the same practices for sound electrical connections between the power source and the track.

In my article in last month’s Newsletter I indicated that the track section must be assembled properly for a smooth electrical operating railroad. After the track sections are assembled properly, then it is time to attach the electrical wires to power the rails.

To summarize: Gauge is the term used to express the thickness of a wire cable. House wire is usually 10, 12 to 14 gauge depending on where it is used. Your sound system speaker wire is normally around 16 to 18 gauge. The telephone wire in your home is 22 to 24 gauge. The thicker wire has the smaller the gauge numbers.

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
|  | 22 | • For train layouts 14 to 16 gauge wire is generally used for the major bus ground, middle rail lines and accessory lines. |
|  | 20 | |
|  | 18 | • The question that always comes up is how often to connect the main bus lines to the track. 15 to 20 feet between track connections per loop is plenty of track connections. |
|  | 16 | |
|  | 14 | |
|  | 12 | |

Make sure that the connections are secure at the tracks. A solder connection is as good as it gets. Make sure that the other end of that wire can be disconnected from the main bus line. Tie all wires together by using terminal strips or wire tie connectors. It becomes very important to be able to disconnect the ‘hot’ wire from the other ‘hot’ wires when trouble shooting an electrical short on the track rails and accessories.

Is there any problem with using heavier gauge wire and installing feeder lines more often than suggested? Over construction will certainly not decrease performance. Yet it ‘may’ not increase performance for the extra cost and effort spent.

These general rules work great for all TMCC, Legacy and all conventional systems. As for the MTH Digital DCS system, good practices do not always produce satisfactory results.

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Tricks of the Trade in Cardstock Buildings

by Rick K.

Making a scratch built structure, whether it be a tunnel portal, a trestle, or a building, can be one of the most rewarding things in model railroading. Many modelers balk at undertaking this task believing they lack the skills to make a realistic structure to scale. The main skill one needs is patience and then the right tools. But, do not lose hope, if you lack one or both of these, you can still have some very nice looking structures on your layout using your computer and the right paper.

Several companies offer digital structures that can be printed on cardstock paper. These then can be folded and glued together to make excellent additions to one's layout. Some companies offer free downloads so that you can try your hand with one of these to see if you like them and also to practice your skills. The three cardstock buildings on our Raccoon Creek Scenic Railroad were free offerings: Willie's Hardware, the Outhouse, and the Railroad Building where the two gentleman are playing a tense game of checkers.

This article will explain what I learned through experience to make these buildings and ways that I tried to enhance their appearances.

You will need a computer and a color printer to begin with. You will also need white or off-white cardstock paper that can be purchased at most hobby or scrap booking stores. I use #100 cardstock for the whole structure, though some advise using different thicknesses for different purposes from #80 to #120. Decide upon which structure you would like to try and print it out. I use an X-Acto knife with a sharp blade to cut out the pieces and the tabs. I make careful cuts using a cork-backed ruler and a self-healing craft mat. The cork backing helps secure the ruler and prevents slipping. The self-healing mat allows a great surface to cut on. Separate the pieces according to location: roof, sides, flooring, etc.



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Tricks of the Trade in Cardstock Buildings-continued

by Rick K.

Pieces that need to be folded will have a line indicating where the fold should be made. To make a crisp fold, use the X-Acto knife and the ruler to lightly score the line. Be careful not to go all the way through the paper. This will make a very neat edge when folding the paper. If you would like, you can use a fine marker to darken the score line once folded, but will not be needed if you utilize some of the enhancing tips that I will talk about later. Score the tabs on the pieces the same way and fold them to give a crisp edge. I then use a toothpick and some white glue to secure the pieces. Use the glue

sparingly. I also glue pieces of strip wood to the inside corners and along the inside walls to give extra support. Allow these main parts to cure.

One of the main drawbacks to card stock buildings is that they lack a three dimensional look. That can be easily remedied by adding pieces of strip wood to the outside. I stain or paint the pieces of wood prior to adding them to form door frames, window frames, porch supports, corners of the outside walls, roof supports, etc. By adding these pieces of strip wood, you can transform a simple card stock building into one that can be hard to distinguish from a kit or a scratch built one. You can further enhance your structure by adding decals and other details such as chimneys, piping, outdoor lamps, shingles, or a

myriad of other things. Just use your imagination. Adding a few figures to your structure and you can make a very believable scene.



Here are some places to look for ideas.:

<http://clevermodels.squarespace.com/>

<http://www.papercreek.com/>

<http://www.ModelTrainSoftware.com/freebuilding.html>

Upcoming Shows

May 22- Dixie division,
TCA- Due West Methodist
Church in Acworth

Aug 7-Norcross
Railroadiana

Oct 9- TCA-Cobb County
Civic Center

Nov 20,21-GTE-Norcross

Dec 4- TCA-Southern Poly



April meeting at Rick and Cookie's

Our last meeting was at Cookie and Rick's house. This was a great opportunity for all of us to see the progress on their layout. And boy have they done a lot! Of course, the one part of the layout that really sticks out is the new mountain. As well as the awesome looking canopy of trees. Anyway, we all really enjoyed being able to take our time at this meeting. We weren't being rushed to be out by 9:00. We actually got to take time and run trains and talk with each other. I also got to run my MTH Turbine after 5 months of waiting! ;-) Other members also brought some trains to the meeting. Eric S. brought his sweet Lionel GE Evolution Hybrid engine, but sadly it couldn't negotiate the radius on the layout. Chris C. brought an engine(s) to test on the layout and so did the new member John. Cookie also helped out newer members by showing them around the Forum and the Website and how to use the features on them. Basically, we all had a GREAT time and we can't wait to come back and run trains and socialize. Thanks Cookie and Rick!

by Max W.
photos by Wyatt W.



25	26	27 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	28	29 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	30	May 1 10AM-2 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 
MAY 2010						
2	3	4 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	5	6 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	7	8 - 10AM-2 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 
9 	10	11 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	12	13 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	14	15 - NAOGRRC Spring layout Tour 
16	17	18 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	19	20 NAOGRRC Meeting  @ Hobby Town	21	22 TCA Dixie Division Model Train Show 
23	24	25 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	26	27 - 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	28	29 - Memorial Day Holiday Weekend No Work At Hobby Town

Minutes of the Meeting

4/15/2010 at 7pm at Rick and Cookie's.
 Guests- Jim, Jim, John, Dale
 # members attending- 31
 Treasurers report from Curt

HATT- Ron- still some problems getting this working. We will try again.

Layout report- Bill-see page 2

Les- as of March- we own 75% of the layout. There was a leak at HT and it just missed the layout.

Children's layout- had a great turnout at the last show. But unfortunately only 2 children were there. Next show is a Dixie Division show on May 22nd.

Parts order- email your requests by May 14 to Les.

Curt- How about just having an operating session in the summer and not a business meeting? Other suggestions were just to have alternating times for meeting and running trains.

Some discussion about visiting the live steam group in Canton again.

Eric suggested a live steam group in South Carolina- Southern Crescent line.

Club picnic- Sept 11th at Lake Alatoona. Will need a committee- any volunteers? Eric, John L., Wyatt.

Bill spoke about the Spring Tour on May 15th - a PDF will come out about it- watch your email.

Piedmont Pilgrimage- 2013 will be here in Atlanta. Bill, Eric and Rick/Cookie layouts will be on the tour possibly. We can do HT also if it is rescheduled.

Cookie conducted a NAOGRRC Website tour for members. Focus of the discussion was on how to post on the forum, how to access the member roster and how to change your profile on the website.

The track cleaning car came in for the HT layout. We will need to do a hand cleaning first and then run the car. Come to the next work session to see it run.

Wyatt spoke about monitors that he can donate to the layout so we can have cameras.

Next meeting May 20th at HobbyTown



Plan to Attend

Fall Picnic- Sept 11th at Navy lakeside at Lake Alatoona.