This month’s newsletter includes a return of Train Dr. Ted and an article by our Club President as to why we go to train shows. See if you agree....

The upcoming event for the Club is the Club Picnic on September 10th. See page 2 for more information. We will need member help for each event. Please email Al C. or Les if you can help.

Open call for more articles of interest for the Newsletter. Please email all submissions to newsletter@ogauge.org
This is gravel road

Front entrance

This is a one-way road in and then loops out. It is a concrete road. Follow the concrete until you reach the gravel road and turn right on to it and it dead ends into the lodge.

Parking for the lodge

This is the lodge for the picnic.

This is the out bound side of the road. Please follow it to exit the location.

This is the lodge for the picnic.

September 10, 2011
Directions to Navy Lake Site

75 South
Exit on 283 turn Left (east) travel under bridge
3.9 miles entrance to park is on left

75 north
Exit on 283 turn Right (east) away from bridge
3.8 miles entrance to park is on left

US 41 North
Traveling north on US 41 from Marietta go to Third Army road on the right pass the Hwy 92(second 92) and US 41 intersection. Turn right onto Third Army Road and follow it until it dead ends (there is a gas station on your left at the stop sign). Turn left and a very short distance Joe Stella Drive will be on your right. Turn right and follow it until it dead ends and then turn right and then left into the Navy location.

Here is a web link to the Navy Site for more information.

http://navylakesite.com/
Photos needed

Please sign in to the member website and make sure your photo shows on your profile. If you do not have a photo, please contact Eric and send a photo of yourself.

Club Picnic

Our free Club picnic will be on Saturday September 10th at Navy Lakeside at Lake Allatoona. We will need some volunteers to shop at Sam’s the day before with Al C. We may also be slicing tomatoes and preparing other food the night before so please volunteer to help. Each family coming to the picnic should bring a vegetable, salad or dessert for 10 people. We will have two boats for boat rides. There will also be a small train layout for the kids to run thanks to Jack C. Remember- the picnic is FREE. Please come and enjoy the day.

GPS Coordinates- 34.09153, -84.72137
Address- 166 Sandtown Road, Cartersville, GA 30121

Layout report

Progress is slow because workers need to be careful when moving inserts in and out. We could use help working on the layout on Tuesday or Thursday from 6-9. If you would like to learn how to model water on a layout, come and watch as we lay down sequential pours of water in the gorge and then create rapids and swirls. Tortoise machines will now be installed on the track. These controllers allow a smoother track change.

Piedmont Pilgrimage

Every Autumn, hundreds of train enthusiasts tour train layouts all over the Atlanta area. This year, several of the NAOGRRC members will open up their homes and turn on their transformers to showcase their O-Gauge layouts. In addition, the NAOGRRC Club layout at HobbyTown USA will be on the tour. The website for the Piedmont Pilgrimage is http://www.piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage/

Rick B.- Saturday October 22nd from 10am-2pm
Jim D.- Saturday October 22nd from 10am-2pm
NAOGRRC- Saturday Oct 29th from 10am-2pm
Eric S.- Saturday October 29th from 1pm-5pm
Dean B.- Saturday October 29th from 1pm-5pm
Cookie H.-Sunday November 13th from 11am-3pm
Bill D.- Sunday November 13th from 11am-5pm
Did you know why you go to train meets when they are in your general locale?

This past month I saw other members of our club who have realized that when looking for a certain item to add to their treasures, it is much more adventurous to see the item in front of them or in their hand to really get a good look at what they are purchasing. Many times when you buy an item on eBay you don't get the clear picture. Just when you think you hit a home run some ill wind comes along and blows it foul!!!!! By which I mean you need a new wheel because the item you purchased has a bent or chipped one or something is missing from the item like a spring or brake wheel. I also find the items at the meets that can be brought back to life with a few restoration parts and a little patience. This last show I got some old postwar items, 2 signals, a cattle stock yard with the always missing ramp, and a milk car and a milk car frame. I bartered with the vendor and spent $28 for all. The signals cost $5 to repair, the stock yard cost $2 for vibrating cushions, the milk car needed some soldering and a door which cost $1. So along with the initial cost, I refurbished these items for a total of $8. The stock yard is worth now about $25, the signals $20 each and the milk cars $20 and $25. So for total of $35 spent, I now have $110 worth of born again trains. There was also some of our members who found other bargains and some parts to fix their trains. I am a firm believer in seeing your purchase live so there is no grief or disappointment later as when your eBay stuff arrives.

We also go to these meets to setup our Children's Layout and talk to the people that gather around our layout and tell us stories of when they were kids and what they had running around the tree at Christmas. They are eager to have us listen and often when the guys in our club would be around the layout we tell them our stories. It makes for an interesting day by itself. It is not always to be referred to as our Children's Layout any more! At the last meet in Norcross on Aug 13th, we had an event that surprised many of our members A 96 year old woman was running the trains on our layout!!! She was being escorted in a wheelchair by her grand daughter. She was thrilled and had all her faculties if you know what I mean. One of our members took a picture of the woman and you will see a photo here in the newsletter and maybe we can have that photo added to our website, This also proves you don't have to be a kid to run trains, We also had some youngsters running the trains that day and handed out catalogs and applications. But most importantly, we just sat at our table talking mostly about trains The session was really fun and a good time was had by all.

By Les
This past month I had several members want their toy train transformers inspected for safety and functionality. For this newsletter, I thought it would be helpful to let you know what I check on with all transformers when they arrive at my workbench. Just like an automobile, it may look good on the outside but could be dangerous on the inside.

Do not work on a transformer if you feel that you are not qualified to service it!

The first step is NOT to plug in a transformer until you have done a safety inspection on it. Then, inspect the outside wiring and shell of the transformer. Check the AC cord to make sure that the coating is not cracked and that it is flexible. If the coating does crack when you bend it, then it needs to be replaced. Look at the plug. The plug should be solid and the wires going into it should feel like they are connected. Make sure that the end of the wire going into the transformer is good. If any of this wiring is bad it will need to be replaced by installing a new cord which requires going inside the transformer and connecting the new wire to the transformer core. You will want to leave the installation to a qualified technician. If the outside shell to the transformer is missing and not protecting the wires inside, it is best not to use that unit.

If the cord looks good, I will go ahead and plug in the transformer. Watch and listen to the transformer right away. If you hear a loud humming sound or if you see or smell anything burning, immediately unplug the unit and let a service technician resolve the problem.

Once the transformer is plugged in and ‘ON’ check the output of the transformer to make sure that all of the secondary windings of the unit are putting out the voltages that are posted on the transformer. The voltages should be within 1 or 2 volts of the stated output. Next is to check the transformer’s circuit breaker. Turn ‘ON’ the transformer to full throttle and simply short the throttle output to ground using something heavy like a screwdriver. Do not use a piece of wire as the wire will get hot very quickly. The internal circuit breaker will click ‘OFF’ the output voltage on ‘post war’ or ‘before post war’ units within 2 to 3 seconds. Any longer then 2 to 3 seconds, or if it does not click off at all, unplug the transformer. The unit will need a technician to look at the breaker. Most circuit breakers are not adjustable. Some have an adjustment screw. Beware; there are transformers that DO NOT use any breakers in them at all. In newer modern transformers the circuit breaker should break in micro seconds after the ‘short’ saving the electronics used in the modern trains.

Next, test the whistle controller by attaching the transformer to a track with a whistle tender on it. If the whistle blows then the transformer is good. Test a post war whistle transformer with a post whistle car. Test a modern transformer with a modern whistle tender. Results vary considerably when mixing the vintages.

For further information on transformers see my other newsletter articles in:

December, 2009; “DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH TRANSFORMER POWER TO RUN YOUR LAYOUT?”

November, 2010; “REPLACING THE CARBON ROLLERS ON ZW, Z, KW, or V TRANSFORMERS.”
**Children’s Layout** - The trains ran great at the last show. It now takes less than 15 minutes to take the layout down due to a redesign and construction. See Les’ article on page 4.

**iPad App** - Al showed a new train app called “Tiny Tracks” for the iPad that may be great for children and the hobby since it may increase interest in trains.

**Holiday Party** - December 10th at Mountain View Community Center. Price will be $5.00 for adults. Children are free.

**Club Website** - Eric informed the club that there are two new features on the website. Please look at the side menu. The Photo Album is working again. Check out our photos! The club discussed a memorial section or status for our members who have passed.

**Youth Interest** - Eric said it is important to get young members into the hobby. One way is to appeal to the children who come to the Piedmont Pilgrimage tours in our houses. Legacy Station is sponsoring Eric’s layout by donating 5 boxcars for Eric to give out to interested youth attending his tour.

**Train Photos** - Scott showed the club and amazing photo of a PS4 engine from 1976. The curious thing was that the photo was taken at night - so how was the photographer able to get the steam, the engine, the track and all the details? Photo flash and an open shutter and multiple photos composed together. Contact Scott F. for details on this photo trick.

**Club Shirts** - Dave says that the shirts were ordered and will be here in 2 weeks. He will bring them to the meeting. Not too late to buy one. Contact Dave H.

**Other news:**
- Rick B.-Chattanooga Train Show-Labor Day weekend
- Ron S.- Sept 17th train fieldtrip
- Bill D.- Train Club in Mobile AL is having a tour of layouts the same time as Mardi Gras any takers?
- Les- Lionel Parts order needed by Sept 12th.