

June 2010

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

Mike C.'s
Shay Cab number 6,
Lionel Item #6-11157



Re-election of Officers

The membership of NAOGRRC has voted to accept the re-election of the current officers as the Officers for the 2010-2011 term.

NAOGRRC Officers:

- President- Les L.
- Vice President- Rick K.
- Treasurer- Curt W.
- Secretary- Cookie H.



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

In This Issue:

HobbyTown Update	2
Train Dr. Ted	3
Member Article	4
Club Activities	5
Meeting Minutes and Calendar	5

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 Update



The Arched Bridge

I have always admired the grace of Arched bridges and felt that we could use one on the club layout to emphasize the transition from steam to diesel especially with the number of outstanding trestle bridges that Bill D designed and built. A second reason for this design was to open a viewing window into the inner agrarian setting planned for the interior of the ticket booth area. Bill and I discussed the idea and located an acceptable location for the bridge. My biggest concern from the start is that I never had attempted a project like this in the past.

Having some drafting experience in my past and an idea of what the design would be like, off I went. The design was the easy part. I made a full scale drawing and mounted it on two 12"x 36"x 2" pieces of Styrofoam. I wanted to construct the bridge using styrene to simulate a reinforced poured concrete structure. After a couple of calls to NAOGRRC member Jay C in Carrolton, I had the guidance on using styrene I needed.

The bridge is constructed with styrene with a balsa core for strength. The arches and bridge deck are styrene with bass wood core for added strength. The most difficult portion of the construction was drawing the large arch curves on wood so that the cuts could be made (I needed a really large compass and the wood planks were never wide enough to place the compass point).

Once the wood cores were constructed, the laminating of the styrene went fairly quickly. I used CA thick gap filler and a lot of sanding to fill seam openings. Jay had suggested that he had used Model Master FS36622 Camouflage Gray spray paint to color his beautiful curved arched bridge on his layout. I tried it but found that it was not quite the look I was after. I also wanted to apply a cement texture to the bridge and experimented with a lot of sand and glue techniques before a suggestion from NAOGRRC member Scott F that I try Rust-Oleum Multicolor Textured spray paint. I found a light off-white color and I was very pleased with the results. After final assembly of the four major construction pieces (two towers, bridge deck, and two arches) it was off to Bill D for assistance with some "weathering". Much to my surprise Bill was also helpful in proving structural integrity of the bridge (details of which are better left to a trade secret for now). The arched bridge was finally placed on the layout last Saturday, June 26th.

This was a great learning experience for me and I'm very happy with the final results. I'd like to thank Jay and Bill for their help and suggestions. It is great to have such great talent in our club. I urge other club members who may be a little hesitant to try some different projects on their own or the club layout to tap into these and the many other great resources in the club.

by Ron S

Featured Columns

Wisdom, advice, ideas and history in monthly columns.

Train Dr. Ted



“I went to the Train Doctor with my unit, but nothing was wrong, broke, or not working.”

Here are some actual ‘case files’ from the ‘Emergency Ward.’

Problem - My new digital engine does not smoke. I put in 4 drops of fluid as always in the past.

Member Diagnosis: My smoke unit is dead!

Solution: The old conventional engines took 4 to 5 drops of liquid to get the smoke unit to initially function. The newer electronic engine smoke units take 10 to 15 drops of fluid in the smoke chamber to sufficiently saturate the wicking material to have the smoke system function properly. The newer smoke fluids perform much better than the older liquids.

Problem: I put my digital engine on the track, turned ‘ON’ the smoke unit only to have the stack full of smoke but it does not puff out of the stack while the engine stands there.

Member Diagnosis: The smoke fan is dead!

Solution: More and more of the modern day smoke systems have a cam on the engine’s front axle drive wheels where a lever switch activates the smoke fan once per revolution of the wheels. The smoke will puff out but only when the engine is moving.

Problem: The headlight on my digital engine will not light.

Member Diagnosis: My bulb must be burned out!

Solution: On the digital system, both Lionel and MTH, there is a button on the remote that will activate or turn off the engine’s headlight. Even if the engine is brand new, the headlight may still need to be activated.

Problem: I use 2 to 4 controllers on the ZW transformer to run different loops on my layout. I have a toggle switch that shorts all of the loops together so I can run all loops with just 1 throttle handle on the ZW. When running trains, power to the tracks is not consistent.

Member Diagnosis: My ZW must be defective!

Solution: When SHORTING together the outputs of a transformer, only 1 of the throttles can be used at a time. The other throttles MUST be at the zero, or off position, or the power will be erratic while increasing or decreasing the track voltage. Also, the internal parts of the transformer will become heated and damaged.

All of the above problems are real events from members who have come over to my basement ‘clinic’ to have their items repaired within the last month. Sometimes we just don’t know why something is not functioning or how it is supposed to work. **I know, because I’m not only the Doctor, but I’m also a patient.**

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Glen Island Casino Train by Les L

I went to my first train meet on December 19th, 1971 in New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York. It was held at the Glen Island Casino on Glen Island. The Island was named after Glen Miller who I am sure we have heard of. I went with my Brother-in-Law Gary T. He saw an ad in the local paper for the show. We were looking at the trains on the tables and there were two floors of tables. The bottom floor had mostly Pre & Post War trains, Lionel and Flyer in those days. The second floor had MPC (new at the time).

I was looking at a 2354 NYC F-3 AA twin diesel from 1953. The gentleman was asking \$60 for it . We bartered a bit and finally we agreed on \$55. My brother-in-Law said that guy had an ABA Santa Fe 2343 on his table for \$75. I said "Do you want it Gary?" He said he wanted it, but didn't quite have enough money. I said I was finished so I could lend him the \$45 that he needed.

I said to the vendor "You know you look familiar to me." The vendor's wife said "Does your mother watch the soap operas on TV?"

I said I was sure she did because she was a stay at home mom when I was growing up. She said "Well, I am Helen Wagner. I play the role of Nancy Hughes McKlosky on "As The World Turns" and Bob Willey, who is my husband and my manager, is also a director on Broadway." Bob came back to the table and I said "I didn't realize what famous people you two are."

Nevertheless, I again bartered with him for the Santa Fe and we could not agree because he wanted \$70 as the lowest price. I offered him \$60. All of a sudden from the other side of the table his wife said "Give the BOY a break Bob." "All right" he said. "You got it."

Little did she know that the BOY had 3 kids. In those days if you could save \$5 it was a lot. I saw Bob and his wife at York and at other shows until I moved here in 2006.

It was a year ago that Bob died in Westchester, NY and this past May his wife also passed away. The Soap Opera is scheduled to end in October 2010 and they say that she had the first line of "As The World Turns" and in a pre-recorded segment she will have the last line. The show will have run 57 years. They were not only train collectors, but two very nice people.

Upcoming Shows

Aug 14-Norcross -North
Atlanta Trade Center
Railroadiana

Nov 20, 21-GTE-Norcross

Nov 27- TCA-Cobb County
Civic Center

Minutes of the Meeting

6/17/2010 at 7pm at Hobbytown

Guests- 0

members attending- 20

New Member- John P.

Treasurers report from Curt

HATT- Ron- put off until the Fall because of summer. We have had a lot of informal HATT, but not official ones.

Piedmont Pilgrimage- Oct 16th Saturday from 10-12 for the HT layout. Ted said that is also the York week so we may need members to help who are not going to York. Also conflicts with the traveling layout.

Sept 11th Picnic- Wyatt

Email will come out about the picnic head count because we need to know how to plan for this. Then, depending on the results, we will ask members to bring a side dish. The Club will pay for meat, drinks and bread. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers only. A committee will check out the site and the amenities so we have a better idea of activities we will offer. We agreed on the start time at 11am. We need a lunch time set so we can begin the cooking- designated 12:30 as lunch time. Boat rides will be included. There is an indoor area for the lunch- air conditioned.

Monitors- Ted

Still need 2 more monitors to complete the plans. See the May Newsletter for more information on the high tech plans. We will have a demonstration after the meeting. The overlay is touch screen on the control board. Digikey or mcm.com are the manufacturers of this special overlay.

John- there is an auction at Braxton Antiques in Loganville- Most is Lionel, some MTH and K-Line. It is an estate sale.

Wyatt put info on the forum about some structures for sale.

Scott- O-27 and O-31 tubular track, weathered, is available. If anyone wants it, ask Ron.

Legacy Station just bought someone's torn down layout so you may want to check out what they have by calling Brian at Legacy.

Wyatt- asked members to please use the forum.

Les- election results- no one has put in to be a candidate and so the incumbents are re-elected.

Next meeting July 15th at HobbyTown

JULY 2010						
Jun 27	Jun 28	Jun 29 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	Jun 30	Jul 1 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	July 2	July 3 
4 Independence Day! 	5 	6 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	7	8 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	9	10 NO Work @ at Hobby Town 
11	12	13 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	14	15 NAOGRRC Meeting @ Hobby Town 	16	17 NO Work @ at Hobby Town 
18	19	20 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	21	22 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	23	24 NO Work @ at Hobby Town 
25	26	27 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	28	29 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	30	31 NO Work @ at Hobby Town 

Plan to Attend

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

