

JAN 2010

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

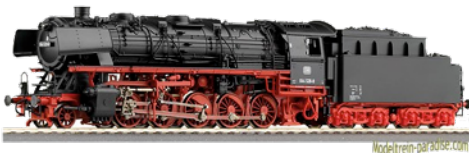


Eric 's  
Norfolk Southern  
MTH Premier 20-2834-3  
2008 Volume 1 Catalog (db)

## Updated Look for the Newsletter

After a year of producing the NAOGRRC Newsletter, it was time for a facelift and new ideas. Perfect timing, since the Club is also starting some new programs and activities.

Work on the Club layout is going well and many members have learned techniques and tips that they will use on their own layouts. A new program for the Club is "Hands across the Tracks" explained on Page 5. Another focus this year will be workshops about various aspects of trains and train layouts. We



Modeltrain-paradise.com

began this year with two workshops on weathering cars as described on Page 4.

Since not all Club members have layouts, we decided to highlight a section for the collectors in our Club. Each month, a Club member's photo of their engine will be featured on the front page of the newsletter with a short description of the engine.

Continuing this year will be the helpful article by Train Dr. Ted and the informative Hobbytown Layout Update. From time to time, we will go back to an earlier, glorious time in train history with the Time Machine by Les.

New ideas from Club Members are always welcome. Please email the Secretary at [newsletter@ogauge.org](mailto: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

## Curtain Call

Thanks to all who have helped. After the holidays, we are back in the swing. Next, we will design and build the inside of the figure 8. We will build framework and work on the scenery where the mountains are in the middle. You will see more elevation soon.

At the meeting, we discussed the need for having curtains around the layout to hide the mess. We need something temporary. The curtains should have the ability to be moved when working on the layout. Also, the curtains should extend about an inch above the floor.

There were several suggestions from the club members such as constructing a piece of large cardboard, painting it black and attaching hinges. Ted suggested we could get refrigerator boxes at the Sears warehouse. Rick suggested that we go ahead and make the curtains but attach them by velcro or perhaps grommet eyelets with cup hooks or something similar.

After continued discussion, Scott and Lois volunteered to make a prototype and bring it to the next meeting.



**Ron S. working on the layout**

Any members who have suggestions should email Scott and Bill. Member emails are available on the Members Only section of the website.



# Featured Columns

*Wisdom, advice, ideas and history in monthly columns.*

## Train Dr. Ted



## EVERYONE ALWAYS WANTS MORE ENGINE SMOKE!

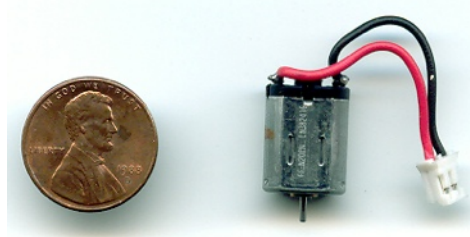
In my Dr. Ted column in the March 2009 Club's News Letter, issue #3, I went into great detail on how to get the most smoke out of your smoke unit by understanding the workings of the toy train smoke system. This month's article will address some other factors that can improve the smoke output.

## SMOKE FLUID:



Over the years I have tried different brands of smoke fluid. I have recommended **MHT's Proto Smoke** as it gives off a very good volume of smoke for the liquid type smoke units. Recently, a Club member brought to the Club's layout a bottle of **JT's MEGA-STEAM** smoke to demonstrate. The word '**MEGA**' in the brand name does describe the extra amount of smoke that is created out of the stack. There are 34 scents offered. Try it!

## SMOKE FAN:



I had an engine that was putting out very little smoke. I made sure that the heat element was heating, the smoke wick was not burnt, the wick was soft, and the smoke fan was turning in the correct direction. Everything was functioning correctly yet the smoke output was very light. Last month the fan motor died. I ordered a new fan motor from Lionel (\$4.00). After installing the new fan motor the smoke unit 'billowed' out the smoke. WOW, how are you supposed to know that the fan's RPM are not up to speed? No really, how are you supposed to know?

## BLOW HOLE:



When smoke fluid is loaded into a steam engine's smoke stack or a diesel engine's vents, the fluid itself can block the air passage from the fan to the top of the engine. The most popular solution is to get right up to the stack/vent and blow a quick puff of air into the top of the smoke stack/vent. Be careful not to get too close as some of the fluid will spray back out of the top and you do not want it into your mouth. There are a lot of smoke systems out there that are not a straight line to the smoke reservoir and needle type fluid injectors will not solve the path clearing problem.

## Upcoming Shows

March 6,7- GTE-Norcross

April 3rd- TCA at Southern Poly Tech

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

Aug 7-Norcross

Oct 9- TCA-Cobb County Civic Center

Nov 20,21-GTE-Norcross

Dec 4- TCA-Southern Poly



## Airbrush Weathering Workshop with Eric

It was a chilly Saturday morning, more fit for preserving than for weathering, but four members of the Eskimo club joined Eric S. for his clinic on airbrush techniques. We met in his open air garage to allow the proper ventilation when spraying. Short-sleeved Eric provided the opportunity to have a hands on experience using the equipment and the procedures that he had written about in the last few issues of the newsletter. Besides showing the best recommended equipment, Eric demonstrated the use of it by weathering some of his own rolling stock. There are two basic types of paint to use, acrylics and solvents. Acrylics are non-toxic, while solvents require the use of a fine mesh respirator mask. With the masks on, we looked more like extras out of a Hollywood disaster movie than weathering students. All of us had the opportunity to weather one of our own cars and go home happy and thaw. Thanks Eric for a great time.

## Weathering Class after meeting

I am not sure that Bill D. weathered his own weathering class, but six intrepid club members, armed with small brushes and rubbing alcohol, dabbed on dirty red, muddy brown, gritty black, and a variety of other colors in an attempt to quickly age otherwise pristine looking cars with the use of powders. With Bill's tutorage and encouragement, we all took our first brush strokes, which could be likened to a fledgling bird's first flight. I am sure those young birds have the same thought as all of us, "What have I done!!!!!!!!!" Max W. learned quickly and eagerly showed his skills with a prized hopper. It was another rewarding class in a series that Bill has given. From all of us, thank you.

# Hands Across the Tracks



## New Club Program

Need help on your layout?  
Need some new ideas?

We are introducing a new program for the Club where a number of Club members go to another member's house/layout to help with a particular problem or project on their layout. This could also be just a brainstorming session on what the Club member could do on their layout. Perhaps you are just getting started with a track plan and need a few tips. Or you need some new scenery ideas. This new program is designed to garner the expertise, creative ideas and abilities of our members for the benefit of other Club members.

At the last Club meeting , a few members indicated they would like help from other Club members. Just this month, a few members have helped others

ballast track and lay plywood. Are there other members who would like help with their layout? If so, what do you want help on?

This is a great opportunity for you to get some working hands for your layout. Or perhaps, you would like to attend one or more sessions just to learn.

These "Hands" sessions will be held on Saturdays from 10am - 2pm and will be arranged in advance. Several Club members may answer the call for assistance for each session.

Email Bill D. if you want help on your layout or if you would be willing to help other members.

A schedule will be based on responses each month and added to the calendar on the last page of the newsletter.



February 2010						
	1	2 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	3	4 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	5	6 10AM-2 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 
7	8	9 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	10	11 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	12	13 Hands Across the Tracks @ Kerry Schmidt's 
14 Valentine's Day 	15 President's Day 	16 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	17	18 NAOGRRC Meeting 	19	20 10AM-2 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 
21	22	23 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	24	25 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	26	27 Hands Across the Tracks @ TBD 

## Minutes of the Meeting

1/21/2010 at 7pm. at Bill D.'s

Guests- none

# members attending- 26

New members- John C. and Rich E.

Thanks Lois for the food  
Treasurers report from Rick K.

HobbyTown Layout Update- Page 2

Bill D. introduced idea of "Hands across the tracks"-see page 5

Weathering- two workshops  
1. with powders after the meeting-  
2. airbrush weathering on Saturday  
Reports on these workshops on Page 4.

Newsletter will be slightly redesigned  
Articles still welcome  
Suggestions also welcome

Dave H- the train show last week was not well attended by the public, but a great attendance from members. Ted and Dave rewired the Children's layout table and this allows set up to be shorter. The kids were constantly running the trains at the show.

Train Parts order- Feb 15th is deadline. Email Les if you need a part.

Spring Layout Tour will occur again. Be thinking about if you want to show your layout.

Club Picnic- A possible site is the Navy site at Lake Alatoona. We need a date in September after Labor Day.

Rick K. said we may want to appoint an honorary membership for Roger J. since he is unable to attend meetings or activities because of health problems. He was Charter Member #5. If he is an honorary member then he can still have access to the website and emails. He would then be an HCM-5. Richard B. make a resolution that we vote. Seconded and passed.

Choo Choo Bob- free DVDs on trains for Kids. Very fun for all age kids. The address or website in the Newsletter.

Dress Shirts for the Club- website info and embroidering at the local place. More info from Bill coming.

Aquarium car? Torch passed to Les to work with Lionel. Dale has worked it out with the Georgia Aquarium.

Next meeting on February 18th at 7pm at Hobbytown



## Great News

Eric's O-Scale train website, [www.ericstrains.com](http://www.ericstrains.com), was added by "The Collectors Weekly" into their "Hall of Fame" of great collector websites. Check out the little article here:  
<https://www.collectorsweekly.com/>