

# North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club



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

Issue #6- June 2009

**Hobby Town Update**

Follow the progress of the NAOGRRC layout at Hobby Town USA in Kennesaw, GA.

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**Train Dr. Ted**

Dr. Ted answers questions about sick trains.

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**Layout of the Month**

Each month we highlight a layout from one of the members of NAOGRRC with tips and ideas for all

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**Les and his Time Machine**



Train stories from the old days when toy trains were every child's dream.

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**Meeting Minutes**

Just in case you missed the meeting, all of the minutes from the meeting are here.

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**Calendar**

Keep up to date on what the NAOGRRC is doing in the next few weeks.

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## New Officers

Each May the NAOGRRC elects new officers for the term beginning July 1st. In the past, three offices were elected: President, Vice President and Secretary / Treasurer. As of this past January, the club membership has grown to 63 members. The additional members as well as the increased projects and activities of the club warranted the addition of a dedicated Secretary to manage news, minutes, memberships and various other additions such as this newsletter. Cookie took on the Secretary position since January and will again be the Secretary of the Club for the next year.

Curt will continue to be the Treasurer for the next term. Our new Vice President is a



The new NAOGRRC Officers for 2009-2010

relatively new member of NAOGRRC, Rick K.

Ted B. has been our President and leader in every sense of the word for the past 3 years. Under his leadership, we have grown the membership, engaged in a partnership with HobbyTown,

represented NAOGRRC in several train shows and tours and have seen a resurgence in the O-gauge hobby in North Atlanta. We have also learned more about our trains from his Train Dr. Ted articles and his perseverance in solving every electrical or mechanical problem we set on his workbench. We were all reluctantly understanding when Ted decided to step down as President.

Our new President, Les, brings many years of leadership in other train clubs, an exuberance of interest in trains and knowledge of train history and trivia unmatched by most train hobbyists.

We welcome and support all 4 new officers of our club and look forward to the directions they will take us.

**Clear Track Ahead!!!**



# Hobby Town Layout Update

## Tree making will be soon

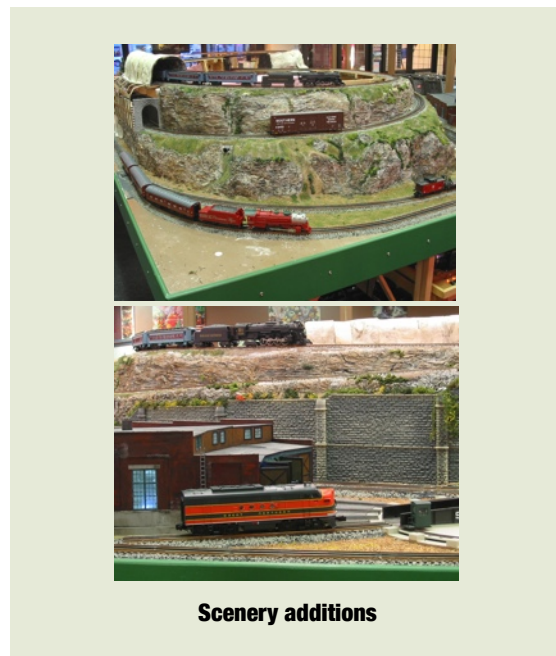
The scenery turnout has been great- thanks to all who came to help in the past month.

Last Tuesday we had 9 members come to HobbyTown to learn, help and just have fun. We had 4 or 5 teams working on different tasks all around the layout. Rock Molds will be a focus this next month. The main ground cover has been created on the layout in the front section. Now we will begin to add taller greenery. We will start creating trees soon.

One team is working on buildings and taken home some laser wood kits. If you would like to work on a kit at home, please contact Bill D.

We will also be pulling out the windows in the ticket booth so we can start scenery there. Bridges and bulkheads will be the next task in the ticket booth.

Work sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday nights and not Saturday in the summer.



Scenery additions

# Featured Columns

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

## Train Dr. Ted

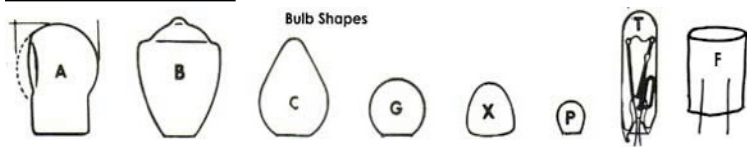


## “And Let There Be Light” – The Right Bulb for the Right Item

Our train hobby uses a lot of lights to help make the trains and accessories come to life. Incandescent light bulbs in these items have been used since the beginning of electric toy trains. Some light bulbs have lasted for nearly 100 years while some have very short lives. There are engines that even carry their own battery if the trains had no electrical power, such as a wind-up engine. This article is about replacing the “correct” replacement bulb.

There are many types of bulbs to fit the particular socket.

### BULB TYPES



### BASE TYPES



**\*JUST BECAUSE A BULB FITS INTO A SOCKET, THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS THE CORRECT BULB!**

**\*HIGHER VOLTAGE BULBS CAN REPLACE LOWER VOLTAGE BULBS IN ALMOST ANY SITUATION (ALTHOUGH NOT IN AN OPERATING CIRCUIT) TO REDUCE HEAT.**

**ENGINES: Most toy train transformers deliver up to 20 volts to the engine.**

I estimate that when I repair Pre & Post War engines, about 20% of them need a replacement light bulb. A few of the bulbs are broken probably from falling or incorrect installation, but most of the 12–16 volt bulbs are burned out from excessive heat. It is remarkable how many engines have their original headlight bulb still working when an 18 volt bulb is in place. If an engine’s headlight bulb is burned out it usually has 12-16 volt headlight bulbs. The lower volt bulbs are used because it gives a brighter headlight. This brighter headlight also creates more heat which greatly shortens the life of the bulb. Also to be considered is the surrounding enclosure of the bulb. Plastics are in jeopardy of deforming if the heat is too close.

Actual case: **Lionel produced the #60 trolley in 1955. The light for the trolley is so close to the roof tops they were melting the roof under the heat of the bulb. The fix was to put in a reflector between the roof and the bulb. The trolley’s repair manual calls for a #53 (12-16 Volt) bulb. If you want to save the roof and the side window strip of people, install a #1445 (18 volt) bulb to get the same lighted effect and save the plastic and the value of the trolley.**

**ROLLING STOCK: Most lighted rolling stock use a 12 -16 volt bulb.**

There are more than one type of 12-16 volt bulb that are used in toy trains. Replace the bulb with the same type that is burned out. Are there exceptions to the rule? Yes!

Actual case: **The number 3520 and 3620 searchlight car. The replacement bulb, in the manual, calls for a #363-300 bulb. The 363-300 is a 14 volt, very hot, running bulb (great for the oil derrick bubble unit) but will have a short life in the housing of the searchlight and can melt a plastic searchlight or reflector lens. A #53 bulb will work just as well without destroying the car. Original equipment 12 volt lights in the Polar Express and the Hogwarts cars (on the Clubs layout) are burning out all of the time. 14 volt bulbs last much longer and light up the car sufficiently.**

# Featured Columns

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## Train Dr. Ted

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**ACCESSORIES: These items do not get much respect when it comes to the correct light replacement.**

The O22 turnout light under the switch head is an 18 volt bulb, nothing less. Some operators like to install a 24 volt bulb to keep the heat down to keep the lens in the cap from distorting. Track bumpers look better when the top 'red' caps are not burned. The #192 Control Tower and the #465 Dispatching Station do not like excessive heat. Use the correct bulb.

**The new 'LED' (Light Emitting Diode) replacement bulbs are a great solution to any engine, rolling stock, and accessory. The heat is gone. You still have to consider the correct mounting base and the light emitting pattern from the LED for the unit.**

**Accessories like the Oil Derrick depends on the heat of its bulb to make the bubble tube create its bubbles. Except for trying to keep an item as original equipment, and the current cost, the LED is the way to go.**

## Swap Meet

The turnout for our first swap meet was small. Only three members were selling train items. HobbyTown had a mixup in the advertising because the RC people didn't know either. We will swap again the next time the RC people do it and hopefully they will advertise better.



## Les and His Time Machine



### What a Garage Sale !

In 2005, one of the members of TMB club on Long Island came to our usual Friday night work sessions.

He said that there was to be a garage sale the next day in West Islip which was about 10 miles from the club. At this time most of the members were modern

Lionel and MTH collectors. He said "Les, you may want to check this out I hear there will be Postwar, HO and N at this sale."

I got 2 guys and myself and we went. We entered into the garage first. Nothing in there for me because it was HO an N gauge. We then went to the backyard where we spotted Lionel Accessories by the dozens. John and Carmelo were my tagalongs. They started putting signals and light-poles and a stop station on the tables that were empty and where you checked out what you are purchasing. I told John to get the 97 coal loader for me. Carmelo picked up E-units by the box full along with relays and smoke units.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw another building that looked like just a shed. I walked over and inside the shed I found a 2033 UP AA diesel, a 2031 Rock Island AA a 2032 AA and probably the best of the find- a 2245 Texas Special AB diesel. I looked around some more and found a 681 Turbine and a whistle tender in pieces in a box in the corner. About now I thought I better see how much damage had been done to my wallet.

Then, as I am walking out, I stumbled on a 2328 Burlington GP 7. You guessed it. I said to myself "Self, you gotta have this." So I grabbed the engine and over to the checkout I went. It was now 5pm and I said enough for the day.

Not so fast, I had not gone into the house yet. I went into the house and found a 356 freight station 415 Diesel fueling station and not one but two 2046's with tenders that needed new wiring. That is it, I said "How much do I owe you?"

The fellow said \$275 !!!! Wow!! What I found was close to \$1000.

I said I will be back tomorrow to hunt some more, We went back Sunday. The person said "I just sold my AM Flyer and everything on the property. Someone even bought the house!" We came to find out that the owners had passed on and the son-in-law was selling all the trains from the hobby shop that the owners ran years back.

I went back there about a year ago, the house was demolished and a bigger house built on the property.

Well, I don't think this could ever happen again, but when I am riding around my area I always "Brake for Garage Sales"

# Featured Columns

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

## Layout of the Month- Al C.

Christmas 1948 was my initiation into O-Gauge model railroading. Santa brought me a Lionel 221 NYC Dreyfuss steam locomotive with tender and three cars. Sixty years later I still enjoy running them on my present layout. In 1951 my dad handcrafted ten buildings from wooden produce crates he got from our neighborhood grocery store in Knoxville, TN. These buildings are replicas of those on Gay Street at that time. In 1952 I bought a Lionel 2023 Union Pacific diesel engine and dummy (with my paper route money). This engine still runs nicely and is my favorite. I played and ran my Lionel trains until my teenage years when everything was boxed up and stored in various closets, attics, and basements of homes and apartments where I lived over the next 50 years.

Two years ago we moved into a new home with a basement large enough to set up a train table. In July 2008 I began construction of my new layout. It measures 6 ft x 12 ft with two independent tracks. The outer loop is a simple 32 ft oval with 0-36 FasTrack and no switches. The inner track is a 30 ft perimeter oval using 0-27 tubular track with an inside figure 8 for reversing train direction. In total, I have 108 feet of track.

There are 10 remote control switches for turnouts and spur tracks. (The switches are named for our 8 grandchildren, plus my loving wife and me). For a long time I battled a shut down problem when an MTH engine crossed some switches. Thanks to Dr. Ted, he found the problem which was eliminated by installing two by-pass capacitors on each switch.

My table is powered by a Lionel ZW transformer - just acquired with the kind help and delivery from President Les. Finally now I can run conventional Lionel and MTH engines simultaneously. In the last year I have acquired three MTH engines with DCS control, two conventional Lionel engines, and 15 various passenger coaches and rolling stock.

Currently I am restoring the wooden buildings my father made 58 years ago. I am adding flooring and interior lighting to each floor level and repainting the exterior to match the original colors. I have only finished one building so far, but have great hopes and plans for completing the nine remaining buildings.

While I am a relatively new club member, I truly appreciate the plentiful advice, repair help, parts acquisition, and comradeship present in our great organization.

For more pictures of my layout, please visit

<http://bowser1422.com/pageone.html>

and click on "Train Activities".



MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
6/18/09 7:00 PM

**Guests:** Tom R., Bob F., Rich E., wives- Julie C. and Jean B.

**New members-** none

# members attending- 24

Cookie- newsletter and request for articles.

Next layout of the month? Let Cookie know.

Ron- HT layout news. See Page 2

Introduction of New Officers-they will take over on July 1st.

- Les-President
- Rick-Vice President
- Curt-Treasurer
- Cookie-Secretary

Treasurer's report-largest expense was the forum license. Rick made a pitch for the Forum- sign up!

Report on First Swap Meet-see page 4

New people- need to buy a T shirt- email Dave H. If you are working at a show or at HobbyTown, you must wear a club T shirt.

Upcoming Shows:

- Aug 8th in Norcross- Railroadiana- need 8-10 people to help with the Children's layout.
- Sept 5th- Saturday- TCA- Southern Poly
- Nov 21-22- Norcross- GTE Expo
- Dec 5th- TCA- Southern Poly

Mark your Calendar- Dec 12th is the Holiday Party

The secretary will send out a reminder about the Forum every week with a link and directions on how to change your profile to receive an email when someone posts.

Bulletin Board out front of the layout.- Jack working on it.

We are using an alternative for track cleaning without Bestine. It is a 50 cent brick and it cleans sheet rock normally- but works great on the track. Demonstration followed.

**Next meeting on 7/16/09 with ' Business Meeting' at 7:00 pm- don't forget.**

## Piedmont Pilgrimage

The web site for the Piedmont Division has updated the information and photos of the club's layout for the tour in November. Just go to <http://www.piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage> and go to the Piedmont tour schedule. Scroll down to November 27th for the club layout from 10am-2pm. Click on the club name and this will bring up the narrative and photos of our layout. Several other members' layouts are scheduled on the tour for the following dates:

- Bill D.- November 21st
- Eric S.- October 31st
- Rick K. and Cookie H.- November 8th

Stay tuned for more details. Dates may change before the official schedule is out.

## Parts Order

The next order for parts will be taken until August 10th The parts dealer will be away until then. So get your want list and e-mail to Les by the deadline.



C A L E N D A R

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JULY 2009</b>						
June 28	29	30 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	July 1	2 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	3	4 Independence Day 
5	6	7 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	8	9 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	10	11 NO work at Hobby Town
12	13	14 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	15	16 NAOGRRC Meeting Tonight! 	17	18 NO work at Hobby Town
19	20	21 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	22	23 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	24	25 NO work at Hobby Town
26	27	28 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	29	30 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	31	August 1 NO work at Hobby Town
<b>AUGUST 2009</b>						
2	3	4 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	5	6 6-9 PM Work @ at Hobby Town 	7	8 37th Atlanta Model Train & Railroadiana Show 