

NAMASTE, Y'ALL
Find your perfect
yoga class

OH MY QUAD!
What it's like to have
four babies—all at once

VOGTLE
DOUBLING DOWN
ON NUCLEAR
POWER
P. 114

Atlanta

Road Trip!

4 FABULOUS FALL GETAWAYS

Paddle the rapids
Bunk up on a farm
Wander apple orchards
Climb a peak
Zip through the trees

→
**FORT
MOUNTAIN**
in North Georgia



REVIEW
The city's
best
pasta
maker
opens a
restaurant

Home ▾ News & Opinion ▾ Arts & Events ▾ Tiny Terminus: For nearly 70 years, model trains have quietly circled tracks...

Tiny Terminus: For nearly 70 years, model trains have quietly circled tracks in Old Fourth Ward

The Great Southern Lines is the largest model train layout in Atlanta

BY SCOTT HENRY - OCTOBER 12, 2016



Railroad Model Club of Atlanta president Pete Silcox

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREA FREMIOTTI

Beyond an antique wood-frame glass door opening onto Edgewood Avenue and up a creaking stairway lies the territory of the Great Southern Lines—otherwise known as the largest model train layout in Atlanta. You could also call it one of the best-kept secrets in the city, since few passersby likely are aware that just above the Old 4th Distillery is a 1,400-square-foot, man-made landscape of hills, bridges, depots, and towns, with more than 93 working track switches. It's also almost certainly the oldest layout in metro Atlanta, having occupied the cramped, low-ceilinged space since the mid-1940s. The building itself has long been owned by the Railroad Model Club of Atlanta, which claims to have met nearly every Monday night since its founding in February 1937. The past few decades, however, have seen a gradual decline in club membership—which now sits at just 15 mostly older men—that parallels the shrinking interest in model trains. “When kids are very little, they’re fascinated by trains, until they discover video games,” laments club president Pete Silcox of Kennesaw.