



# American Flyer "S" Gaugers of the St. Louis Area

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## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER April 2024

### AFSGSLA Club Events and Related Activities:

As with the last several newsletters, we are combining the planned club events and the other related activities. Although we will not necessarily participate in some of the following events as a club, they are included in this somewhat comprehensive listing for your information. We suggest you keep this newsletter for your future reference and attend our club meetings for full details.

**Friday, April 12, 2024:** Club meeting hosted by **Joel Weber**. Joel's address and contact information is 1124 Pinrun Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011. His phone number is 630-977-9323 and email is [weber1b14@gmail.com](mailto:weber1b14@gmail.com). He said parking in the driveway is fine. He also encourages carpooling, just to limit the number of cars on the street. Last year we got to see his in-progress layout. This time we can see the changes that he has made since last year. **THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT MEETING!** We will be discussing the 2024 Fall S Fest hosted by us. Much planning has already been done. Hotel contract has been negotiated and signed. We have received the sample cars from American Models and they will be on display at the meeting, turned out fantastic! We should also decide what club layouts to display at the S-Fest hotel. If we do two there would have to be another tow volunteer. People will have the opportunity to sign up for the various tasks.

**Saturday, April 13, 2024:** The Sons of the American Legion Train Show, Dupo American Legion Post #485, 200 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Dupo, Illinois 62239 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission is \$3.00 per person.

**Saturday, April 27, 2024: 8th Anniversary Railroad Swap Meet** Sponsored by the Iron Spike Model Train Museum, Washington City Auditorium, 211 High Street, Washington MO 63090. Admission \$8, includes same day admittance to Iron Spike Museum. Show time is 10 am – 3 pm. For more information call (636) 283-5163/5166 or email [info@ironspike.org](mailto:info@ironspike.org) or check out the [Iron Spike Model Train Museum website](#)

**Saturday, May 11, 2024: After the Storm Train Show:** 10 am - 3 pm Arnold Eagles Club, 1725 Jeffco Blvd. Admission \$3.00, 12 and under FREE. We will display our double helix. Craig Tarpoff will have tables next to the DH to sell AF Starter Sets.

**Friday, September 6, 2024:** Cliff Saxton once invited us for our September club meeting. Plan in arriving at the usual 7:00 p.m. time. **Cliff** has made our visit to his home an annual event and it is always an exciting and fun filled event.

**Saturday, September 7, 2024:** Boeing Railroad Club swap meet at Queeny Park. We will display our sectional layout.

**Saturday, September 28, 2024:** Pacific Eagles Train Show. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 707 Congress Street, Pacific, Missouri. Admission is \$4.00.

**Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6, 2024:** Mississippi Valley N Scalers (MVNS) show, no date yet, but it will again be at the Meramec Community College Gym, Kirkwood MO. It is anticipated that we will be displaying our sectional layout this year.

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 25, 26, and 27: 2024 S Fest** – hosted by us at the Doubletree Westport, the same hotel as the last couple of times. See below for more details.

**Saturday, November 16, 2024:** The Dupo Train Show. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 200 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Dupo, Illinois. Admission is \$3.00. It is anticipated that we will be displaying our double-helix layout this year.

AND

Most of this year is available!

Fellows, please consider hosting a meeting in 2024. See note from Dave Stevens further down in the newsletter.

### What's been happening?

**Saturday, March 9, 2024:** Boeing Railroad Club swap meet at Queeny Park. We will be displaying our sectional layout at this show. **Barry Dolan** coordinated this event.

### This and That

**St. Louis Lionel Railroad Club** – As you might have heard, the last train has departed St. Matthias. The Lionel club moved in to their new location on Watson Road, otherwise known as historic route 66. The club is now located in the same shopping center where Grant's Cabin restaurant used to be, although it is at the opposite end of the shopping center. The location is 8460 Watson Road Suite 120 (But you must enter the purple doors marked 130 go inside and turn down hall to the left. Club door is 2 doors down on RIGHT.

**2024 Fall S Fest** – THIS IS US!! As previously announced, it will be October 25 to 27. We will return to the Doubletree Westport, the same hotel as last couple of times. There will be two cars from American Models, both TOFC's (trailer on Flat Car). One decorated for Missouri Pacific and the other one decorated for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois. American Models said this the first time they ever did anything for the C&EI, which alone makes this car special. Limited quantities are available, so order early. Only one set of cars will be available per registrant, extra cars, if any, will be sold at the S Fest.

**American Model Builders** - is now closed and the LASERkit product line has been discontinued. The family of the late John Hitzeman, founder, and owner, and the extended AMB family, would like to thank the model railroad community and our contract customers for over 40 years of patronage! They were located in St. Louis and were one of the few makers of S scale laser kits.

**Midwest Money Layout Open House** - Sponsored by the Midwest Money Company, on the First Sunday of every month from 11:00 A.M. to 4: P.M. They are located at 5901 Hampton, St. Louis MO just across Holly Hills Street. The layout is rather large, fully developed scenery 3 rail O-Scale layout. This rather

large layout may be one of only a very few which can be claimed to be 100% complete. This location is in South St. Louis City, roughly halfway between Chippewa and Gravois.

**Special notice from David Stevens:** As you know we are hoping to get back to our monthly in-person club meetings. So far, we have had only 2 club members who have volunteered to host meetings this year. David tells us that we still need volunteers to host a club meeting in the future. He says that if you have not hosted a meeting recently---or ever---please consider doing so. It is a great way to “pay your dues” and the club pays the host a modest fee to offset expenses for refreshments. We have often said (and our hosts have agreed) that there is no surer way of getting your train room shaped up than hosting a club meeting. David Stevens will help you with the details, if you just contact him at telephone: 314-921-1127 (landline, no text) or [stevens8128@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevens8128@sbcglobal.net).

In memoriam:

We are saddened to announce the death of two of our long-time members, Marc Brabb, and Jim Bresenahan. Both members were very helpful in our past S FESTS and will be greatly missed.

**Notes from your Co-Coordinator!**

**TOM SCHNUR**  
AFSGSLA Co-Coordinator  
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**RICK ARCHESKI**  
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That's it for now, more later:

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**-And remember, “It’s just for the fun of it!”**