



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

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

May 2018

AFSGSLA Club Events and Related Activities:

This is a different format, in which 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.

Saturday, May 12, 2018: **Mark Hieger** has invited us to hold our May meeting at his Troy, Missouri home and view the considerable changes he has made to his layout. We will also report on the progress with the FSF-2019 planning. This event is scheduled to start around Noon and run until 3:00 P.M. **Please note the previous newsletter had the time listed incorrectly as going to 5:00 P.M.** Mark's address is 311 Sunbrook Court – Troy, MO 63379, and his Telephone is 636/ 462-4952. He also says that if you plan to attend the meeting, a good landmark to look for to make the left turn off of Northbound Hwy 61 is a Dollar General Store on the corner of Hwy. 61 and Creech Lane. They have a pretty big yellow sign in front of the store that can be seen from Hwy 61. Car pools are suggested; and it is not fair to complain about the distance to Troy. After all, it is the same distance that Mark travels from his Troy home to our various in-town events.

Saturday, June 16, 2018: **John and Pat Nosari** will be hosting our meeting and an open house on the same day as Ray Drendel's open house. **NOTE: This is a date change from the previously published date.** John's address is 120 Downing Dr., Chatham IL 62629. His phone is 217-483-8276 (HOME) and cell is 217-652-8276. Rather than try to summarize here, please see the invite from John at the end of this newsletter.

Saturday, July 28, 2018 and Sunday, July 29, 2018: **The Great Train Expo** train show will be held in Belleville Illinois. We may participate in this show. More info as it gets closer.

Friday, September 7, 2018: **Cliff Saxton** has offered his train room and toy museum for our September club meeting. He suggests we plan on gathering at 7:00 pm. **Cliff** has made our visit to his home an annual event and it is always an exciting and fun filled event. Future newsletters will contain the details about this club meeting.

Saturday, September 8, 2018: **Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet**, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, St. Louis County, Missouri. We will display our layout at this event.

Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14, 2018: Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. The show will be open to the public Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 11am to 4 pm. It is anticipated that we will display the sectional layout at this show and we ask that you show up Saturday at 8 am to help with the set up. .

Friday – Sunday, November 2-4, 2018: The 43rd Annual Fall S Fest hosted by CASG (Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers) at Georgio's Banquets and Quality Inn and Suites, 8800 West 159th Street, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. You should have received the FSF-2018 information packet from CASG.

Saturday, November 10, 2018: Dupo Train Show where we will display our double helix layout. The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 2 pm, and you are asked to show up at 7:30 am to help set up.

Saturday, November 17, 2017 Club meeting at **John Schlum's** St. Charles, MO home, and this will be the second time we will be meeting in his home. John was nice enough to avoid a conflict with the Dupo Show.

Saturday & Sunday, November 24-25, 2018: Great Train Show: Collinsville (Illinois) Convention Center. We may participate in this show. More info as it gets closer.

Saturday, December 1, 2018: TCA Christmas Train Show: Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, MO. It is anticipated that we will be displaying our double helix layout at this event.

Saturday, December 8, 2018: Mike and Cheryl Neace have invited us to hold our December Club meeting at their Godfrey, Illinois home. More info as it gets closer.

Friday, March 8, 2019: Dave Stone invited us to have our meeting at his home.

What's been happening?

March 10, 2018: Boeing train show, Charles Albietz has again arranged to have our club layout at this show. **Barry Dolan** coordinated the event.

March 16, 2018 Club Meeting: The March meeting was held at the Lionel Club and was co-hosted by **Larry Strassburger, John Nosari, Barry Dolan, and Gary Mueller**. Important topics discussed were the upcoming Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019) hosted by us and the new club roster was distributed

April 20, 2018: Tom Schnur invited us to his house for our April meeting. This was the fourth meeting Tom has hosted and it was a delightful; gathering and sharing of information and experiences.

AFSGSLA's Club Order of Special Cars:

As always, if you are interested in participating in these club orders, it would be to your advantage to attend the club meetings where details are made available and arrangements are finalized.

---The status of the Special Cars previously ordered is summarized as follows:

2017 TCA Cars: This is the TCA 2017 offering, consisting of 3 different Lionel American Flyer S Gauge Cars. The first two cars are a P&LE Flatcar with Die-Cast Jeep Vehicle Load # 16001 & #16002. The postwar version of this flatcar was offered with plastic (editor's note: TCA wording, we all know better) abstract versions of this world-famous vehicle. To provide a unique car, this new version will feature scale 3/16" die cast vehicles. There will be two car numbers offered—16001 & 16002—available individually or as a set. Price was \$84.95 each or \$ 159.95 for the set of two. Shipping is included. The third car is a MTH S Harmony Creamery Reefer. The MTH offering is geared more towards the scale S collector and will have all the detail and scale features of its reefer predecessors. Price was \$64.95 which Includes shipping. The delivery of these units is overdue as discussed in the following paragraph.

The club order had been sent in and we were informed that the delivery of the Lionel produced cars was scheduled for late November 2017. And here we are in March 2018 and we still have not received the Lionel cars. Even worse is the fact that TCA now expects the delivery of the 2017 MTH produced cars to be June 2018. (There is speculation that MTH will soon abandon production and offering of S-Scale units.)

2018 TCA Cars: The S Gauge car for 2018 is a Lionel Ben and Jerry's billboard Reefer. A single car sells for \$69.95, 3 pack for \$204.95 and a six pack for \$399.95. A note says that there are six different road numbers and SKU's. For the single and three pack, random non-duplicate numbers will sent, the six pack insures one of each. The order period is now over.

Atlantic Division (TCA) announces an American Flyer A&P Wood-sided Reefer These cars are in stock and ready for immediate shipment. *Note: Limited Quantities remain.* The single car is priced at \$52.99, plus plus shipping (free Local pickup available). There are also two multi-packs consisting of three (3) or six (6) different car numbers. The 3-pack is \$149.99 and the 6-pack is \$279.99 plus shipping. We are not planning to submit a club order

This and That

The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019): At the March meeting we discussed the concept and reviewed the history of the annual Fall S Fests (FSF), in order to inform our newer members and remind of long-term members. AFSGSLA sponsors (or hosts) the FSF every fourth year, rotating it between the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Rockford area clubs. Our next turn will be in 2019 and it will be the seventh time we had done that. We realize it is about time to start our planning for the FSF-2019. The steering committee is made up of Moe Berk, Charles Albietz, Charley Taylor, Vince Love, David Stone, Pete Mihelich, Paul Wehrle, Rick Archeski and Gary Mueller. The committee has met and began the planning work. The number of FSF-2019 tasks or activities has been identified and Steering Member **Pete Mihelich** sent out an email (dated April 30, 2018) with the solicitation of volunteers for these various activities. A brief report on the FSF-2019 will be presented at the May meeting.

Free Train Rides: The St. Louis Live Steamers Public Run Day Schedule for the remainder of 2018 is:

May 19th, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, September 15th and October 13th. Steam trains will run from 11:30 until 3:30 pm at Kircher Park. The park is located just south of Interstate 44 on Williams Road on the east side of Eureka, MO. If headed going west on I-44 from St. Louis, exit at State Route 109, go under I-44, then immediately get back on I-44 eastbound for about half a mile. Then exit I-44 at Williams Road (Exit 265). The park is on the right at the bottom of the exit ramp. They are across Flat Creek in the park. . .

Mark Twain Hobby Center: Our member **John Burke** made the initial contact with Mark Twain Hobby about their 10% discount program. We followed up with their Kevin, learned the program details, and enrolled the AFSGSLA members in that program. In summary, it is a 10% discount “across the board” program for all but a very few items they sell. Kevin told us that they limit their advertising through email and that each of you will receive an email with the details of their program.

Midwest Money Layout Open House - Sponsored by the Midwest Money Company, on the First Sunday of every month from 11 am - 4 pm. They are located at 5901 Hampton, St. Louis MO cross street Holly Hills. The layout is rather large, fully developed scenery 3 rail O-Scale layout. This layout may be one of only a very few which can be claimed to be 100% complete. This location is in South St, Louis, roughly halfway between Chippewa and Gravois.

Special notice from David Stevens: We have had a number of our faithful club members who have volunteered to host future meetings. Although our **David Stevens** is especially pleased with the excellent response to his recent requests, he tells us that we still need club members to volunteer to host club meeting in the future. He states that if you have not hosted a meeting recently---or ever---please careful consider doing so. It is a great way to “pay your dues” and it really is not much trouble to host a club meeting (the club pays our 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 then hosting a club meeting. **David Stevens** will help you with the details, if you just contact him at Telephone: 314/ 921-1127 or stevens8128@sbcglobal.net.

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

Whenever I am working on the newsletter, one thing I try for is to not use a big word when a singularly unloquacious and diminutive linguistic expression will satisfactorily accomplish the contemporary necessity.

Notes from the Co-Ordinator:

That's it for now, more later:

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

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AFSGSLA EVENT – Saturday, June 16, 2018

John and Pat Nosari Open House and
Ray Drendel's Live Steam Open House
120 Downing Drive
Chatham IL 62629
217-652-8276

Johnnosari@msn.com

April 22, 2018

Dear Fellow AFSGSLA Club Members:

As a result of the interest in having my meeting coincide with Ray Drendel's Live steam open house, I moved the meeting date to June 16th. His tracks are 3 miles from my house in Glenarm Illinois. Ray's open house encompasses a regional meeting of Live Steam operators and there will be a lot of visiting steam locomotives. In addition to his live steam operation which includes a scale roundhouse, turntable, trestle and 10 acres of track he also has a separate building that is decorated as a RR station with a Lionel layout, and other scale RR models. His scale is 8 inches which is about half the size of the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific. Ray will have food available but I remind you that we will be serving food all Saturday afternoon so please save some of your appetite. I have two train layouts that operate, have buildings but no scenery. An American Flyer layout 21 X 10 ½ feet. It has two mainlines connected by 2 crossovers and can be run point to point. My O gauge layout is 18 x 36 but most of it is 13 feet wide. It has a Ross transfer table, one main line and 5 yards. Due to a lack of DCS signal strength I have removed the DCS from the track. I hope to have it restored by your visit. Both layouts have TMCC and Legacy and I have a large collection of Lionel Flyer Legacy locomotives. My O gauge collection has at least 45 scale steam locomotives that include articulated and streamlined steam engines from all major manufacturers. There are many other locomotives in my collection that include diesel and traditional size O. My S scale collection includes post war Gilbert, American Models, S helper Service and 2 MTH reefers. **Ray and his live steamers would appreciate it if you would arrive at his house after 11 am. They start winding things down by 3 pm. I will be open starting at 1:30 and you are welcome up to 6 pm and if we have some good socializing going on maybe beyond that. Also I will be serving Italian Roast beef, potato salad, and dessert. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to pass to enhance socializing and the eating experience. Families, girlfriends, significant others, children are all welcome. Directions are as follows.**

Ray Drendel's

Going north on Interstate 55 from Interstate 270 take exit 83 Glenarm Exit. At the end of the exit ramp, go left (west) crossing over the interstate. Ray lives on this road. Take this road past the frontage road which has a sign that says Glenarm and camping to the right. You will cross a RR track. Continue and you will find Ray's house the 3rd on the right after the RR tracks. It is about 1/4-1/2 mile once you cross the tracks. You will know it because of all the cars and activity going on.

To get to my house from Ray's, backtrack, to the frontage road and make a left turn heading north. Continue on this road for about 3 miles. The road will divide and a street will come in within 300 feet and there will be a stop light. This street is Chatham Road. Make a left heading west. If you miss this turn you will see Armbruster Tent Co on the right and you have gone too far. After you make a left on Chatham Rd. you will pass up Glenwood Middle school, a Casey's and at the Intersection of Illinois highway 4 is a Family Video. By this time the name of the road changed to Walnut but it is the same road. Continue on Walnut across Illinois 4 and you will cross a small bridge with a cemetery on both sides of the road. The next street is Downing. Make a left and I am the 3rd house on the left. My address and cell telephone number are in the letterhead. My land line is disconnected. There is a stone on the front of my house with the word "Williams" on it. There is a common ground area with 2 drive way accesses immediately south of my house. You may park in the common ground area unless it is raining.

Thanks and remember it's just for the fun of it. Also if you are coming it would be nice if you RSVP by email, text or call so I have an idea of how many to expect. I also invited the live steamers to join us.

Pat and I are looking forward to hosting you. Warm regards

John and Pat Nosari