



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

Website: [www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/](http://www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/)

E-Mail: [afsgsla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afsgsla@sbcglobal.net)

---

## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

November 2018

### 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.

**Saturday, November 10, 2018: Dupo Train Show** is 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 **Barry Dolan** and the set up crew.

**Saturday, November 17, 2018:** Our club meeting will be hosted by **John and Wendy Schlum** at their home at 1337 Robert Ridge Drive St. Charles, Missouri from Noon to 3 pm. This will be the second time we will be meeting in their home and the last time we were really impressed with the extent of his collection. **John** was nice enough to adjust the date, to avoid a conflict with the Dupo Show.

**Saturday & Sunday, November 24-25, 2018: Great Train Show:** Collinsville (Illinois) Convention Center. As is the usual case with GTE, we will not know our status until shortly before the show but we fully expect to be included in the show. If so we will meet Saturday at 8:00 A.M. to unload and setup our sectional layout. The show will be open to the public from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on both Saturday and Sunday. **Barry Dolan** is coordinating this event and would especially like help with the take down/load out at 4:00 P.M. Sunday.

**Saturday, December 1, 2018: TCA Christmas Train Show:** This will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, Missouri. We will be displaying our double helix layout at this event. The show hours will be from 9 am to 3 pm, and you are asked to be there at 7:30 am to help **Barry Dolan** and the set up crew.

**Thursday, December 6, 2018:** Installation of our 8x8 layout at the CNB (Citizen's National Bank) in Maplewood. We will begin at 2:00 P.M. **Barry Dolan** is coordinating.

**Saturday, December 15, 2018: Mike and Cheryl Neace** have invited us to hold our December Club meeting at their Godfrey, Illinois home. We will meet from Noon until about 3 pm. **NOTE THAT THE DATE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE DATE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED.**

**Thursday, December 27, 2018: (tentative, but probable)** Take down of the CNB layout at the CNB bank in Maplewood. We will begin at 2:00 P.M. As before, **Barry Dolan** is coordinating this event

### What's been happening?

**September 7, 2018: Cliff and Gail Saxton** hosted our September club meeting. Main topics discussed were a report on the 2019 FALL S FEST hosted by us and carpooling and hotel room sharing for the 2018 Fall S Fest in Chicago.

**September 8, 2018: Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet:** We displayed our sectional layout at this event. **Charlie Albietz** arranged our participation in this show and **Barry Dolan** coordinated the event.

**October 13 & 14, 2018: Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) train show:** We displayed our sectional layout at this show. **Barry Dolan** coordinated the event.

**October 19, 2018:** Our long-time member **Charley Taylor** had invited us to his home and train room for our October club meeting. It had been a couple years since we visited there and we got to see what the many club members accomplished on the layout under **Charley's** supervision. **Charley** also invited several former club members to the meeting and we got to be reacquainted with several old friends.

**November 2-4, 2018:** The 43rd Annual Fall S Fest hosted by CASG (Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers). Several members attended. See the **This and That** section for a write-up of the event.

### **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 TTOS Car:** The notice for this 2017 TTOS car offering was just announced. (*Ed: What do you mean the 2017 Car? Oh, I remember this is from Lionel.*) It is an American Flyer by Lionel (**Limited Production**) Generator (or HEP) Car. It is attractively painted in Blue and Silver, the official colors of the Nevada State Railroad Museum. And it was proposed by the TTOS Silver State Division. The car is priced at \$64.95 each with shipping extra. TTOS is also offering these car as 3-pack and 6-pack sets. The club order was submitted on August 18, 2018.

**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. The delivery of these units is now shown as October 2018.

**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.

**2016 S Fest Sprecher Rootbeer Reefer – SOON?** These cars finally made it to the MTH shipping schedule. It shows October 2018.

**2019 TCA Convention car - The** only American Flyer S Gauge car is a White Sands Missile Range Flat. This is the basic postwar flatcar with two missiles, only decorated different. Two road numbers are available. If you order one car, you will get a random number. The two car set contains one of each number. Early Bird pricing ends on August 31, 2018. Early bird pricing is \$66.45 for a single car and \$123.45 for the two car set. After August 31, 2018, the cars are \$69.95 for a single car and \$129.95 for the two packs. End date for ordering is October 31, 2018.

### **This and That**

**Fall S-Fest 2018 report:** The FSF-2018 is now history. Another great FSF held by the CASG (Chicago Area S Gaugers). This was the first time at this venue, Georgio's Banquets and Quality Inn and Suites in Orland Park, which is just slightly north of Tinley Park where previous FSF's were held. This was one, if not the best, places for a FSF in recent memory. The trading room itself was somewhat odd shaped which allowed for wide aisles as well as tables around the perimeter. It was extremely well lit, which is becoming much more important at our ages. As usual, there were lots of things to buy, with prices seeming to hold pretty well steady from last year. Hard to find items commanded an even higher price, while there were lots of bargains on the common items. There a couple of dealers who apparently did not get the memo that you can no longer charge \$25.00+ for a very common car in poor condition. As usual **Gary Clark's** museum filled a large part of one row. **Don Heimburger** and his multitude of tables was back after being gone last year due to **Don** being in Europe attending a book publisher's convention. My only disappointment with the trading room was that although there were several people selling parts, none of the big parts guys were there. I guess I have to break down and mail order them and pay the shipping. The 2018 cars by American Models were available for pick-up. There were lots of attendance prizes, raffle and auction items, of which I didn't win a single one, and yes I did buy raffle tickets. The clinics were excellent. Absent this year were the train races, and the incline challenge. Participation and attendance has been steadily dropping and it was decided it was time to give them a rest. The model contest had more entries than recent years. **John Nossari** took second place in the structures category with his engine house and I took third with a scratch built gas station. Joe McDoakes made his usual appearance. The banquet food was fantastic, with soup, salad, a plate of both chicken and beef, and a large bowl of pasta with lots of sliced Italian sausage was put on the table to be shared family style. **Moe** flirted with our server and he was the only one at our table who got two deserts. Next year's FSF-2019 will be hosted by us and the bar was raised quite high.

**The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019):** Planning is now well underway for AFGSLA to host the 2019 Fall S Fest. 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 now met several times and has made a number of accomplishments. A brief report was provided at the September meeting. The two big items are completed; the contracts for both the hotel and the meet cars have been signed. After the first of the New Year, work on the packet will begin.

**Peter Mihelich** is assembling the listing of volunteers and assigned tasks. As always, early volunteers get to choose their tasks while later volunteers are assigned their tasks.

**Want ad:** This previously appeared in the February 1952 issue of Electric Trains magazine. The ad itself is somewhat dated, but rather than update it, I thought it would be more fun in its original form.

*"WANTED: Toy trains or equipment. 11 children in family; father out of work; mother in hospital, please make this a happy Christmas. large quantity pick-ups. Call Hollis 8-4025. Won't you please help us? Note: unusable equipment will be returned. Signed, DESTITUTE FAMILY"*

**Previously Published news from Lionel:** Our good friend **Mark Hieger** recently reported on the new Lionel/American Flyer new numbering system being used in their latest catalog. **Mark** reports:

The new numbers are typically seven digit numbers. Most now begin with "19". That number is to represent the year of production as in 2019. The number does not reflect the catalog year...but rather when the item will be produced. (That sounds optimistic what with the long time between catalog appearance and delivery of some items).☺ The second two numbers are the marketing category and for S scale the numbers used are 17-21, where: 17. Sets, 18. Track, 19. Rolling Stock, 20. Accessories, and 21. Locomotives.

**Now, isn't that informative and helpful?**

#### **AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY TO FURTHER CONFUSE THE MATTER**

As Mark reported above, the second two numbers represent the marketing category. There is an additional second two numbers in the marketing category that we may be interested in, 01 which denotes special non-cataloged items. Our Budweiser cars for the 2019 Fall S Fest are numbered 1901081 and 1901082. The O gauge 2019 Anheuser-Busch car for the St. Louis Lionel Railroad Club is 1901310, so the '01' as the second two numbers will not help us distinguish the scale.

**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 AFGSLA 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 club meetings. **David** is especially pleased to report the tentative scheduled 2019 club meetings and the generous host volunteers. Complete details will be available later.

**January 2019** hosted by **Rick Archeski**

**February 2019** hosted by **Norm and Scott Pilarski**

**March 2019** hosted by **Dave Stone**

**April 2019** hosted by **Tom Schnur**

**May 2019** – Available

**June 2019** – Available

**July 2019** – Summer Break

**August 2019** – Summer Break

**September 2019** hosted by **Cliff Saxton**

**October 2019** hosted by **Charley Taylor**

**November 2019 – Available**

**December 2019** hosted by **Mike Neace**

Interested in hosting one of the available dates? Please carefully consider doing so. . **David Stevens** will help you with the details, if you just contact him at Telephone: 314/ 921-1127 or [stevens8128@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevens8128@sbcglobal.net).

**Notes from the Newsletter Editor:**

I have attempted to include a flyer of the FSF-2019 Meet Car in the attached file; enjoy.

**Notes from the Co-Ordinator:**

Nothing this time.

**That's it for now, more later:**

**-And remember, "It's just for the fun of it!"**

**GARY MUELLER**  
**AFSGSLA Newsletter Editor**  
[gmatmueller@aol.com](mailto:gmatmueller@aol.com)

**MOE BERK,**  
**AFSGSLA Co-Ordinator**  
[afsgsla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afsgsla@sbcglobal.net)