



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

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## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

November 2009

### AFSGSLA Club Events:

**Friday, November 13, 2009, Gary Brandenburger** has offered his home for our November club meeting. **Gary's** home is located at 58 Cynthiana Court in Florissant, Missouri and his telephone number is 314/ 838-1476. We will discuss the club history project and the many events scheduled for the club. **Moe Berk** will deliver the TTOS Special Cars we ordered. We will also consider the latest TCA and TTOS Special Car offerings. (A word of caution: Be sure to check your Mapquest.com® very carefully. Our Co-Ordinator reports that the last few times he drove to **Gary's** home, he somehow ended up in the neighboring subdivision.)

**Saturday, November 14, 2009,** The work session to install the Macy's 2009 Holiday Window Layout has been approved. We will meet at 10:00am and expect to complete the work by late afternoon. The status of Macy's downtown Department Store is discussed later in this newsletter.

**Thursday, December 3, 2009, Barry Dolan** has tentatively scheduled the CNB-Maplewood project for 3:00pm. The bank wants the layout in place by then so it can be part of the Maplewood Christmas Walk on 12-4-09.

**Friday, December 4, 2009, Jim Anderson** has invited us to his St. Charles, Missouri home for our December club meeting. **Jim's** home is located at 6 Dixie Way in St. Charles, Missouri and his telephone number is 636/ 922-4224. We understand **Jim** has been putting a considerable amount of effort in modifying and improving his layout, and we are anxious to see it.

**Friday, January 8, 2010, Norm and Ione Pilarski,** once again, have generously offered their Ballwin, Missouri home for our annual Christmas Party. This event is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding club events and we appreciate the Pilarski's hospitality.

**Friday, February 5, 2010, Barry Dolan and Marc Brabb** have offered to host our February club meeting. We will send details at a later time.

### Future Club Meetings:

**Thank You David Stevens!** At this time, all of our club meetings have been scheduled through February 2010. **David's** service is a most valuable contribution to our club's activities and success. Please contact **David** (at 314/ 921-1127) to volunteer to host a meeting; we will need a host for the various club meetings starting in March 2010.

## Other Scheduled Events:

Saturday & Sunday, November 28 & 29, 2009, Great Train Expo – Collinsville, IL 10:00am. At this time they tell us they only have room for out double helix layout.

Saturday, December 5, 2009, TCA Show – Life Christian Center 9:00am. **Be sure to mark your calendars, as we have been invited to display our large layout at this show**

Saturday, January 30, 2010, TCA Show – Olivette Lutheran Parish Center 9:00am. **We have been invited to display our small (or double helix) layout at this show; mark you calendars.**

Sunday, June 20, 2010, Museum of Transportation's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We are honored that the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation has invited us to participate in this special celebration. They have told us that, in the past, they had received many favorable comments regarding our display layout. We will be working out the details and reporting at a later date; but, **please mark your calendar and save this date.**

Friday, September 10, 2010, **Cliff Saxton** has volunteered to host our club meeting in his toy train museum. More later.

Friday – Sunday, October 21-22, 2010, Fall S Fest, Tinley Park (Chicago), Rockford, Illinois

## What's been happening?

September 11, 2009, We returned to the home of **Cliff Saxton** to kick off our 2009-2010 season. As always, it was a special evening in an outstanding train room.

October 10 & 11, 2009 – We displayed our sectional layout at the Mississippi Valley N Gaugers in Kirkwood. Barry Dolan coordinated this event, and it went well.

October 16, 2009, **Charles Taylor** held our October club meeting in his home. We all got tot see the progress on Charlie's layout and well as make final arrangements for the 2009 FSF.

November 6-8, 2009, **Fall S Fest-2009**, The 2009 Fall S-Fest is now in the history books. A surprisingly large number (approximately 25) of AFSGSLA club members ventured north to Rockford, Illinois in very un-traditional FSF weather – no snow, sleet, rain or cold – light jacket weather. This was a pretty standard FSF with all the usual activities. This year the raffle included two additional categories – an art raffle (railroad themed) and an engine raffle besides the usual general raffle. Those who bought tickets could chose among the various categories. **Moe Berk** had the winning ticket for the twin Rock Island engine set, but **John Nosari** claimed them and took them home. This years FSF car (Rock Island boxcars by SHS) was a sell-out – none were available at the FSF. The location got mixed results – generally very positive from the non-dealer attendees – nice rooms, short walks and very reasonable fast food available within the complex (Pizza Hut Express which also sold burgers, nachos, etc. at regular fast food prices). The dealer's complaint was the half flight of stairs up to the trading room or the full stairs to the downstairs overflow trading room. The banquet was also a sell-out, with no tickets available at the registration desk. The banquet had all the usual features along with the traditional visit from Joe McDokes; a non-typical feature was the community-sing! Those of us that had the prime rib at the banquet thought it was some of the best prime rib we ever had. The guest speaker was a retired railroad engineer from the Rock Island (along with other) railroads. The auction had a professional auctioneer and the usual assortment of item to bid on. Overall, it was a very successful FSF

## This and That":

**AFSGSLA's History** to be written. A number of club members have been asking us to prepare the club's history, fearing the many great accomplishments and stories will be lost. **Gary Brandenburger** has agreed to undertake the first phase; to assemble photographs of the many club activities. **BUT**, your assistance is needed. Bring or send your photographs to **Gary**. He assures us he will return them just as soon as he has reviewed and copied them. With the collection of photographs prepared, we will be able to start preparing the written history. **We need you to do your part.**

**Downtown Macy's** – A recent article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported that Macy's plans to remodel the entire downtown store, early next year. Included in the plans they will reduce the store to three floors of retail sales from the current seven floors. They will also reserve two upper floors for their offices and convert the remaining upper floors to office space, for lease. This would make it more in line with their typical mall store operations. None of this will affect our 2009 Holiday Great Train Window. But, we will need to consider what we might do for 2010. **Moe Berk** will be meeting with Macy's early next year to discuss how Macy's plan will affect our planning for the 2010 Holiday Great Train Window; and in fact, the status of future train windows.

**Fall S-Fest 2010.** The 2010 FSF will return to Tinley Park, Illinois on October 22 thru 24, 2010. This is the same location where the previous two Chicagoland FSF's were held. It is reported that the FSF-2010 meet car will be two different versions of EJ&E (Elgin, Joliet and Eastern) boxcars.

**OTHER NEWS ITEMS:**

**PCC Streetcar in S Scale** – An article in the recent issue of Trolley Talk stated that IHP models are working on the patterns for an S scale PCC streetcar. The PCC car was designed by the President's Conference Committee, the presidents of several electric railway companies met to design a revolutionary new streetcar – hence the name. The bulk of the prototype cars were built here in St. Louis by the St. Louis Car Company in north St. Louis. PCC cars ran in St. Louis until May 1966. St. Louis Public Service ordered 300 of the cars, some which were later acquired by Bi-State. In addition, double ended PCC cars were operated between St. Louis and Granite City by the Illinois Terminal Railroad until the late 1950's. The car the IHP is modeling is a pre-war PCC car – distinguished by the lack of standee windows (the top little windows people who were standing in the car could look out). St. Louis Public Service operated 100 of these pre-war cars – although the St. Louis cars were a unique design to St. Louis in that they had the glare-resistant windshields. The model cars will be powered by a power truck being developed by Pennsylvania Heritage Models using a black beetle truck from Australia. Additional power truck and wheels are also available from Northwest Short Line.

**Model Train and Military Toy Display – Jefferson Barracks Park – 533 Grant Road, St. Louis, MO 63125** – See operating HO and O-gauge model trains along with many toys that will bring back old memories. Troop trains, passenger trains and freight trains will run through cities and countryside settings while military toys, dolls and games will also be featured. November 27, 2009 – January 3, 2010.

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

**GARY MUELLER**  
AFSGSLA Newsletter Editor  
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-And remember, **"It's just for the fun of it!"**

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