



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

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER April-May 2017

AFSGSLA Club Events:

Friday, April 21, 2017: **Bob Muehling** has invited us to hold our April club meeting at his home (1208 Twinleaf Circle in St. Peters, MO 63376, and his Telephone is 636/ 978-0870). We will start gathering at about 7:30 P.M. Bob and Dee Muehling have been most generous in hosting our club meetings in the past and we are always impressed with the improvements made on their layout and the trains around the ceiling.

More: You will recall that we would like to have a mini-clinic presented at our club meetings. We have had several fine mini-clinics presented in the past, the most recent was by **Gary Brandenburger** about LEDs. **Moe Berk** has offered to present a mini-clinic during our club meeting at **Bob Muehling's** home. **Moe's** topic is "So now that you have a train collection, what are you going to do; or more importantly, what should you do?"

Kathy Daly has invited us to her home for our May meeting. Her address is 403 Cannonbury Drive – St. Louis, MO 63119 and Telephone is 314/ 962-5260. Kathy tells us that she has been fixing up her home and getting the basement re-arranged. We are anxious to see what she has accomplished.

Other Scheduled Events:

Although we will not necessarily participate in some of the following events as a club, they are included in this listing for your information. Special thanks for this listing go to **Jimmy Ables** of NMRA Gateway Division. We suggest you keep this newsletter for your future reference and attend our club meetings for full details.

April, 6-8, 2017: Sn3 Symposium, St. Louis, MO. This event will be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel and has a registration fee of \$55.00.

Saturday and Sunday, July 22-23: Great Train Show, Belle Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, IL. Our faithful layout coordinator **Barry Dolan** has offered to investigate what we need to do to be accepted into this show.

Saturday, September 9, 2017: Boeing train show, Greensfelder Park. Our eager **Charles Albietz** will investigate what we need to do to have our club layout accepted into this show.

Saturday and Sunday, October 7 & 8, 2017: Mississippi Valley N Scalers (MVNS) show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. We expect to be invited to return with our club layout for this event.

Friday – Sunday, October 27-29, 2017: The 42nd Annual Fall S Fest hosted by State-Line S Gaugers at the Holiday Inn Express, Janesville, WI.

Saturday, November 11: Dupo Train Show, Dupo American Legion Post, Dupo, IL

Saturday and Sunday, November 25-26: Great Train Show, Collinsville Convention center

What's been happening?

February 10, 2017: **Norm Pilarski** hosted our February Club Meeting at his Ballwin, MO home, with **Scott Pilarski** co-hosting. Our newer members found Norm's layout to be outstanding and our other members really enjoyed what Norm has done over the years. At that meeting, we prepared a club order to American Models.

February 11, 2017: The Warrior Express Train Show was held in the Fox High School Gym, Arnold, Missouri. **Barry Dolan** coordinated displaying our sectional layout.

February 18-19, 2017: Great Train Show: St. Charles Convention Center - St. Charles, Missouri. Once again, **Barry Dolan** coordinated the displaying of our sectional layout.

March 17, 2017: Tom Schnur hosted our March meeting. The order from American Models had been received and was distributed. The group discussed the possibility of us having a June picnic at the Museum of Transportation, as we had done last year. It was decided to contact **Andrew** Arth and ask him to investigate what we should do. It was also decided that **Barry Dolan** would investigate our participation in the July Great Train Show in Bellville, IL.

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:

2016 NASG Car: The 2016 NASG car is a Lionel American Flyer Chicago & North Western flat car, that includes **18** pallets of plastic [refractories](#) as a load, headed to a steel mill for relining of the soaking pits (or some other industrial usage). Soaking pits were used by steel mills from the 1920s through 1975. Pallets are decorated for the Chicago-based [Plibrico Co.](#) Price of this car is \$79.00. Our club order has been received.

2016 TCA Cars: This is the TCA 2016 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 is \$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 is \$64.95 which Includes shipping. The club order has been placed.

This and That

Fall S-Fest 2016 Billboard Reefer Cars: Several of us ordered the FSF-2016 car which was to be produced by MTH. Unfortunately, it was not available at the FSF-2016 and has not yet been seen. I inquired about their whereabouts so I could report their status in this newsletter. I checked with Roy Meissner and determined that although the cars were supposed to have been shipped by now, they have not even been made. It is hoped that they will soon be produced with a couple of other reefer orders. They will be shipped from MTH when they come in.

Fall S-Fest 2017: The FSF-2017 pre-registration form was mailed last month. If you did not receive one or want more current information, please visit their website: www.state-linesgaugers.org. The car(s) for this year are to be made by American Models and will feature Chicago, Burlington and Quincy graphics on a refrigerator car. They are available as a single car for \$55.00 or a 3-car set for \$155.00. The 3-car set contains 2 additional paint schemes that are not available separately. The FSF-2017 registration fee is \$15.00, and the fee is required if you want to obtain the car(s). There is an additional fee if you will not be attend and order the car(s).

Menards: As has been discussed at several meetings and seen on several member's layouts, Menards markets a line of structures that are ready to be placed on the layout. The latest is the Morton's Salt Factory. This comes with over 30 LED lights and 2 animated pre-lighted Morton Salt signs. Generally, the items offered by Menards are O-Scale in size. But we have noted that they easily fit onto a S-Scale layout and are quite attractive.

Fox Train Show 2018: The train show at the Fox High School in Arnold has been canceled. The organizer will investigate another venue. Fox school officials canceled the show on the accusation that several vendors or customers made inappropriate comments to some of the volunteer young girls working the show and taking food orders. **(Once again, we are reminded that there are ALWAYS consequences to any action – good or bad.)**

Special notice from David Stevens: We have club members who have volunteered to host the next several meetings. And we are hopeful that the June picnic can be arranged. Although there are several club members who have usually hosted meeting toward the end of the year, we still need club members to volunteer to host club meeting in the future. 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 Co-Ordinator:

We enjoyed a very busy and productive 2016, and had lots of fun doing so. I believe it can be attributed to the serious degree of participation each of our club members contributed. With an equal degree of participation, we can have lots of fun while enjoying a great 2017, as well.

That’s it for now, more later:

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

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