



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

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## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

October 2019

### 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.

**Various Work Sessions** – See the "This and That" section for proposed work sessions on our former Famous-Barr/Macy layout, at the National Museum of Transportation (NMOT). They are not listed here because dates might not be exact.

**Saturday and Sunday, October 12 & 13, 2019:** Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) train 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 11 am to 4 pm. We will display the sectional layout at this show and we ask that you show up Saturday at 8 am to help **Barry Dolan** and his crew with the set up.

**Friday, October 18, 2019:** **Charley Taylor** has invited us to his home (at 423 Woodview Manor Lane – Kirkwood, MO) for our October meeting. This will be an especially important meeting, as it is the last one before our **Fall S Fest** which occurs 2 weeks later. Charley is planning a dry run of his layout in preparation for his S-Fest layout tour open house.

**Saturday, October 19, 2019:** **Charley Taylor** has arranged for us to use the conference room in his office building, located at 222 South Central Avenue in downtown Clayton, starting at 9:00 a.m. and we should be finished by noon. You may plan to park free on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor deck located on the north side of the building; access is from the north alley.

**Saturday, October 26, 2019:** **Dreamland Palace Fall Train Show** 10 am - 3:30 pm. German restaurant 4 miles west of Waterloo, Illinois, 3043 State Route 156, Foster Pond, Illinois

**Friday through Sunday, November 1 to 3, 2019:** The **Fall S Fest (FSF-2019)** will be held here in the St. Louis Area and will be hosted by us (**viz, AFSGSLA**). This will be the seventh FSF we have hosted and as always it will be great fun. See a later paragraph in this newsletter for additional information.

**Saturday, November 9, 2019:** **Dupo Train Show** where we will display our double helix layout. The show will be open to the public from 9:30 am to 2 pm, and you are asked to show up at 7:30 am to help **Barry Dolan** and the set up crew.

**Friday, November 22, 2019:** Club meeting (starting at the usual 7:00 PM) at the National Museum of Transport (NMOT). **Charley Taylor** and **Andrew Arth** are making the necessary arrangements to hold our club

meeting at the NMOT. They are also planning to have our former Famous-Barr/Macy layout up and running at that time. See the later paragraph regarding the NMOT.

**Saturday-Sunday, November 30-December 01, 2019:** We have applied to operate our Sectional Layout at the Great Train Show, at the Collinsville Convention Center. They usually confirm a week before the show.

**Saturday, December 7, 2019: TCA Christmas Train Show:** Immanuel Lutheran School, 9733 Olive Blvd., Olivette, MO. We are committed to display our double helix layout at this event. Show hours are 9 AM to 3 PM.

**Other activities anticipated late in 2019 include:** December Club Meetings, Citizens National Bank, among other events. Of course, details will be announced in later Newsletters.

**Looking ahead to 2020** (yes we have 20/20 vision) **Charlie Albietz** has arranged for us to display at the Boeing Swap Meets on March 14, 2020 and August 29, 2020. **Barry Dolan** has applied for us to operate our Sectional Layout at the Great Train Show in February in St. Charles and in July in Belleville. More dates and shows in the next newsletter.

**Saturday January 4, 2020: TrainFair 2020,** Presented by The St. Charles Model Railroad Club, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, St. Charles West High School, 3601 Droste Road, St. Charles, Missouri. Located 1 mile north of Hwy 70 at the Zumbahl Road exit.

**February, 2020: Scott with Norm Pilarski** are planning to host us our club meeting in February (date to be determined.)

**Friday, September 18, 2020: Cliff and Gail Saxton** have offered their home and 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.

### What's been happening?

**September 6, 2019: Cliff Saxton** offered his train room and toy museum for our September club meeting. **Cliff**, as usual, did not disappoint us. Missing this year was the familiar face of **Marty Glass**, who assisted Cliff for the past several years, and now resides in Florida.

**September 7, 2019: Boeing train show, Greensfelder Park.** We displayed our club layout at his show. We are grateful to **Charles Albietz** for arrangement this activity. **Barry Dolan** coordinated and **Don Hanson** took care of our trailer transportation.

### 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 have all been delivered.

**2020 TCA Convention car** - TCA as announced their 2020 Convention Cars, and they include an American Flyer S Gauge Budweiser Woodside Reefer. The reefer car is dark green with white lettering. The list prices are as follows: Single car = \$69.95, 3-Pack = \$204.95, and 6-Pack = \$399.95. The cars will be available in six different numbers. The TCA 2020 Convention is in Jacksonville, FL on June 21-28, 2020. It is unlikely that the cars will be shipped before the Convention dates. The club order has been placed.

### This and That

**The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019):** Planning has been well underway for AFSGSLA to host the Fall S Fest-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 now met several times, exchanged numerous emails, and has made a number of accomplishments. Since the last newsletter, the Budweiser cars have been received from Lionel, the work session to assemble the registration packets has been scheduled and numerous tweaks to the task list have been made.

**NMOT (National Museum of Transport) proposed work sessions** – These are the dates provided by Andrew Arth:

October 22: Set up the layout.  
October 23 – 25: Install scenery, etc. on layout.  
November 22: Operate the layout for the AFSGSLA Club Meeting at the NMOT.

**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.

**Free Train Rides** The St. Louis Live Steamers Public Run Day Schedule for 2019 is: October 12<sup>th</sup>. Steam trains will run from 11:00 am until 4:00 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.

**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 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, roughly halfway between Chippewa and Gravois.

**The Electric Train Outlet** is going out of business. Bob the owner has decided to retire. As of this published date, all train accessories and die cast vehicles are up to 50% off! The only American Flyer remaining is various FastTrack items, but there are many scenery items that can be used in S Gauge. .

**Mike’s Train House** released a S Gauge catalog for 2019-2020. See it at [https://www.mthtrains.com/sites/default/files/catalog\\_files/2019\\_sgauge/index.html#](https://www.mthtrains.com/sites/default/files/catalog_files/2019_sgauge/index.html#)

**Ron Sebastian:** We are saddened to report the death of Ron Sebastian. Mr. Sebastian, along with his wife, were owners of Des Plaines Hobbies since 1983 and a large supplier of S scale items.

**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](mailto:stevens8128@sbcglobal.net).

#### **Notes from the Newsletter Editor:**

As always, please email anything you think should be in the newsletter.

#### **Notes from the Co-Ordinator:**

I am happy to report that **Tom Schnur** has committed to take over the leadership role for the AFSGSLA Club. I have assured him that all of you will give him your support and assistance. It is expected that around the first of the year I will have finalize the FSF-2019 business and organized the AFSGSLA affairs and hand things over to **Tom**.

**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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