



# ***THE BSG BULLETIN***

## **NEWSLETTER OF THE BADGERLAND S GAUGERS**

*"... A social club for the promotion of model railroading-  
especially S gauge including American Flyer, hi-rail, scale  
and other facets....*

*Established 1975*

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Website for BSG:

**[www.trainweb.org/bsg](http://www.trainweb.org/bsg)**

## **2022 November Issue**

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers."

Well, the main topic for some time will be the Badgerland S Gaugers clubhouse. The logistics of how the layouts will be situated has been determined. In prior years this was the layout that the club took to various model railroad venues to promote our club. For the past few years, the layout was in storage. For a while it was in a rental facility and Ray Puls Offered to store it at his home.

Over the years the layout fell into a state of disrepair and needed a lot of work to get is fully operational. The major problem is where do we work on it? Problem solved with the invitation of the Waukesha Gandy Dancers offer of space in their facility. Had this not occurred I feel that the layout would have been history.

The decision was and the modular layout will now be considered a permanent fixture with no intentions to take it to other shows. The layout will focus on more of a scale presentation of S gauge. Many of the Dick Kloses fine scale structures will be on the layout. This will also afford our scale members more of an opportunity to participate in the general look of the layout. However, to ensure that all members can participate we will have code 148 scale track. American Flyer engines will not run well on pure S scale track. The wiring will be updated and the tracks will be wired with the capability of running both AC and DC powered engines. We want to give all of our members the opportunity to run their trains on the layout. Further investigations will be made as to the power sources and remote-control capability. The layout will not be running at present. The track work will be repaired or redone, module by module, . The layout will be laser leveled to achieve ensure that engines run in a satisfactory manner.

The club will retain the tabletop layout which will be also setup next to the modular layout. This will serve as an introduction layout to S gauge. For those of you familiar with it, the layout will have the green carpeting on six

folding tables. The track will be the S-Helper Fast-Trak with two loops of track and some sidings. It features mainly Plasticville structures most of which are being donated by Ron Schlicht. This will have a bit more of the toy train look of the 40's, 50's and 60's. When I use the term introduction to S gauge, this will illustrate a layout that can be assembled and disassembled in a relatively short period of time and one that younger individuals can set up and "PLAY" with. For those, and some of us elders, Fall and winter are model railroading season. It also affords the ability to set up when the interest is high and take down when not. An effort will be made to add some areas with scenery and show some easy made scenery tips.

For those of you who did not attend the last meeting, the layouts were moved to a different location in the new facility. The Gandy Dancers are working on a revised plan for the expansion of their layout. This required a move of our layouts.

One of the major advantages to the new location is the building itself. This was previously a commercial site. On the corner of South and Grand there are front display windows like department stores have. Both the Gandy Dancers and BSG will be able to utilize these areas for model train displays and club information. There is no way that either club could ask for a better form of advertising than this will offer. Prior there was just a small sign on the entry doors indicating that there was a train club there. There is no doubt that this public exposure to every passerby won't benefit both clubs.

The Gandy Dancers held a public open house on the Saturday evening of Trainfest, a good number of individuals stopped in. WCGD has always held open houses over the years. This is actually how BSG got to be where we are, when we were invited to one. We look forward to many more in the future.

The Badgerland S Gauge Newsletters, or Bulletin, as I have penned it, have a new format. With email there is so much more that can be done at no real cost concerns. I hope that the membership is pleased with it. If there are any members that didn't receive some of the past 2022 Bulletins and if they are not on our website, contact Ron Schlicht [rons48tblue@gmail.com](mailto:rons48tblue@gmail.com). I will send them to you. This is only for those members that have email.

I am also really, really open to suggestions. If you know of any railroad, model railroad, diecast vehicles, structures or supplies that could be of interest to the membership "please send the info to me."

One good source that I have found for all kinds of "stuff" is Scenic Express they have a pretty good size catalog and you can read it online.

For 1/64<sup>th</sup> scale vehicles I have ordered from Dicast Direct. They have almost any scale size along with model railroad item offerings.

There are plans for displays and furnishings. We don't just want an empty looking room with two layouts in it. There are some major plans for the modular layout. For those who like to putter with scenery or other facets of the layout, materials will be furnished by BSG. This club will belong to the members and many of "their" ideas or considerations can be implemented. For a long time it seems like the fun has gone out of BSG. That atmosphere is going away.

BSG wants you to want to come to your "clubhouse".

Normally the election of officers is held at the December meeting and takes place every two years. Due to the pandemic the current slate of officers will remain for 2023 with nominations taking place in November 2023.

The length of office is two years.

There are no term limits for the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Editor is a voluntary job, which has been attached to the office of the Secretary.

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## *Trainfest Report*

Trainfest returned on for Nov. 12 and 13 at the Wisconsin State Fair Park Exposition Center in West Allis, WI after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. This year's event encompassed 150,000 sq. ft., which made it the smallest Trainfest since moving to the Expo Center. In previous years the entire building 230,000 was utilized. The sponsorship shifted from the WISE division of the NMRA to Kalmbach and Great American Train Shows, who partnered to produce Trainfest 2022. This being their first year as new sponsors showed that there is a lot to be learned regarding setup and floor planning.

Unfortunately, the admission was somewhat higher than in the past 2-day pass: Adult \$20.00, Child \$10.00, Saturday Only: Adult \$19.95, Child \$9.95, Sunday Only: Adult \$14.95, Child \$4.95 Children 2 and under are free. Coupled with parking at \$10.00, it was a bit pricey. In spite



of this, from what I hear, there were over 20,000 in attendance.

This was the best showing of **S Gauge** model railroading in the past few years with three S Gauge layouts, The Southeastern Michigan S Gaugers, Chicagoland Area S Gaugers and Badgerland/Ron Schlicht American Flyer Trains . The National Association of S Gaugers (NASG) had a booth/display and other vendors of S gauge. Perhaps one of the best aspects of the location of the layouts is that we were all within earshot from one another. This made it possible to point out the different facets of S gauge with Scale and Hi-Rail layouts.

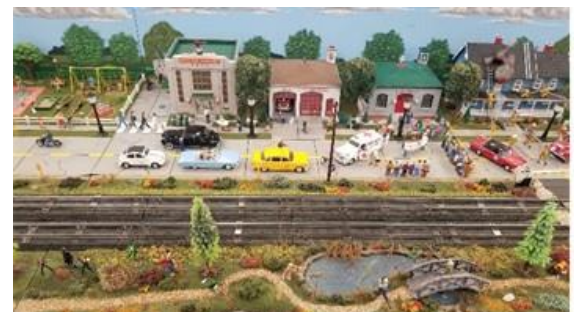
The Michigan group brought an outstanding detailed scale layout to Trainfest. It featured three main lines one of which was Code 70 track and the other two are 148 code The layout featured a unique control system with the ability to run AC, DC and DCC



The Chicagoland Area S Gaugers setup their modular layout which is still under construction.



The BSG was represented by the Ron Schlicht “Hollywood Meets Model Railroading”, Hi-Rail, American Flyer Trains layout. The layout features over 150 celebrity figures, many of which are in the 55 vehicles, featured in various movies or television programs. The track is American Flyer tin plate track with rubber roadbed. The majority of the structures are painted or modified Bachmann Plasticville. There are a number of American Flyer operating accessories and some custom-made animations. With a mix of O and S the layout is more of the old-style Toy Train style. Lionel TMCC Cab-1 is the control system.



# Ray's Rail-Ways

## By Ray Puls

As I am sure most members of the BSG are aware, Ron Schlicht and myself have done a number of conversions of Lionel's O27 auto carriers to S gauge. I don't believe we have shared with members how we did the changes, actually it is a pretty easy process. The auto carriers generally come with three decks on which the autos can be mounted.

On the conversion illustrated here the first operation was to cut the nameplate off the top deck and glue it in position on the lower deck. Lionel put the railroad insignias on the third level. Ron made his own labels on his computer and put it on with double backed adhesive, leaving the molding intact.



On the conversions that I have done the third deck is set aside, reason being, there are tunnels on my layout and the third deck would not clear them. A second consideration is the fact that the additional four autos, if you load the cars, would make for an extremely heavy car and would limit the number that a locomotive could pull. Also at that height and weight the car is a bit unstable.

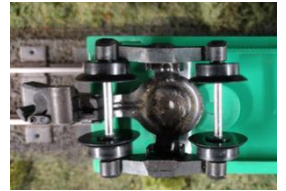


The next was to remove the O gauge trucks, this can be done either by drilling out the rivets or grinding the end of the rivets off.



In my process, I glue Styrene to the chassis. I glued one piece measuring 5/32" x 1/4" on each end of the car adjacent to the bulkhead next to the original truck mounting boss, I also fit a piece of Styrene to go between the bulkhead and the original truck boss for support of the truck mounting screw."

Next operation is to locate the new mounting locations for the S gauge trucks, these are set 1- 1/8" from the very end of the chassis and centered side to side on the chassis.



When drilling, the hole size will vary depending on the size of the hole in the trucks that you will use, I prefer to find trucks with a smaller mounting hole for which I drill and tap for a 4-40 screw. Note: I did not tap the hole all the way through.



That way the screw will bind and ensure that it remains tight.

When mounting the trucks to the chassis I put a small washer in place between the truck and chassis.



All that is left now is to mount the autos to the decks on car or if you prefer run the auto carrier empty.

## Note:

Ron's Opinion: Regarding the vehicles on the auto carriers, my preference is toward M2's. One of the subtleties of M2's is the scale differences, For example, due to my age, I'm very familiar with 50's cars. There is no way that a 1958 Chevy Impala is the same size and length of a 1957 Chevy Bel-Aire. Also, many of the real Chrysler products were actually huge by comparison. As a result, because I love my 50's cars I only put 3 vehicles per tier. Some cars, like a DeSoto, bumper to bumper, with a slight overhang, will allow you to put four per tier. I also fasten the cars to the carrier with screws. That way they don't shift around or end up on my concrete basement floor.





## *NASG Dispatch Info*

### NASG Booth at Trainfest



## *In Memorial*

My friend Jim Starosta, and former Badgerland member, passed away late this September. Jim hosted BSG club meetings and at his home there was always quite a buffet. His passion was A.C. Gilbert trains, Flyer accessories, Plasticville, Littleton and Marx and many other toy train related items. Most of you know that he had “several” thousand little people on his layout. If any S gauge manufacturer produced an item with a Milwaukee Road logo on it, Jim purchased it.

Longtime member Kathy Pilon unexpectedly passed away November 4<sup>th</sup>. Over the past 35 years or so, Kathy attended almost every event that BSG participated in, be it meetings or model railroad shows. She passed out BSG flyers and other model railroad literature. It always amazed me at shows how many people knew her. Her love of cats made the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad her favorite S gauge trains. If you ever met her, you probably got one of her hugs.

For years Kathy and Fred Vergenz attended every show that I setup the Hollywood Meets Model Railroad, American Flyer layout representing BSG. There was an area that was designated “Kathy’s Corner”. This year at Trainfest there was an empty chair. Kathy was missed by many who stopped by.



## *The Photo Shop*

As previously mentioned in the Ray’s Rail Ways article on the Auto carriers, the cars came with a third deck. Since I didn’t cut mine up for the insignia, I used them for another purpose, a four car Auto carrier. By cutting off two of the ends at the point of the cross beams and a floor section, the structures fit nicely on an American Flyer flat car, only overlapping by about 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch on each end.



These cars are apparently not that popular with Lionel operators or collectors. The most that I paid for one was \$20.00, two were free, the rest were from \$7.00 to 14.00. “THE REST”? I have a total of 11, three with 1957 Fords, two with 1957 Chevys, two with 1958 Chevys, and one each with 1957 Mercury’s, 1957 Dodge’s, Plymouth’s and DeSoto’s. Someday Ray and I will put all of them together on his layout and put it on YouTube. It will probably require a double or triple header to pull them.



# **BSG Inventory**

Contact Ron Schlicht Phone (414) 477-7866 Email:  
[rons48tblue@gmail.com](mailto:rons48tblue@gmail.com)

2016 Sprecher Brewery Reefers \$55.00 Each



2021 Fall S Fest Hoppers (Hi-Rail Only) \$55.00 Each  
Furnished with Coal Loads



## **Local Area Meets**

### **Lionel Swap Meets**

**New Berlin Entertainment Center**  
**16000 West Cleveland Ave.**

**New Berlin**

**8:00 am To 12:00 pm**

2022	December	18
2023	January	15
	February	26
	March	19

Check website: [www.milw-lrrc.com](http://www.milw-lrrc.com)  
or call 262-754-9900

### **Great Midwest Train Show**

**DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL**  
**9 am to 3:00 pm**

2022	December	4
2023	January	8
	February	5
	March	5
	April	2

### **Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region (WISE) Meets**

2022 Sunday December 18  
1:00 P.M.

New Berlin Entertainment Center  
16000 West Cleveland Ave.

Buy -Sell -Trade=Contests- Clinics- Layout Tour)  
(Non-Members \$5.00 WISE Members Free)

2023 Saturday January 21  
12:00 Noon  
**Train School Session**  
New Berlin Entertainment Center

16000 West Cleveland Ave.  
(Non-Members \$5.00 WISE Members Free)

2023 Saturday & Sunday February 18-19

### **Mad-City Train Show**

Alliant Energy Center Madison Wisconsin  
(Extra Fee Event)

2023 Sunday March 19

1:00 P.M.

New Berlin Entertainment Center  
16000 West Cleveland Ave.

(Non-Members \$5.00 WISE Members Free)

2023 Sunday April 16

1:00 P.M.

### **Location to be determined**

(Non-Members \$5.00 WISE Members Free)

Visit WISE Division Websites for more information

[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

## **Misc. Events**

### **La Crosse 31<sup>st</sup> Annual**

### **Great Tri-State Rail Sail**

Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

300 Vendor Tables

All Scales Equipment & Accessories

Railroad Antiques & Memorabilia

R.R. Books, Magazines & Pictures

Hobby Supplies, Die-Cast Models

Antique Toys and more

For more Information:

[www/4000foundation.com](http://www/4000foundation.com)

Danville, Indiana Train Show: Sat. Nov. 18, 2022. At the  
Hendricks County Fairgrounds just west of Indianapolis.  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the first time this show will include  
an area for S Scale and 2-rail O Scale. Tables: 317-627-  
1660 or email: [jporay@abe.org](mailto:jporay@abe.org).

The 2023 Spring S Spree is on!!! Check [www.nasg.org](http://www.nasg.org) or [www.sspree.info](http://www.sspree.info) for detailed info on the Spring S Spree in 2023. It will be in Dayton, Ohio sponsored by the Miami Valley S Gaugers on March 31 and April 1. This will be a good place to buy and sell all types of S items. It will be at the Crossroads Expo Center, Exit 59 off I-75 – 6550 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414.

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The next NASG convention will be in July in Harrisburg, PA from July 26-29, 2023. This will be an ideal location with nearby attractions such as the EBT, the Strasburg and Amish areas, Hershey Park, historic Gettysburg and the nearby Norfolk Southern railroad attractions. Check under events at [www.nasg.org](http://www.nasg.org), under the Events section.

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## **“Membership Dues”**

It's that time of the year again. If you are still planning on being a member of BSG please send in your dues for the 2023 season. There is always the desire to get a membership list out to the club members by the end of February. This also enables the BSG executive committee plan an annual budget, which will determine future expenditures for the new clubhouse.

**The annual dues will currently remain at the previous levels.**

Participating membership \$20.00

Spouse membership \$10.00

Family membership \$35.00 \*

\*Family rate regardless of number of immediate family members. Immediate family member definition is: spouse and children under the age of 18. “Any member under the age of 18 will not have voting rights.”

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**262-538-4325**  
[rmeissner@wi.rr.com](mailto:rmeissner@wi.rr.com)

## **Next BSG Meeting**

**Date: Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 1:30pm**

**Club Location:**

**741 N. Grand Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186**

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## **Important Reminder**

In the event that you have any change of home address, phone number or email address **PLEASE** contact Jeff Madden or Ron Schlicht. Their contact info is on the front page. This will ensure that you receive any correspondence from BSG.

BSG encourages its members to share any new or existing product information they may find to be beneficial. Your opinions or advice regarding the use and performance of the products are welcomed. In addition, share your scenery, technical or operational experiences on your own home layouts for the BSG newsletters. Photos are encouraged.

**Send any comments or suggestions to:**



**Ron Schlicht - rons48tblue@gmail.com**