



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

2023 March Issue

February 26th Meeting Report
Thirteen Club Members Present

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.
Roy Meissner presented the treasurer's report.

Old Bus:

1. Adding "**Model Railroad Club**" to patches, hats, etc. At this time items just show logo and Badgerland S Gaugers. This will be changed in the future, when the current stock runs out.
2. We discussed that in the future we would be putting some S items in the upstairs display windows.

New Bus:

1. We may have to shift our layouts to another area of the basement club area depending on the final Gandy Dancer's HO layout expansion plans.
2. We now have new updated power transformers for the modular layout. Pres. Ray Puls made a panel to safely switch from AC to DC. Legacy power is also an option.
3. It was mentioned by Ron Schlicht that there will NOT be a 2023 Trainfest. It seems they might be going every other year.
4. Ron mentioned that there will be an alternative large train show put on by another group on the dates in November, 2023 that Trainfest would have been held. This will be at the New Berlin Indoor Sports Complex which has 70,000 square feet of space. There will be vendors and layouts at this NEW show.
4. The BSG club will be working on new club literature that will promote our club and our new location.
5. Ron Schlicht mentioned having a station type schedule board to be put in the storefront window mentioning open houses for the public to read as they walk by.
6. The BSG club has been invited to visit the State-Line club's permanent setup in Rockford, Illinois when convenient.
7. A mention was made that the CASG (Chicago area) club will be hosting the 2023 Fall S Fest in the Chicago area. Note that there was no Fall S Fest in 2022.

8. Jeff Madden mentioned that if the BSG hosts a Fall S Fest in 2025 that it would be the club's and the Fall S Fest's 50th anniversary. It's up in the air if the St. Louis club will host in 2024.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be March 19th at 1:30 p.m. at the Waukesha location.
Jeff Madden

Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers." A couple newsletters ago I sent pictures of the window displays set up by the Gandy Dancers model railroad club. Since the move to the new location, they have gotten a handful of new members. This indicates, that in a short time, the display has been beneficial. BSG is hopeful that when we get more information and S gauge displays in the window, we might get and bump in our membership. BSG currently has 30 paid memberships. With Covid and the passing of time we have lost a number of members who have passed away.

If, and when, the BSG layouts move take place, a crew has already been formed to accomplish this task. Ray Puls has been continually improving the trackwork. Ron Schlicht has been detailing the Plasticville structures that he donated to the club. Gary Otto has suggested that BSG acquire some AF operating accessories that children would be allowed to operate.

Although we don't have dates and times for work or operating sessions, this will take place in the near future. In order to have opportunities for members to enjoy the clubhouse, BSG will be offering a set of keys to the facility and the club's supply cabinets, for those who are interested. Currently we use the two storage cabinets for tools and club equipment. We are thinking of adding shelves to one of the cabinets on which members can put their names on and store a limited amount of some of their personal equipment. The cabinets have locks on them,

The work on the table top is proceeding. Without the modular layout to take to shows, the only S gauge that we display is the Ron Schlicht layout. For a number of years, a few of us, took the original table top layout to a number of events. Due to poor maintenance, bad packaging and carelessness, most of the structures and other components incurred a lot of damage. With more concern and a well-planned packaging scheme, similar to Ron's, BSG could again take the layout on the road. In the past "one" individual was able to transport and set up the table top in just over an hour. The Lionel club takes their small layouts to many events, such as public libraries and other venues. In some cases, they have received a small stipend. Grant it they have a larger membership to draw from.

With a couple extra modules BSG could set up an in-line "scale" display to illustrate the difference between the two directions, scale and Hi-Rail. We would all like to see the club grow. We would also like to see more young individuals in the organization, that can only happen if they have an opportunity to actually see S gauge. Right now, it's just two layouts in someone's basement.

Trainfest 2022 Report

Trainfest was a huge success! Our attendance for the show was for the show was 20,557. Thank you to everyone who exhibited, attended, participated and supported Trainfest 2022, we could not have done it without you. We sincerely appreciate all the positive feedback and suggestions we have received about the show. The next Trainfest is planned for November, 2024. Between now and then we will be using all the feedback and suggestions we received to build the best Trainfest possible. Our goal is for Trainfest 2024 to amaze and delight everyone from the most sophisticated hobbyist to you for your support. families and kids of all ages. News and details about Trainfest 2024 will first be released on this webpage. The next update to this page is planned for the Summer 2023
Once again thank you for your support.

The above was the good news, now for the bad news. For years, this was an annual event that every model railroad enthusiast looked forward to on the second Saturday & Sunday in November. Does the above imply that this will only take place every other year? This was also the smallest Trainfest since the move to the new facility. It's a new management group and their goal is for Trainfest 2024 to amaze and delight everyone. They will have to go some, in particular, their communication

and treatment of the participants, which was less than admirable.

Trainfest 2023 ?????

So, what are we going to do the second weekend in November 11th & 12th. With the absence of Trainfest at the State Fair Park, the sponsor of the New Berlin Train Swaps plans on having train show at the OAW Indoor Sports Complex with over 70,000 square feet available. The location is 5330 S Racine Ave. which is the same facility that the swap meets are held. The bulk of the show floor will be on turf fields spanning the majority of the facility. One other item of value is that there is no charge for parking. A number of model railroad clubs have already committed to attend and bring their layouts.

New Berlin Model Train Show

November 11 & 12, 2023

OAW Indoor Sports Complex

5330 S Racine Ave. New Berlin, WI

Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 4pm

Admission only \$10

- *Operating Train Layouts!*
- *Model Train Sales & Swap Tables!*
- *Manufacturer Exhibits!*
- *Railroad Displays!*



*For more information or to be a vendor, email:
newberlinmodelswap@gmail.com - or - (262)-676-7014*

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Mitchell Park Domes Show

Every year, there is one weekend when in addition to the Garden Railway display, there is an all-scale show in the lobby area. On February 4th & 5th the Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes held their annual Model Railroad Show. The event was cancelled for two years due to the Covid restrictions.

This was one of the first years that none of the Milwaukee area media did not show up to promote the show on this special weekend. In spite of that, there was a pretty good turnout. The paid attendance for Saturday was 1,909 and Sunday was 1,783. Many mentioned that they learned about the show through Facebook. The staff at the Domes was very accommodating and treated all of the exhibitors very well.

The Lionel Club brought two of their junior layouts. N gauge had a layout plus a modular in-line operating display. The Glacier G gauge club brought a very entertaining circus setup. The spectacular Disneyland LEGO layout was also setup. BSG was represented by Ron Schlicht's "Hollywood Meets Model Railroading" American Flyer layout. The show was geared for children and they certainly enjoyed it. As a sidelight, this is always the most highly attended and profitable event that the Domes has all year and adds substantially to their budget planning.

Mad-City Model Railroad Show and Sale

On February 18th & 19th the South Central Wisconsin Division of the NMRA sponsored one of the finest model railroad shows in the Midwest at the Alliant Center in Madison WI. This one was the 55th anniversary of show. The paid attendance was 6,800 plus a number of children. Coupled with the individuals that had passes the total was around 8,000.

Due to city codes no displays are allowed in the lobby area and the show was expanded to the entire 100,000-foot convention hall. Not only was every model train gauge displayed but there were over 250 vendor tables. In all of the years that I have attended the show, I have never seen that many vendors of American Flyer Trains for sale. There were a lot of bargains to be had.

With the expansion and increased aisle space the show had a much more comfortable atmosphere. BSG was represented by the Ron Schlicht, AF layout and was the only S gauge layout at the show. We were positioned right next to a huge Lego layout, and the children's train ride. This made that area the busiest at the show. Unfortunately, outside of BSG signage, we did not have any club literature available. Overall this may have been one of the best Mad-City shows that I have attended over the years.

AF Operating Accessory Display



There are a number of A.C. Gilbert accessories on my travelling layout. For years, in order to show the operation of the log loader, dump car and sawmill, we would manually pull a gondola and the log car into position to show how they operate (not exactly impressive). There was a need for a very short engine. Even an AF docksider was not the answer, still being too long for the short siding, especially with a gondola car for loading.

Then came what I called the mill engine. Taking a Casey Jones, I removed the pilot truck and shortened the shell. Using the remaining front portion, I narrowed down the cow catcher and an area above to fit inside of the portion of the shell that was shortened. The front sand dome was then filed off. The smoke stack was cut off and glued to the shell where the removed sand dome had stood. The boiler front just fit right in. A spacer was made on which to mount the motor. (Sadly, there is no bell on the engine.) The rear of the cab roof was also shortened. It was necessary to add weight to the front of the engine to keep it balanced during operation, since there was now more weight behind the rear drive wheels than in front. Since there was no tender an AF gondola was cut down and shortened. Flyer trucks with the brass strips were added and wired to power the locomotive. A wood floor was added to conceal the wires to the trucks.

The setup is on an isolated stretch of track with preset engine speed. A simple on/off light switch is used for the track power. Sequentially the logs are loaded onto a 914 log dump car. Note the car has the fence side opposite the log loader. Then the engine moves forward to a position between the log loader and the sawmill. The operating car dumps the logs. At that point the engine was in a spot that was in alignment with the sawmill which now drops the sawn boards into the shortened gondola.

The advantage of the two position reversing unit in the Casey Jones is by simply turning the power back on the engine is in the reverse mood and the cycle can start again.



Great Midwest Train Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL
9 am to 3:00 pm
 2023

April	2
May	7
June	4
August	6
September	10
October	1
November	5
December	3

Local Area Meets

I recently attended the new swap meet in New Berlin (Note the Location has already changed.) It is an all scale meet and was very well attended for it's initial. With the promotional effort that the sponsor of the show is making, I believe that this will be a worthwhile meet for buying or selling.

New Berlin Model Train Swap Meet
OAW Indoor Sports Complex
5330 s. Racine Ave.
New Berlin, WI
9 am to 1:00 pm
Admission \$5.00

2023	April	23
	July	16
	September	24

Model Railroad Train Show
Kenosha Union Club
3030 39th Avenue
Kenosha, WI
9:00 am To 1:00 pm
Admission \$5.00

2023	April	16
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I have not gotten much information or feedback on the Kenosha meet or how well it was attended.

Lionel Swap Meets
New Berlin Entertainment Center
16000 West Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
8:00 am To 12:00 pm
Admission \$4.00

2023	February	26
	March	19

Check website: www.milw-lrrc.com
 or call 262-754-9900

Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region
(WISE) Meets

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

Misc. Events

Just a reminder!! Spring S Spree is almost here.
 For information on the 2023 Spring S Spree, check www.nasg.org or 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.

 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. under the Events section.

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday March 19th

Time: 1:30pm

Club Location:

**Corner of South & Grand Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186**

Future Meeting Schedule:

No dates established at this time.

At the present time, we have scheduled general membership meeting dates to coincide with the Lionel (all gauge) swap meets. This gives our membership an opportunity to go to a fair-sized swap meet, visit the Lionel clubhouse and come to our club house. All of these combined, are less than 12-minute drive apart. We have set the meeting starting time at 1:30pm on those Sundays. If the membership has any alternative suggestions regarding our meetings, dates or times, please send them to any of the club officers.

As stated, other WCGD & BSG, open houses and club activities will be posted in newsletters or email notifications.

BSG Inventory

Contact Ron Schlicht Phone (414) 477-7866 Email:
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



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BSG encourages its members to share any new or existing product information they may find to be beneficial. 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:



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