



***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 April Issue**

March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report

Ten members were present at the meeting of the BSG at the Waukesha location.

Vice-President Ron Schlicht opened the meeting. President Ray Puls was unable to attend.

Roy Meissner presented the treasurer's report.

Under New Business: The Geezer Gate still needs some work for alignment on the modular layout.

The CASG (Chicagoland) Fall S Fest will be at Georgio's again on Nov. 4-5. It is getting close to the timeframe that the mailings for Fall S Fests usually are sent out (April/May). There will also more than likely be a mention on the Chicago Area S Gaugers website.

New 5 x 7 pads of our BSG club information are being printed for updated handouts.

Upstairs window displays for our S club and the Gandy Dancer's HO club are being planned. Hopefully these may attract the many individuals who pass by these windows every day. At present there is a G gauge train loop in operation and a couple railroad items. After the next WCGD meeting and the approval from the property owner on the wall treatments, we will start putting up S gauge and other railroad memorabilia items in these windows.

Former club member and long-time treasurer Jeff Young's estate is being dealt with by the BSG officers of our club. The club will be picking up a number of articles from his collection. Most will be S gauge but there will also be other gauge pieces. A method of purchasing some of these items will be noted in future newsletters or club emails. This will only take place after a total inventory is taken.

There may be some open houses down the road in connection with downtown Waukesha activities.

We are contributing along with the Gandy Dancer club to the Waukesha Downtown Business Association so we will be included with their announcements.

The modular layout will have a committee to oversee layout improvements. Eventually, we hope to decorate the current layouts for seasonal accents like Easter, 4th of July, Halloween, Christmas, etc.

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

**Clubhouse Clatter**

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

There is still no word on the BSG layouts move. The only indication is that it will be in the June or later timeframe. As previously noted, Ray Puls has been continually improving the trackwork. The Geezer gate was one of the major issues. Not only do the trains run pretty well over the gate module, but a safety switch has been added. It is hard to believe that in the past if an individual opened the gate the trains continued to run. Micro switches have replaced the solid brass contact surfaces and the track has been cut. The power to the track now shuts down eliminating the possibility of someone's train taking a deep dive off of the layout.

At the April 1<sup>st</sup> open house Tom Patterson once again ran his Maine Central A-B-A along with somewhere between 21 and 24 of really nice cars most of which were SHS. Considering the near demise of the modular layout, all of the trains, be they American Flyer or scale have run very smoothly over the layout. Derailments are now a thing of the past. Thank You, President Ray Puls, Secretary of BSG Transportation. Maybe he should go to Washington D.C., judging on how well they are doing.  
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Tom exhibited some of the repro pipe loads that he purchased on a few of the gondolas. They come full assembled and you simply have to drop the whole unit into your 40 ft. gondolas.



Jim Maslowski ran his "War Train" This is the first time that I have seen it run. One of the really interesting features are the WWII military vehicles and equipment that are mounted to the American Models flat cars. It took some time for Jim to find his vehicles of choice. Of all of the freight trains that I have seen, his was one of the more unique and interesting, besides showing a bit of history.

The train is called a type B military train and consists of 14 cars including the caboose. Two Bx-38 box cars, a Pullman passenger car for the troop detail, 2- 53-foot flat cars with Stuart tanks a gondola car featuring Harley-Davidson WLA motorcycles, seven 48-foot flatcars featuring 2-2.5-ton 6x6 trucks, 2-half-tracks, 2-Sherman tanks, 1-willys jeep with a 155mm gun, 2-truck ambulance, and 1-dodge ambulance car with a 76mm Sherman tank.

Jim is always searching for additional military equipment.



## **BSG Layout Progress**

Well, the open house was on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Fool's Day and the weather gods were not kind. It was raining, turning to snow flurries and all accompanied by strong winds. Some of the open house sandwich boards, that are on the sidewalks, were periodically blown down. Needless to say, the public turnout was next to nothing. However, some of our BSG members (10 or so) did attend and we had a good time.

For those who were unable to attend Ray Puls made a video of the trains running during the open house You can find it on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/PbFzEMOpQck>

For some time, we have been touting the fact that we now have a clubhouse. BSG has 32 members. Some may have questioned the merits and expense of the facility. Two current members indicated, that prior to the clubhouse, they were considering dropping their membership. We're not all settled in just yet, but every week there are improvements. As soon as we get the approval for some of the additions that we plan to make, things will really start moving. With two large window displays on a downtown intersection, I can't help believing that our membership will grow. May 6<sup>th</sup> is one of the City of Waukesha special events day. At one of the future planned events, the streets will be closed to traffic and there are a number of businesses throughout downtown sponsoring various activities. Right on our intersection some kind of band will be playing. Perhaps some curiosity seekers will drop in.

The Friday Night Live outdoor music event takes place every summer Friday night from June 2, 2023 to September 1, 2023 (with July 7, 2023 being an INDOOR ONLY FNL) from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in downtown Waukesha. Thousands of people come to our beautiful downtown to enjoy the weather, dining, shopping, and a wide variety of live music as we close down the streets for our weekly summer music festival. Please note that, for safety reasons, NO cars will be allowed in the FNL footprint between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

In all probability, the clubhouse will be open on Friday evenings during the Friday Night Live season.

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 32 paid memberships.

The main reason for even having a clubhouse is to have a place to run trains. As with all layouts they are never finished. We realize that there may be some members that may not be able to attend meetings or run trains on the layouts. In saying that, at least you should know what is happening at the club house. The newsletters will be including various pictures of the progress on the layouts. In addition, we want our membership know what is planned in the future. It is also hoped that the photos might encourage members to offer suggestions regarding what they feel would be great additions to the layouts.

Ron Schlicht, the clubs answer to Plasticville historian, has been detailing the structures that he donated to the club. The tabletop layout is being spruced up. All of the Plasticville buildings have been detailed and have movable attached scenery. Every building is done in a modular fashion and the layout can be totally rearranged if desired, in a very short period of time. Future plans are to once again take a smaller version of the layout to various venues as we did in the past.

As most know I have almost everything that Bachman made in original Plasticville. Collecting mint items in crisp original packaging is for many individuals, but not for me. Many of you know that Bachmann was very savvy as to how Plasticville was marketed. It was colorful and easy to assemble for small children. The other marketing prowess was the packaging, which read O-S on the boxes. This translated to slightly smaller than Lionel and slightly bigger than American Flyer, the two main toy train manufactures of the time. It was kind of like baby bears porridge, just right or as referred to on the Monte Python show "Brilliant".

Never does anything on my layout end up in original condition or untouched by a paint brush. Here is an example of what will be on the tabletop layout. The PV greenhouse, at one time, was considered a rare item, actually they can be purchased at a very reasonable price. The one below was made from a number of somewhat imperfect parts. I might add this was one PV item that could not be assembled by a small child. As noted, all of the scenery and parts are on a thin sheet of styrene and can be picked up and moved to a new location on the layout. There was not a penny spent for this small venue. All of the items were things that have been laying around in my basement for years, or made from "stuff". Eventually we will have to add some consumers



for cannot afford to take the significant lose that it took for 2021 Fall S Fest again. Hotels are just too expensive. In saying that, with our aging and limited manpower there is no guarantee that we will have enough able bodies to sponsor another FSF.

As a sidenote, the Badgerland 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FSF was not held in conjunction with a hotel. Grant it times were different, but it was one of our most successful FSFs ever.

**For the model train enthusiasts,  
we lord over a world where neighbors are always kind,  
their lovers always end up together,  
and the trains always take you to the far-off places  
that you always swore that you'd go.**

**Morgan Freeman, A Good Person (2023)**

It may just be a line from a script in a movie but it's a good one.

## 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 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kenosha, WI**

**9:00 am To 1:00 pm**  
**Admission \$5.00**

2023

**I do not have any other Fall dates at this time.**

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	October	15
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## Spring S Spree Report

This year's Spring S Spree was held in Dayton, Ohio and was sponsored by the Miami Valley S Gaugers on March 31 and April 1. The following is a brief report on the event.

The 2023 Spree was a big success, we had 248 attendees, 100 vendor tables with 35 vendors. Most vendors reported really good sales, and our sponsors did very well. Clinics included TMCC basics, original A/F repair and Aurdrino operating accessories. Saturday had a guest speaker and presentation about Lima Locomotive Works which coincided with our Spree car. We had lots of compliments on our food truck also.

Tom Hurd Spree chairman

### **Editors comment:**

The S Spree has been held in a hall that is not connected to a hotel over the past few years. Traditionally most Fall S Fests have been held in a hotel which had a connecting hall. Due to the increasing costs of these facilities and due to the fact that the Spree has been successful, this may be the direction that other clubs may have to go. Due to Covid and some of the hidden costs of the banquet, BSG

	November	19
	December	17
2024	January	21
	February	25
	March	17

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**

2023	May	7
	June	4
	August	6
	September	10
	October	1
	November	5
	December	3

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

2023 **No Schedule Available at this time**

New Berlin Entertainment Center  
16000 West Cleveland Ave.

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

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.

**Next BSG Meeting**

**Date: Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 1:30pm**  
**Club Location:**  
**Corner of South St. & 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.

**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



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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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