



## 2023 May Issue

### April 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report

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

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.

Roy Meissner was unable to attend the meeting so there was no treasurer's report.

There have been no recent significant expenditures. The cost of the printing of the BSG information tablets was more than anticipated. There were also some additional small items did not add much to the total. Some of the club's recent sales have more than covered all of the recent expenses. Therefore, the club's remaining balance is a small amount higher than the last treasures report. All financial reports will not appear in the newsletters.

Jeff Madden reviewed last month's minutes.

Old business:

1. The date for the modular and tabletop layouts move moving to a different location in the new facility will be sometime after May 6 depending on the HO club's final layout plans.

2. There will be a May 6 open house from 10-6 coordinating with a downtown Waukesha event.

3. Ron Schlicht is coordinating with the Gandy Dancer HO club on producing a flexible schedule board that can be placed in the street level display window showing both club's future events. Along with the schedule board there will be a banner bordered by each club's logos BSG and Gandy Dancers

New Business:

1. The club needs to inventory the Young Estate items for a possible future auction to benefit the family members.

2. An updated roster is being worked on. So far it is assumed the BSG has 33 members.

3. Currently the newsletter goes by email (with a couple exceptions) to the members, the Gandy Dancer officers, the NASG Dispatch and to several other S clubs.

4. Four 4' modules are now back at the club quarters that were stored by the late Jeff Young. These are double track with basic scenery. Some might get swapped out with the current BSG modules or they might be used inside the donut hold for staging tracks and connected to the outside loops.

Meeting was adjourned

Jeff Madden,

As mentioned in the minutes the turnout was somewhat small. Considering the fact that the weather was not conducive to any real outdoor activities it was a bit disappointing. In spite of that, we, the few, had a good time. Just having an actual clubhouse is a much more enjoyable experience.

### Clubhouse Clatter

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

The idea of a clubhouse is a place for our members to be able to enjoy the privilege of membership. Access to the clubhouse is not limited to just when we are having a general meeting, or during an open house. For additional information on accessing the facility contact President Ray Puls.

There will eventually be shelves made in the general equipment cabinets for those who may want to keep some of their equipment at the clubhouse.

We are now starting to set up S gauge displays in the outside windows. The Badgerland S Gaugers items will occupy the space on the South St. area. We are interested in any ideas that our members feel should be on display. Items will not be limited to American Flyer or model railroading elements. Railroad memorabilia pieces could be included along with whatever may draw attention of passersby.

There are plans for new banners and a schedule board that will have dates and times of open house events. Ron Schlicht will act as the coordinator of this activity. We feel that this is a very important means to assure the success and growth of both clubs.

This is the proposed banner that will appear on both the South St. and the Grand Ave. Walls.



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.

In addition to the above plans for window banners, we will be constructing an events board that will be in the main window. This will show times and dates of scheduled open house events. At present the months, dates and times will be individual pieces that will be attached with Velcro in the squared off areas. It affords the club to have visible schedule to the many passers by 24hours, 365 days per year. At one of the earlier open house events, a couple that came in were unaware that the Gandy Dancers had an operating layout in the previous location for years.

Many thanks to Gary Children for donating the model railroad train gauges display. It is one of the items that will be placed in the window display.

At present one of the members of WCGD has a G scale train running in the window display. There is a motion detector setup that activates the train when someone passes by the window.

BSG (S) and WCGD (HO) have our layouts displayed. In addition to those, one of the WCGD members has a unique glass top, coffee table, N gauge layout.

Initially we thought that the G gauge was not representative of the main focus of the clubhouse. Not only representing another facet of model railroading, and the fact that it is an eye-catching item, I feel that it should remain in service. It may be reduced in size. With the existing structures and possibly of the addition of some scenery it will be a real asset. Our banner will read Waukesha County's Model Railroad Clubhouse. This would make it more all-inclusive with N, HO, S and G. Sorry, there are no plans for three-rail Lionel.

To advertise upcoming events and open house dates we are planning on making a railroad station style train schedule board for the front window. Below is the proposed display. At present the plan is that the dates and times will be attached with Velcro making it easily changeable.

<b>SOUTH ST. &amp; GRAND AVE. STATION</b>		
<b>WCGD &amp; BSG RAILROAD TIME TABLE</b>		
<b>ARRIVALS &amp; DEPARTURES</b>		
<b>OPEN HOUSE</b>		
<b>APR</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:00am - 6:00 pm</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10:00am - 6:00 pm</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10:00am - 6:00 pm</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10:00am - 6:00 pm</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10:00am - 6:00 pm</b>

Other plans for the windows are pictures and photographs of railroad related items. We would also like to put in some real railroad memorabilia. If there are any members who know of items that they could loan or donate, please contact Ron Schlicht by phone or email. There are also plans for displays adjacent to the BSG layouts. There is plenty of bare wall space. I'm looking for ideas that go beyond just the A.C. Gilbert, American Flyer Heritage that is already in the works.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> WCGD & BSG had another open house session. A small number of individuals stopped in off the street and we try to make their visit enjoyable whether they are model railroaders or just stopped in out of curiosity.

Tom Patterson once again provided us with a train had 30 cars plus a caboose (31 cars total). The three locomotives (all powered) were an SHS F7A (Boston and Maine) and an SHS F3A and B pair (Maine Central). The train included some of the Crown Models Products refrigerator cars that were noted in the 2023 March/April of the NASG Dispatch written by Tom Detmer.

Fred Vergenz ran his Amtrak set, that is if you want to call 2 - EMD F-40PH Diesels Locomotives Engine #'s 330 & 329, Amtrak Superliner 3 - Baggage Coach Cars, 3 -Coach Cars, 1 - Dining Car, 3 - Lounge Cars, 3 - Sleeper Cars, and 1 Pullman Heavyweight Orange Observation Car on the end of the train (El Presidente Ray Pul's Private Business Car) a set . Two Locomotives pulling a 14-car passenger train. As usual good time was had by the members that did drop by.

We have had some people drop in with various American Flyer engines and cars. Many don't run, but BSG members Paul Bartelak and Ray Puls, as have other members, helped them out with suggestions and in some cases, repairs. You never know when we just might pick up a member or two. If not, at least we performed a good deed.

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## **BSG Layout Progress**

Adding scenery and enhancing the present structures is the main focus on the tabletop layout.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter I have almost everything that Bachman made in original Plasticville. Even though most people have heard of PV, few actually know how many diverse items that they produced in the past, and still manufacture to this day. With many of their structures, just by reducing the initial front (and or rear) door sizes, makes them very close to S gauge. The fire station for one will accept 1/64<sup>th</sup> fire trucks but not larger scales.

All of the above means that you have to see another one of the tabletops Plasticville venues. The motel is a relatively simple building. It has usually been furnished with 3 automobiles. The cars are slightly larger than 1/64<sup>th</sup>, but again smaller than O Scale. The original boxed version also had three cardboard bushes with flowers that when folded fit into slots on the front walkway. They are rarely found in good shape and not all that attractive. Instead, I used some broken PV fence gates and inserted the pieces into the slots. I mixed acrylic paint to detail some of the windows. Most Plasticville structures have detailed fronts. The sides and backs are usually the basic

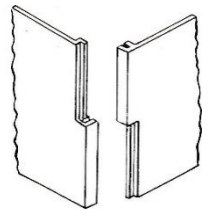
molded color. I just happen to have most of the accessories in the original pink color.

Regarding windows, there are various ways to fill the blank opening. You can draw up drapes, blinds or whatever on your computer or just use colored paper. After running copies, I apply clear packaging tape to the prints giving them the glossy appearance of glass.



Littletown was a range of clip-together pre-colored plastic building kits that are known to have appeared in trade catalogues from 1953 onwards.

Initially produced by Unlimited Plastics Corporation, at their factory in East Paterson, New Jersey, the line seems to have been taken over by Banner Plastics in 1955. In the UK, the line was produced under license, by [Kleeware](#).



Towards the end of 1955, [Bachmann](#) took over, and incorporated a number of items into their existing competing [Plasticville](#) line.

As a sidenote, Bachman includes the motel in their catalogs, but it was not the original manufacturer. PV has the block like pressure fit assembly. Any structure with the sliding locking fixture was made by Unlimited Plastics Corporation and was marketed as Littletown.



Bachmann did not reproduce all of the Littletown line. However, a number of the ones that they did, were superior in design to theirs. The colonial church had a unique feature, it had three toppers for the steeple, a weather vane, a Christian cross and, believe it or not, a Star of David. That is something that would never be done in today's market.

In saying all of the above, the level of success of the Chicagoland Area of S Gaugers, Fall S Fest 2023 will be a determining factor the future of Fall S Fests in other cities.

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## Fall S Fest 2023

By now you probably have received your Fall S Fest Application through the mail. The event will be held November 3-5 at Georgios Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center in Orland Park Illinois.

For more information on the venue or for reservations go to: <https://georgios.com/georgihotel/>

In the event that you have not received a mailing, check out [www.trainweb.org/CASG](http://www.trainweb.org/CASG) for more info on registration, vendors tables, car orders, directions, schedule, etc. **Or call Joel Lebovitz at: 847-212-3541**

At this time The AFSGSLA (St. Louis Club) is in the process of planning the 2024 Fall S Fest. They are contacting various individuals how have attended their event over the past years. This survey may greatly help them in determining the future of the event. They have a venue. What they will need is an idea of how many vendors and attendees they can plan for. That information is critical. That information will decide if there even is a 2024 Fall S Fest.

It's a numbers game, how many dealers will be there? How many attendees can be anticipated? How many cars should be ordered? How many patches should be made? Should there be a banquet? **How much help can be depended on?**

With the advent of Covid, a cancelation of the event for one year, and a decreasing market due to the aging of American Flyer enthusiasts, not to mention that **only now** is Covid considered to be a non-factor anymore, the 2020/2021 Fall S Fest sponsored by the Badgerland S Gaugers was not a financial success and resulted in a loss. Our club is small and with limited resources. This is not news to anyone. The State-Line S Gaugers encountered the same issues and are no longer a participant in Fall S Fest.

In the March/April issue of the NASG Dispatch there was an article on Crown Models Products by Tom Detmer. One of the cars included was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Badgerland S Gaugers Fall S Fest cars, the CMSP&P wood sided reefer. 525 cars were sold before the event. **Gone are those days.**

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## Swap Meet Report

I normally don't report on area swap meets, however after the demise of the Badgerland S Gaugers and the Tri-City meets there was a little bit of a void for swap meet junkies. The Lionel Club's meets are still continuing and there is a sufficient number of vendors to make it a good source of model railroad equipment.

Last Fall a new meet started in New Berlin and was successful enough to warrant a change of venue to a larger facility. I posted their flyer in the last newsletter. I attended the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meet. The facility OAW Indoor Sports Complex in New Berlin was huge and there were 153 paid for vendor tables, with extras if needed.

**The following email was sent out to all of the vendors.**

Thank you so much for coming to the swap meet this past weekend. I appreciate all the support and everyone who came in to help make this event happen.

We had 352 people in attendance, and gave away more than \$300 in raffle prizes. We had a lot of very positive feedback on the event and vendors. You helped make this swap meet very special for a lot of people.

I am sorry to say that all future events at this location are cancelled, the finances and logistics are the leading reasons why these events will not continue at the OAW Indoor Sports Complex. I'm working hard to secure a new facility to accommodate future events.

Regrettably, I have to cancel the November show entirely. If you've paid in advance for tables for November, I will be sending you a refund for the full amount that you've paid down. The July 16th and September 24th events are still possible, but may be at a different location. I am working on securing a facility to better fit the needs of the event. If I have not secured something in 2 weeks' time, I will be issuing total refunds to everyone who has paid in advance for their tables. If you decide that you want your refund now, and that you're not interested in following to a new location, I understand and will return your deposit.

I'm still working on an event for January 13th at the Fond Du Lac County Fairgrounds. If you're interested in that event, please let me know as I will be making a trip to see the facility soon to determine its viability.

Thank you for your understanding.  
Sincerely,  
Shawn Hoppert

**Editors Comment:**

Having been involved in running the Badgerland S Gaugers swap meet, I know the difficulty in organizing these events. Finding a facility with reasonable rent, in order to make the meet financially successful, is difficult to say the least. The Lionel Club has had to deal with that problem over the years and the Tri-City meet had the same issue, a very high rental rate, which forced the sponsor to cancel.

It has always made me wonder about what kind of facility is able to rent a hall from 7:00 am to about 1:00 pm on a “**Sunday**” morning. It certainly wouldn’t be a wedding party. The only reason that I can think of is that the facility does not feel that the profit level is “large” enough.

Model train swap meets are more than just a means of making a couple dollars or so. There are innumerable cases of sellers not even selling enough to pay for the table rates to break even.

Swaps are social events where people with similar interests can enjoy the company of fellow model railroaders. It is also a place where people find out about clubs like BSG to join, a swap meet is a place to exchange ideas, and maybe some knowledge, about their equipment, from repair to other “how to” concepts. If not for a model railroading event, I would not be a member of the Badgerland S Gaugers since 1976 and have made some friends for life.

Swap meets are important to the model railroading community in more ways than then one, \$\$\$\$\$\$.

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**Spring S Spree Report**

**LOTS OF FUN AT ANNUAL EVENT**

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We had a large contingent of club members attend the 2023 Spring S Spree in the Dayton, Ohio area March 31 and April 1st. The Dealer Hall saw lots of activity both days, with club members who had tables reported sales were very good. The clinics were well received, and the A.C. Gilbert Museum exhibit was a huge interest with attendees.

At the President’s meeting Presidents from MVSG, CVSGA, COSG and SMSG attended with discussion of next year’s 2024 Spree in the Cleveland suburb of Mayfield, Ohio. MVSG President Walt Schnee, host of this year’s Spree, reported that 99 tables were rented to 37 vendors, only 35 Spree box cars remained, over 100 folks pre-registered, and as of Saturday mid-morning, over 65 folks registered at the door. They feel the 2023 Spree will show a profit,

always the goal for this type of event! CVSGA President Jim Futules reported plans are being finalized for the 2024 Spring S Spree. The event will be held in the Hilton Garden Inn East Banquet and Conference Center located in Mayfield, Ohio. The dates of the 2024 Spree are May 3 and 4th, 2024. President Futules added they seek folks who might have an interesting topic for a clinic. If so, please contact them. Visit [www.SSpree.Info](http://www.SSpree.Info) for the latest information and find a contact form if you have a clinic topic.

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**“SPECIAL NOTICE”**

BSG will be assisting Kim Young with disposing of some of Jeff’s model railroading items. An inventory is in progress and pricing will be established. The various articles will be moderately priced. A reserve will be put on them and bids can be made. They will be published and be offered to Badgerland members first, before being offered to the public. You will be getting separate emails displaying the items and the reserve price. All of the items will be located at the clubhouse.

**Local Area Meets**

**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.

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**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
	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

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

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

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**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)

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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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**Next BSG Meeting**

**Date: Sunday June 4<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.

The summer months are usually reserved for more outdoor activities and vacations. There will probably not be full newsletters published until Fall. However, you will be receiving emails with any pertinent club activities. This summer we will be actively working on the clubhouse to prepare for the upcoming 2023/2024 model railroading season. Have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

**BSG Inventory**

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

2016 Sprecher Brewery Reefers \$55.00 Each  
**There is a very limited supply left of these cars left.**



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



Shipping \$11.00 on 1st car. \$4.00 ea. additional car.

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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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