



2023 December Issue

November 19th Meeting Report

Nine members were in attendance: Tom Patterson, Jerry Poniewaz, Phil Piscitello, Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Roy Meissner, Doug Stoll, Larry Blank and Jeff Madden.

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.

Roy Meissner gave the positive treasurer's report.

Old Business:

1. Over a period of time, Ron has sold a number of our 2021 Fall S Fest cars and some of the Sprecher cars. We only have (4) – Sprecher left. Unexpectedly we did not sell any of the FSF cars at this year's Fall S Fest in Orland Park. Ron did sell a number of items from the Jeff Young estate to benefit Kim Young. There still are several estate items yet for sale. Contact Ron Schlicht regarding the type of items for sale.

2. Jeff Madden gave a brief report on this year's Fall S Fest report, it will be noted further on in this newsletter.

3. Tentatively down the road, it will be the BSG's turn for the Fall S Fest in 2025. If we go ahead several State-Line members offered to help out. It remains up in the air at this point. Note – it will be the 50th Anniversary year for the Fall S Fest and the BSG club.

New Business:

1. The BSG will have a Christmas party get-together on **Dec. 3rd** at the Merton Community Center. Goodies will be potluck with a slide show to follow.

2. Members of the club have now moved the Modular layout to its new location in the NEW location. It was just a move within the confines not to another building. The smaller tabletop layout will also be moved when a refrigerator and some other things get a new location. The HO club is now free to revamp their layout which is an ongoing project.

3. A brief discussion was held the election of officers.

4. Club dues was discussed.

5. Meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.

2. Ron Schlicht and a couple of the members of the Gandy Dancers club are starting to put together ideas for a Christmas display in the front windows

December 17th Meeting Report

Nine members were in attendance: Tom Patterson, Jerry Poniewaz, Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Doug Stoll, Dennis Young, Steve Heineman, Bob Blomberg and Jeff Madden.

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.

No treasurers report.

Old Business:

Dues are now due for 2024.

The BSG Christmas party was held December 3rd at the new Merton Community Center. Only 12 members attended. The food was great and the multi-million-dollar facility is fabulous. Roy Meissner did a Power point show of his extensive trip to the National Narrow-Gauge Convention in Colorado in late August or early September. His whirlwind tour (he drove himself) included the Golden Spike tower in North Platte, NE, and rides on the Georgetown Loop RR, the Pikes Peak cog railway and the Cumbers and Toltec. Plus, he said he saw lots of Sn3 narrow gauge model layouts while attending the convention. Sorry for all the members that were unable attend. Besides the food and camaraderie, Roy's presentation was really entertaining and educational. Colorado WOW!

Regarding our ongoing re-arrangement in our New Gandy Dancer location in Waukesha, it seems the carpeting will be removed by the HO club. **(Due to the possibility of asbestos under the carpeting It was decided at a later date to leave well enough alone)** for those who have not seen the clubhouse yet, we will be in a completely different area. The tabletop layout will be in a more restricted area (space wise). Items have to first be moved prior to reassembly.

Ron Schlicht is helping to decorate the store window display area with a timetable sign which can be easily updated. Two members of the Gandy Dancers club worked on the lighting and brought along some of the decorations.

New Business:

BSG will help smooth out walls behind the layouts with some spackling compound.

Contact club officers if you are interested in the club attending a summer or outing? We have had them in the past and they worked out well.

There was discussion again about the BSG hosting the 2025 Fall S Fest. St. Louis is having one in 2024, and it will be our turn again in 2025. If we do host it, it will be BSG's 50th Anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the Fall S Fest.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be 1:30 p.m. on January 21, 2024.

Clubhouse Clatter

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

As previously noted, there was no Trainfest this year. The traditional dates were always the second full weekend of November. This year WCGD and BSG hosted an open house Saturday November 11th and Sunday November 12th from 10:00 am to 6:00pm on both days. The turnout was a bit sparse. Perhaps there was not enough information on the websites or on Facebook.

Tom Patterson ran some of his fabulous railroad cars and Ray Puls brought along some of his engines and rolling stock to run on the modular layout. President Ray Puls deserves a lot of credit for fixing the multitude of problems that the modular layout had. Both Scale and Hi-Rail trains ran flawlessly for hours with no issues, that hardly ever happened in the past.

The tabletop layout was running the club owned, American Flyer trains. Jeff Madden brought an AF circus engine and passenger car. Along with some of the Jeff Youngs/Don Heimburger produced Flyer circus cars, it made for a very colorful and entertaining train. All members are welcome to bring any equipment to run on either layout.

The front window display is moving along the schedule board and club information is now posted. There were a number of large frame railroad pictures that were donated and they are on display. There is still some work to be done.

Tis the time of the year, work has been started on a Christmas Display for the storefront windows. The G gauge layout has been expanded. The locomotive is activated by a motion detector outside. There are now a total of eight Christmas style trees of varying sizes in the window. Hopefully this will get some attention and possibly draw in some new members.



Editors comment: Maybe it's my age, but people walk by the window and never notice, I've been outside the windows on the sidewalk, and individuals (mostly younger) walk right by you without picking up their heads and showing any form of acknowledgement. I saw two people, each with dogs, the dogs could have been identical twins, and neither person looked at the other one. Maybe I am overestimating the impact of the window display, when I see androids among us. Is there a stat on how many people have been hit by cars while walking across a street with their cell phones.

With all of the activity centering around the BSG and clubhouse and other issues one thing has fallen through the cracks. For years, at the November meeting of the Badgerland S Gaugers, we held a nomination for the club officers with the election to take place at the December meeting. We have had a declining number of members, most of whom were very active in the club and have left this world. There wasn't an election last year and there will not be one this year.

It is always difficult to get members to run for an office in the club. Our history shows that the same individuals have held one, or all of the positions, at one time or another. We will probably have to change our by-laws to accommodate appointments to an office. In reality it amounts to finding someone who will actually be willing to take the job. So, on the last page of this newsletter, you will see the NEW/OLD officers for the 2024 season, barring any unusual circumstances.

In the event that any of our membership is inclined to run for an office, please contact President Ray Puls. We welcome the opportunity.

After the November general meeting Tom Patterson displayed some of the new Scale Trains freight cars. It was interesting to note that the S Helper words are printed on the boxes with the Scale Trains Logo in a corner. Displayed were some boxcars and peaked end hoppers.



RTR S Gauge Freight Cars Available Again By Tome Patterson

Several years ago, Mike's Train House closed its doors and the MTH S gauge line of RTR freight cars and locomotives went dormant after a decade or more of availability under the MTH banner. MTH had gotten its start as an S gauge producer when it acquired the S-Helper Service line of RTR S gauge freight cars and locomotives when SHS closed its doors. More recently, the former MTH S gauge assets were acquired by Scale Trains (www.scaletrains.com) and the first S gauge freight cars from the former SHS/MTH molds and production equipment has been released by Scale Trains within the past month.

The first Scale Trains S gauge release is a 2-bay, peaked-end, fish-belly, open hopper previously released by MTH (see accompanying photo). This car was never available as an SHS car although SHS had completed preliminary designs and some production equipment at the time SHS was acquired by MTH. This current

production run of cars from Scale Trains is available in six railroad names (plus an undecorated version). Each road name is available in two to four road numbers and is packaged as a high rail (AF compatible) car with both scale wheel sets and KD-compatible scale couplers also included in the package. Although the car has only been available for about a month, the Scale Trains web site already lists the majority of railroad name/car number combinations in this run as "limited availability".

Scale Trains second production run will be a USRA, forty-foot, rebuilt steel box car in ten road names plus two different undecorated versions. An example of an SHS version of this car is shown in an accompanying photo. Several of the Scale Trains produced road name cars will be available in a single car number only with the rest available in two car numbers. Although these box cars are still 30-60 days away from delivery, a number of the road name/car number combinations sold out just on the pre-orders and are already no longer available. See the Scale Trains web site to see current availability of this model.

Scale Trains third production run will be a re-issue of the previously produced SHS ICC wide-vision cabooses. Again, an accompanying photo shows an SHS model of this car. This caboose model will be produced in nine road names with an undecorated version also available. A few of the road names will be available in a single car number with the balance available in either two or three car numbers. This model will most likely be available in the Spring/Summer of 2024. See the Scale Trains web site for models and car numbers available for pre-order

BSG Layout Progress

As previously mentioned, move of the layout, it finally took place. Both the tabletop and modular layout have been disassembled. Ray Puls and Ron Schlicht were able to disassemble and move all of the modules in a shorter timeframe than originally anticipated.

Many thanks go out to Bob Blomberg and his friend Penny Schwark who helped the day before the move. All of the hardware that connected the modules along with other accessories had to be disconnected. Many of the structures and BSG equipment had to be "carefully" packed and boxed. Everything including the peripheral equipment had to be relocated into the new spot. What we anticipated to be done in a week or two was accomplished in a couple days.

We have four additional modules (Jeff Youngs) and will be reassembling the layout in the near future, after the holidays. As mentioned, we will be expanding the layout inwardly. As a club, we encourage new ideas for the new configuration. The layouts belong to our membership and would like as much input and ideas as possible.

We will be a bit pressed for space with the tabletop layout than in the previous location. The modular layout is not a problem and the lighting is much better in the new area than it was previously.

In regards to Jeff Young's equipment, stopping in at the club is the best way to view everything. There is SHS fast track items, American Flyer cars, American Models and other scale and non-scale equipment, like Ace trucks, 1/64 and larger vehicles. There is a lot of stuff making it difficult to post all of the items in newsletters. The pricing will be reasonable with a reserve. On the days that we scheduled an open house sale, a number of members stopped by and picked up some bargains. It's kind of like a swap meet and there are still plenty of things left. The remaining stock will be available at future meetings. The proceeds are going to the family.

For more information Contact Ron Schlicht. I can send pictures if you desire.

Fall S Fest 2023 Report

B Jeff Madden

Fall S Fest was held November 3-5 at Georgios Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center in Orland Park Illinois. Joel Lebovitz (Chair) said about 218 attended and there were about 100 tables sold. Most of the vendors sold Flyer, but there were some scale items for sale too. American Models did attend and introduced a pulpwood flat car as a new item.

There were the usual clinics (mostly Flyer related), contest, door prizes, raffle prizes and banquet. The banquet was in a separate venue (Papa Joe's Italian restaurant). The Quality Inn had banquet space but required a 100-person minimum. Around 60 or so did attend the banquet on Saturday evening and reports were that the food was very good. There was a presentation on the upper Michigan Iron Ore railroads. There was a small auction afterward. Surprisingly, there was no Joe McDoke's flick – maybe the club didn't have a copy or there was a technical problem?

There were some cash prizes (50, 25 and 10 bucks) for first, second and third prizes in different categories. Our Jerry Poniewaz won a 3rd prize for his substation entry. Wisconsin vendors included, Jerry, Ron Schlicht, Roy

Meissner, John Heck, John Wickland, Steve Lunde and Jeff Madden. There was no silent auction or train races.

Overall, the Fest seemed a success. Many were wondering about next year since there was no S Fest at all last year. The members of the St. Louis American Flyer club said they will move ahead to have a Fall S Fest in 2024. It will be again at the DoubleTree Hotel in the western suburbs of St. Louis. The date TBD.

**I'm sure many of you have heard this story before,
but it's Christmas.**

In the movies Frank Sinatra always seemed to be the "tough guy". Many Model train enthusiasts are looked at with that "you have got to be kidding look", grow up. Then again "Boys will be boys" and yes some of us play with toys. Whether you are pure scale of hi-rail they are not real, they are all toys in one form or another.

Barbara Sinatra: "A model railway enthusiast, he'd had a special train room built at the Compound for his two hundred or so trains, replicating the layout of the famous Lionel showroom in New York. His museum-quality setting featured yards of tracks on two levels amid scenery of mountains, factories, houses, and bridges as well as a miniature replica of Hoboken. It also had an old Western town, a billboard announcing one of his sellout concerts, and a New Orleans riverboat. From the ceiling hung replicas of all the planes he'd ever owned. In the wood-paneled room built as an extension of an old railroad caboose, he played with his favorite locomotive—the high-speed Japanese one he'd traveled on several times. On the wall were hung all sorts of station signs and slogans, including his favorite, which said, 'He who dies with the most toys wins.'"

Once he was in that room, Frank was a child again, the same little boy who'd pressed his nose against the glass of the Lionel model train store. His mother, Dolly, had pawned her fox fur to buy him his first set, a sacrifice he never forgot. In his special room that took him back to those days, he wore a bright red engineer's hat with a visor and blew a whistle while the sounds of trains and engines played. He loved it, and so did his friends, who would happily don hats and blow whistles too. Many of them bought him new or unusual trains as gifts, happy to find something to give the man who had everything. He had a solid gold one with his initials set in diamonds and rubies, which was a present from one of the Vegas hotels; a locomotive that was a gift from the Vatican; and a crystal version of the train that inspired Glenn Miller's 'Chattanooga Choo-Choo.' Whenever his electrician came by to help fix any problems with the track, the two of them would spend hours 'testing' the entire system. I'd pop my head around the door sometimes just to watch Frank, happy to see him so playful and animated, a glass of Daniel's in his hand."

John Aaron (musician, piano technician and fellow toy train enthusiast): “Over the years, we met up at train conventions, shows, swap meets, auctions, etc. We also frequented many hobby shops, after regular hours, of course, and visited numerous layouts of fellow train collectors.

Most folks in his childhood neighborhood could not buy electric trains which have always been costly, but so the story goes, Frank's mother pawned an old fox fur piece she had acquired and bought him his first set of trains. Another often-heard tale has Frank and various friends jumping aboard a streetcar every now and then and traveling the dozen miles or so to the Lionel Train factory where they would rummage through the trash bins after hours in search of discarded train parts. From the parts, they would cobble together whole trains.

In his glory years, Sinatra would stroll the Lionel factory floors with Joshua Lionel Cowen himself as Frank picked out the latest Lionel offerings to add to his growing collection. Frank collected trains from almost all the major manufactures the world over. The value of his collection eventually exceeded a million dollars.

Of course, once the word got out that Sinatra loved toy trains, many came to him as gifts, including an antique locomotive courtesy of the Vatican. Tommy Dorsey, one of the first bandleaders Frank worked for, had a huge train layout in the basement of his Bernardsville, New Jersey, mansion which Frank enjoyed visiting and operating. Frank was also quite taken with the 1949 Macy’s holiday display layout in New York. Sinatra's personal toy train layout not only surpassed both the Dorsey and Macy’s layouts, but it also gave the Lionel Corporation’s New York showroom layout a good run for the money!

The Sinatra collection and layout was not about owning the most toys. It was about fun. I never saw him more relaxed than when he was cleaning or oiling a locomotive or at the controls while four or five trains roared around his layout.

During the holidays, Frank often had neighborhood kids in to not only look at but to actually operate his layout. The fact that some trains were occasionally damaged by the overly enthusiastic kids did not upset him.

Sinatra and I were also of the mind that no train was too rare or valuable to operate. We both owned the rare and highly coveted 1957 Lionel pink girl's train sets. Although they were beyond valuable, we both frequently operated them on our layouts. Neither of us was much into the mint, never-opened, boxed train sets so many collectors strive to acquire. We both felt that toy trains were made to be toys and made to be played with.”

From the Toy Train Barn Argyle Wisconsin

Local Area Meets

**Model Railroad Train Show Swap Meet
Kenosha Union Club**

3030 39th Avenue Kenosha, WI

9:00 am To 1:00 pm

Admission \$5.00

2024	January	14
	February	11
	March	10

For More Information Call:

Lionel Swap Meets

New Berlin Entertainment Center

16000 West Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

8:00 am To 12:00 pm

Admission \$4.00

2024	January	21
	February	25
	March	17

Check website: www.milw-lrrc.com

or call 262-754-9900

Great Midwest Train Show

DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL

9 am to 3:00 pm

Admission \$8.00

2024	January	7
	February	4
	March	3
	April	7
	May	5

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

New Berlin Entertainment Center **

16000 West Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

1:00 pm To 4:00 pm

Admission \$4.00

2024	January	14
------	---------	----

Train School - Hoepfner-Horn Bros. VFW Post 5716
FREE ADMISSION - 17980 West Beloit Road, New Berlin

Learn about this great hobby and all it offers from local modelers. Stations will be set up to discover different aspects of the hobby.

February	17&18
----------	-------

Mad-City train Show Alliant Center, Madison, WI

February	25**
----------	------

March	17**
-------	------

April	21
-------	----

Time (TBD)
East Troy Electric Railroad
WISE Division members and their families only - pre-
registration required
(Extra Fare Event - Train Ride, Car Barn Tours, Lunch)
Check website: www.wisedivision.org

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday January 21st
Time: 1:30pm
Club Location:
Corner of South St. & Grand Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

****Reminder**

Although the meetings are scheduled for 1:30pm, we plan on hosting an open house on those meeting days from 10:00am to 4:00 pm. BSG meetings are scheduled on the same day as the Lionel Club swap meet dates.

Future Meeting Dates:

2024	January	21
	February	25
	March	17

BSG Inventory

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

The cars are also available at the BSG clubhouse.

For those of you who get THE DISPATCH magazine, after months of advertising our 2021 Fall S Fest cars, an old ad was put in for the Sprecher cars and the Soo Line gondolas, which have been sold out for over a year or so.

Special Notice

Due to some personal health issues, long time BSG member Gary Children, will be dismantling his extensive S gauge layout He is extending an invitation to all who may be interested in purchasing any of the items on his layout. This will include trains, structures, electronics or anything that may interest you .
For more information: please contact him.

Gary Children
2135 S. 95th St.
West Allis, WI53227
414-327-1666
gchildren1@att.net

Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
Ray Puls W334 S5362 Red Fox Way North Prairie, WI 53153 262-409-3496 rpuls3@yahoo.com	Ron Schlicht 5274 S. 49th Greenfield, WI 53220 414-477-7866 rons48tblue@gmail.com
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Roy Meissner P.O. Box 1438 Merton, WI 53056-0001 262-538-4325 rmeissner@wi.rr.com	Jeff Madden Bron Derw Ct. Wales, WI 53183 262-968-3729 nasgdispatch@gmail.com
<u>Directors</u>	<u>Newsletter Editors</u>
Larry Blank Fred Vergenz Wayne Bartelt	Jeff Madden Ron Schlicht

Badgerland Website:

Doug Stoll, Omaha@frontier.com

Website for BSG:

www.trainweb.org/bsg

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:



Ron Schlicht - rons48tblue@gmail.com

From the BSG Officers Have a very Merry Christmas