



2024 March Issue

February Meeting Report

(7) members were in attendance: Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Doug Stoll, Bob Blomberg, Steve Heinemann, Jeff Madden.

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.

No treasurer's report was given.

Old Business:

1. The Aug. 11 picnic at the MSOE grounds near Cedarburg is still on. The updated membership list is still in progress.
2. We need to update the Dispatch so it lists our 2021 hopper cars as being available and not the Sprecher reefers. Only two of the Sprecher cars are available and sellable.
3. The club is still working on a venue and details for the Fall S Fest in 2025. It'll be our turn again then.
4. The Badgerland S Gaugers were represented by Ron Schlicht's traveling Flyer layout being present at the Mad City show in February (Madison, WI), The Milwaukee Domes and the Delavan Train show in March. There was a good public turnout at all these shows.
5. The larger modular layout in our new permanent location is being hooked together again after an internal move. The resetting of the Tabletop layout is awaiting a move of a refrigerator in the space needed. BSG will work with the Gandy Dancers regarding that.

New Business:

1. We discussed the new areas for the layouts.
2. The NASG survey sent to S clubs was given to our president to fill out.
3. Sadly, a long-time member, Brad Nelson, has passed away after a long illness.

4. Some changes will be made to our Facebook info to encourage non-members to attend any open houses and/or meetings.
5. There was a brief discussion on potential plans for the future of a BSG hosting of the 2025 Fall S Fest.

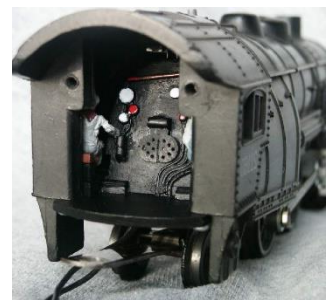
Meeting adjourned – Jeff Madden

Doug Stoll Electronics

After the last few meetings Doug has been doing some demonstrations on various projects that he has worked on.

The March meeting was very constructive for those that were present. After the meeting a short clinic and samples of magnetic reed switches and relays. A swing down wiring panel was proposed. The layout master could swing down a sample 8x10 plywood base that has hardware on it, that drives reverse loops, un-couplers, accessories and automatic switch control, thus preventing derailments. The relays can be activated for my toggle and push button micro switches. The info detail I hope to have published online before April meeting.

The next meeting based on vote, is to show how to build lighted cab prototype and a cast mold with lighted firebox. These are inserted right behind the brush cap and can drive the lights without additional wiring. The resin cast inserts also can accommodate Artista figures of engineer and fireman.



Ray Puls and I are trying to establish the sharing of information on personal projects/upgrades. After each meeting there could be clinics for the purpose of upgrading original AF equipment as well other S-scale hardware.

In Memorial

Richard (Rick) Wade longtime member of BSG passed away last month. Rick was always willing to help out at the model railroad shows. He also was the club secretary and editor of the newsletter for five years. Rick had a small Hi-Rail American Flyer layout. He was a classic toy train, play with trains guy, who just wanted to have fun with his trains. Scale was definitely not his desire, or area of expertise, but enjoyment was.

Brad Nelson one of the original charter members in 1975, he recently passed away. His original Hi-Rail layout was featured in Classic Toy Trains magazine. The first time that I saw it, it was beyond my dreams. But it wasn't good enough for Brad. He tore the whole thing down and built an even better layout. How good was it, good enough to merit another article in Classic Toy Trains and was featured in the "I Love Toy Trains" video. Brad was always willing to host club meetings at his home and his wife's (Barb) cuisine made for one great afternoon. Brad always had a smile on his face and was more than happy to share his model railroading knowledge with anyone who asked.

Brad with layout #1 and a photo from layout #2



Clubhouse Clatter

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

Well, the turnouts at the meetings has been the usual subjects, with a top attendance of 12. The work on the layout has been spearheaded by our President Ray Puls. The few open houses have had a sparse public turnout. Outside of the model train shows, there has not been a

concerted effort to get our message out. We have gotten one new member, that's a plus. For any information on clubhouse access outside of our general meetings, contact either Ray Puls or Ron Schlicht.

Details for the upcoming BSG summer picnic scheduled for August 11th at the MSOE grounds in Cedarburg Wisconsin will be in a future newsletter.

BSG Layout Progress

The modular layout is finally up and running again. Ray Puls and Tom Patterson have done extensive work to get the trackwork up to running condition. As mentioned, with a flip of a switch both inside and outside rails can run AC or DC powered equipment. The both loops will handle scale or Hi-rail wheel sets and engines. At present the Jeff Young modules were setup behind the original club modules. Eventually they will be totally incorporated into the layout and fully functional. They are on the inside of the layout and are a preview of the some of the expansion that will be on the layout.

The overall length and width of the layout will remain the same but all expansion will be inward. As the layout was before, with the two loops and an open center, there was a large area of unused floor space. This was always an issue with making the layout larger, more dead space. If you see the layout now, with the Young's modules, is just looks so much bigger, even though it's the same size.

Now for the bad news. The area that was planned for the Hi-Rail tabletop layout will **not** be available for the layout. This is major disappointment. The layout was geared more for children and the Hi-Rail, American Flyer enthusiasts. It was supposed to be an example for model train beginners. It also exhibited a layout style that could go up and down in a short period of time and be easily changed or modified. Sometimes highly scaled detailed layouts can be intimidating and discouraging to beginners, plus smaller children are unable to view them.

This will also cut down on our ability to run more of our members trains, particularly Hi-Railers. With amount of the work that was put into it, to improve it from past setups, it appears to have been a waste of time.

Regarding Jeff Young's equipment, stopping in at the club is the best way to view everything that is for sale. There is still a lot of really nice items available.

There has also been some donated items members may be interested in some need a little TLC but the price may be right. Any sales help keep the club's expenses down.

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

Mitchell park Domes Show

After a hiatus due to Covid, the Mitchell Park Domes model train exhibition, in the lobby, was started up again. This event is held only one weekend of the year in conjunction with the G gauge setup which is set up in the seasonal dome. This year's exhibition was bigger than ever. Outside of the usual layouts in the main lobby and the one dome, the Greenhouse No. 7 at Mitchell Park was also utilized. It is the only greenhouse in Milwaukee to double as a venue for a multitude of events during the year and a building that showcases the unique architecture that the city is known for. The 15,000-square-foot glass house had a number of very large club layouts. There are plans for next year's show to add even more layouts. Needless to say, this was one of the best shows ever at the Domes.

This annual program is particularly important to the facility, the reason being that the two-day event brought in 5,987 through the door. BSG has been fortunate to get media exposure, television etc., which helps our cause.

BSG had literature and information on our club. Ron's "Hollywood Meets Model Railroading" layout has been the only representation of S gauge.

Mad-City Train Show

The Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale was February 17-18, 2024, at the Alliant Energy Center. Exhibition Hall in Madison WI. The 56th annual show features expanded 100,000 square feet of layouts (all scales), toy trains, clinics, exhibits, and 250 vendor tables.

This year there were more S Gauge items available than in the past. Plus, every once and a while, you could find a dealer that just happened to pick up some Flyer with one of their other purchases and were blowing it off. BSG had literature and information on our club. There were some new vendors at this year's show and there are a number who have already requested tables for next year's event. Setup was the smoothest anyone has seen in several years. Ron's "Hollywood Meets Model Railroading" layout represented S gauge. We have been fortunate to have been placed right near the front entry doors over the past few years. This ensures that we will have more than adequate exposure.

Although I don't have any attendance figures from the SCWD newsletter, it appears that the attendance was mentioned to be very good. The staff and volunteers for the show make it an enjoyable experience for the exhibitors. I base this on how well BSG is treated.

Delavan Train Show

Again, after a hiatus due to Covid, the Delavan model railroad show was resurrected. It is now run by the City of Delavan. This was the first year of the new staff. In prior years there were a number of downtown shops that had various railroad displays in them. making it a small touring event. Plans are in place to develop the show back to where it was prior to Covid and will be expanding to downtown businesses again. At its peak, prior to Covid, the two-day event once drew over 6,000 attendees. It takes a while to build up a show after not taking place for a period of time. In spite of the absence and restart, the show drew over 2,000 attendees.

The layout of the show was quite different than in the past. This year only the VFW post hall and city hall had displays. BSG was prominently displayed in the main hall. BSG had literature and information on our club. Ron's "Hollywood Meets Model Railroading" layout represented S gauge.

Note:

There are fewer shows and opportunities for us to display layouts and distribute our BSG material.

The 2024 Trainfest has been shifted to downtown Milwaukee. Besides myself, there are a number of individuals who have little or no desire to attend this show at that location. The past couple years the management of the show has been less than cordial to the participants. Traditionally, Trainfest has been the premier model railroading event in the state of Wisconsin. I will find out more details on the show, but at this time, it appears BSG will not be represented. I can only remember one year since 1976 that we have not been there in one form or another.

Fall S Fest

2024 Fall S Fest will be hosted by the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area. As previously announced, it will be October 25 to 27. It will return to the Doubletree Westport, the same hotel as last couple of times. There will be two cars from American Models, both TOFC's (trailer on Flat Car). One decorated for Missouri Pacific and the other one decorated for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois. American Models said this the first time they ever did anything for the C&EI, which alone makes this car special. Limited quantities are available, so order early. Only one set of cars will be available per registrant, extra cars, if any, will be sold.

The Photo Shop

August	4
September	8
November	3
December	1

Way back when I started editing the newsletters again, I put in the following: The Photo Shop section of the newsletter will be an area where we hope that members can share pictures of their trains, layout, projects or other areas that may interest to our members. The next newsletter will definitely have some even if it's only "my" stuff.

Details For Calendar of Events

Spring S Spree is from May 3-4 at the Emidio & Sons Expo Center in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (near Akron). This is the 50th Anniversary of the CVSGA (Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association). A special AM B&LE (orange) boxcar will be offered. For details check events on the NASG website (nasg.org) or go direct to www.cvsnga.com. This hall location is separate from any hotel. There is a hotel with special rates available nearby.

The NASG Annual Convention will again be in Harrisburg, PA from July 17-20. Check the NASG website (nasg.org) for details.

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 No future dates at this time

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	October	20
	November	17
	December	15

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	May	5
	June	2

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 No future dates at this time

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday April 28th

Time: 1:30pm

Club Location:

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

Future Meeting Dates:

2024 No future general meeting dates at this time.

NOTE:

This does not mean that there will be no activities at the clubhouse. There will be Play/Trains Sessions over the Summer. You will be notified by email when these operating sessions are taking place.

The BSG clubhouse is not shut down over the summer.

BSG Inventory

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

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.

Dues Notice

The dues is still \$20.00 a year

Make checks payable to the Badgerland S Gaugers

Send to Treasurer
Roy Meissner
P.O. Box 1438
Merton, WI 53056-0001
262-538-4325

Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers

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

----- **Editors Comment:**

For years (probably 20 or more) the Badgerland S Gaugers have not changed their dues rate. For years BSG virtually shut down from about sometime in April to October. BSG was a part time club, meeting at various members homes. For years BSG did not have a great deal to offer their members. BSG is now a year-round organization with a clubhouse.

Members wishing to run their trains, and a number of members that want to, have keys to the clubhouse. This allows them in come in anytime, perhaps with their grandchildren. There is a small number of members that have made contributions to the club both financially and with equipment.

I know that there are a number of individuals that like to be members of organizations and don't participate a lot and that's ok, they just like to be kept informed about our club and S gauge.

At our meetings there are refreshments (soda or bottled water) for our members, those are furnished and paid for by BSG. BSG held a really nice Christmas party this past year, one of the best ever, some of that was paid for by BSG.

Has anyone seen the cost of living lately? Done any shopping? Maybe it's just me, I've been in this club since 1975, but \$20.00 a year. What a bargain.

Special Notice

Due to some personal health issues, long time BSG member Gary Children, is 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.

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