



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

2026 January Issue

No Formal Meeting: It was or Christmas Party

After the festivities a brief discussion took place:

Ray Puls. Ron Schlicht, Jeff Madden, Bob Blomberg, Tom Patterson, Doug Stoll, Roy Meissner,

Old Business & New Business:

Tom Patterson gave a brief report on the 2025 Fall S Fest Milwaukee Road box car project. The quota in order to produce more cars was reached, and an order will be placed sometime in January.

The estimated completion date will be determined by American Models. We will need to acquire some small boxes for shipping, one, two or three cars. We have a very small number of boxes at the clubhouse. But if any of our members have any relatively small empty boxes, don't recycle them yet, it could save us the cost of purchasing some.

One downside during the Fall S Fest was the interest in the raffle tickets. The total number of items were six or seven. The income was minimal.

Ron Schlicht reported that the auction of some special Milwaukee Road boxcars went very well at the Machine Shed FSF banquet on Saturday night.

Roy Meissner reported that our membership total is around 30 members.

Ron Schlicht noted that there still are a lot of estate items remaining to be sold.

Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers. The passing siding has been completed and the revisions to the proposed inner loops are being started. With all of the Fall S Fest preparations, there was not a lot of progress on the layout. The trackwork for the additional two loops is the most pressing issue.

Just how many times can I write the preceding paragraph. OK, since we have a new president, this will my first presidential address.

Over the past few years, we have had a declining membership in our club. This is not only happening in our club but to many others. In past newsletters I have pointed out how much more we have to offer than ever before. **BSG has a clubhouse. Big Deal.** It is only open on a few occasions for an open house with the Gandy Dancers and for our general meetings, eight or so per year. That all amounts to, in my mind a very limited time for our members to have access and enjoy what we have.

Here is where I am looking for advice from our membership. **Number 1.** We have to have at least, once a month work sessions. This may be layout work or many other areas in which we can make the place look more than a train layout in a basement. **Number 2.** We have to be open once a week, or every other week, just to run trains or whatever. This would require more than the two usual suspects being there for all of these occasions. We have multiple sets of keys available to our members. All it would amount to is opening the doors and spend perhaps 3 to four hours, doing whatever they want to do.

The times could be determined by a consensus of our membership. Mornings, afternoons, evenings, a fixed day of the week, all of which could be from suggestions from the membership. Whatever the proposals, it has to be open for our members more than a dozen or so times a year. The open houses are fun, at least for me, even though, many times, I end up being the only BSG member there.

We have a clubhouse with limited access for our members. We also have a clubhouse, with ideas stemming from very few individuals. I'm sure that there are other concepts out there regarding what would make the clubhouse a better place to enjoy being an S Gauger.

Please send me your opinions.

BSG recently received a donation of a large storage shelf. Even though there is little progress on the layout, our whole allotted area needs to be cleaned up and organized. With some help from a member or two we have to assemble the new shelving properly, categorize our equipment, and throw out what we feel will never be used. The area beneath the layout has to be cleaned up.

Fall S Fest 2025 Report

The original “moderate estimates”, based on the facilities expense and all other cost factors, plus the numbers from the past three Fall S Fests, made the forecast for BSG marginal when it came to the financials.

We will not be posting the final financial report on the outcome, but BSG exceeded expectation. The benefits will afford us the ability to improve the lighting and purchase a couple items to make working on the layout easier. It will also provide us with advertising materials to promote the club.

The reorder of the cars will generate additional funds but will not be part of the Fall S Fest final total. Since it was not in the original plans, it will be treated as promotional instrument. There are clubs out there that occasionally produce a car or cars, as a fund raiser.

As a result, with the 2021 hoppers being similar in design, in some respects, to the 2025 box cars we have had a number of sales, which reduced some of the inventory that was not sold.

Hopefully this will be the “last” Fall S Fest Report.

2025 Fall S Fest Car Reorder

Tom Patterson has graciously offered to take on the task of the reordering of additional Fall S Fest cars. Due to the unprecedented response to the 2025 Milwaukee Road box car, there were individuals who didn't register prior to the event and as a result did not get any of this years' FSF cars. Also, through the efforts of our webmaster Doug Stoll on our site and Facebook there has been an increased interest in the cars who had no prior knowledge of the Badgerland S Gaugers.

Can I get a little help here?

Our third 2025 Fall S Fest car run will be distributed exclusively by USPS mail. This creates a need for cardboard shipping boxes. Sizes needed are 12 x 6 x 4 (for single car orders) and 12 x 6 x 6 (for two-car orders). If you have any sturdy boxes in these sizes that you are willing to contribute to our shipping effort, please contact Tom Patterson: email tpatterson31@wi.rr.com.

Election Results:

What an “astonishing” surprise. Are you kidding me? I almost can't believe it, almost nothing changed. Then again, there were no secret ballots. no drop boxes. Come to think of it, we didn't even have a voice vote. It was like a third world election. It amounted to all the present officers voting for one another. Thus, it was a landslide victory. Well, there is always next year, which will probably end up with the same “astonishing” results.

The election results are as follows;

Ron Schlicht will be hoisted to the position of President. This was a result of everyone just looking at him with dead silence. Guilt was a factor.

Roy Meissner will hold the office of the treasurer, a power of which he has held for the past three years or so.

Jeff Madden will remain a Secretary for BSG,

Ron Schlicht will once again maintain the position BSG as the newsletter editor

As each office is brought up for nomination, there is what might be called a **silent vote**, at which all present, turn their heads and stare at a particular individual.

Tom Patterson and Wayne Freidrich have offered to join the staff as Directors. In addition, the BSG Chairman of the Board (Ray's wife June) declared him ineligible to run for the office of Vice President. In turn, rather than a pardon, on his way out, he appointed Don Goeke as the BSG Vice President. Don's response was “HUH”!! This was then interpreted as I accept.

Ray will be joining the BSG staff as a director, the duties of which usually end up to be, do as you are told.

No kidding aside, because of the way our organization is set up in the state of Wisconsin, by law, we have to have at least three directors.

Normally a director was a three-year term, with one dropping off each year and a new three-year term for a new director.

With all that has happened within the club in the last four years, and a diminishing membership pool, as your new BSG president, I would like to welcome our new directors to a probable “until life do us part” position.

When there is a road name it is usually followed by the letters **R. R.** The BSG modular layout Railroad committee at this point in time, stands for **Ray & Ron**. Admittedly it is difficult to set up work dates so that other members can get involved. We are asking our members to come up with suggestions.

For information and individuals who would like to join in on this endeavor Contact Ron Schlicht.

BSG's 2025 Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was a good one. With the outside temperature around 0 degrees the turnout was a bit sparse, but we had an enjoyable time. Actually, with no wind and sunny out, it wasn't as bad as people thought that it would be.

The food selection was excellent. Let's put it this way, those who didn't or were unable to attend, really missed out.

Roy Meissner gave a really entertaining power point presentation after the meal. "Trains, Planes, Automobiles and More" would best describe the show. Everything you could think of in transportation and product movement was shown. Most of the pictures were of historic vehicles and locations. It was also like a quiz show as attendees were guessing the year, make and model of the equipment, many of which some had no idea of what the equipment was used for.

Times have changed, but in many cases, just historically speaking, a lot of the paraphernalia was ingenious and well thought out. Versatility and the modifying of a unit to perform alternate tasks was resourceful. Some people can just look at something and see an alternate use with a bit of ingenuity.

In our club Roy is kind of our club historian and "ROY KNOWS TRUCKS". If it's from the 1900th century he will know it. Over the years, Roy has produced and modified more trucks than most of us know manufacturers. One of these days I will get some of the pictures of his creations. It would solve the issue of my having to write a lot of my inane articles to fill up space for a newsletter.

My wife already has come up with what I will bring to next year's Christmas party. In addition, Roy has enough information and photos for another completely different and entertaining presentation next year.

Editors Comments

In the last newsletter there was a column labeled Editors lament. Well, I am once again stealing (with permission) another article from the Waybill, the South Jersey S Gaugers model railroad club. I hope that you enjoy it. The only issue is that if you know all of the listed programs, you are probably as old as I am. We are approaching a new category beyond SENIOR citizens you might call it SENIORS-PLUS or ANCIENT?????

Gilbert Flyer Goes To Hollywood A Brief History by Ed Claypoole

There are a surprising number of instances where American Flyer trains appeared in TV shows and movies. During the 1950's both American Flyer and Lionel made extensive efforts to get their products publicized on the media. What I've listed in this report is limited to instances where a layout was featured. There were many other appearances of American Flyer and Lionel trains that occurred on TV as, say, prizes on quiz shows, but not all those featured a layout.

1942 – Calling Dr. Gillespie (film):

In this film, the unstable fiancé of Marcia Bradburn (played by Donna Reed) is driven to a violent outburst at the sound of an American Flyer whistle. Using a golf club he has just purchased for Marcia he proceeds to smash the glass around the layout and climb up onto the layout and begins smashing the trains and scenery.

What a nut! The film never reveals why the sound of the whistle drives the fiancé to such extremes. The trains on the receiving end of this rage are 3-rail O gauge American Flyer. The engine is a Hudson and it is pulling a box car and a caboose.

1947 – Christmas Eve (film):

This movie was the first to feature S gauge American Flyer trains. Some of the cars appear to be pre-war rolling stock with S gauge trucks. The track is not stock AF track and no one has been able to determine exactly what it is. The layout, consisting of two loops, travels around the dining room table and comically serves as a lazy Susan for the diners in the scene

1951 – Grounds for Marriage (film):

This film tells the story of a woman trying to woo back her ex-husband. The scene that includes American Flyer trains features the main character's brother, a toy salesman, patronizingly trying to explain toy trains to a female salesperson. The featured layout is immense, and the lack of rubber roadbed suggests it was constructed before 1950. The diesel shown in the scene is not an Alco, which was new that year, but most likely an F-7, which Flyer never produced. However, during this time, Enthroning Industries was producing F-3's and F-7's. I don't know how many of you had ever heard of this company but I certainly hadn't!

1951 – Roadblock (film):

The story line in this film noir involves an insurance company executive who uses inside information to plan a train robbery to give him the money he needs to impress his luxury loving girlfriend. The American Flyer scene comes in a small store where he is hiding out after a robbery. Interesting details of the scene are a Lionel ZW transformer powering a small loop which seems to have a reverse loop which connects to both sides of the layout. There is an Atlantic pulling two operating baggage cars and two coach cars.

1952 – Oklahoma Annie (film):

This film, a grade B western, features actress Judy Canova playing a shopkeeper who is trying to clean up corruption in her town. In the scene with American Flyer she sings “Blow the Whistle” while a K-5 pulls a baggage, coach and observation car around a small loop which connects to both sides of the layout. There is an Atlantic pulling two operating baggage cars and two coach cars around the layout which features a number of accessories that were produced that year.

1953 – The Herb Sheldon Show (TV show):

Herb Sheldon was a host of various TV shows in New York for many years, with most of them aimed at children and teenagers. In 1953 one of his guests was Maury Romer, a key member of the A. C. Gilbert Company.

1953 – The Howdy Doody Show (TV show):

Televised the day before Christmas, this popular kids’ show presented a short film about Gilbert Erector sets and American Flyer trains instead their usual “Old Time Movie”. The layout in the film is clearly the 2nd floor layout at the Gilbert Hall of Science in New York. It shows the major changes that were made to the track plan, features and accessories that were made in 1953. A couple of gaffes by Buffalo Bob included mentioning two tons of “plastic” instead of plaster to construct the layout.

1955 – George Burns and Gracie Allen (TV show):

An American Flyer layout was featured on an episode of the Burns and Allen Show (season 6 episode 9) entitled “Anniversary Party”. This was a good piece of advertising for A. C. Gilbert. The train action begins as the curtain opens and lasts for 3 ½ minutes. Aside from a conversation between Gracie and another play about the possibility of a train for the latter’s son, the layout plays no real part in the show and is merely a prop.



Figure 2 -George Burns and Gracie Allen on the set of the Anniversary show behind an American Flyer layout.

1956 – You Asked for It Factory Tour (TV show):

Art Baker hosted this popular show between 1950 and 1958. Jack Smith hosted it for about 20 months in 1958 until its cancellation in 1959. Sometime during the 1958-59 period American Flyer trains were the main attraction, not simply a backdrop to other action going on. The sole purpose of the clip was to tell the back story of how trains are made. It gave a behind the scenes view of the process and various Gilbert luminaries, such as Maury Romer, Ray Smith and Russell Smith appear or are mentioned. Gabe Monaco, after whom Gabe the Lamplighter is named, appears in the clip going over the prototype for the Oil Drum Loader with Maury Romer, but Gabe is not named in the clip.

1957 – Date with the Angels – Santa’s Helper (TV show):

This was a short-lived TV series that ran for 33 episodes, from May of 1957 to January of 1958, and starred Betty White and Bill Williams. In the episode “Santa’s Helper” the American Flyer layout appears in fleeting glimpses throughout the entire show. The layout measured 8 by 8 and featured several loops and a couple sidings.

1958 – Leave it to Beaver – My Brother’s Girl (TV show):

It has been suggested that A. C. Gilbert Company created a large layout that was taken from one sound stage to another for American Flyer placements in various shows. The layout in this episode of Leave it to Beaver created much interest due to the level of its scenic detail and overall presentation. The layout is relevant to the plot of the story and even though it is only shown for about a minute, camera close-ups give the viewer a chance to see it in good detail.

1958 – The Millionaire – the Dan Howell Story (TV show):

In each episode of the popular series, Michael Anthony, the Executive Secretary to the wealthy John Beresford Tipton, is given the task of delivering a check for one million dollars to an unsuspecting beneficiary of the latter's estate. In this episode, Mr. Anthony gets his marching orders from a gondola on Mr. Tipton's American Flyer layout. The layout seems to be the same one shown in the Leave it to Beaver episode mentioned above. This scene shows the layout from the opposite side and is featured in the opening segment of the show.

1959 – Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre (TV show):

In this episode, entitled "A Thread of Respect", Danny Thomas stars as an Italian tailor who arrives by train in Yucca City, Arizona, and ends up challenging the town tough played by James Coburn. The American Flyer layout is featured in Dick Powell's introduction to the story. It appears to be consistent with the dimensions of the larger size "Big Studio Layout" as featured in "Date with the Angels" mentioned above.

1959 – The Bob Cummings Show

(TV show):

The Bob Cummings Show ran between 1955 and 1959. Bob Cummings starred as a playboy photographer who lived with his sister, Margaret, played by Rosemary DeCamp, and her son Chuck, played by Dwayne Hickman, who later became a star in the show "Dobie Gillis". An American Flyer layout is featured in one, possibly two episodes and it appears to be the "Big Studio" layout featured in earlier shows. Gilbert employee Frank Edgcombe indicated that the trains were often controlled by an off-screen operator (sometimes himself) by an "umbilical cord". That becomes obvious in the episodes of the Cummings Show in scenes where the Rosemary DeCamp and other characters stop the trains by picking up an unconnected transformer and using it like a walk-around throttle. 1950's TV version of DCC?

1959 – Perry Mason (TV show):

In the episode, entitled "The Case of the Deadly Toy" (season 2 episode 27) ,

An American Flyer layout is featured in two short clips, appearing in a living room. One clip, appearing about 4 1/2 minutes into the episode, consists of a background view of a child moving items around on the layout that has been set up on two sawhorses in the living room. It lasts about 30 seconds but shows little of the layout. The second clip, about 8 1/2 minutes in, is shorter but provides a better view of the layout. Thankfully the American Flyer trains are not the "Deadly toy" in the episode!

1956-66 – Engineer Bill – Cartoon

Express Los Angeles Ch. 9 (TV show):

Bill Stulla, known on TV as Engineer Bill, was a legend in Southern California from 1954 to 1966. His show appears to have ended around the same time the Gilbert Company did. While the trains on his show layout were all American Flyer, he gave HO model kits to children who were going to be on his next show. They were to complete them and bring them onto the show when they appeared.

Other Appearances of American Flyer on TV:

In a 1950's episode of the quiz show "The Price is Right" contestants tried to guess the value of an American Flyer layout, which was a standard factory display layout. They vastly underrated its value. Another 1950's show called "It Could Be You" offered an American Flyer layout to a child who lost all his possessions, including his trains, in a fire.

The above Article is compliments of the Waybill, the official newsletter of the South Jersey S Gaugers

Footnote:

For years Ed Claypoole was a major contributor to the SJSG newsletter and club activities. He recently passed away. He will be greatly missed by his fellow club members and all those (as I) that read their newsletters.

OFF THE RAILS

You might be a model railroader if:

(by Mike Fischer)

You've ever traced the route of a wire under your layout by pulling on it.

You see a piece of plywood, and your first thought is to imagine what kind of layout could be built on it.

You name the places on your railroad after your wife and children, mostly out of guilt for spending so much time on the layout instead of with them.

The latest issue of Model Railroader arrives on the same day as your federal tax refund check, and you open the magazine first.

You've ever tried to justify bringing home a new freight car on the grounds that it's your wife's favorite color.

You justify the money you spent at a train show as "just" doing my part to improve the nation's Economy

The above Article compliments of the Central Ohio S Gaugers Membership Newsletter.

Note: An interesting website to venture into is **Austin's American Flyer trains**. Later this month he may be releasing a video about the Badgerland S Gaugers and Fall S Fest. Admittedly, this might not be a site that a lot of scale-oriented individuals might visit, but this was referred to me by a club member.

The Photo Shop

Well, I still haven't gotten any photos of your layouts or any other interesting photos that you have come across. This only means that you will have to put up with mine. It's not like this is news or something that no one has ever tried, but this is what I've done with my Sam the Semaphore Man.

Sometimes you can pick up one of these accessories cheap. What is usually missing, the operating button. A good place to put this accessory is at a switch track, in my case, one of my passing sidings. No need for a button the four wires just hook up to the switch track terminals and changes with a flip of the switch. This also makes the operation a little more realistic from the procedure standpoint, (if you actually want to call San realistic). Now simply, switch the track and Sam give your train access to the main line. This also requires a very short piece of the rainbow wire. Odds are there wasn't much provided on the cheap one that you bought. Maybe hide the switch box cover a bit. I like the placement of Sam, maybe you will too.



I'm sure that some of you can come up with better pictures or ideas than this one

The BSG Searchlight

WANTED: SHS wood-sided reefers SHS #02123 Carling Black Label (CBL 799) and SHS #02124 Carling Black Label (CBL 812). New or Like New in Original Box; scale wheelsets installed or with scale wheelsets in box.

Contact: Tom Patterson
email: tpatterson31@wi.rr.com.

WANTED: Plasticville Cape Code House, Salmon Color, Brown Roof, Brown Doors and Windows.
Contact: Ron Schlicht email: rons48tblue@gmail.com

For Sale, "mint condition", prior to 1952, American Flyer accessories for sale. The proceeds from all sales will go to BSG. For info some of these items or photos contact: Ron Schlicht

For Sale: Plasticville structures and accessories, boxed and unboxed, plus a number of small parts. Some are available in different color variations. Contact Ron Schlicht: rons48tblue@gmail.com.

Local Area Meets

*In the event that any of our members are aware of an event that they believe would be of interest to other club members please contact your newsletter editor and we can post the event.

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

2026	January	18
	February	15
	March	15

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

Open House November 29th & 30th

Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region (WISE) Meets)

*New Berlin Public Library
15105 Library Lane
New Berlin, WI
1:00 pm
*Admission Free

Mad-City Train Show	February	21 & 22
Location TBA	*March	21
	*April	18

Check website: <https://wisedivision.org>

Great Midwest Train Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL
9 am to 3:00 pm
Admission \$8.00

2026	January	18
	February	15
	March	15

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

2026	February	8
	March	8

Women and Children 12 & Under FREE
More Information? Call 262-331-0392

2026 SPREE MOVING FORWARD

Members of the Pittsburgh S Gaugers model train club are finalizing plans for the 2026 Spring S Spree, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 29–30, 2026.

The www.SSpree.info website has recently been updated, and a registration form is now available for download.

BSG Inventory

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

2021 Fall S Fest Hoppers (Hi-Rail Only) \$50.00
Each Furnished with Coal Loads



Special Offer: Pair for \$90.00

Shipping \$10.00 on 1st car. \$3.00 ea. additional car.
The cars are also available at the BSG clubhouse

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday January 18th

Time: 1:30 pm

Club Location:

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

The Gandy Dancers (HO) and Badgerland S Gaugers will be hosting an open house at the clubhouse on Saturday, 24th from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Notice:

It's that time of year again.
Annual dues is \$30.00 a year.

Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers

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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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