



## 2026 Febuary Issue

### BSG MINUTES FOR 1/18/26

By Jeff Madden

**Present at the meeting:** Don Goeke, Don Jr., Ray Puls, Doug Stoll, Wayne Friedrich, Fred Vergenz, Jeff Madden, Tom Patterson and Joel Lebovitz.

VP Don Goeke chaired the meeting since Pres. Ron Schlicht was absent due to an illness.

There was no treasurer's report.

#### Old Business:

1. Minutes of the November 2025 meeting were approved, and the election of officers was approved. The election was the only official business conducted at the December 2025 Christmas party meeting
2. The terms for the new officers and board of directors will be looked into.
3. Dues were due for 2026.
4. The 2025 Fall S Fest finances were approved.
5. The re-order of the 2025 Milwaukee Road boxcars was discussed.

#### New Business:

1. Tom Patterson (chair of the car re-order) suggested ordering 85 cars from American Models as 77 were already paid for. This would give the BSG a few extras for the future.
2. Jeff Madden made the motion to move forward with the re-order; Ray Puls seconded. The Motion was passed. It was noted that the shipping of the cars (or pick up) from American Models will be dealt with later. Also, any shipping to individuals will also be dealt with later.

3. Don Goeke and Doug Stoll discussed Facebook sites to encourage membership in the future Doug presented a printed proposal to encourage membership by having ongoing clinics, having video presentations, operating on the club layout etc., to prevent boredom for old and new members. It was discussed using more social media and trying to connect with the "Farm Toy" collectors as another way of obtaining new members.
4. Further discussion on membership was tabled until the Feb. meeting.
5. Ray Puls suggested having his bible study group visit the club layout as an activity for that group. The idea was approved.
6. Tom Patterson suggested trying to promote the selling of our excess Milwaukee Road hoppers from the 2021 FSF as they have a similar look to the popular boxcars from the 2025 FSF. It was noted that these hoppers also have loads included which adds to their value.
7. Future shows that Ron Schlicht will have his modular Flyer layout at included the Domes, Mad City and the Delavan show.
8. Joel Lebovitz (also a member of the CASG) confirmed that Chicago will host the 2026 Fall S Fest, and that St. Louis will host the 2027 Fall S Fest.
9. Discussion was held suggesting that work times be established between meetings to work on the club layout and some donated shelving that needs to be put together in our storage area.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The next meeting will be February 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the club quarters.

Following the meeting Ray Puls gave a short clinic about a test unit for LED lights. The gizmo is called an LED Buddy and helps determine the voltage and resistance needed to adjust the brightness or dimness of the LEDs.

## *Clubhouse Clatter*

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers  
The trackwork for the additional two loops is underway.

In last newsletters I proposed some suggestions regarding  
accessibility to the BSG clubhouse.

We will have to have at least, a once-a-month work  
session. This may be layout work or other areas that will  
enhance the BSG and Gandy Dancers clubhouse. We will  
be open on the second and fourth week, on a designated  
day, every other month. A least one member needs to be  
present to open the doors for these occasions.

The times could be determined by a consensus of our  
membership. Mornings, afternoons, evenings, a fixed day  
of the week.

We have to improve the clubhouse environment making  
it a better place for the enjoyment of the Badgerland S  
Gaugers membership.

During the last open house session, we had a blast.  
Various members brought their engines and rolling stock  
to run on the layout, Running multiple trains at the same  
time is a lot more fun. We have to get going on the two  
inner loops, it will look awesome running four to six trains  
at once. There was also the opportunity of purchasing  
some of the estate collection items in our possession. We  
are talking about a large quality of rolling stock, the good  
stuff, not American Flyer but a multitude of other S gauge  
manufacturers at reasonable prices.

---

## **2025 Fall S Fest Car Reorder**

Tom Patterson has submitted the order for more of the  
Milwaukee Road 2025 Fall S Fest cars. The success of the  
cars was way beyond our expectations. With the cars that  
have been ordered, our total will end up to be over three  
hundred 2025 cars sold. At the suggestion of American  
Models we displayed the 2021, two bay, orange and gray  
hoppers along with the 2025 cars. Due to Covid, we had  
a number of those hoppers left. The match with our 2025  
has resulted in nearly selling out of our 2021 cars. It is  
highly likely that those cars will also sell out shortly.

Our third 2025 Fall S Fest car run will be distributed  
exclusively by USPS mail. This will create a need for  
cardboard shipping boxes. Approximate sizes needed are  
12 x 5 x 4 (for single car orders) and 12 x 7 x 5 (for two-  
car orders). If you have any sturdy boxes nearing these  
sizes that you are willing to contribute to our shipping  
effort, please contact Tom Patterson: email  
[tpatterson31@wi.rr.com](mailto:tpatterson31@wi.rr.com).

## **Editors Comments**

In the January newsletter, rather than dwell on club  
deficiencies and issues, I will attempt to do more "how to  
do" articles. It may take a lot of stealing of other people's  
newsletters, but hopefully there may be something that  
our members can actually use or find interesting.

I hope that my relatively different sense of humor is taken  
like it's meant. Lighten up. In addition, if you are tired of  
my layout stuff, send in something about your "STUFF".

## **Sad News**

After 55 years in business Model Empire announced that  
it is closing their retail store in West Allis. The family-  
owned hobby shop was one of the largest retailer of model  
cars in Wisconsin. They will still sell online and attend  
various shows. However no more fun visits to the store.

They stocked virtually every size of plastic and diecast  
cars. In addition, they had a huge number of vintage,  
boxed, unassembled model car kits in stock. Many of  
which dated back to when we were all kids.

Their selection of "New-In-Box" discontinued kits is  
possibly the best in the world. There are thousands of  
factory original, shrink-wrapped kits stored in their  
factory shipping cases. They can't possibly list them all  
on their website yet, individuals can call if they have a  
request.

When it came to 1/64<sup>th</sup> scale cars, no one in our area had  
a larger selection. I purchased many items from as far  
back as when the present owner was a teenager working  
for his mom and dad, who started the business. When you  
bump into individuals who were regular customers, there  
is a high level of sadness. Personally, I have really no real  
reason to go to West Allis anymore.

They are having weekly reduction sales (currently 40%)  
and will remain open until about mid-March. They are not  
open on Sundays or Mondays. Tuesday thru Saturday the  
hours are from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.



## *Mitchell Park Domes Show*

It has been rather frigid this year and the initial thought was that the turnout might be sparse. Well, Saturday and Sunday the unyielding cold spell broke. Those suffering from cabin fever finally felt some relief. The turnout was one of the best in years. As usual the “Hollywood Meets Model Railroading” layout was, “**as always**”, given a premier spot in the lobby. It is one of , if not, the most popular layouts at the shows that we attend.

The only bad news is that only **three** BSG members were present to operate the layout, yours truly, Paul Bartelak and Fred Vergenz (usual suspects). The layout should have a minimum of four individuals helping out, preferably five. With my age being a factor, and Paul’s knees, this could be the last year that BSG will be represented at “any” train shows. “**HELP**”.

## *The Photo Shop*

Still haven’t gotten any photos of your layouts or any other interesting photos that you have come across. This only means more of my stuff.

### **Back Drops for Dummies.**

A few years ago, I did an article on backdrop structures. Admittedly I am an American Flyer Hi-Rail, toy train operator. In saying that, and seeing some photos of layouts created by scale enthusiasts, I can’t help but admire the detail and skill level. Their Time, Patience and Skill and attention to detail, dazzle me, with **time with patience** being the primary items, that I admire the most.

So, let’s talk about us lower life forms who don’t have those attributes. Some of the kits that I have seen are incredible and some are a bit costly. So, let’s look into making backdrops my way, from junk. I might add this does not require the afore mentioned Time, Patience and Skill.

Most of you know that I am a Plasticville enthusiasts. Grant it times have changed from when you could buy a grocery bag full of broken or extra unused, Plasticville parts a dollar or two. In addition, sometimes in your basement, there is that piece wood, Masonite or whatever material, you just couldn’t throw out, because you just might need it for a project, that you will never do. Even now I can’t say, what some of the materials were, or where I sourced the them from. All I can say is that most were “FREE”. Motto: Model Railroading on the cheap.

All that being said, let’s look at making “stuff” like you and I can do.

One of my first endeavors: A random scrap piece of Masonite, the upper floor 1/4" clear Plastic thicker for effect. Windows and door from Plasticville (PV) switch tower, styrene strip and paint. Styrene strip at top. Structure wraps around the corner. Have no clue where the door-canopy came from.



Another random scrap piece of Masonite. The older stuff had a screen like textured back, I put that side out. The stairway and door from a broken PV switch tower. The windows from a broken HO structure, styrene strips and paint. This structure also wraps around the corner. All signage for structures can be made on your computer.



Basis material was a cracked ice panel that a neighbor was throwing out. The windows were cut from a PV school house rear wall and the door from a PV structure. Styrene strips and a piece of corrugated styrene for the garage door. Another mystery door-canopy. Flat. Dummy light???



This is on the other side of the previous backdrop structure, also flat. The same piece of cracked ice material. PV school house windows and a styrene strip, the lower portion is PV commercial building sides and back door. Top trim from a K-Line structure. (The rest of the parts from that building will be used on two other backdrops.) Platform from broken PV factory platform, Ramp???

Notice the barrels? I have a lot of barrels, (desiccants), perhaps you have a some too, that is of course if you take any form of medication. A little paint and you have barrels galore.



A majority of the rest if the structures are not flat and range from one and a half to one and three quarters in depth. Some used plastic for the sides and roofs, most used 1/8-inch-thick lattice stripping. Roofs were painted white and had a coat of fine white ballast glued down. In addition, there are random pieces of styrene that I got at swap meets for very little.

This used two sides of a PV bank glued together with stripping for sides and roof. Cracked ice for window. Chimneys tubing.



Same cracked ice piece again. PV fire house garage door. The windows are trimmed down PV fire house doors. Access door PV. Upper trim left over from a K-Line building.



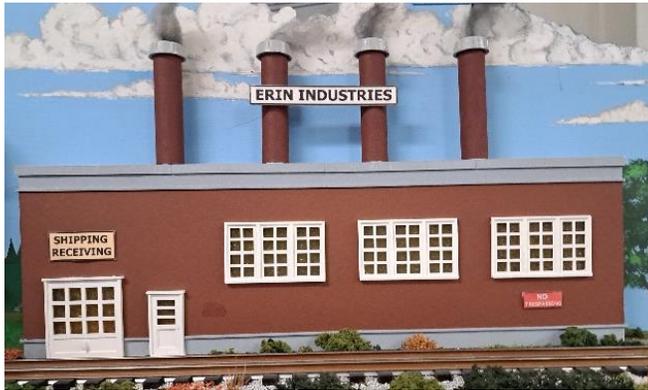
Used a K-Line building kit. Always wanted Willy Wonka on my traveling layout. Downloaded pictures of the characters and put them in the windows. Then added a ladder, chimney, two loops of piping made from hospital straws and some styrene strips at the roof. The Oompa-Loompa figures are my own creation. These help to further the diversification of the population on my layout.



Two PV fire or police sides, one back and a narrowed piece of a fire or police roof. Lattice and ballast. Pay no attention to dish.



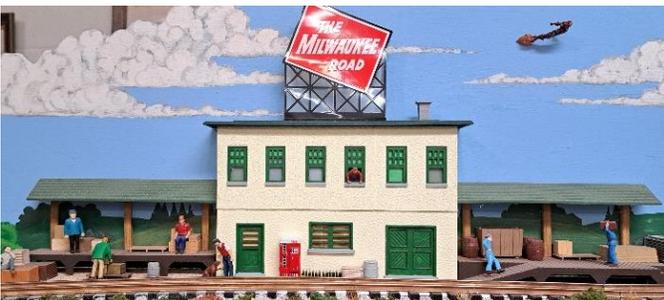
Still the same piece of cracked ice, PV school house windows, PV fire house door, PV door and styrene strips. Smoke stacks are used fax machine tubes with plastic electrical connectors. Tip: I use aquarium floss filter material for smoke. On some bigger structures on my layout, I've starched it out over six inches high and sprayed it with hair spray to make it stand up and then a very light spray of black paint.



Left structure: floor from the previous mentioned K-Line structure, windows from a broken HO structure. PV school house door trimmed down. Styrene trim. Right Structure: Cracked ice the lower-level PV Commercial back trimmed down. Styrene strips.



Main structure, lower-level PV commercial building back. Upper-level PV suburban station sides glued together. Platforms damaged PV loading platforms narrowed down. The roofs PV cut in half. Sign not included.



In summing up this article, the examples are relatively easy to make. In some cases, you can make one or more of these in a day or so. Just waiting for the glue to set is the main time constraint. There is moderately very little cost involved since a lot of the materials were at no cost, just stuff laying around. You can lower yourself esteem by dumpster diving. The real main source of material is your imagination. You can believe this or not, the total cost of "all" of the examples shown was somewhere between \$20 and \$25.00. The only "major" cost was the K-Line building which was \$4.00 at a swap meet. Admittedly I have way too much junk laying around in my workshop. The opportunity to make more is innumerable, but where would I put them?

P.S. By the way the inspiration for this article is a result of the gift from the South Jersey S Gaugers 2026 calendar which is now hanging in our clubhouse. (I steal articles from their newsletters for the BSG Bulletin.) Like it or not Pinterest is a great source for ideas.



## *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](mailto:tpatterson31@wi.rr.com).

**WANTED:** Plasticville Cape Code House, Salmon Color, Brown Roof, Brown Doors and Windows.  
Contact: Ron Schlicht email: [rons48tblue@gmail.com](mailto:rons48tblue@gmail.com)



## Next BSG Meeting

**Date: Sunday February 15th**

**Time: 1:30 pm**

**Club Location:**

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

**\*\*Remember our meetings are always after the Lionel Club swap meets. With our stock and the Lionel meet you can take the advantage of two sources of model railroading materials.**

### *Future Open House Events*

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
August 1<sup>st</sup> October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**BSG officers are working on having more events and expanded hours for the clubhouse to be open to members.**

**As of yet, I have “not gotten any” recommendations for days or suggested times to make the clubhouse available. Nobody.**

### *Notice:*

**It's that time of year again.**

**Annual dues is \$30.00 a year.**

**Overdue notice. This will be one of the last newsletters that will be sent out the those who have not paid the 2026 dues and will be considered inactive.**

## *Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers*

### President

Ron Schlicht

5274 S. 49<sup>th</sup>

Greenfield, WI 53220

[rons48tblue@gmail.com](mailto:rons48tblue@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Roy Meissner

P.O. Box 1

Merton, WI 53056-0001

262-538-4325

[rmeissner@wi.rr.com](mailto:rmeissner@wi.rr.com)

### Directors

Tom Patterson

Wayne Friedrich

Ray Puls

### Vice-President

Don Goeke

1517 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St

Manitowoc, WI 54220

[ditrains@lsol.net](mailto:ditrains@lsol.net)

### Secretary

Jeff Madden

Bron Derw Ct.

Wales, WI 53183

262-968-3729

[nasgdispatch@gmail.com](mailto:nasgdispatch@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editors

Ron Schlicht

Jeff Madden

### Badgerland Website:

Doug Stoll: [Omaha@frontier.com](mailto:Omaha@frontier.com)

[www.trainweb.org/bsg](http://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](mailto:rons48tblue@gmail.com)

