



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 June Issue

BSG MINUTES FOR 4/26/26

By Jeff Madden

Present at the meeting: Ray Puls, Jeff Madden, Ron Schlicht, Don Goeke, Gina Goeke, Chuck Sherman, Tom Patterson, and Roy Meissner.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Roy Meissner. The treasury is in good shape. After the American Models invoice for FSF cars was paid, there are no outstanding debts owed by the BSG club.

Old Business:

1. Access to our club via Trainweb is best done by going to the NASG website (nasg.org and clicking on clubs or events. Getting a secure website for BSG itself is currently too costly the club decided.
2. The donated "toy box" caboose is being prepared for a display in the club's entranceway.
3. Two step-stools have been purchased with club funds for use in working on the layout.

New Business:

1. Tom Patterson discussed the receipt of the final shipment of the FSF re-order boxcars. All have been received and are being shipped out to individuals. All AM bills have been paid. Only a few extra 1851 (black roof) Milwaukee Road boxcars remain that will be sold off.
2. The club wishes to acknowledge Tom Patterson for his chairing of the re-order and Doug Stoll for his efforts of promoting the re-order via the website and Facebook.
3. The club discussed ordering some lumber, construction foam, adhesive and some other items to be used for upgrading the permanent layout.
4. A discussion was held about checking out if the constitution and by-laws need updated.

5. A rough estimate of our membership count was brought up. It is estimated that the BSG has about 22 members. Non-members in the state of Wisconsin who attended our last Fall S Fest are being contacted regarding possible membership. Junior membership was also discussed.
6. The club has purchased from an estate sale a Legacy control set for use on the club layout.
7. Ray Puls brought up the need for a "signal booster" need to boost the club's current power source. The expenditure was approved.
8. Member Roy Meissner is contemplating building a smaller scale layout in his home as the old one has been dismantled.
9. Stay tuned for an announcement of the next club meeting which should be late May or early June 2026. Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers Ray Puls reported that the May 2nd open house session the open house was fairly well attended by the public, a number of adults and children visited the club house and stopped by the Badgerland and the HO layout.

On Wednesday nights the Gandy Dancers have general work sessions on their layout, that is the reasoning behind having the clubhouse open to the public and BSG members on those nights. The intent is not just to ask for suggestions or ask members to help out, but just another opportunity to see the clubhouse, other than the Sunday general meetings.

Here and there people stop in and have no idea that there are model railroad clubs there. This is also where we have the inventory on the items that are for sale. on the layout

In the past newsletters you have heard of the possible two extra loops of track being added to the layout. Through the efforts of Ray Puls and Ron Schlicht the actual construction has begun. In order to make it easier to access the inner loops for us old fogies a secondary Geezer Gate has to be made. Ray is handling that part of the project and construction has begun.

Both ends of the layout are being filled in which will give the layout a much larger look with the one end having an old school look with Plasticville emphasis. The rest of the layout will have a more of a scale look with a number of structures from the Brad Nelson and large number of structures from the Gary Children layout.

With the addition of the four loops and the passing siding there should not be a shortage of opportunities for members to run their trains. Both loops will be capable of running AC and DC trains. There will also be the option of running AC and DC trains. There will be traditional American Flyer trains. TMCC and Legacy is also on the layout with the possibility of DCC being added in the future.

Besides just running trains there is a North side and South side yard which will now be connected for those members who enjoy train building.

Hopefully before the Fall model railroading season begins the four loops will be operational. The scenery will be an ongoing procedure. We have most of the material to eventually get this completed without any major expenses.

Many thanks to the efforts of Tom Patterson, who handled the third order of the 2025 Fall S Fest cars, the 2025 Fest was a financial success which will keep our club stable over the next decade or so.

Editors Comments

It's Summer and model railroading usually gets put on the back shelf of activities. Then again sometimes the coolest place in the house is down the basement. This doesn't mean that BSG shuts down. At present we will still be open on Wednesday nights from 5:30 pm to 8:30pm.

It's no secret that the club membership has suffered recent losses due to attrition. We do have to look for means to increase our numbers. We do know that there are a number of S gauge enthusiasts in the Waukesha and Milwaukee area and throughout the state, that are not BSG members. We have members who have been supporting our club for decades, that are not participating, but simply want to support us by paying the membership dues every year. We do have members from other states supporting us.

We need all type of members. You don't have to attend meetings or work on the layout. Maybe you are the type that aren't joiners of organizations. BSG is the "only" S gauge club left in the state. When we are gone, outside of the internet, S gauge may disappear from the state of Wisconsin.

A reminder: We sell some of our inventory at a lower price to members than to non-members.

Special Editorial

S Needs Steam Freight Locos

By Jeff Madden

Hmmm, there seems to be a lack of freight steamers in standard gauge S, especially on the scale side. I'm talking here about the current situation because in the past there were several freight steamers available in S scale and S hi-rail. Most of those past production runs are now only available in the aftermarket.

Ironically, even the original AF steam engines of the '40s and '50s were passenger engines. The only exception in the original AF line was the 0-6-0 and 0-8-0 switchers. True, the 4-8-4 Northern was used for both passenger and freight, but the Pacifics and Atlantics were strictly passenger engines.

The aftermarket for newer Lionel AF steamers is active for those hi-rail only steamers produced in more recent years. Lionel typically didn't re-run any of these such as the Challenger, Big Boy and 2-8-8-2. The USRA 2-8-2s and 4-6-2s were re-run only a couple of times, and the Berkshires only once. Again, the aftermarket is the place to find both scale and hi-rail freight steamers produced by Overland, River Raisin and South Wind.

American Models produced several steamers in both hi-rail and scale, but only one, the Santa Fe 4-8-4 is proper for use on freights. SHS's 2-8-0, of course, is a freight steamer, but any re-run of this loco is on hold by Scale Trains. The SHS loco was available in both scale and hi-rail.

Some cast metal kits were available for a time from Putt Trains (es-Rex). These were the 2-6-0 Mogul, 0-4-0 Dockside and an 0-6-0. B.T.S. produced steamer kits for a MA & PA 2-8-0 and an EBT standard gauge 0-6-0. These were scale only. The Putt Trains business is now up for sale according to owner Terry Putt.

Is the demand there for the manufacturers to re-introduce freight steamers (or any steamers for that matter) when today's business model is usually based on expected demand rather than having items being in regular stock? At present there are no brass manufacturers left in S, so, currently only the aftermarket is the option.

Of course, we all hope that our current S manufacturers, Scale Trains and American Models will come out with freight steamers in both hi-rail and scale. And, a long shot, will the new Lionel owner produce any S steamers or siphon off the AF line altogether?

Many of us in S still hope that some of the current or future producers of S motive power would consider S as an up-and-coming market as it seems that the HO, N, and 3-rail O market is saturated. So, -hopefully somebody out there might push production for our WIDE OPEN “S” market instead of beating the same old mule over and over again. As to freight steamers, we surely need 2-8-0s, 2-8-2s, 2-8-4s, etc. Articulated locos are nice too, but the small to medium steamers would seem more sellable.

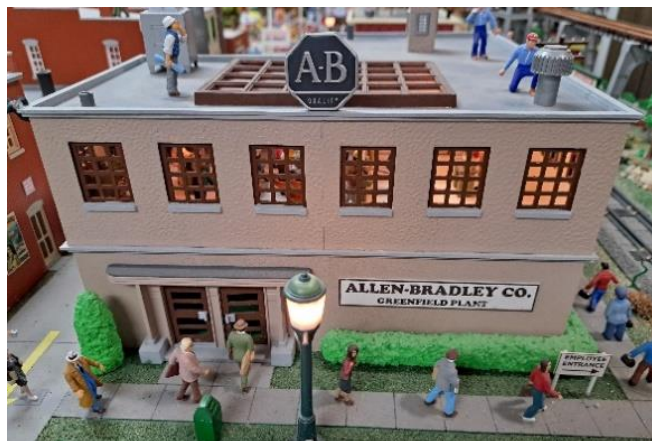
2025 Fall S Fest Car Reorder

Thanks to all of you who purchased the 2025 Fall S Fest cars. Surprisingly they sold out faster than anticipated and we “almost” wish the we would have ordered a bit more, as we actually could not fill all of the orders.

The Photo Shop

More pictures from yours truly. Don't say I didn't warn you. In the February issue there was an article on backdrops and in April the county fairgrounds .

Due to the fact that I don't have the patience to make windows or doors I use a lot of Plasticville structures for them. The pictured factory “again” I made use of the fire and police station parts for the second-floor walls. The front doors and employee entrance door were cutout from broken Plasticville hospital parts, as was the skylight from a hospital roof. The stack on the roof is Fire/Police station parts.



Sidelight: I worked at the Allen-Bradley Company for over 35 years



Note the supply of barrels (desiccants) from various pill bottles. I haven't gotten around to painting all of them yet. The inspiration for this building came from a package of machinery that I purchased for \$25.00. Outside of glue and a piece of styrene for the roof, the first and second floors and walls, this was another frugally built structure., utilizing other pieces of “stuff” laying around.



Eventually the lighting will be changed to LEDs. Outside of the machinery, just more miscellaneous stuff made from pieces of wood etc. etc. to fill the workshop.

The preceding article is what you get when you don't send me any of your pictures. **Coming Attractions:** More Plasticville to use for building material.

WARNING: Unless you send me some of your pictures, you are just going to see more of mine.

Perhaps we can add a column entitled: "BSG Kit-Bashers" and members could send pictures of structures they scratch built or modified.

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 Cod House, Salmon Color, Brown Roof, Brown Doors and Windows.

Contact: Ron Schlicht email: rons48tblue@gmail.com

For Sale, "excellent condition unboxed", 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.

With what BSG has on hand, it's like a Mini-S Gauge Swap meet. More S gauge than you see at any area swap meets and at reasonable prices. More Items have been added in recent weeks. Admittedly, most are from S gauge suppliers, American Models, S-Helper and others along with American Flyer Trans. We may be posting some of these items on our website.

Local Area Meets

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

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 The Lionel swap meets will resume in October
Check website: www.milw-lrrc.com
or call 262-754-9900

Open House November 29th & 30th
They are open to their members on many occasions during the week, For more information go to their website.

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
Location TBA

Check website: <https://wisedivision.org>
Great Midwest Train Show

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

2026 June 7

Model Railroad Train Show
Kenosha Union Club
3030 39th Avenue Kenosha, WI

9:00 am To 1:00 pm
Admission \$5.00

2026 No future dates available

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

BSG Inventory

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

Only 3 grays left.

2021 Fall S Fest Hoppers (Hi-Rail Only) \$50.00
EachFurnished 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 June 28th

Time: 1:30 pm

Club Location:

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

***Remember: The clubhouse will be open on
Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

We will also be sending out periodic updates
via email on matters of interest for our
membership just not in a newsletter format.

Future Open House Events
August 1st October 3rd

Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers

President

Ron Schlicht
5274 S. 49th
Greenfield, WI 53220
rons48tblue@gmail.com

Treasurer

Roy Meissner
P.O. Box 1
Merton, WI 53056-0001
262-538-4325
rmeissner@wi.rr.com

Directors

Tom Patterson
Wayne Friedrich
Ray Puls

Vice-President

Don Goeke
1517 S. 16th St
Manitowoc, WI 54220
ditrains@lsol.net

Secretary

Jeff Madden
Bron Derw Ct.
Wales, WI 53183
262-968-3729
nasgdispatch@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors

Ron Schlicht
Jeff Madden

Badgerland Website:

Doug Stoll: Omaha@frontier.com
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

