



THE CHICAGO FLYER
Newsletter of the Chicagoland
Association of S Gaugers, Incorporated
www.casg-trains.org
www.fallsfest.net
April, 2018

THE NEXT MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of C A S G will be held **Friday, April 20, 2018**. It will be convened in the American Legion Room, second floor of the Hinsdale Village Hall, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois. Use the North (Maple Street) entrance to the building. The gathering time will start around 7:00 P. M. – the formal business meeting at 8:00 P. M.

APRIL MEETING FEATURE:

While someone brings an item or two for sale to every meeting, it has been a very long time since we just had a swap meet as the meeting feature.

So, if you have any train items you would wish to sell or swap bring them to the meeting. Tables will be available for any items that are being offered. All of the fellowship hour will be devoted to swapping trains.

MARCH MEETING FEATURE:

At the March meeting Leigh Maginniss presented some of his practices for painting rolling stock using an air brush. Leigh has custom painted many rescued American Flyer cars, giving them new life.

Ray Signorini talked about his experiences painting cars using cans of aerosol paints, both railroad specific and general ones such as you can find at any paint, hardware or craft store. He also shows samples of some of the items he has done.

Both Leigh and Ray shared some of their techniques for lettering as well, including making some of their own decals.

Thank you to Leigh and Ray.

2018 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2018 membership roster for the C A S G.

We ended last year with 75 members. The current roster is 71, a loss of 4 members. Hopefully we will still see those non-renewals still come in. We are of course early in the year and can anticipate signing up new members as the year goes by.

If you receive your newsletter by e-mail, please print out the roster so you can have it handy when you need to contact other C A S G members.

CONDOLENCES:

We recently learned that Bill Ankenbauer's wife Darlene passed away late last year. Our condolences to Bill and his son Robert.

ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW:

C A S G participated again this year in this long-running show in LaGrange. We used a 28-foot by 16-foot version of the modular layout.

Among members participating were **Mick Blidy, Dick Bukowski, Bill Cantrall, Will Holt, Joel Lebovitz, Roy Plotnick, Alan Roman, Dave Wise** and **Alan Zielinski**. **Bob Brown, Leigh Maginnis, Ray Signorini** and **Kurt Zahnle** assisted with loading and unloading the layout and/or with set up.

The updated modules from Kurt Zahnle and Roy Plotnick were a feature of the layout at this show.

FALL S FEST 2018:

Things have changed about the preparation of the first mailing. Bill Cantrall checked with the mailing service that his car club uses about the cost of mailing the information to the mailing list for the Fall S Fest. For only a few cents more than it would cost us to have the mailing printed, add the postage, seal the mailer and prepare and attach labels, the mailing service will do all of that. The decision was made simply to prepare the master for the mailing for the Fest and turn everything over to the mailing service since we will also save the time we would spend collating, stuffing, labeling, sealing and stamping the materials.

Help is still needed for many aspects of the Fest. Contact **Dick Bukowski**, basstrek@hotmail.com or 847-338-1336 to sign up for helping staff the Fest. The committees are:

Banquet, Speaker and Center Pieces
Clinics
Contests and Prizes
Marketing and Publishing
Raffles and Auctions
Registration
Security
Site

The cars have been ordered. It is anticipated that they will be ready by early to mid-summer. That is plenty of time for them

to be here long before the Fest.

The board is working on a Fall S Fest manual. If you have any records concerning how a Fest is done, be they electronic or hard copy, please see that they are shared with the board.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!:

As things are developing, we will have a couple of busy months as 2018 comes to a close.

Fall S Fest is scheduled for November 2-4. The following weekend, November 9-11, is Train Fest in Milwaukee and we will once again combine with the Badgerland S Gaugers for a 17-foot by 50-foot modular layout showing off S model railroading.

In late December/early January we will again have two weekends in a row. December 29-30 will be the Great Train Show. We will again plan on a 36-foot by 16-foot modular layout. The following weekend will be the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, January 4-6. It is hoped that we will use a near complete version of the modular layout. We will try to schedule so that member modules used at the Great Train Show will not be used at the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour.

We may also need extra help with vehicles for transportation of the club owned modules and other items to and from the WGH show.

Since all of these activities are great opportunities for us to promote C A S G and S model railroading, we need to have as many members as possible participate in all of these events.

Mark your calendars now!

HOME MEETINGS:

We are planning the home meetings for 2018. The dates for July and August are set, while October is the probable date:

July 21, 2018
August 18, 2018
October 20, 2018

The July meeting will be at **Bruce Lorence's** home in Tinley Park. Bruce has received official permission to break through the wall between the train room and the family den and return track to some of the space his original layout occupied. The date will be July 21.

The August meeting will be the annual family cook-out day at **Will Holt's** home on August 18. Plan on bringing trains to run and having family come along for the cook-out and other activities. **Kelly Holt** is working on a craft for that day.

If you can host the October, 2018 meeting, please contact **Dick Bukowski** at 847-338-1336 or e-mail, basstrek@hotmail.com.

C A S G OUTINGS:

We are looking ahead to plan outings for 2018, spring and summer. If you have any ideas bring them to the meeting or let Alan Zielinski know, 847-967-7070 or alanzee@aol.com.

THE C A S G EXCHANGE PLACE:

The latest sale list was included with the March newsletter. To purchase from the list, indicate an item that you are looking for or list an item for sale, contact **Wayne Grassel** via e-mail at wgrassel@comcast.net or telephone at 847-256-4834.

The sale list has proven a nice benefit of membership. Many items have changed hands via the list.

C A S G member **John DiMilio** is continuing to liquidate his extensive collection of American Flyer. The collection includes Gilbert era and Lionel era. In many cases, there are duplicate items in John's collection. Make your initial contact with Wayne about John's collection.

LIONEL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

We will be putting together a list of the trains that we will request as part of the program. Items that can be put on the list are ones from the Lionel Volume 2 2017 catalog and we will also be able to order items from the 2018 Big Book catalog. If you have some ideas, please let **Dick Bukowski** know.

The usual schedule of events for the program include every Great Midwest Train Show and the other shows in which the club participates. We also prepare and post reviews of American Flyer products.

So you can see that it is **IMPORTANT** for more members to participate, especially with the demands of the Fall S Fest in play this year. Mike Klawitter has joined the committee but additional help is still needed. Contact Dick Bukowski if you are willing assist with the program. Call him at 847-338-1336 or e-mail at basstrek@hotmail.com.

MODULAR LAYOUT:

The modular layout is now very flexible in terms of running trains with different controls on either track of the layout, and for multiple trains on each track.

The outer track can operate with Lionel's Legacy command control system or on conventional AC. To change between the two is either through a toggle switch or by changing settings on the Legacy equipment. The inside track can operate train with either DCC or conventional DC. The change is accomplished with a toggle switch.

And, the flexibility is even more extensive. Many Legacy equipped locomotives can also be operated on convention AC, conventional DC or DCC. MTH locomotives can operate on conventional AC, conventional DC or DCC. Of recent we have successfully operated FlyerChief equipped locomotives on the track with a conventionally operated locomotive or ones on command control. When we have enough operators, it is easy for use to keep four trains or more in operation on the layout.

We are looking into building four more corners so that we can assemble the modular layout with an S curve on either side of the loop or even do L-shaped layouts. If we move forward with the additional corners, they would be built this summer.

If you are interested in building a module, contact **Will Holt** at williamholt@comcast.net or 630-881-9025. If there is interest,

module building sessions will begin in the spring.

CLUB SHIRTS, CAPS AND BADGES:

Wayne Grassel, 847-256-4834 has another waiting list for club shirts. The polo shirts are \$ 28.25 for sizes S through XL and additional \$ 2.25 for XXL or \$ 4.50 for XXXL. The dress shirts are \$30.50 for S through XL; add \$ 2.25 for XXL or \$ 4.50 for XXXL. Add \$ 4.00 for your name embroidered on the shirts.

The caps are a one-size-fits-all and available at every meeting for \$ 10.00. If you want one, just be ready to purchase it at a meeting or contact Wayne via e-mail at wgrassel@comcast.net or telephone at 847-256-4834.

Name badges are provided at no cost to new club members when they join. For existing members needing to replace a name badge, contact Dick Bukowski, 847-338-1336 or Dave Wise, 630-548-4090.

TRAIN SHOWS:

ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW:

When we have the dates for this show for 2019 we will announce them in the newsletter. It can be anticipated the show will be mid- to late-March.

GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW:

Cathy Bukauskus continues to coordinate club participation in this show. To participate contact Cathy at 708-606-7015, mombukauskas@aol.com or Dick Bukowski at 847-338-1336, basstrek@hotmail.com or put your name on the sign-up sheet at each meeting.

Those participating with the club at the G M T S at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, receive free admission to the show. The club presents a layout at the show. There are tables adjacent to the layout that are held for members who wish to sell some of their items. Contact Kathy for costs and availability for any particular month.

We remaining dates for the 2018 shows:

- May 6
- June 3
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

THE GREAT TRAIN SHOW:

The dates for the show will be on the weekend between Christmas and New Year's this coming December. Set up will be Friday, December 28. The show will be Saturday and Sunday, December 29-30. More details will be available in the

Fall.

The show is held at the Lake County Fairgrounds. We do receive an honorarium for participation.

HIGH WHEELER TRAIN SHOW:

They do anticipate hosting the show in 2019 and having it in the renovated spaces at Harper College.

HOMWOOD RAIL FEST:

The Homewood Rail Fest will be Saturday, May 19. The train show portion of the event will be from 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. We will set up at 7:00 A. M.

The location will be the Homewood Flossmoor Park District Auditorium, 2010 Chestnut Road in Homewood.

A sign up sheet will be available starting at the next meeting.

SOUTHLAND MODEL RAILROAD SHOW:

We now have the dates for this show for 2018. The show, sponsored by the Music Department of H. L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn will be Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14, 2018. Set up will be on Friday, October 12.

The school is located at the corner of 107th Street and Central Avenue in Oak Lawn.

TRAIN FEST:

Badgerland S Gaugers has officially asked us to participate with them in the Train Fest in Milwaukee. Last year was quite successful so we are planning on it. The dates will be November 10-11, 2018 for the show and Friday, November 9 for set up. There will be more details in the Fall.

The show is held at the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in West Allis.

WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY ON TOUR:

The schedule for the 2019 World's Greatest Hobby on Tour has been announced. For the first time since 2012 the show will stop in the Chicago area. The show will be at the Schaumburg Convention Center.

The last time this show visited the Chicago area, almost 32,000 attended. We recruited new members and introduced S to many at the show.

This is one opportunity we have every few years to use almost the entire C A S G modular layout since we have all day set up on Friday. We also receive an honorarium.

Plan on participating – we will need a lot of members to be sure that we will have enough train operators and members to talk to the attendees.

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Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers, Incorporated
Founded 1969

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UPCOMING S SCALE & C A S G EVENTS

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

April 20, 2018
Hinsdale, Illinois

GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

May 6, 2018
Wheaton, Illinois

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

May 18, 2018
Hinsdale, Illinois

HOMWOOD RAIL FEST

May 19, 2019
Homewood, Illinois

GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

June 3, 2018
Wheaton, Illinois

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

June 15, 2018
Hinsdale, Illinois

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

July 21, 2018
Bruce Lorence's Home

N A S G CONVENTION

July 24-28, 2018
Boxborough, Massachusetts

*! NEXT MEETING:
APRIL 20, 2018
HINSDALE VILLAGE HALL
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS !*

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