



THE CHICAGO FLYER

Newsletter of the Chicagoland
Association of S Gaugers, Incorporated

www.casg-trains.org

www.fallsfest.net

November, 2017

THE NEXT MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of C A S G will be held **Friday, November 17, 2017**. 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.

NOVEMBER MEETING FEATURE:

A few months ago we had a meeting feature on tools for working with S model trains. At the November meeting **Wayne Grassel** will show us some of the additional speciality tools that he uses for repairing trains. At about 7:30 we will suspend the fellowship time and see the tools that help Wayne make repairs easier.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEE:

Alan Roman's term as a trustee expires at the end of December. Therefore, will be having an election for that office in December.

Nominations are open now until the November business meeting when nominations will be closed. After that ballots will be sent to all members eligible to vote. Ballots may be returned by mail, or brought to the December meeting. Ballots will be tabulated and the results announced at the that meeting.

If you are interested in running for the three-year term of trustee please contact **Dick Bukowski** at 847-338-1336 or e-mail at basstrek@hotmail.com, or **Bob Brown** at 630-830-8611 or e-mail at rbrown1@yahoo.com.

2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

2018 is just around the corner, so it is time to renew your C A S G membership. Dues are \$ 20.00 per year and you may renew for more than one year. Dues are accepted at the normal rate prior to March 1 of next year. After that there is a late renewal fees of \$ 2.00 for a total of \$ 22.00 as of March 1.

The renewal form is included with this newsletter.

FALL S FEST 2017:

Many of us had the opportunity to participate in the Fall S Fest 2017 in Janesville, Wisconsin; hosted by the Stateline S Gaugers.

There was an abundance of trains available. Several of us took advantage of the clinics offers at the Fest.

FALL S FEST 2018:

Preparations are under way for the when we next host the Fall S Fest in 2018.

A site selection committee, chaired by **Dick Bukowski**, has made a number of inquiries with potential venues. Some have been ruled out for one reason or another, and additional possibilities are still being sought out or reviewed. Final negotiations are underway with one site.

The car committee held its meeting at the end of June. The field was narrowed to the Illinois Central Railroad to match the theme of "S Curves Through Illinois." Three possible cars were presented to the membership for consideration at the July meeting. The car choices are all from American Models. They included the 40-Foot insulated plug door box car, the 50-Foot insulated plug door box car and the 50-Foot gondola with cover.

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.

SOUTHLAND MODEL RAILROAD SHOW:

This show has vaulted to the top of the list as the most memorable show in which C A S G has ever participated.

The short version goes like this. We arrived on Friday for set up to find new construction at Richards High School eliminating the door we would usually be able to use for loading in, along with at least 4 other entries and a considerable amount of the usual participant parking. So, load in required a good bit longer than unusual since we need to walk down a long hall, then turn the corner before entering the gym stage where the layout was set up.

Saturday was going along well for the show until about 2 o'clock or so when the power in the area went out. Thanks to the school's back up generator system we were only in the dark for a minute or so. Once the emergency power kicked in things were fine for about an hour. Then a problem in the system started a small fire (yes, an actual fire) in a basement utility room forcing the evacuation of the building. After the Oak Lawn Fire Department put out the small fire, we were able to finish the

remainder of the show day.

While the show itself was uneventful on Sunday, those of us who choose to go out for dinner after the show wound up having to go through two restaurants and a total of three different waiters before finally getting dinner more than an hour after entering the first restaurant.

Among the C A S G members enduring this show were **Mick Blidy, Dick Bukowski, Dave Fron, Tim Fron, Will Holt, Joel Lebovitz, Leigh Maginnis, Jeff Papierz, Roman Papierz, Ray Signorini, Dave Wise** and **Kurt Zahnle**.

We can be sure the odds are heavily against any single show in the future accumulating even two of these trials that were part of the Southland Show this year,

HOME MEETINGS:

We are now planning for 2018. The probable dates will be :

April 21, 2018

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 returning 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.

If you can host one of other the 2018 meetings, 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 for this quarter is included with this 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.

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.

Art Gneuchs is selling his layout and collection. Art is downsizing and does not have room for the present layout as he relocates. Details are in the sale list and contact will be initiated through Wayne. Also, the layout and collection will be up for auction on November 17 at 3:00 P. M. and November 18 at 9:00 A. M. at 4 South Route 59 in Aurora, behind Fox Valley Coins.

LIONEL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

The Lionel Ambassador Program for this program year is complete. Lionel has opted for the program year to follow the calendar year. This would make sense since the catalogs come early in the year so products for the Ambassador Club year can be ordered and delivered within the program year. This also fits with Lionel's fiscal year.

We do anticipate that C A S G will be invited back for the next program year.

IMPORTANT: While we are in this break, we should take the time to get more members ready to participate. 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:

Whenever the club takes the modular layout to a show, all members are welcome to participate, even if the member does not have a module of his own. Come for set up and/or for one or more show days; bring trains to run if you wish. We always need a number of members to participate in each show since we usually have three to four trains operating at all times. We need both operators for the trains and, more importantly, members to be available to talk to the attendees.

The current count on modules includes the eight corner modules, two six-foot staging track modules, one four-foot staging track modules, one four-foot module and one four-foot bridge modules owned by the C A S G.

Individual members own modules as well, all four-foot. These are; **Dick Bukowski, 1, Will Holt, 3, Mike Klawitter, 1, Joel Lebovitz, 3, Chuck Mosier, 1, Jeff Papierz, 2, Roman Papierz, 2, Roy Plotnick, 1, Alan Roman, 1, Brendan Sheehy, 2, Kurt Zahnle, 1** and **Alan Zielinski, 1**.

That totals out to 100-feet of straight modules.

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**,

TRAIN SHOWS:

ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW:

The DuPage Division of the N M R A sponsors this show. We will be watching for the announcement of the dates for 2018.

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 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.

The schedule for the remainder of the fourth quarter of 2017 is:

December 10

We now have the dates for the 2018 shows:

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 6
- June 3
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

THE GREAT TRAIN SHOW

We have been accepted for the Great Train Show in Grayslake will be held the weekend between Christmas and New Year's, December 30-31 with set up on December 29. The first Great Train Show was held this weekend four years ago. It produced an attendance of about 6,000, at least double that of the two

shows that were held the weekend before Thanksgiving. They are hoping that this greater attendance will resurface by returning to that final weekend of the year.

Since this year the Sunday is New Year's Eve, they are planning shorter than normal hours that day, closing at 2:00 P. M.

We have indicated to the show management that we will plan on a 32-foot by 16-foot version of the modular layout. We will receive a \$ 150.00 honorarium for participation.

A sign up sheet has been started and will be available at all of the meetings through December.

The show set up is scheduled for Friday, December 29, at 1:00 P. M. The show itself is Saturday from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. and Sunday from 10:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M.

As with the other shows that we do, any members participating are welcome to come along for dinner each evening after the show.

HIGH WHEELER TRAIN SHOW:

We have received an update from the Fox Valley Division of the N M R A. They now have confirmation from Harper that the construction will not be completed until after March of 2018 so there will not be a 2018 show. They do anticipate hosting the show in 2019 and having it in the renovated spaces at Harper College.

HOMEWOOD RAIL FEST:

This one day show has been a good event for us. When we have the dates for 2018, we will post them in the newsletter.

SOUTHLAND MODEL RAILROAD SHOW:

While we do not yet have dates, we are planning on participating in this show in 2018. When dates are available they will be announced in the newsletter.

TRAIN FEST:

As you read this, the Train Fest will have just concluded for 2017. A report will be in the December newsletter.

© 2017
 Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers, Incorporated
 Founded 1969
www.casg-trains.org
www.fallsfest.net

UPCOMING S SCALE & C A S G EVENTS

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

November 17, 2017
Hinsdale, Illinois

THE GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

December 10, 2018
Wheaton, Illinois

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

December 15, 2017
Hinsdale, Illinois

THE GREAT TRAIN SHOW

Set Up – December 29, 2017
Show – December 30
Show – December 31

THE GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

January 14, 2018
Wheaton, Illinois

C A S G MONTHLY MEETING

January 19, 2018
Hinsdale, Illinois

NEXT MEETING:
 NOVEMBER 17, 2017
 HINSDALE VILLAGE HALL
 HINSDALE, ILLINOIS !!