



American Flyer "S" Gaugers of the St. Louis Area

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER March 2018

AFSGSLA Club Events:

Saturday, March 10, 2018: Boeing train show, Greensfelder Park. Our eager **Charles Albietz** has again arranged to have our club layout at this show. **Barry Dolan** expects to have the trailer at the complex about 8:00 am. Throughout the day, we will need club members to operate the layout and answer questions. You are invited to bring your favorite train set to operate on the club layout. Starting at about 2:45 pm we will begin to dismantle the layout. At 3:00 pm we will move it out of the building and into the trailer.

Friday, March 16, 2018 Club Meeting: The March meeting will be at the Lionel Club and will be co-hosted by **Larry Strassburger, John Nosari, Barry Dolan, and Gary Mueller**. The Lionel club is located at 7924 Minnesota in South St. Louis City. The building is at the corner of Minnesota and the Union Pacific (ex-MoPac) tracks (mainline to Texas). The building has a blue awning and a Reinhold Electric sign on it. Best parking is on the street along the railroad tracks. Do not park on the sidewalk along the side of the building on the north side of the street.

Friday, April 20, 2018: Tom Schnur has invited us to his house for our April meeting. This will be the fourth meeting Tom has hosted. **Tom** tells us that his home (at **6408 Kingsway Drive, St. Louis, MO 61123**, and Telephone is **314/ 452-8769**) is easy to reach.

Saturday, May 12, 2018: Mark Hieger has invited us to hold our May meeting at his Troy, Missouri home and view the considerable changes he has made to his layout. This event is scheduled to start around Noon and run until about 5:00 P.M. **Mark's** address is 311 Sunbrook Court – Troy, MO 63379, and his Telephone is 636/ 462-4952. He also says that if you plan to attend the meeting, a good landmark to look for to make the left turn off of Northbound Hwy 61 is a Dollar General Store on the corner of Hwy. 61 and Creech Lane. They have a pretty big yellow sign in front of the store that can be seen from Hwy 61. Car pools are suggested; and it is not fair to complain about the distance to Troy. After all, it is the same distance that Mark travels from his Troy home to our various in-town events.

Saturday, June 9, 2018: John Nosari will be hosting our meeting at his Chatham Illinois home. His address is 120 Downing Dr., Chatham IL 62629. His phone is 217-483-8276 (HOME) and cell is 217-652-8276.

Friday, September 7, 2018: Cliff Saxton has offered his train room and toy museum for our September club meeting. **Cliff** has made our visit to his home an annual event and it is always an exciting and fun filled event. Future newsletters will contain the details about this club meeting.

Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14, 2018: Mississippi Valley N Scalers (MVNS) show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. It is anticipated that we will display the sectional layout at this show.

Saturday, November 10, 2018: Dupo Train Show where we will display our double helix layout.

Saturday, November 17, 2017 Club meeting at **John Scholium's** St. Charles, MO home, and this will be the second time we will be meeting in his home. This is tentative as it may conflict with the Dupo train show

Saturday, December 1, 2018: TCA Christmas Train Show: Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, MO. It is anticipated that we will be displaying our double helix layout at this event.

Saturday, December 8, 2018: Mike and Cheryl Neace have invited us to hold our December Club meeting at their Godfrey, Illinois home. More info as it gets closer.

Friday, March 8, 2019: Dave Stone invited us to have our meeting at his home.

Other Scheduled Events

Although we will not necessarily participate in some of the following events as a club, they are included in this somewhat comprehensive listing for your information. We suggest you keep this newsletter for your future reference and attend our club meetings for full details.

Saturday, March 10, 2018: Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, St. Louis County, Missouri.

Saturday, March 24, 2018: Dreamland Palace Train Show, Foster Pond, IL. (Waterloo, IL) 3043 St. Rt. 156

Saturday, July 28, 2018 and Sunday, July 29, 2018: The Great Train Expo train show will be held in Belleville Illinois. We may participate in this show. More info as it gets closer.

Saturday, September 8, 2018: Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, St. Louis County, Missouri. It is not certain at this time if we will display our layout, but it is highly likely,

Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14, 2018: Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. We have already been invited to show our layout for them.

Friday – Sunday, November 2-4, 2018: The 43rd Annual Fall S Fest hosted by CASG (Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers) at Georgio's Banquets and Quality Inn and Suites, 8800 West 159th Street, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. You should be receiving the FSF-2018 information packet from CASG soon.

Saturday & Sunday, November 24-25, 2018: Great Train Show: Collinsville (Illinois) Convention Center. We may participate in this show. More info as it gets closer.

Saturday, December 1, 2018: TCA Christmas Train Show: Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, MO.

What's been happening?

January 27-28, 2018: We displayed our sectional layout at the Great Train Show in St. Charles. **Barry Dolan** coordinated.

February 10, 2018: Rick Archeski and his wife **Lynne** had invited us to hold our February club meeting at their home. This was especially appreciated, as it filled a large hole in our club schedule. But it was also most enjoyable and many of our club members were able to attend. **Rick** and **Lynne** had put away their considerable Christmas Displays but **Rick's** fascinating American Flyer train display was still in the family room, while **Lynne** was busy in the kitchen preparing many wonderful food treats.

AFSGSLA's Club Order of Special Cars:

As always, if you are interested in participating in these club orders, it would be to your advantage to attend the club meetings where details are made available and arrangements are finalized.

---The status of the Special Cars previously ordered is summarized as follows:

2017 TCA Cars: This is the TCA 2017 offering, consisting of 3 different Lionel American Flyer S Gauge Cars. The first two cars are a P&LE Flatcar with Die-Cast Jeep Vehicle Load # 16001 & #16002. The postwar version of this flatcar was offered with plastic (editor's note: TCA wording, we all know better) abstract versions of this world-famous vehicle. To provide a unique car, this new version will feature scale 3/16" die cast vehicles. There will be two car numbers offered—16001 & 16002—available individually or as a set. Price is \$84.95 each or \$ 159.95 for the set of two. Shipping is included. The third car is a MTH S Harmony Creamery Reefer. The MTH offering is geared more towards the scale S collector and will have all the detail and scale features of its reefer predecessors. Price is \$64.95 which Includes shipping.

The club order had been sent in and we were informed that the delivery of the Lionel produced cars was scheduled for late November 2017. And here we are in March 2018 and we still have not received the Lionel cars. Even worse is the fact that TCA now expects the delivery of the 2017 MTH produced cars to be June 2018. (There is speculation that MTH will soon abandon production and offering of S-Scale units.)

2018 TCA Cars: The S Gauge car for 2018 is a Lionel Ben and Jerry's billboard Reefer. A single car sells for \$69.95, 3 pack for \$204.95 and a six pack for \$399.95. A note says that there are six different road numbers and SKU's. For the single and three pack, random non-duplicate numbers will sent, the six pack insures one of each. The order period is now over.

Atlantic Division (TCA) announces an American Flyer A&P Wood-sided Reefer These cars are in stock and ready for immediate shipment. *Note: Limited Quantities remain.* The single car is priced at \$52.99, plus shipping (free Local pickup available). There are also two multi-packs consisting of three (3) or six (6) different car numbers. The 3-pack is \$149.99 and the 6-pack is \$279.99 plus shipping.

This and That

Free Train Rides: The St. Louis Live Steamers Public Run Day Schedule for 2018 is: April 14th, May 19th, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, September 15th and October 13th. Steam trains will run from 11:30 until 3:30 pm at Kircher Park. The park is located just south of Interstate 44 on Williams Road on the east side of Eureka, MO, If headed going west on I-44 from St. Louis, exit at State Route 109, go under I-44, then immediately get back on I-44 eastbound for about half a mile. Then exit I-44 at Williams Road (Exit 265). The park is on the right at the bottom of the exit ramp. They are across Flat Creek in the park. . .

Special notice from David Stevens: We have had a number of our faithful club members who have volunteered to host future meetings. Although our **David Stevens** is especially pleased with the excellent response to his recent requests, he tells us that we still need club members to volunteer to host club meeting in the future. He states that if you have not hosted a meeting recently---or ever---please careful consider doing so. It is a great way to “pay your dues” and it really is not much trouble to host a club meeting (the club pays our host a modest fee to offset expenses for refreshments). We have often said (and our hosts have agreed) that there is no surer way of getting your train room shaped up then hosting a club meeting. **David Stevens** will help you with the details, if you just contact him at Telephone: 314/ 921-1127 or stevens8128@sbcglobal.net.

Notes from the Co-Ordinator:

I recently received a telephone call from Bill Bronson of High Ridge, MO. Bill and his father had been interested in American Flyer trains for some time. One of the things they were unhappy with was the over size of Plasticville buildings. Consequently, they have developed a number of true S-Scale (i.e., 3/16-inch) building kits. If you are interested in his work, you are invited to visit his website at www.bronsonengineeringco.com. Because Bill's work has taken him to a number of international clients, he has functioned as a “lone-eagle” American Flyer enthusiast. None-the-less, I have invited him to attend any of our AFSGSLA events.

That's it for now, more later:

-And remember, “It's just for the fun of it!”

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