



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

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER September 2018

AFSGSLA Club Events and Related Activities:

As with the last several newsletters, we are combining the planned club events and the other related activities. 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.

Friday, September 7, 2018: **Cliff and Gail Saxton** have offered their home and his train room and toy museum for our September club meeting. He suggests we plan on gathering at 7:00 pm. **Cliff** has made our visit to his home an annual event and it is always an exciting and fun filled event. In addition, **Gail** has always provided us with an outstanding selection of goodies. Things to be discussed include: A report on the 2019 FALL S FEST hosted by us. Moe will give a general report and will answer questions for which details have been finalized. An important consideration is your participation as a worker in the FSF-2109. We will discuss car pool and hotel room sharing for the 2018 Fall S Fest in Chicago (November 2nd thru 4th.) The CASG does not have any more information/registration brochures available. They suggest you visit their website for that information at www.trainweb.org/CASG/.

Saturday, September 8, 2018: **Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet**, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, St. Louis County, Missouri. We will display our sectional layout at this event. Show time will be 10 am to 3 pm. **Charlie Albietz** arranged our participation in this show and **Barry Dolan** is coordinating the event. Please help **Barry Dolan** and his crew with set up at 8:30 am.

Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14, 2018: Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) train show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. The show will be open to the public Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. We will display our sectional layout at this show and we ask that you show up Saturday at 8 am to help with the set up.

Friday, October 19, 2018: Our long-time member **Charley Taylor** has invited us to his home and train room for our October club meeting. I has been a couple years since we visited there and we are anxious to see the improvements he has had made to his very interesting layout. **Charley's** home is at 423 Woodview Manor Lane in Kirkwood, Missouri. You are encouraged to form car pools as Woodlawn Manor Lane is actually a cul-de-sac with limited parking. We will gather at 7:00 pm in his lower level train room, where he will have available light refreshments or snacks and beverages. Later we will leave the snacks behind and move upstairs to hold our club meeting in his living room.

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 have received the FSF-2018 information packet from CASG. We will discuss car pool and hotel room sharing at our September 7, 2018 Club Meeting at **Cliff Saxton's** house.

Saturday, November 10, 2018: Dupo Train Show is where we will display our double helix layout. The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 2 pm, and you are asked to show up at 7:30 am to help **Barry Dolan** and the set up crew.

Saturday, November 17, 2018: Our club meeting will be hosted by **John and Wendy Schlum** at their home at 1337 Robert Ridge Drive St. Charles, Missouri from Noon to 3 pm. This will be the second time we will be meeting in their home and the last time we were really impressed with the extent of his collection. **John** was nice enough to adjust the date, to avoid a conflict with the Dupo Show.

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: This will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, Missouri. We will be displaying our double helix layout at this event. The show hours will be from 9 am to 3 pm, and you are asked to be there at 7:30 am to help **Barry Dolan** and the set up crew.

Saturday, December 8, 2018: Mike and Cheryl Neace have invited us to hold our December Club meeting at their Godfrey, Illinois home. We will meet from Noon until about 3 pm. More information will be provided as it gets closer.

Friday, March 8, 2019: Dave Stone has once again invited us to have our meeting at his home. More information will be provided as it gets closer.

What's been happening?

Not much. We usually do not schedule club events in the summer time because of family activities and travel plans. But come September and we are back at it. We did, however, participate in:

Saturday, July 28, 2018 and Sunday, July 29, 2018: The Great Train Expo train show was held in Belleville Illinois. Barry Dolan coordinated setting up our sectional layout.

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 TTOS Car: The notice for this 2017 TTOS car offering was just announced. (*Ed: What do you mean the 2017 Car? Oh, I remember this is from Lionel.*) It is an American Flyer by Lionel (**Limited Production**) Generator (or HEP) Car. It is attractively painted in Blue and Silver, the official colors of the Nevada State Railroad Museum. And it was proposed by the TTOS Silver State Division. The car is priced at \$64.95 each with shipping extra. TTOS is also offering these car as 3-pack and 6-pack sets. The club order was submitted on August 18, 2018.

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 was \$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 was \$64.95. The delivery of these units is now shown as October 2018.

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.

2016 S Fest Sprecher Rootbeer Reefer – SOON? These cars finally made it to the MTH shipping schedule. It shows October 2018.

2019 TCA Convention car - The only American Flyer S Gauge car is a White Sands Missile Range Flat. This is the basic postwar flatcar with two missiles, only decorated different. Two road numbers are available. If you order one car, you will get a random number. The two car set contains one of each number. Early Bird pricing ends on August 31, 2018. Early bird pricing is \$66.45 for a single car and \$123.45 for the two car set. After August 31, 2018, the cars are \$69.95 for a single car and \$129.95 for the two packs. End date for ordering is October 31, 2018.

This and That

The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019): Planning is now well underway for AFSGSLA to host the 2019 Fall S Fest. The steering committee is made up of Moe Berk, Charles Albietz, Charley Taylor, Vince Love, David Stone, Pete Mihelich, Paul Wehrle, Rick Archeski and Gary Mueller. The committee has now met several times and has made a number of accomplishments. A brief report will be provided at the September meeting.

Peter Mihelich has started to assemble the listing of volunteers and assigned tasks. As always, early volunteers get to choose their tasks while later volunteers are assigned their tasks. Please be prepared to discuss your role with **Pete** at the September 7th meeting at **Cliff Saxton's** home.

Free Train Rides: The St. Louis Live Steamers Public Run Day Schedule for the remainder of 2018 is: ^h, 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. . .

Mark Twain Hobby Center: Our member **John Burke** made the initial contact with Mark Twain Hobby about their 10% discount program. We followed up with their Kevin, learned the program details, and enrolled the AFSGLA members in that program. In summary, it is a 10% discount "across the board" program for all but a very few items they sell. Kevin told us that they limit their advertising through email and that each of you will receive an email with the details of their program.

Midwest Money Layout Open House - Sponsored by the Midwest Money Company, on the First Sunday of every month from 11 am - 4 pm. They are located at 5901 Hampton, St. Louis MO cross street Holly Hills. The layout is rather large, fully developed scenery 3 rail O-Scale layout. This layout may be one of only a very few which can be claimed to be 100% complete. This location is in South St. Louis, roughly halfway between Chippewa and Gravois. [Note: Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Layout Open House will not be open on Sunday, September 2nd.]

Iron Spike Interactive Model Train Museum – When out in Washington, MO, stop by this museum if you want to see a very large HO layout as well as cases and smaller layouts are filled with current and vintage trains. Not too much (yet) in S, but our club is represented by one of our previous S Fest cars. The museum is on 1498 High Street with hours on Friday 1 – 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday 12 – 6 p.m. The museum is in an old auto dealership building. There is also a small store, but most of the items for sale are HO.

New Releases from MTH: MTH has released 2 uncatalogued S gauge cars and both of them are lettered for the NS and have quite colorful graphics. One is a "First Responders" boxcar for \$59.95, <https://mthtrains.com/35-74023>, and the other is a "Veterans" boxcar for \$59.95, <https://mthtrains.com/35-74024>.

More news from Lionel: Our good friend **Mark Hieger** recently reported on the new Lionel/American Flyer new numbering system being used in their latest catalog. **Mark** reports:

The new numbers are typically seven digit numbers. Most now begin with "19". That number is to represent the year of production as in 2019. The number does not reflect the catalog year...but rather when the item will be produced. (That sounds optimistic what with the long time between catalog appearance and delivery of some items).☺ The second two numbers are the marketing category and for S scale the numbers used are So for our trains they are using are 17-21, where:

17. Sets, 18. Track, 19. Rolling Stock, 20. Accessories, and 21. Locomotives.

Now, isn't that informative and helpful?

Special notice from David Stevens: We have had a number of our faithful club members who have volunteered to host club meetings **David** is especially pleased with the excellent response to his requests, But he tells us that no one has yet volunteered to host club meetings in January, February, or after March 2019. 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 Newsletter Editor:

Nothing this time.

Notes from the Co-Ordinator:

You will find an interesting NMRA Magazine article in the attached file. It features Lemp Brewing Cars, but is a very interesting discussion of the history of those cars and the role of various Saint Louis companies; enjoy.

That's it for now, more later:

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

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