



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

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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.

Saturday, January 12, 2019: Rick and Lynne Archeski have invited us to their home at 506 Lighthouse Place, Wildwood MO from noon to 3 pm. We always find a warm welcome at the Archeski home.

Saturday, January 12, 2019: Train Swap Meet at the National Museum of Transportation from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CONFLICT WITH OUR CLUB MEETING AT RICK ARCHESKI'S HOME --- WE WERE NOT INVITED TO THE NMOT!

Saturday January 19, 2019: TrainFair 2019 presented by The St. Charles Model Railroad Club 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Heart of St. Charles Banquet Center, 1410 South 5th Street & I-70, St. Charles, MO.

Saturday & Sunday, January 26-27, 2019: Great Train Show: St. Charles Convention Center - St. Charles, Missouri. Show times are 10 am - 4 pm. As is normally the case with this show, we anticipate we will be invited to attend, but will not know for sure until closer to the show.

Friday, February 15, 2019: We will return to the home of **Norm Pilarski** hosted by **Norm** and **Scott Pilarski** and we will gather at about 7:00 pm Norm's address is 104 Falmouth, Ballwin, MO 63011. We always enjoy seeing Norm's extensive layout and if you have not experienced it you do not know what you have missed.

Saturday, February 16, 2019: Alton Train Show Time for this show is 10 am to 3 pm at the Franklin Masonic Lodge, 1513 Washington Ave., Alton IL 62002.

Friday, March 8, 2019: Club Meeting: We will visit the home of **Dave Stone** for our March club meeting. Dave's home is at 1729 Moss Rock Drive in St. Charles, Missouri 63303. We will gather at the usual 7:00-0 pm. It might be handy to use Map Quest or Google. **Dave's** home is sort of tucked away in a cul-de-sac, and your Club Co-Coordinator usually has to make several passes before he can find it!

Saturday, March 9, 2019: 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, April 26, 2019: For our April club meeting, **Tom Schnur** has invited us to his Affton area home. **Tom's home (at 6408 Kingsway Drive, St. Louis, MO 61123, and Telephone is 314/ 452-8769).** You will find that Tom's home is easy to reach and will start to gather at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, May 4, 2019: 3rd Anniversary Railroad Swap Meet Sponsored by the Iron Spike Model Train Museum, Washington City Auditorium, 211 High Street, Washington MO 63090. Admission \$5, includes same day admittance to Iron Spike Museum. Show time is 10 am – 3 pm. For more information call (636) 283-5163/5166 or email info@ironspike.org or check out the [Iron Spike Model Train Museum website](http://www.ironspike.org)

Saturday, June 22, 2019: We will be returning to the home and animal refuge of **Kathy Daly**. Her address is 403 Cannonbury Drive – St. Louis, MO 63119 and Telephone is 314/ 962-5260. This month's club meeting is scheduled to start around Noon and run until about 4:00 P.M.

Friday, September 6, 2019: 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, September 7, 2019: Boeing train show, Greensfelder Park.

Friday, October 19, 2019: Our October meeting will be hosted by **Charles Taylor**. Date and details will be announced at a later date.

Saturday and Sunday, October 12 & 13, 2019: Mississippi Valley N Scalpers (MVNS) show at the Kirkwood Community Center, Kirkwood MO. We anticipate we will be setting up the sectional layout.

Friday through Sunday, November 1 to 3, 2019: The **Fall S Fest (FSF-2019)** will be held here in the St. Louis Area and will be hosted by us (**viz, AFSSLA**). This will be the seventh FSF we have hosted and as always it will be great fun. See a later paragraph in this newsletter for additional information.

Other activities anticipated late in 2019 include: November and December Club Meetings, Citizens National Bank, Dupo Train Show, and TCA Christmas Train Show, among other events. Of course, details will be announced in later Newsletters.

What's been happening?

November 10, 2018: Dupo Train Show is where we displayed our double helix layout. **Barry Dolan** coordinated.

November 17, 2018: Our club meeting was hosted by **John and Wendy Schlum**. This was the second time we met their home and saw the changes he made to his collections, both trains and trucks. Like many of us, his trains are overflowing into several rooms of his house.

November 24-25, 2018: Great Train Show at Collinsville, IL: We displayed our sectional layout. **Barry Dolan** arranged for us to participate in this event and coordinated our efforts.

December 1, 2018: TCA Christmas Train Show: We displayed our double helix layout at this event. **Barry Dolan** coordinated.

Thursday, December 6, 2018: We installed our 8x8 layout at the CNB (Citizen's National Bank) in Maplewood. **Barry Dolan** coordinated.

December 15, 2018: Mike and Cheryl Neace hosted our December Club meeting.

December 27, 2018: We took down of the CNB layout at the CNB bank in Maplewood. As before, **Barry Dolan** coordinated this event

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...

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 packs 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. Note from editor: October has come and gone.

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. The ordering date for this car is over.

This and That

The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019): Planning is now well underway for AFGSLA 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. The two big items are completed; the contracts for both the hotel and the meet cars have been signed. Our next activity will be to identify Clinic Presenters, the Banquet Program, and the preparation of the information and registration packet.

Peter Mihelich is assembling the listing of volunteers and assigned tasks. As always, early volunteers get to choose their tasks while later volunteers are assigned their tasks.

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 AFGSLA 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.

Free Train Rides The St. Louis Live Steamers Public Run Day Schedule for 2019 is: April 6th, May 18th, June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 21st and October 12th. Steam trains will run from 11:00 am until 4:00 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.

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.

S-scale Illinois Terminal PCC Streetcar body shell: Shapeways is offering an Illinois Terminal body shell in several scales, including S! These bodies are 3-D printed in white plastic. For those unfamiliar with this streetcar, it is a double ended PCC car that ran between downtown St. Louis and Granite City, Illinois, up until 1958. In real life, there were only 8 of these cars built, which makes it unusual that a company would make a streetcar which in real life was an extremely rare model and ran in a limited area. This is a double ended car, which means it would be perfect on a back and forth track, not needing a loop. The bad news is that it is not motorized and up to the modeler to motorize it. A Northwest Short Line drive may be able to be used,

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

Nothing this time.

Notes from the Co-Ordinator:

A brief reflection and acknowledgement: As we begin 2019 we have lots of club activities scheduled, and many opportunities to “pay your dues.” It is good, however to look back at what we have accomplished in 2018. It has been an especially good year for us as we shared our time and talents. The vitality of the club is dependent on members’ participation. Each and every one of our club members has participated or contributed in some manner. At the risk of overlooking someone, there have been members who have played a significant part in our success and deserve to be recognized.

The AFSGSLA’s Steering Committee is the group of members who spend extra time and efforts to help decide and guide our club activities. Those members are **Charles Albietz, Charley Taylor, Vince Love, David Stone, Pete Mihelich, Paul Wehrle, Rick Archeski, Gary Mueller, and Moe Berk.**

The Club Members who have hosted club meeting. In 2018, those generous members include: **Rick Archeski, John Nosari, Gary Mueller, Larry Strassburger, Tom Schnur, Mark Hieger, Cliff Saxton, Charles Taylor, John Schlum, and Mike Neace.**

Gary Mueller faithfully prepares the club newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. And the newsletter is very important as it keeps us informed. **Gary** also lets me include my comments.

David Stevens has consistently reminded us of the importance of our club meetings and has encouraged members to volunteer as a host for our important club meetings.

Barry Dolan has arranged for the many train shows we participate in and has coordinated our efforts. Certainly **Barry’s** efforts are made easier by the regular assistance from **Don Hanson** and **Chris Guebert.**

That’s it for now, more later:

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

MOE BERK,
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