



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

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## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

March 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.

**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 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! The last of the AFSGSLA former/surplus Fall S Fest cars will be distributed at this meeting.

**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](mailto: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 (Ed: spelling air corrected – yes I did that on purpose) 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 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.

**Friday, November 22, 2019:** Club meeting at the National Museum of Transport (NMOT). **Charley Taylor** and **Andrew Arth** are making the necessary arrangements to hold our club meeting at the NMOT. They are also planning to have our former Famous-Barr/Macy layout up and running at that time. See the later paragraph regarding the NMOT.

**Other activities anticipated late in 2019 include:** 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?**

**January 20, 2019: Rick and Lynne Archeski** invited us to their home for a rescheduled January meeting after snow cancelled the scheduled meeting the previous week. This was our first Sunday meeting. Unfortunately the snow did not cooperate and was waiting for us at the end of the meeting.

**January 26-27, 2019: Great Train Show:** St. Charles Convention Center - St. Charles, Missouri. We displayed our sectional layout at this show. **Barry Dolan, Rick Archeski, Jim Anderson** and **Mark Hieger** off loaded the 11 X 26 layout Friday Evening and made for an easier assembly Saturday Morning. Their efforts also allowed the layout to acclimate to a warm inside temperature overnight. **Barry Dolan** coordinated our participation at this event.

Unfortunately our layout decided it was time to misbehave in public and we had several electrical problems. Subsequently, **Rick Archeski** arrange for access to a building in his neighborhood that allowed the volunteers to resolve the problems.

**February 15, 2019:** We returned to the home of **Norm Pilarski** hosted by **Norm** and **Scott Pilarski** for a small but enjoyable meeting in Norm's train man cave. Once again, snow prevented more members from attending. We are certainly looking forward to the arrival of spring, and we are hopeful that snow will not affect **Dave Stone's** March club meeting.

### **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 was scheduled for October 2018 but still delayed..

**2016 S Fest Sprecher Rootbeer Reefer – SOON?** Those of us that ordered it received word that it was supposed to ship from MTH last Thursday.

**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 has been 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. The two big items completed are; the contracts for both the hotel and the meet cars have been signed. Since the last newsletter, we completed identifying the Clinic Presenters, the Banquet Program, and the preparation of the information and registration packet including the ad for the S Gaugian magazine.

**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. We will review that listing at the March club meeting.

**One Problem with the FSF-2019 preparations:** We missed our March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline in submitting the necessary documents to the Printer. The critical item (the FSF-2018 mailing list) was received March 4<sup>th</sup>, about 2 months after the CASG club had promised it to us. Nonetheless, we now have it and the FSF Steering Committee will be working hard to get caught up.

**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 AFSGSLA 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 27<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 rather large 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.

**Notes from the Newsletter Editor:**

Nothing this time, but please email anything you think should be in the newsletter.

**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.**

**News relating to the NMOT:** Our club members **Charley Taylor** and **Andrew Arth** have made significant accommodations with the NMOT, as follows:

1. As reported earlier, our former Famous-Barr/Macy layout will be set up much earlier this year. It is planned to have it available for the FSF-2019 Home Layout Tours program, as well as our November club meeting.
2. **Barry Dolan, Don Hanson, and Rick Archeski** have arranged to store both of our club layout trailers at a secure location at the NOMT.
3. It was reported that our **Bob O’Neill** has been recognized for over 50 years of volunteer service to the NMOT. (Ed: Good job, Bob.)

**That’s it for now, more later:**

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

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