



# American Flyer “S” Gaugers of the St. Louis Area

Website: [www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/](http://www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/)

E-Mail: [afsgsla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afsgsla@sbcglobal.net)

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## AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

August 2019

### AFSGSLA Club Events and Related Activities:

As you may have noticed, we skipped a newsletter. Quite frankly, there was not much going on and your newsletter editor was preoccupied with family matters.

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.

**Various Work Sessions** – See the “This and That” section for proposed work sessions on our former Famous-Barr/Macy layout, at the National Museum of Transportation (NMOT). They are not listed here because dates might not be exact.

**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. The details are as follows: the Saxton home is at 12363 Federal Drive in the Des Peres suburb of St. Louis. Their telephone number is 314-821-7917 if you need directions. We plan to start gathering at 7:00 pm.

**Saturday, September 7, 2019:** **Boeing train show, Greensfelder Park.** We are committed to display our club layout at his show. We are grateful to **Charles Albietz** for arrangement this activity.

**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, AFSGSLA**). 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.

**Saturday-Sunday, November 30-December 01, 2019:** We have applied to operate our Sectional Layout at the Great Train Show, at the St. Charles Convention Center. They usually confirm a week before the show.

**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.

**Looking ahead to 2020** (yes we have 20/20 vision) **Charlie Albietz** has arranged for us to display at the Boeing Swap Meets on March 14, 2020 and August 29, 2020. We have applied to operate our Sectional Layout at the Great Train Show in July in Belleville. And **Scott Pilarski** has indicated he would like to host a club meeting in February.

### **What's been happening?**

**May 17, 2019:** **Dave Stevens** arranged for us to have a club meeting at St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Dave displayed quite a few of the excellent buildings that he purchased and were originally built by **Gerry Evans**.

**June 22, 2019:** We were supposed to return to the home of **Kathy Daly**, but unfortunately this meeting had to be cancelled due to medical reasons.

**July 27 – 28, 2019:** We displayed our layout at the Great Train Expo in Belleville, Illinois. **Barry Dolan** coordinated and **Don Hanson** took care of our trailer transportation.

### **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 have all been delivered.

**2020 TCA Convention car** - TCA announced their 2020 Convention Cars, and they include an American Flyer S Gauge Budweiser Woodside Reefer. The reefer car is dark green with white lettering. TCA's deadline for their 5% discount is August 31, 2019. Our club order will take advantage of their 5% discount. If you want to join in the club order, you will have to email or otherwise inform **Moe Berk** no later than Tuesday, August 27, 2019. The list prices are as follows: Single car = \$69.95, 3-Pack = \$204.95, and 6-Pack = \$399.95. The cars will be available in six different numbers. The TCA 2020 Convention is in Jacksonville, FL on June 21-28, 2020. It is unlikely that the cars will be shipped before the Convention dates.

### **This and That**

**The Annual Fall S Fest-2019 (FSF-2019):** Planning has been well underway for AFSGSLA to host the Fall S Fest-2019. 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, exchanged numerous emails, and has made a number of accomplishments. Since the last newsletter, Dave Stone has sent out letters to the various vendors requesting donation of items to use for attendance prizes, raffle and auction.

**Sprecher Brewery** – For those of you that ordered the 2016 S Fest Sprecher Reefer and need a place to park it, one of the latest building offerings from Menards is the Sprecher Brewery. See this and all the Menards train stuff on their web site. For you catalog collectors, I got a Menards train catalog with my last order.

**NMOT (National Museum of Transport) proposed work sessions** – These are the dates provided by Andrew Arth:

August 12 – 13: Retrack levels 2 and 3 of the former Famous-Barr/Macy's/ layout at the NMOT.

October 22: Set up the layout.

October 23 – 25: Install scenery, etc. on layout.

November 22: Operate the layout for the AFSGSLA Club Meeting at the NMOT.

**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: 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.

**The Electric Train Outlet** is going out of business. Bob the owner has decided to retire. As of the published date, all train accessories and die cast vehicles are 50% off! The only American Flyer remaining is various Fastrack items, but there are many scenery items that can be used in S. .

**Mike's Train House** announced that there will be a S Gauge catalog for 2019-2020.

#### **Notes from the Newsletter Editor:**

As previously reported, and after 44 years of directing the club's activities, **Moe Berk** is resigning as coordinator after the first of next year. We need to find a volunteer with big feet (no, they do not have to have big feet, but they will have some pretty big shoes to fill). So, we desperately need a volunteer to take over.

As always, please email anything you think should be in the newsletter.

#### **Notes from the Co-Ordinator:**

Two quick items for your information:

1. **Anthony Mueller** (son of Gary and Michele) has reportedly been hospitalized with serious kidney complications. I am certain all of us will extend our prayers and good wishes for his recovery.
2. Our own quasi-professional Scout Volunteer, **David Stevens** recently returned from the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Mt. Hope, WV. The Jamboree was attended by about 4,000 scouts, plus another 1,200 adult leaders and staff. During the Jamboree, **David** worked in the climbing area and with the other adult volunteers assisted over 1,200 scouts to gear up with harness and helmets, get them adjusted, and then helping them to climb and rappel. Good job David!

**That's it for now, more later:**

**GARY MUELLER**  
**AFSGSLA Newsletter Editor**  
[gmatmueller@aol.com](mailto:gmatmueller@aol.com)

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

**MOE BERK,**  
**AFSGSLA Co-Ordinator**  
[afsgsla@sbglobal.net](mailto:afsgsla@sbglobal.net)