

PRE-REGISTER NOW...

for the
**36th ANNUAL
FALL S FEST**
St. Louis, Missouri
October 28-30, 2011
St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel

*One of the world's largest gatherings of
S Gauge model train enthusiasts and suppliers...
...with features of interest for the entire family!*



Hosted by the
American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area

"It's Just For The Fun Of It...A Family Affair!"

**PLAN TO BE PART OF
THE 2011 FALL S FEST
IN ST. LOUIS...**

**...where, as our meeting theme phrases it,
“It’s Just For The Fun Of It...A Family Affair!”**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WHO: The AFSGSLA (American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area) club is hosting the 36th annual Fall S Fest in suburban St. Louis. The meet is co-sponsored by the Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers (CASG), the Badgerland S Gaugers (BSG), and the State-Line "S" Gaugers (SLSG).

WHAT: The 2011 Fall S Fest continues the tradition of "sell, swap, learn, see, show, and do," and it promises to be one of the world's largest gatherings of S Gauge enthusiasts. The AFSGSLA, which also hosted the 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007 Fall S Fests, has again chosen a convenient location accessible from all major highways and all modes of transportation. This year's Fall S Fest will feature traditional program elements as well as new ones, with a large, comfortably configured Swap Meet area.

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, October 28-30. Registration and pre-registration check-in will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 28. At 2 p.m. that day, the doors of the Swap Meet room will open to all attendees, and trading will begin.

Please note: Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged; by doing so, you will receive express check-in, qualify for a special drawing, and have the best chance to buy the special limited-production, official 2011 Fall S Fest cars.

WHERE: This year, as in 2007, the Fall S Fest will be held at the St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel, located just a block from the main entrance to Lambert International Airport (and the airport stop of MetroLink, St. Louis' light rail system). The Marriott chain is renowned for its customer service. And the St. Louis Airport Marriott offers all the top-quality amenities you would expect -- at a bargain rate of **just \$79 per night** per room (1-4 occupants). Parking will be free for all attendees *with ticket validation*. Our hotel is just 15 miles northwest of downtown St. Louis on Interstate 70 (a 20-minute non-rush hour drive) and is easily accessed from all major area highways.

Driving directions are straightforward: **From I-70 eastbound or westbound, take Exit 236 (the main entrance to Lambert International Airport); the Marriott is on the south side of the highway.** The map on the back cover shows how easy it is to find.

WHY: If you're interested in S Gauge, the Fall S Fest is the "York" of the hobby, with table after table filled with all the goodies you've been looking for, as well as plenty of new items that would be perfect for enhancing your layout or train display. Add in a host city chosen for its convenient location...plus the Midwestern hospitality of the AFSGSLA club -- and you're assured of a great time! Again this year, in keeping with the second part of our theme, "A Family Affair," we're extending an extra-warm welcome to the entire family, with program events for spouses and children. (See additional details on page 10.) You can make it a fun-filled, fantastic weekend for everyone in the family, even those who may not share your love of trains.

WHAT'S THE LATEST? For periodic updates on the preparations for the 2011 Fall S Fest and for current announcements, be sure to regularly visit our Web site -- www.trainweb.org/afsgsla .

FALL S FEST REGISTRATION

Pre-registration for the Fall S Fest is strongly encouraged, because it entitles you to a number of benefits, including discounted fees and drawings. Your REGISTRATION FORM is included with this booklet and provides detailed information as well as registration instructions. The basic registration fee, required of all attendees, admits you and your entire family to the general Fall S Fest activities. Banquet tickets are reasonably priced and should be ordered during the early pre-registration period (through September 1). **Banquet tickets may not be available at the door during the event.** Only PRE-REGISTRATION assures you of Banquet tickets, Swap Meet tables, entry in the Pre-Registration Raffle, and the opportunity to purchase the special limited-edition, official Fall S Fest cars. And by pre-registering, you will enjoy expedited service when the registration check-in begins at 1 p.m. on Friday.

Have a special requirement? Please note it in the area provided on the Registration Form; send the form in early; and we'll do all we can to accommodate your needs.

So remember that, to save yourself money and trouble, you need to...

...PRE-REGISTER NOW!!!

Still not convinced? Well, here's another incentive:

PRE-REGISTRATION RAFFLE

There's another good reason to register early. If you register by September 1, you will be entered in special prize drawings to be held Saturday afternoon, October 29, during the 2011 Fall S Fest. Additional pre-registration raffle tickets may be purchased via the Registration Form at the nominal price of \$1.00 each. These drawings will be separate from the Hotel Sweepstakes (see page 7)...so if you enter both and you're very lucky, you might be a double winner!

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

You must reserve your overnight accommodations
DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL:

ST. LOUIS AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL
10700 Pear Tree Lane
St. Louis, MO 63134
314-423-9700

Fall S Fest participants always appreciate low hotel rates that leave more dollars for S Gauge goodies. That's why you will find this year's special Marriott room rate particularly attractive -- just **\$79 per night** for a standard guest room (maximum of 4 people). That's a lot less than last year (and \$3 less than in '07!), a great value for Marriott accommodations and service. *This special rate applies to check-ins as early as Tuesday, October 25, and check-outs as late as Wednesday, November 2, so you can make your St. Louis visit a delightful "getaway" vacation for the whole family!* When making your reservation, be sure to mention you are attending the AFSGSLA Fall S Fest. The hotel reservation deadline is **October 17** to assure you of room availability and our special rate. For reservation accuracy, call the hotel directly (314-423-9700) rather than the Marriott "800" number.

The St. Louis Airport Marriott is a 3-minute free shuttle ride from the St. Louis airport (where you can also catch the MetroLink light rail for trips to/from the many downtown attractions and the Amtrak station). The hotel offers a full range of amenities, including indoor/outdoor swimming pool, whirlpool, fitness center, full-service restaurant, tavern, and Starbucks coffee house. The AFSGSLA has asked the hotel to provide moderately priced food service as an alternative to the main restaurant. Other restaurants are nearby. And of course, St. Louis boasts lots of sightseeing attractions, including the world-famous Museum of Transportation, a 30-minute drive from the hotel.

HOTEL SWEEPSTAKES

The AFSGSLA club will hold two mutually exclusive Hotel Sweepstakes. You will be given a chance in the Hotel Sweepstakes **IF** you

- a)** make a hotel reservation **prior to September 1**; and
- b)** occupy the room for two or more nights (one chance per room); and
- c)** attend the Fall S-Fest Banquet. Prizes may include various gifts or the equivalent of one or two nights' lodging at the hotel. Full details will be provided when you arrive.

The separate Hotel Sweepstakes will be for:

1. Fall S Fest attendees who live outside of a 125-mile radius of the hotel; and
2. Those who live within that 125-mile radius.

We obviously want to encourage those living within the 125-mile radius to stay at the hotel and enjoy all of the Fall S Fest activities. We expect your chance of winning a prize to be greater in this category because of the smaller number of entrants.

SECURITY

The AFSGSLA club will see that only registered attendees have access to the Fall S Fest activities. The Swap Meet room will be securely locked down at 10 p.m. Friday, and absolutely no one will be admitted to the room until Saturday morning. Individual dealers are responsible for monitoring their goods during trading sessions as well as during set-up and tear-down. The Marriott provides general security for its buildings and grounds.

PARKING

The hotel's parking areas have controlled access and are under constant surveillance. Fall S Fest attendees will be eligible for free validated parking. Validation details will be available at the Fall S Fest registration table.

SWAP MEET / TRADING ROOM

All trading tables will be in one large, attractive room. We anticipate using standard 6-foot tables (72 inches by 30 inches), or an equivalent tabletop area will be provided. A limited number of electrical outlets will also be available; attendees desiring such outlets should indicate this need on their Registration Form under "special requests" when pre-registering.

The AFSGSLA is committed to fulfilling every reasonable request for special Trading Room consideration. Please indicate those requests on the Registration Form when you pre-register, and if necessary, a club member will contact you for more details.

Keep in mind that the number of trading tables will be limited, and in view of the popularity of the hotel location in 2007, it is unlikely that tables will be available at the door. The actual Trading Room table assignments will be made in late September, generally on the basis of the order in which pre-registrations are received, although the AFSGSLA reserves the right to consider special requests (such as being situated adjacent to a friend, etc.). The assignment of tables for the Swap Meet is definitely one aspect of the Fall S Fest where PRE-REGISTRATION and informing us early of any special needs or desires will be essential! On Friday at 11 a.m., check-in will begin for **pre-registrations with tables ordered**, and the trading room will be available at that time for set-up.

The Swap Meet/Trading Room will be open for business on Friday from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m.; and on Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

SILENT AUCTION

We will hold a Silent Auction for those with a few items to sell, including attendees who don't need or want a Swap Meet table. Specific information will be available at the Fall S Fest, but in general:

1. Lots or items can only be offered by (and bid on by) registered Fall S Fest attendees.
2. The Silent Auction will be held adjacent to the Swap Meet room on Saturday, October 29, with the bidding to START promptly at 9 a.m. and END promptly at 1 p.m. All bidders are expected to be present at 1 p.m. to pay the Treasurer and to claim their item(s) no later than 1:30 p.m.
3. Consignors may set both the minimum bid and the amount of bid step increase but may not bid on their own items.
4. This is a contract between seller and buyer, and the high bidder is expected to honor this contract.
5. The Fall S Fest host club will collect the winning bid for the seller and will retain a fee equal to 5% of the winning bid.

BANQUET PROGRAM

The 2011 Banquet meal promises to be a dining delight, featuring a sit-down dinner with salad, mixed grill (beef and chicken), potatoes, assorted vegetables, dessert, and beverages. A cash bar will be available.

The Banquet after-dinner program will also be special, continuing such popular traditions as attendance prizes and an auction (see page 10). We will welcome as our guest speaker Kenneth L. (Ken) Anderson, a practicing attorney from Highland, Indiana. Ken is an active S Gauger (along with his son Ken), a longtime Fall S Fest attendee, and a Lincoln scholar. He will share some thoughts about "Abraham Lincoln and the Railroads," shedding light on our 16th President and his heavy involvement in the development of Midwestern railroads. Ken's talk coincides with the Civil War Sesquicentennial being celebrated this year in many parts of the country.

POST-BANQUET AUCTION

The Post-Banquet Auction will again be held after the Banquet program speaker. We have engaged a professional auctioneer to keep the event fast-paced and entertaining. Saturday evening's program promises to be fun and "expedited" -- not too long and certainly not tedious! It may also incorporate a surprise or two.

We hope you'll join in the festivities. Remember, as our meeting theme says...

"It's Just For The Fun Of It...A Family Affair!"

PIZZA PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN

(at the same time as the Saturday Banquet)

We will be offering a Pizza Party for the children (ages 2-12) on Saturday evening at the same time as the Banquet. This will allow the kids time in a party atmosphere, overseen by responsible adults, while Mom and Dad are enjoying dinner and some Train Talk! There will be a nominal fee of \$8.00 per child for this activity, and pre-registration is required. Please indicate the child's age in the space provided on the Registration Form.

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR SPOUSES

The 2011 Fall S Fest will be an event the whole family (and not just the train enthusiasts) will enjoy. In addition to the pizza party for the children, the schedule will include:

Friday Evening 7-9 p.m.:

Fused Glass Jewelry-Making Workshop

Join us for a fun evening of jewelry-making. Design your own necklace pendant, earrings, keychain or magnet. The clinic fee of \$20 will cover the cost of one article you will make (additional articles can be made for an additional \$12 per piece). A talented St. Louis Artist will present this clinic, and all supplies will be furnished. After the workshop, your finished product will be kiln-fired (fused) in the artist's studio and then will be delivered to you before you leave on Sunday morning, October 30. (Other arrangements can be made if an earlier departure is planned.) For more

information about the artist, visit the artist's Web site at www.sassyfusion.com.

Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Card-Making Workshop

The ladies had so much fun making greeting cards at the 2007 Fall S Fest that we thought we'd do it again. Our demonstrator will provide all the supplies and assist each participant in making three greeting cards that will be theirs to keep -- great to have on hand for future birthdays or holidays. Because space is limited, pre-registration is required, and please make your reservation early. Although this is not a youngster's activity, if a parent is participating, so may a child at least 10 years of age, with payment for a second reservation. Cost: just \$5.00 per person.

**Saturday Outing To Historic St. Charles, Missouri:
11:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

We are again planning a trip to historic St. Charles, MO (15 minutes west of the hotel) for the ladies and any men who are interested, on Saturday. An air-conditioned mini-coach will take you to St. Charles, which is the home of the first Missouri State Capitol, authentically restored. The city is located on the Missouri River where Lewis and Clark embarked in 1804 to explore the Northwest Territory. Visitors can explore the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Nature Center, as well as historic Main Street, offering a wide range of craft, antique, specialty shops, and a winery. Excellent restaurants are available for a leisurely lunch or simple snack. The coach will depart from the hotel at 11:45 a.m. Saturday and return at 4 p.m. The fee will be \$15.00 per person, and due to limited space, pre-registration is required for this trip.

MODEL CONTEST

A model contest will be conducted for our experienced craftspeople and novice builders alike. In general, model categories and rules will be based on NASG guidelines. Achievement certificates will be awarded and will be presented when you claim your model.

CLINICS

The Fall S Fest will again feature clinics of interest to the serious collector, the experienced operator, the talented hobbyist, or someone just starting out in S Gauge. We expect clinics to cover the following topics:

--Fairy Tales & Pipe Dreams. NASG Master Craftsman Gerry B. Evans, perhaps best known for his structure-building, will focus on kit-built structures as well as some product-sourcing for scratch-building. He will also share ideas for sourcing cars, engines, and layout detail parts.

--LEDs Are Amazing...and Turnout Motors are Simple! Gary H. Brandenberger loves LEDs. They're cheap; they come in many colors; and they're bright (and adjustable) and stay cool. Learn how to use LEDs the correct or easy way on your layout to achieve unprecedented realism, grinding or sanding them to alter their shape or the way they shine. Plus...Gary will demonstrate how easy it is to motorize your non-Flyer turnouts.

--Books on Trains, Particularly Suitable for Children. Greg Ames is curator of the John W. Barriger III National Library housed on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His presentation on books about trains from the early days of railroads to the present day should be interesting to children, parents, and grandparents. Greg has given clinics at the last two St. Louis Fall S Fests, and this one promises to be interesting for children of all ages.

(Clinic topics are subject to change.)

TRAIN RACES

This fun-filled activity will be offered to all those with the competitive drag-race spirit! Pick out your fastest, most powerful locomotive, and plan to enter! (Entrants are responsible for having the locomotive reverse unit locked out to avoid false starts.) This year's event will again feature AFSGLA's Incline Challenge. Designed and built by our club's skilled craftsman Fred Vortmeier, the competition is enhanced by a special St. Louis application of "low technology," or basic physics. This St. Louis innovation is a test of your favorite locomotive's ability to pull a gondola (loaded with a five-pound weight) up an inclined track. As the locomotive proceeds up the track, the grade will uniformly increase from a fractional grade to a full 15 percent slope! The trial continues until the locomotive stalls -- and the locomotive covering the greatest distance wins! Among the categories: American Flyer locomotives; products of any other manufacturer; steam; diesel; standard wheels; scale wheels; Pull-mor tires, etc.

SPECIAL FALL S FEST MEET PATCH

For each of the past 35 years, the Fall S Fest host club has offered a meet patch. This year's multi-color (3x4-inch) patch, designed by our club member Norm Pilarski, is depicted on the cover of this booklet. The design features the streamlined "Zephyr" diesel of the CB&Q Railroad as well as St. Louis' famed Gateway Arch.

DISPLAY LAYOUTS

The American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area will be presenting a number of the club's layouts in the hotel lobby, including a 12 x 28 sectional layout and our famous "double helix." We also anticipate that an operating layout built as a project by a local Boy Scout troop under the guidance of AFSGLA club member David Stevens will be on display.

HOME LAYOUT TOURS

The self-guided Home Layout Tours on Sunday are an integral part of every Fall S Fest, and the St. Louis area has outstanding AF collections and home layouts awaiting you. At all of the homes (in both Missouri and Illinois), you will enjoy displays which are fun to view and also will give you ideas for your own layout. As an added attraction for narrow-gauge enthusiasts, Sn3 may be represented this year. You'll want to plan your homeward-bound route to include stops at some or all of these layouts. Our hotel is ideally situated as a "launching point" for a most enjoyable Sunday outing so you can visit multiple layouts and still make it home by day's end. Detailed maps and information concerning the Home Layout Tours will be available at the Fall S Fest.

AFSGSLA CLUB FALL S FEST CARS -- Two Very Special Offerings This Year!



Your early PRE-REGISTRATION will give you the best chance to purchase either or both of two AFSGSLA club cars specially designed for the 2011 Fall S Fest:

Car #1...is a Chicago & North Western "Safety And Generator Car," originally produced by Lionel LLC as American Flyer Stock No. 6-48261 (U.P.) and professionally repainted and renumbered 48261X to make a unique addition to your layout.

Car #2...is a CB&Q Railroad TOFC flatcar with Burlington Transportation Co. trailer, produced in the USA by American Models and featuring the famous slogan, "Way of the Zephyrs." (The trailer will not be available separately.)

Conceived by AFSGSLA club members and manufactured in limited quantities, these attractive cars are being offered **with pre-registration**. It is likely that those waiting until the Fall S Fest to purchase cars will be out of luck. Pre-registration orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

(Actual models may vary slightly from photos shown above; we reserve the right to limit quantities per order.)

HOW TO REACH THE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL ...HOME OF THE 2011 FALL S FEST

The Marriott is located 15 miles northwest of downtown St. Louis on Interstate 70. **From I-70 eastbound or westbound, take Exit 236 (the main exit to Lambert International Airport); the Marriott is on the south side of the highway.**

