



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

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AFSGSLA NEWSLETTER

August 2011

AFSGSLA Club Events:

Friday, September 09, 2011. Our next Club meeting will be at **Cliff Saxton's** Des Peres, MO home. Please be sure to attend, as we are planning to finalize many important details and task assignments for the FSF-2011. Also, **Cliff's** home is always a favorite venue, and an excellent location to "kick-off" the new train season.

Friday, October ??, 2011. This will be a very important meeting, as it will be our last one prior to hosting the FSF-2011. We are still looking for someone to volunteer to host this meeting.

Mid-October 2011 – A work session will be necessary to assemble the FSF-2011 Registration Packets. More details will be available later.

Friday, November 11, 2011. **Scott Pilarski** has volunteered to host our November Club meeting at his Wildwood, MO home. We will undoubtedly have lots of discussions about the results of the FSF-2011.

Mid-December 2011. **Gary Brandenburger** has offered his Florissant home for our December Club meeting. More details will be available later.

Future Club Meetings:

Thank You David Stevens! At this time, our club meetings have generally been scheduled; except as noted above! We do, however, need volunteers to host several future meetings. **David's** service is a most valuable contribution to our club's activities and success. Please contact **David** (at 314/ 921-1127) to volunteer to host a meeting.

Other Scheduled Events:

Saturday – Sunday, July 30 & 31 2011 Great Train Expo – Bel-Clair Expo Center, Belleville, Illinois. We decided not to display our layout at this event.

Saturday, September 10, 2011 – Boeing Employees' Railroad Club – Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park – 10 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Sunday, September 18, 2011 – TCA Ozark Division Meeting at "The Pointe" - 1 Ballwin Commons Drive – Ballwin, Missouri. **Larry Strassburger** has provided a coupon for free admission to this meet; see the end of this newsletter.

Saturday – Sunday, October 8 & 9 2011 - Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show – Kirkwood Community Center

Friday – Sunday, October 28 thru 30, 2011, Fall S Fest – St. Louis Marriott Hotel. **More later.**

What's been happening?

July 20 & 21, 2011., Work sessions were again held in **Moe Berk's** train room to reassemble the FSF-2007 generator cars, repainted as C&NW Safety and Generator Car (#48261-X). The shells from the previously disassembled cars were received from a professional firm which did a fabulous job of repainting them for the FSF-2011 meet car. The cars were reassembled, rebox and a new label put on the box. They are now safely in storage in St. Louis and are ready to be distributed at the FSF-2011. (Aside: Orders have been quite brisk and they will undoubtedly will be sold out well before we gather for the FSF-2011.)

This and That"

AFSGSLA's History to be written. A number of club members have been asking us to prepare the club's history, fearing the many great accomplishments and stories will be lost. **Gary Brandenburger** has been working on the first phase; to assemble photographs of the many club activities that various members have provide to him. **BUT, your assistance is needed.** Please start making notes about memorable events and activities you experienced as a member of the club. Those notes will be most helpful when we actually start writing the club history. **We need you to do your part.**

AFSGSLA's Club Order of Special Cars:

TCA's AF by Lionel Sacramento Canning Company Tank Car: We sent the club's order to TCA in October 2010, and delivery is expected any day now.

TTOS's AF by Lionel Butter Rum Lifesaver Tank Car: This is the fourth of five cars in their planned series of Lifesaver Tank Cars. Our order has been sent in and delivery is expected in November 2011.

TTOS's AF by Lionel, 2011 Charleston Convention Boxcar: This very limited offering has been announced, and we only took the club's order at the May 25th club. The boxcar will be produced as the Charleston & West Carolina Railroad, and reportedly has "... stunning graphics and logo of the South Carolina based Firefly Distillery." The anticipated delivery is October 2011.

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. But, be informed deadlines are firm.

Fall S Fest 2011 – Yes, that's us again. It will be held on October 28 through 30, 2011 at the Airport Marriott Hotel – the same location where we hosted the Fall S Fest-2007. The club's steering committee has been busy planning for the event. Besides what has already been discussed and/or accomplished (hotel selection, patch, centerpiece, assembling and mailing of the registration packet, reassembling and repackaging the meet cars), the steering committee is busy with the many tasks related to the event. Registration along with car and table requests are being received and processed. Work is progressing on the floor plan. Most of the other essential task chairmen positions and members have been assigned, and a description of their activities will follow. To insure the success of the FSF-2011, it will be necessary for all club members to fulfill or participate in a number of tasks. (Of course, the steering committee will make assignments for those members who are too shy to raise their hand!)

FSF-2011, Brief Status Report –

Almost 200 registrations have been received.

Only a few trading tables are available.

Only a few dozen of the C&NW Safety and Generator Car (#48261-X) remain.

The pace of sales of the AM TOFC CB&Q have been as expected.

Over half on the planned banquet tickets have been sold.

If you have not registered, it would be best to act now. Remember many of the FSF-2011 items/events are in limited supply, and we have adopted a "first come, first served" policy.

Extra Special Fall S-Fest 2011 item - Practically every American Flyer train layout has at least one Mystic Station. For over 65 years millions of passengers have boarded and detrained at these stations daily. Now, for the first time, you can make sure your passengers have their own copy of the Mystic Daily Journal. In addition to the usual Fall S Fest meet cars, AFSGSLA is pleased to present a very limited edition of a Mystic Daily Journal delivery van. This die-cast van was made in the United States and is painted white with red lettering to match the Mystic station. It is adorned with newspaper art reminiscent of American Flyer catalog art. This item can be yours for only \$15.00 at the Fall S-Fest, but some will be available for members at Cliff Saxton's meeting.

Vernon Schaefer Remembered – The estate of our late AFSGSLA club member Vern Schaefer has donated his collection to the Club, and it was just recently released to us. Vern's collection is in three parts: (1) the American Flyer (S Gauge) Items, (2) the Lionel (O-Gauge) Items, and the US-1 Trucking Items. The club will soon be offering the American Flyer group to our local members, in an on-line auction format. In the meantime, the club is interested in selling the Lionel (O-Gauge) Items as a group, not as individual units. The club is also interested in selling the US-1 Trucking Items as a group, not as individual

units. If you are interested in either of these groups, you should e-mail Moe Berk at afsgsla@sbcglobal.net.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS:

The Rocky Mountain Division of TCA is offering an American Flyer S gauge Spreckels Sugar hopper car. Ordering deadline is September 30th with estimated delivery next May. You can see and order the car on RMD's shopping site- www.shop.rmtts.com Orders are limited to 400 and proceeds benefit the Rocky Mountain Division of TCA.

In Memoriam

Please join in extending condolences and sympathy to our club member **Mark Hieger** and his family, on the death of **Mark's** mother Sylvia Ida Hieger. Mrs. Hieger passed away on Monday July 4, 2011 and she was 89 years old.

We also wish to extend our condolences to the family, friends, and members of the Badgerland "S" Gaugers on the death of **Chuck Porter**. He passed away on June 29, 2011, at the age of 79. **Chuck** was the person who started the Badgerland "S" Gaugers, and was a talented modeler. **Chuck** will always be remembered as a steady and supportive member of the S-Gauge Community.

That's it for now, more later:

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

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COUPON FOR FREE ADMISSION TO THE TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION (TCA), OZARK DIVISION MEET ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011. THE MEET BEGINS AT 11:00 AM, AND IS HELD AT "THE POINTE" – 1 BALLWIN COMMONS DRIVE – BALLWIN, MISSOURI. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LARRY STRASSBURGER AT (314) 469-7219 OR LSTRASS@YAHOO.COM.

PLEASE PRINT THIS COUPON, PRINT YOU NAME BELOW, AND PRESENT IT AT THE DOOR.

NAME: _____
