



THE BSG BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE BADGERLAND S GAUGERS

"... A social club for the promotion of model railroading- especially S gauge including American Flyer, hi-rail, scale and other facets...."

Established 1975

2024 June Issue

April Meeting Report

(12) members were in attendance: Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Doug Stoll, Tom Patterson, Bob Blomberg, Fred Vergenz, Jeff Madden, Roy Meissner, Wayne Friedrich, Larry Blank, Joel Lebovitz, Jerry Poniewaz.

President Ray Puls opened the meeting.

Roy Meissner gave the treasurers report and the balance has remained stable.

Old Business:

1. The BSG website is being updated and the membership application will be reviewed. The form might be made into a format that call be a fill-in rather than just a print and manual enter the information.
2. The space for the tabletop was briefly discussed. See BSG layout progress further on in this newsletter.
3. There was nothing to report since the last newsletter.

New Business:

1. John Craft donated a bunch of S Gaugian and NASG Dispatches magazines to our club. Jeff Madden sorted them out . They will be on the BSG book case and are for our members use, if anyone would like to take some home feel free to do so.
2. There was also a number of American Flyer catalogs Ron Schlicht will look them over. They will be put up for sale with any proceeds going into the club treasury.
3. The club is still working on a venue and details Fall S Fest in 2025. A discussion followed one what avenue to take. See more under Fall S Fest Report in this newsletter.

Meeting adjourned – Jeff Madden

Editor's note: Without a doubt, for all of our members that were unable to make the last meeting, unfortunately you missed the best get together that we have had in years. It was certainly the best at the new club house.

We are attempting to have shorter meetings and more model train related information and activities. Doug Stoll, Roy Meissner and Joel Lebovitz all brought along some of the projects that they are working on that are illustrated in this newsletter.

Doug Stoll Electronics

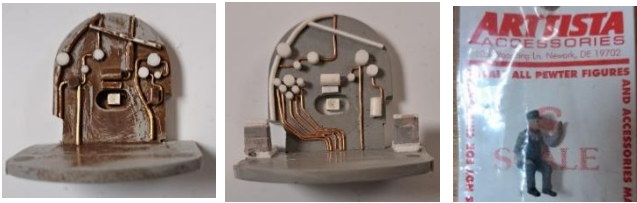
Once again Doug has been doing some demonstrations on various projects that he has worked on. The April meeting was very informative for those that were present.

As promised Doug showed how to build lighted cab prototype and a cast mold with lighted firebox.



These are inserted right behind the brush cap and can drive the lights without additional wiring. The resin cast inserts also can accommodate Artista figures of engineer and fireman.

Most individuals go to railroad museums for viewing the engines, rolling stock and displays. When Doug goes to railroad shows his primary interest is in, not just the engines, but the cabs. He finds the complexity of the cab controls most intriguing. he has made different cab modules, one for AF Atlantics and one for Pacifics.



More than a couple years ago Doug made an LED module he made for a locomotive headlight He gave me on for one of my engines. Basically, it was for the electronically impaired individuals like myself. It simply plugged into the existing AF light bulb socket. There was one LED for the headlight and a red one for the smoke stack.

The one picture illustrates the components. Naturally, the one that I received was completely sealed, insuring I couldn't screw it up.



Doug does not manufacture these in mass or for sale. He will post a full set on instructions on how to build these yourself on the Badgerland S Gaugers website. It will include all the required components.

Hopefully after each meeting there can be clinics for the purpose of upgrading original AF equipment as well other S-scale hardware. Anybody can volunteer do one. Don't be afraid to show some of your projects. I'll probably even bring some of mine.

Roy Meissner Clinic

At one time, there were at least 5 railroads that had passenger service between Chicago and Minneapolis St Paul MN. Two of them ran through Milwaukee, C&NW and MKE road, The SOO ran though Waukesha ,and at least one other railroad a through Madison. For a long time, I have had on my bucket list to build the C&NW 400, MKE Road Hiawatha, and the SOO Laker. The 400 was so named because it made the trip in 400 minutes. The C&NW and MKE Road had built new streamlined passenger cars. The SOO refurbished old heavy weight cars. The C&NW had Pullman built thee cars for them. I knew I would have to scratch built the cars and never got around to it. With the price of 3d printers now with in my price range, I could draw them and 3d print them. Within the last year or so. A couple of companies have come out with a build plate large enough to do an 80' car, 15.064

inches long. For a long time, the largest build plate was 12" by 12". I found that almost all of the 400 cars are 80' long the same height and width. The exception is the observation car and the head end baggage car. The only difference with the head end baggage car is it has no door on the front end, or the end that would always go behind the locomotive. I can draw one common body, then put in the windows and interior detail. The cars will print as the body with underframe, roof, and skirting. I left a notch around the inside of each window so I can put in separate windows. I can use clear resin to make the windows. 3d printing has really changed how we can build model trains.



Editors Comment: Roy also brought along a couple of other 3-D projects that he is working on. Your Associate editor has been a charter member of the Badgerland S Gaugers since 1976. I can say without exception, Roy is by far the finest scale model builder in the history of our club, and may be one of the best in the country.

Joel Lebovitz Clinic

Joel Lebovitz CASG and BSG was in attendance at the April meeting and brought some items of his own.

Joel has an innumerable amount of 1/64 cars and was trying to find a venue for them on the layout. He brought along the start of what should be a unique layout structure, a carwash. He also found a pretty unique garbage truck with a dumpster. In addition, he brought along a really nice structure to display and a couple special passenger car projects, which I failed to get photos of.





Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers. It's getting to that time of year when outdoor activities take over and the trains take a vacation for many. Admittedly with the blistering heat that we have had, the basement can be a "cool" place to hang out.

BSG Layout Progress

Just to clean up the area and illustrate how the club will expand the layout, the Jeff Young modules were setup behind the original club modules. The total plans for the layout were not determined at that time. After a while, we felt the concept looked so good that with some modifications, that is where they will stay. This would give us a functional operating yard for those individuals that enjoy "yardwork". In addition, there are plans for a passing siding on the inside loop. That siding will have a switch connecting to that yard.

The depth of our modules are 30 inches. One side of the layout will now be a total of 60 inches deep. By building toward the inside, the layout appears dramatically larger without additional floor space. Below are the modules at present. There is still going to be a lot of improvement.

The overall length and width of the layout will remain the same but all expansion will be inward. As the layout was before, with the two loops and an open center, there was a large area of unused floor space. This was always an issue with making the layout larger, more dead space. If you see the layout now, with the Young's modules, is just looks so much bigger, even though it's the same size.



Now for some "not" so bad news.

The area that was planned for the Hi-Rail tabletop layout will be an open space for open house events, kind of like a greeter's spot. . This makes sense since it is adjacent to the main front entrance to the clubhouse It could also act as an information center and hospitality area.

Originally, losing the small layout was a huge disappointment, since the height was great for kids. Sometimes out of what seems to be adversity, good things can happen.

As I mentioned this was a really good BSG meeting session. This also points out one other factor. The more individuals that come to meetings to express their opinion or offer suggestions is invaluable. The intent of the tabletop was to illustrate how a simple "old school" layout might be set up for model train beginners. There was an emphasis Plasticville, most of which, though custom painted, was very recognizable by the old schoolers.

Fred Vergenz one of the original founding BSG members, also kind of missed the layout. After looking over the modular layout, fully knowing we were expanding, he suggested that we might set up most of the components from that layout on one end of the modular layout. Since there will not be trackwork required, the inward space available might just accommodate most, or all, of the structures from the tabletop layout. This will illustrate two modes of model railroading on one layout.

The major loss will be the ability to have four operating tracks versus two. The other disadvantage is the height. The tabletop was viewable by a 3- or 4-year-old child. The process will be starting within the next couple few weeks. Any ideas are welcome.

Regarding Jeff Young's equipment, stopping in at the club is the best way to view everything that is for sale. There is still a lot of really nice items available.

There has also been some donated items members may be interested in some need a little TLC but the price may be right. Any sales help keep the club's expenses down.

For more information Contact Ron Schlicht. I can send pictures if you desire.

Fall S Fest 2024

2024 Fall S Fest will be hosted by the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area. As previously announced, it will be October 25 to 27. It will return to the Doubletree Westport, the same hotel as last couple of times. Perhaps many of you have already received your promotional information and registration application. If not, go to their website <http://www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/> You can register online or mail.

Hopefully the St. Louis will have a successful convention. S Fest has gone from a four-club participation to a three-club format. Until recently even BSG was in question.

Fall S Fest 2025

Yes!!, there will be a Fall S Fest hosted by the Badgerland S Gaugers in 2025. Many of the details will come out prior the FSF 2024 in St' Louis. A facility has been chosen and reserved for October 31st thru November 2nd. The banquet planning is in progress and the hotel choices are being arranged.

Due to the Milwaukee County and Waukesha area facilities availability and cost, it is nearly impossible to hold all events in a hotel. Some arrangements will be very similar to the 25th anniversary of BSG and FSF. Both the location and the banquet provider will be the same.

The Fall S Fest car has not been decided at this time, nor has the theme or patch been designed. BSG is open to any of our members ideas. Feel free to either contact me or Ray Puls with your ideas. Sometimes, just little things can be forgotten or new ideas can refresh the prior activities. We are depending on membership participation to assist us while hosting the event.

Every year the S gauge community losses members due to father time. Our club has lost many productive members just over the past four or five years. In looking over past rosters, grant it this was many years ago, including some junior members, we had over **"90"** members. BSG currently has 30. This is somewhat the same story for most S gauge clubs. Possibly, with the fact that we actually now have a clubhouse facility, this should be the best of times for BSG. We now have more to offer members than in the past.

If there is any **"major"** issue with hosting FSF 2025, it will be that of getting enough able bodied BSG members to perform some of the required tasks.

The Photo Shop

At the last open house Don Goeke and family brought along some of their trains to run. Daniele brought her Great Northern train set with a full complement of GN cars. Don ran his Burlington Zephyr set. I got to admit it, that set looks great running at a high speed, not low speed.



Every year on Father's Day, I receive a distinctive and entertaining card from my son. They are usually on the humorous side, but always have a personal note included. This year the card was the most unique one that I have ever received, it was railroad oriented. The detail was incredible and the best way to explain it is with pictures. It is a paper crafted foldout. Most celebratory cards end up in the recycling bin, after all you can't keep them all. This one is definitely a keeper.



Unfortunately, the above pictures do not do justice to the card and don't look as good as seeing it in person.

Details For Calendar of Events

Details for the upcoming BSG summer picnic scheduled for August 11th at the MSOE grounds in Cedarburg Wisconsin will be in a future newsletter.

Spring S Spree was held May 3-4 at the Emidio & Sons Expo Center in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (near Akron). This was the 50th Anniversary of the CVSGA (Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association). A special AM B&LE (orange) boxcar was offered. There are still some left, go to their site for details www.cvsuga.com.

142 registrations plus 43 Family members. They listed total of 170 people attended. This was better than we had in 2019 at 151 people. There were 90 vendor tables and 77 Spree cars were sold. There are concerns were about the decline in the number of people in the S gauge community and the future of the S Spree.

Looking at their website I have not gotten any real feel for how well received it was from any attendees. I would like to know the perspective of the attendees and vendors; it may help us out for FSF 2025.

Local Area Meets

Model Railroad Train Show Swap Meet

Kenosha Union Club

3030 39th Avenue Kenosha, WI

9:00 am To 1:00 pm

Admission \$5.00

2024 No future dates at this time

Lionel Swap Meets

New Berlin Entertainment Center

16000 West Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

8:00 am To 12:00 pm

Admission \$4.00

2024 October 20
 November 17
 December 15

Check website: www.milw-lrrc.com
or call 262-754-9900

Great Midwest Train Show

DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL

9 am to 3:00 pm

Admission \$8.00

2024 August 4
 September 8
 November 3
 December 1

Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region (WISE) Meets)

New Berlin Entertainment Center **

16000 West Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

1:00 pm To 4:00 pm

Admission \$4.00

2024

No future dates at this time

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday June 30th

Time: 1:30pm

Club Location:

Corner of South St. & Grand Ave.

Waukesha, WI 53186

This will probably be the last formal meeting for a while. With the Summer season coming, model railroading usually takes a back seat to outdoor activities No future scheduled general meeting dates at this time.

Remember, this does not mean that there will be no activities at the clubhouse. There will be Play/Trains Sessions over the Summer. You will be notified by email when these operating sessions are taking place. We do not have a full schedule from the Gandy Dancers club regarding future open house sessions.

***The Gandy Dancers and BSG are planning open house Saturday, August 3rd.**

Waukesha sponsors Friday Night Live (FNL).

For this event thousands of people come to downtown to enjoy the weather, dining, shopping, and a wide variety of live music. The streets are closed down on these nights for the summer music festival. This year it will be from Friday, June 7th through August 30th, 2024 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **BSG and the Gandy Dancers are not planning have an open house during those nights.**

In saying that, on occasion one or more members have been at the clubhouse and put out the sandwich boards, which state the clubhouse is open to the public.

***The Gandy Dancers and BSG are planning open house Saturday August 3rd.**

Remember the BSG clubhouse is not shut down over the summer. For times of access contact Ray Puls or Ron Schlicht. There is a small number of members who have keys to the facility.

BSG Inventory

Contact Ron Schlicht Phone (414) 477-7866 Email:
rons48tblue@gmail.com

2021 Fall S Fest Hoppers (Hi-Rail Only) \$55.00 Each
Furnished with Coal Loads



Shipping \$11.00 on 1st car. \$4.00 ea. additional car.

The cars are also available at the BSG clubhouse

Editors Comment:

For years (probably 20 or more) the Badgerland S Gaugers have not changed their dues rate. For years BSG virtually shut down from about sometime in April to late October. BSG was a part time club, meeting at various members homes. For years BSG did not have a great deal to offer their members. BSG is now a year-round organization with a clubhouse.

Notice

Due to some personal health issues, long time BSG member Gary Children, is dismantling his extensive S gauge scale layout. You may contact Gary as he will be selling many of the items on his layout.

BSG now has most of the remaining rolling stock from Dick Kloes's estate and is selling them for the family. Almost all have scale trucks and coupler. Not all have scale wheelsets. There is a variety of manufactures, S-Helper, American Models and other boxed items. Note: Some of the other miscellaneous cars will only be of value for the trucks and couplers

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BSG encourages its members to share any new or existing product information they may found to be beneficial. Share your scenery, technical or operational experiences on your own home layouts for the BSG newsletters.
Photos are encouraged.

Send any comments or suggestions to:



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