



2024 August Issue

June Meeting Report

(7) members were in attendance: Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Tom Patterson, Jeff Madden, Wayne Friedrich, Larry Blank, Don Goeke.

Vice-President Ron Schlicht opened the meeting. Ray Puls was delayed.

Roy Meissner was unable to make the meeting. There was no treasure's report.

Jeff Madden followed with the minutes of the last meeting.

Old Business:

1. There was no discussion of old topics.

New Business:

1. The Waukesha Expo Center Forum buildings for the 2025 Fall S Fest have been reserved. It's for Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 2025. We will have two of three large rooms, and one with a kitchen area for lunch catering. A downpayment has been made.
2. A room at the nearby Machine Shed restaurant has been reserved for the Nov. 11, 2025 banquet. Note this is offsite from the vendor area, but it's only a 10-minute drive.
3. There are also two large hotels that are near the Machine Shed restaurant where we will block off some rooms. This will be formalized in the Spring.
4. The BSG will have a preliminary flyer for our FSF available to hand out at the St. Louis Fall S Fest this October. Official mailings will be made in the spring of 2025.
5. General ideas for the 2025 FSF:

Not sure about silent auction. Maybe just one at banquet?

Raffles, yes

Train races – probably not

Door prizes – yes

We will work on coordinating manpower. State-Line has agreed to some help.

Hopefully, Joel Webber (Now of the St. Louis group) and a member of the CASG will help us with registration.

6. Club layout progress: Ron Schlicht has picked up some baseboard molding at a good price to be used on wall area behind layout. The remaining extra modules have been obtained. These will be added to the current modular layout.
7. The August 11 picnic is still on at the MSOE park area near Cedarburg. It's a bring your own food setup. There are drinks and snacks available. Times are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Jeff Madden

Meeting adjourned – Jeff Madden

Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers. Honestly, there has not a great amount of activity over the last few weeks. SUMMER TIME!!

Trainfest 2024 ?

Yes, Trainfest returns after another year's absence. It will be later than ever, November 23 & 24th and will be held in downtown Milwaukee at the Baird Center at 400 West Wisconsin Ave. from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, both days. It promises to be, bigger and better than ever.

I can't remember when I did not participate at Trainfest in one way or another. My layout has been there for years

representing BSG. In addition, the BSG modular layout was also there in the past. BSG was the only “S” gauge representative with very rare exceptions.

It is with “deep regret” that I will miss Trainfest this year, as I have no desire to go to the downtown area. Parking alone would be an issue, among other things. In addition, there is a considerable amount of participation required to assist me with the layout, and no one else wants to go there either.

Trainfest has been a tradition that started in 1971. I don’t know when it was held at the State Fair Park in West Allis for the first time. It had to be in the early70’s.

I might add that the last Trainfest that I attended was by far the worst treatment of the layout participants that I have ever experienced.

If there are any members who would like to represent our club in anyway, feel free to do so.

In addition, due to my age, but more so, due to a lack of help in the operation and teardown of my layout, the future representation of the Badgerland S Gaugers at model railroad events may be coming to an end. The Mitchell Park Domes, Mad-City and Delavan, at which our club has been given the highest level of treatment and exposure, by both the organizers and the local press, could end BSG’s public exposure. 2025 Trainfest, back in Wear Allis might also be included.

BSG Layout Progress

There has been very little happening with the club layout. However, as we have mentioned the layout will be expanded. Dick Kloes’s layout was completely disassembled some time ago. His son Dave has given BSG four modules that were part of his layout. They will be completely stripped and the basic structure will be used to fill in some of the interior areas for the ends.

Don Goeke donated two six-foot modules. They will also be revised and added to the inside of the layout opposite the Jeff young modules which were pictured in the last newsletter. This whole undertaking will start to take place in the next few weeks. We will be looking for ideas and suggestions from the membership as to exactly what should be the theme of this increased square footage of the layout. All of the afore mentioned modules are currently at the clubhouse.



I started this report with: “There has been very little happening with the club layout, and then there was the open house session August 3rd. The previously mentioned Don Goeke modules were temporarily setup on the inside of the layout. They looked pretty good. Some of the attending club members started a discussion on various future possibilities. There are now two different yards on opposite sides of the layout. Without a massive project and minimal material, they can be connected to each other by adding a section of track on one of the ends. For those who enjoy railroad yard operations, this would add a whole new level of maneuvers.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will redo the opposite end in the style of the tabletop layout, that we had to give up. Both the Young and Goeke modules have one track with no switches on them. Those tracks were originally the outside rails. Your editor has been bemoaning the loss of the two loops on the tabletop layout. By adding a section of track adjacent to the yard modules and some “creativity”, on the other end, we could have an additional loop of track. This would give us the ability to operate three main lines. Being deeper into the modular system, it would appear to have more action further into the layout than simply three parallel tracks on the outside.

There are still plans for a passing siding in the works. This would make it easier for individuals to bring their equipment and set them up without having to shut down a main line to exchange trains.

Particularly with the latest module addition we will be in need of backdrop buildings to enhance the appearance of that part of the layout.

There are plans in the making for a new smaller tabletop layout that we can take to other venues. Many years ago, BSG attended a number of outside events to promote our club. A smaller layout will be easy to transport and setup in a relatively short time. The club has enough of the S Helper track to achieve this. The layout will have the Hi-Rail look with simple Plasticville structures similar to what was in the earlier newsletters. Ron Schlicht will be donating a majority of the structures and materials.

All of the above came about with members coming to the open house and exchanging ideas. The more input we get from our membership the happier they will be with the end results.

As of now the open house days have not drawn a lot of attendance in number, but those who have attended have been entertained. Our layout is only a small part of the clubhouse. There are some areas on the Gandy Dancers HO layout that are well worth seeing, if you are a model railroad enthusiast. There are some things that you will never see on any another layout.

There are still a number of Jeff Young's equipment at the clubhouse and recently, a number of Dick Kloes's items for sale. Jeff's are more of the Hi-Rail Variety and Dick's are more scale oriented.

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.

Fall S Fest 2024

Just a reminder, 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. You can register online or mail. website <http://www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/>

I have received my application confirmation. S Fest is down to a three- club format. This will be the 47th edition of the event, With the dwindling amount of S Gaugers, will we make the 50th anniversary?

Fall S Fest 2025

More 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.

One of our most successful Fall S Fests was the 25th anniversary of BSG and Fall S Fest. 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 major difference will be the hall. The 25th it was in the large Waukesha County Exposition Center, that facility was cost prohibitive. We will be just yards away in the back buildings, these offer more space, easy access plus and food service. The banquet will be at the Machine Shed restaurant. For those of you who remember the 25th, this is the same establishment that served us, to what has been called, the best banquet ever.

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.

BSG is planning a meeting for Sunday September 8th at the clubhouse. There have been two proposals for the 2025 Fall S Fest car and one proposal for the patch. We are hopeful that there will be members who wish to express their opinions on the drawings. It is imperative that we get these issues resolved as soon as possible. Promotional sheets will have to be made for distribution at the 2024 Fall S Fest in St. Louis in late October.

2024 NASG Convention Report

By Jeff Madden

A first for the NASG was holding the annual summer convention in the same location and hotel as the previous year. Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley S Gaugers (Jamie Bothwell and Dave Heine leading) the location became the only option, but being in central PA there were plenty of different tour options available. Registration was listed at 188. For all the details check out the NASG website (nasg.org) under conventions. Next years is sort of tentatively set somewhere on the east coast. TBA.

The 2023 convention had tours in Gettysburg and the East Broad Top. This year's convention included two tours on Tuesday, July 16. One was a bus tour of the nearby Amish area which was a non-rail tour. My wife took that one and

enjoyed it. The other was a self-drive one to the small Stewartstown RR just south of Harrisburg. Our trip was in an open car or caboose pulled by a 1943 Plymouth switcher. It was supposed to go 7.4 miles out and back but a storm caused broken tree fell on the tracks and shortened the ride. A couple of runbys compensated for the shorter trip.

The next day, July 17, was the premier trip on the Reading and Northern in a pair of vintage RDCs. The all-day trip started and went round trip to Jim Thorpe, PA. The scenery in the hilly Pennsylvania Anthracite region was interesting and included a tunnel, stops at the Port Clinton steam facility, Tamaqua for a boxed lunch and the turn around point at Jim Thorpe. The crew provided us with three runbys. Yes, the steam engines if available would have been nice, but vintage RDCs were pretty neat too.

The next two days involved the vendor area, the contest, clinics, the NASG membership meeting, the Saturday night banquet and Jamie Bothwell auction. There was even a musical accordion serenade by youngster Fergus Monaghan during the Happy Hour. Vendors included American Models, Great Decals, Empire Trackworks, Jim Marski (Depot G Hobbies.), Pre-Size, Dennis Hultay, Jeff Madden, Ben Trousdale, Tennessee Valley Custom Models, Port Lines, Jack Kirby (Flyer dealer), Rumbling Rails Engineering, Beaver Models, CB Train Junction, Jim Kindraka, Hoquat Hobbies, Roy Meissner, Ken Zieska, the NASG tables and maybe some others I forgot. New products seen included a 3D printed model of a helium car by Beaver Models, a tank car by Simon Parent, some modern covered hopper cars (3D Central) by Ben Trousdale, and the new Haliburton container car by Pre-Size.

Layouts included modules brought by the Pittsburgh S Gaugers and some by Willy Monaghan and Larry Janeski from New Orleans. The SEMSG club brought their large modular layout which featured great scenery and realistic looking scale and hi-rail trains. The American Flyer layout was a two-level 5' x 7' one provided by Mike Byle.

The convention cars produced by American Models were Reading boxcars – one green and one red, both with paint schemes from the 1950s with 7' panel doors and DF markings. The green ones are still available, but the red one sold out – pending a re-run by AM

There were plenty of clinics available to wander off to. I only made two – The dead-rail one by Darby Marriott and the one on modeling short lines by President Jim Whipple.

I won't go over the contest winners as those can be found on the NASG website or in a future Dispatch. There was a nice display though in the contest room of custom-built steam locomotives built or bashed by the late Frank Titman. The Best of Show (Frank Titman Award) went to Bill Geraci for his NYC Shark Nose diesels.

The Photo Shop

More than most of us remember the first model train that they received. Mine was the 48T Royal Blue set. Everyone had, or still has, a wish list. Wayne Friedrich also had a wish list and it was the American Flyer, Civil War, Washington set. After a long period of time, and scouring the internet, one by one, he purchased the engine and cars. Wayne's patience paid off; all pieces are in pristine condition. He brought the set to the last meeting and gave it a whirl on the modular layout. For us Hi-Rail junkies it was fun to watch. BSG encourages its members to bring whatever they wish to our meetings and get-togethers to share with others whether it is cars engines or any items that they feel might be of interest.



Don Goeke and family also brought along some of their trains to run.

Local Area Meets

The Kettle Moraine Railroad Heritage Association, Inc. or Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Railroad Club, is hosting its 22nd Annual Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet.

**Sunday September 15th 2024.
Washington County Fair Park
3000 Pleasant Valley Road (Hwy PV),
West Bend, WI 53095.**

The park is visible from US Highway 45 and there is a ramp for County Highway PV.

**The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
.For more information, go to their
website: www.kmbsrrclub.org,
or the website for the Washington County Fair Park:
www.wcfairpark.com.**

Editors Comment: Although this is a one-day annual event, I have attended this meet the last three years and it is one of the largest swap meets in Wisconsin and is well attended. They are anticipating somewhere nearing 200 vendor tables.

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 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

Sunday September 8th

Club Location:

Time: 1:30 PM

Corner of South St. & Grand Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

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.

Unfortunately, it will probably be on a short notice.

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

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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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