



2024 December Issue

December Meeting Report

There was no official meeting in December

This year we did not have a big Christmas party like we had last year with the great food buffet. It was a bit more informal. There were some snacks, which were brought some of the attending members, and enough beverages.

Ron Schlicht gave a brief report on how things were going at the clubhouse.

Jeff Madden gave an interesting slideshow presentation which spanned a number of topics. Some of the slides were from our deceased founder Chuck Porter. There were pictures of, what was either the first or second Fall S Fest. Some of the slides had pictures of individuals who are still BSG members, although they have put on a little aging since 1976 or 77. There were also shots taken at past Trainfest's and the older versions of the club layout. For most of us it brought back fond memories. It was the "good old days".

There were a lot of photos from well-known S gaugers around the country and their layouts. As stated, it was like a time travel through our club history plus real railroad photos taken by Jeff Madden while on some of his travels to various conventions.

Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers. Throughout the past few newsletters, I have touted the importance of having a clubhouse. For years, a number of members have searched for a clubhouse location without success for various reasons, one being financial. Here is a little history on how we got where we are.

The Gandy Dancers (HO) Model Railroad Club (at their past location) occasionally held small model railroad shows. They invited various clubs to participate, it was an all-gauge affair. BSG setup a small version of the old

tabletop layout. In a brief conversation with one of their members, Ray Puls mentioned that BSG loved their clubhouse and how we always had the desire to have a place of our own.

At the time they had plenty of room after these small expos. After a discussion with their club officers, we were graciously invited to have a space allotted to us for our modular layout.

All of the above being said, and for you who have had the opportunity to see the BSG portion of the clubhouse, some changes will have to be made. In March of 1996 BSG increased its "annual" dues from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per year. For some, this was a hair-raising event.

I have researched various model railroad clubs' dues rates. The lower cost ones are at \$30.00 per year with the majority being higher. After having little to offer our members for nearly 50 years, we finally have a clubhouse. A place where we can hold general meetings, (beverages included), where you can come in and run your trains and share information. Where you can bring family and friends to experience, not only S gauge trains, but N, HO, and G scale. For me, it's been fun.

BSG annual dues will be raised to \$30.00 per year. Not that many will care, but there are a number of us, that will voluntarily pay more. Hopefully, we won't lose too many members this time, as it is, there aren't too many S gaugers left.

BSG will be starting to collect the new dues at the December meeting for 2025. Otherwise send your dues to club treasurer:

Roy Meissner
P.O. Box 1438
Merton, WI 53056-0001

Editorial



On December 25, 1948 I received a 48T American Flyer Train set. (Actually, I really wanted a bicycle.) Still, it was Christmas and I was really excited, as most kids are when Santa visits. I don't remember if I still believed in him or not, but who cares. The Royal Blue, no smoke, no choo-choo, whirled around the small loop of track past a Plasticville suburban station and platform. Back then it was more fun just watching it go around and around, probably more than any **child of today** could imagine, or for that matter believe.

I remember that it was also enjoyable listening to the radio (No TV). Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, Sky King, The Lone Ranger, and the Green Hornet were some of my favorite programs. OK I'll admit it; I also listened to Billie the Brownie. In addition, there were my aunts View Master Reels (No video games). Perhaps that was actually the first form of video games. The Christmas Story, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Hopalong Cassidy were viewed over and over again. Call me goofy (it's never stopped anyone before) but every year I go through a ritual on Christmas eve and Christmas day. I pull my Royal Blue set off the shelf, run it around the track for a while and then go through all of the View Masters reels that I still have. My cousins lost or destroyed most of the few that we had, (bummer).

It's December, 76 years later, it will be **Christmas Again** and I'll be watching my Royal Blue going around and around. This time it's on a 255 square foot layout. This time it's not just turning the speed up and down with a small transformer on a linoleum floor. As we get older things change. At an advanced age, some of us hear little voices now and then. This time it's coming from a train engine (and you thought that I was "finally" totally losing it). I have to blame a number of my fellow S Gaugers for this. (I won't mention their names, they know who they are). After seeing their engines running on my traveling layout and being prodded to purchase one, I couldn't help myself. **Boy, Oh Boy, Oh Boy.** Cab lights on, cab lights off, engineers and dispatchers talking, horn on, horn off, bell on, bell off, smoke on smoke off, and I feel like the Mister Miyagi of model railroading. It's so much more than wax on, wax off.

Admittedly I am an old school American Flyer enthusiast and operator (sometimes referred to as, that lower life form of S Gauger). It will be a tough choice as to which of my favorite engines absolutely has to be removed from the layout to make room for the new ones. Finally, (perhaps, probably not) with the newer and highly detailed engines, there will be less disdain and derision from the scale contingent about our TOY trains. OK the lobster claw couplers are still there (I will probably change the front coupler to scale; I do that on the rear of all of my cabooses). I have to admit that the newer engines are absolutely beautiful and undeniable make A.C. Gilbert, AF engines look fairly rudimentary when put side by side. Unfortunately, they can no longer be called toys. Preschoolers can no longer play with them. However, there is one problem. I will have to make myself a wrist band, similar to those worn by football quarterbacks, just to be able to remember all of the possible functions, that I can now perform. I don't have a Legacy System, but my limited memory bank probably couldn't handle all of those operations.

I must say that having a TMCC CAB-1 system on my layout has made running trains more enjoyable than ever. It is by far, the **best** investment that I have made in model railroading to date. Believe me, American Flyer engines run better with TMCC and require no modification. This is important for individuals like me that are considered "**electronically challenged**". I have 22 AF switches that operate from a remote, just remembering the switch numbers is a challenge. Today, if you are a real man, you have a minimum daily requirement of having some form of a remote in your hands. I will admit that I may have to purchase a tool belt for the remotes Then again that would give me that feeling of Roy Rodgers and Gene Autry again. Now what I need is an electric lounge chair, with cup holders, that can elevate high enough to view my entire domain.

For all non-believers, yes there is a Santa. For many, he is just hiding inside of a credit card.

For this Christmas, I'll run the Royal Blue and listening to Tom Hanks on the Polar Express. **All Aboard!**

In 2024 it will be **Christmas Again!**

On a number of occasions, and on the last page of our newsletter, I have asked for members suggestions, articles or pictures of their layouts or photos of interest. (No cheesecake photos of family members.) Well, I finally got some positive feedback and suggestions for the newsletter and how to improve it. Who did I get it from, editors from other clubs that I exchange newsletters with. Well at least I know someone who reads the whole newsletters.

BSG Layout Progress

As noted, one end of the layout is being done in the “Old School. 50’s style, toy train layout fashion. Some of the visiting observers mentioned that it had a “nostalgic” appearance.

The construction on the passing siding has started. Some of the scenery is being removed to clear some of the modules for better viewing, now that the modules are double in width.

Last year’s window Christmas display was decent, but we need to make it look more like a “Layout”. If there are any items that you have no use for that might fit into a G gauge setting, please let me know. I only wish that more of our members would stop by the clubhouse to see the direction the club is going and enjoy all of the upcoming benefits of being a Badgerland S Gauger.

The first picture is on the Grand Avenue side and the second picture is on the South Street side, right next to the Social Security office. For some reason I feel we are right at home, being just below that agency.



Any of your suggestions would be greatly appreciated. I’m still looking for more “G” scale stuff.

Fall S Fest 2024

If you didn’t attend 2024 Fall S Fest which was hosted by the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area, I can only tell you about the swap portion since I was only there Friday and Saturday afternoon. I don’t recall the winner of the train races. I do recall him being declared the winner since he was the only entry. A lot of our decisions will be based on the facts and figures results of the St. Louis, Fall S Fest. Sad to say that many of the past participants in some of the events have passed on.

Fall S Fest 2025

The major planning stages will be getting into full swing very soon. The colors and the printing schemes and production methods are in the works. BSG is hoping to get them prior to our May/June registration mailing. With the passing of BSG members over the recent years, we will be pressed with having a manpower issue. This year will be BSG’s 50th anniversary.

The Photo Shop

OK. I got this . Just turn the red knob. HUH!



At the December gathering Don Goeke and Wayne Friedrich brought along some trains for a playtime session. Wayne brought a lengthy Union Pacific AF streamliner set.



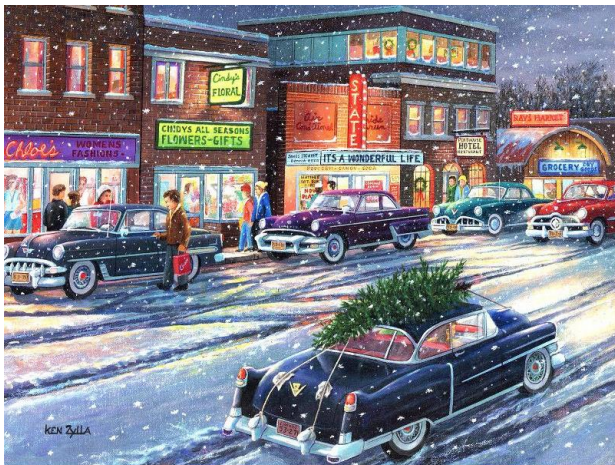
Don Goeke brought his American Hi-Rail, Tom Hodgson, Aero train. He was able to get a hold of a couple of additional coaches, he is currently running 6-coaches and one tail car. General Motors originally manufactured the train. They actually made the coaches from modified GM city buses.



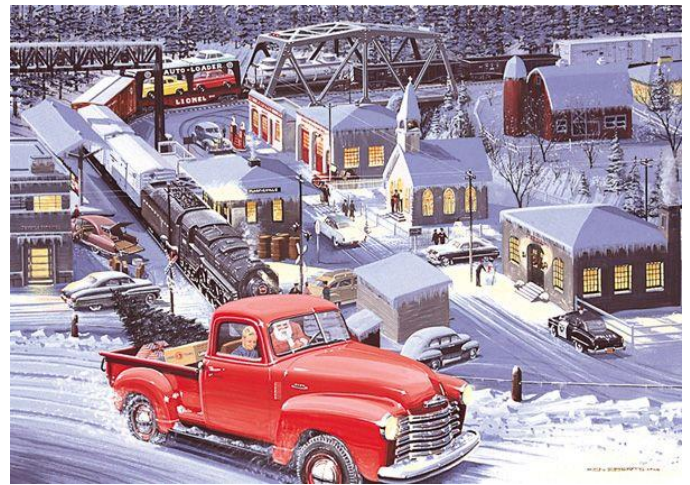
Don also brought along his Chicago & Northwestern, American Models, A & B units to run.



Outside of our regular meetings, eventually BSG will be scheduling play trains sessions. On Wednesday evenings the Gandy Dancers HO model railroad club has work nights. This might be just another great opportunity to see the full facility in action.



Only old folks remember when all cars looked different.
Just how many times have you watched the movie
“It’s a wonderful life”.



Another Pinterest find. The artist is named Ken Ebert. The dominating item in this painting is the Chevy pickup being driven by Santa. I’ve seen a lot of Christmas style pictures of winter scenes with Red 1953 Chevy pickups.

Now this is an assumption on my part, but I can’t help but think that Mister Ebert had a model railroad train. Being somewhat of a Plasticville enthusiast, I noticed at least seven PV structures. (I will forgive the artist for picturing the Lionel three-rail) train and accessories. The auto carrier was the real tip off.

I absolutely love the various Christmas style paintings that depict the 40’s and 50’s style vehicles.

The BSG Searchlight

Wanted: Unbuilt, wood-sided, 40-foot, freight reefer kits by Kinsman or Scenery unlimited. Contact Tom Patterson: tpatterson31@wi.rr.com.

P.S. It’s Working

This ad has already netted Tom more than just a couple kits.

For Sale: The Badgerland S Gaugers has an inventory of S Gauge rolling stock on hand and for sale. There is traditional A. C. Gilbert American Flyer, Lionel Flyer, S-Helper Service, American Models and others brands available at reasonable prices. There are also some unique, “mint condition”, prior to 1952, American Flyer accessories for sale. The proceeds from all sales will go to BSG.

For info some of these items or photos contact: Ron Schlicht

A number of items have already been sold. The ones are too numerous to list in the newsletters. The best way to see what we have, is to stop in at one of our meetings or open houses.

For Sale: Plasticville structures and accessories, boxed and unboxed, plus a number of small parts. Some are available in different color variations. Contact Ron Schlicht: rons48tblue@gmail.com.

BSG Train Events

For years BSG has participated in Model Train shows thus having an S gauge presence at these events. In the past we had various layouts at a number of these shows all over Southeastern Wisconsin. The modular layout was mainly at the bigger shows like Trainfest and Madison. In the early 90's that layout had a partner which was the American Flyer, Hi-rail layout owned by James Starosta and Ron Schlicht. The club had what was called the tabletop layout. This went to a number of minor shows, but also the larger Green Bay show. That layout also went to small church events, green houses and car shows.

The modular layout lost participation and was put into storage and fell into disrepair. The tabletop layout was seldom used but eventually ended up at the new clubhouse until space requirements put that into storage. The only representation at shows has been the Ron Schlicht layout, which is listed at shows as the Badgerland S Gaugers.

The modular layout is now being made into our permanent clubhouse layout and will no longer be disassembled and is getting bigger and better by the month. The tabletop layout is being incorporated into the club's main layout.

The number of shows have decreased over the years. Now there is Trainfest, Madison the Mitchell Park Domes and Delavan. I have been invited to other shows but have declined. The Ron Schlicht layout is now, the only representation for BSG.

Trainfest switched to downtown Milwaukee. I did not have a real desire to attend Trainfest at that location. Besides that, I would have been the only one to setup, the layout, operate the layout, interface with the public, teardown and load the van.

The next show is the Mitchell Park Domes February 1st and 2nd with setup January 31st. Setup is taken care of. As of this time I am looking for volunteers. The Mad-City Train Show will be February 15th and 16th. I will need volunteers for that show. I do not have the dates for the Delavan show as of yet. Trainfest will be back at the State Fair Park next year and, God willing, I plan to attend.

In the event that not enough assistance comes forth for some, or all, of the shows, at 83 years old, I will no longer be able to represent BGG.

Admittedly my layout does not represent S "scale". However, it is the major public presence for our club at the listed events. Like it or not, over the years, the layout has been on "every" major television station in Milwaukee. It has also been in the Milwaukee, Madison and some small southeastern cities publications. At present, is our only advertising promotional tool.

No help, no layout, FOR SALE.

By the way I did attend Trainfest this year. I am a member of the Lionel Club of Milwaukee. I worked at one of their "3" layouts along with all of their other volunteers.

I have started a plan for a small tabletop layout using club equipment and donating some items. This might go to some of the smaller events that the Lionel club attends, public libraries etc.

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

2025

Their information is on Facebook. I'm not on Facebook
Anyone with info on this meet please let me know.

Lionel Swap Meets
New Berlin Entertainment Center
16000 West Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
8:00 am To 12:00 pm
Admission \$4.00

2025

January	19
February	23
March	16
End of season until Fall	

Lionel Open House Events
Parkland Plaza
2721 South Calhoun Road
New Berlin, WI
(Enter in the back of the building)
10:00 am To 5:00 pm
Donation \$2.00

2025

April	5
April	6

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
 2025

January	5
February	2
March	9
April	6
May	4
June	1
August	3
September	7
October	5
November	2
December	7

Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region
(WISE) Meets)

New Berlin Public Library Community Room
15105 Library Lane
New Berlin, WI
1:00 pm
“No Admission Charge”

2025	January	18
	February	22
	March	22

Next BSG Meeting

Sunday January 19th

Club Location:

Time: 1:30 PM

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

Remember, the same day of the Lionel swap meet.

Update:

Along with our clubhouse being open after all Lionel Club swap meets, the Waukesha Gandy Dancers and the Badgerland S Gaugers will have some additional open house events. The dates and times are as follows.

January 25th	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
January 26th	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
March 1st	10:00 am – 6:00 pm

For information on the Waukesha Co. Gandy Dancers
 Go to go: WWW.WCGDRRAILROAD.COM

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

NOTE:

There is a **“BSG Members Only”** discount rate on the above hoppers. Contact Ron Schlicht.

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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:
Ron Schlicht - rons48tblue@gmail.com

