



2025 March Issue

Members were in attendance:

Ray Puls, Ron Schlicht, Roy Meissner, Bob Blomberg, Fred Vergenz, Jeff Madden, Paul Bartelak, Wayne Friedrich, Jerry Poniewaz, Larry Blank.

President Ray Puls called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Treasurer's report: Roy Meissner gave the treasurers report. There are a number of prepayments for this coming years Fall S Fest.

Old Business:

1. Ron Schlicht is still checking with American Models on cost of cars, color schemes, numbers, etc.
2. Jeff Madden is working on BSG history for a future newsletter.

New Business:

1. Dues for 2025 was being collected. Those absent can mail in or pay at Feb. meeting.
2. There will be open houses at the club for the Waukesha Jamboree on January 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
3. It was noted that long-time former member and former club president, Dave (Smokey)
4. Shows coming up that Ron Schlicht and helpers will set up his personal portable American Flyer layout at.
5. Ron Schlicht discussed profits from donated items to the club that will help our budget.
6. The number of cars ordered from American Models and the number of patches to order were discussed regarding our 2025 Fall S Fest coming up on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.
7. Our non-profit status was discussed.
8. Possible clinics for the 2025 Fall S Fest was discussed. Several tentative ones could include John Heck, John Mann, Jeff Madden, and some others

9. Purchasing some wood for replacement legs and benchwork work was Ok's by the members.
10. Jeff Madden is working on a BSG history that could be used for an article in the Dispatch. Ron Schlicht and Fred Vergenz should contact him for some of the early info that he may not have.

Meeting adjourned – Jeff Madden

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 that time, they had plenty of room, after those small expos had concluded. After a discussion with their club officers, we were graciously invited to have a space allotted to us for our modular layout. Here we are.

After the January open house sessions, the Gandy Dancers scheduled another open house again on March 1st, from 10:am-6:00pm. The turnout was not as large as the previous ones, but there was a fair number of individuals that stopped in. Some of them, did spend time at our layout. During the day, (at one time or another), the Gandy Dancers had up to ten members running trains and interacting with the public. Our club, somewhat due to other commitments, and illness, had 4 members present, for only a portion of time. However, the "majority" of the time, only one was there alone. Bummer. There is another open house scheduled for May 3rd.

Both BSG and the Gandy Dancers will have to work on, better advertising the existence of our model railroad clubs. Besides HO and S Gauge, there is G Gauge and N Gauge layouts, plus displays.

It is imperative that both clubs increase their number of members. We know that there are S gaugers in our general area, we have to reach out to them and possibly interest them in joining the Badgerland S Gaugers. I believe that we have more to offer than ever before.

OOPS!!!

It appears that your editor "ME" needs an auditor. When I reformatted the newsletter in the newsletter (December 2023) there was a typo-graphical error. Somehow our treasurers address got sticky fingers on some keys. **Box 1** ended up adding the numerals 438. Unfortunately, no one noticed it until this year and a couple members got their mail and dues checks returned. God only knows how this happened and my apologies.

Roy Meissner
P.O. Box 1
Merton, WI 53056-0001

BSG Layout Progress

Ray Puls has been replacing all of the aluminum plug-in module legs on the inside modules. After years of use and abuse, the old legs were very unstable. After that, Ray will be laser leveling the modules. The scenery improvements can then get started. In addition, the planning and construction of the two new inner loops will begin. Proposals have been looked into for the internal geezer gate and the revising of all of the backdrops.

The construction on the passing siding has started. After the leveling, that project can be completed. Some of the scenery was removed to clear the modules for better viewing. Different ideas for these are being discussed. Hopefully, over the Summer, by Fall, there will be a great improvement.

I'm still looking for more "G" scale stuff for the window display. We will try to make it look a little like a layout, rather than a train on a rug.

Mad-City Train Show

Well, how was the Madison show this year? The attendance was down because of the snow. The Saturday attendance was about 2,400 which was about half of the normal attendance. Sunday attendance was about 2,600, this is about normal for Sundays. There were 33 layouts, 18 exhibitors, and 61 vendors at 290 tables. About 6 of the vendors were new to the show. All 6 said they would be back for the 2026 show. There is always a lot of American Flyer available at Madison than other model railroad event in Wisconsin.

It's always a great experience to attend the Madison show. One reason is the hall arrangement with wide aisles and a friendly atmosphere. BSG has always been treated very well at this event. Our layout is always located right near the front door, this gives us great exposure. However, we will have to get even more "**S Gauge**" informational material on the provided table.

A ton of thanks to Paul Bartelak, Bob Blomberg assisting me with the setup. Once again Fred Vergenz brought some awesome locomotives to run. With myself, Paul, Fred and Phil Piscitello (who was there all-day Sunday) we broke down and loaded the layout in two hours flat, which was a record time.



Delavan Train Show

The Delavan show is officially the last show that BSG will attend until 2026. No Trainfest 2025 this year again, it was decided to remain in downtown Milwaukee. The main reason is that no one in the club wanted to assist with the layout. But worst of all, they moved it up to the first weekend. This coincides with our 2025 Fall S Fest. Hopefully some year it may move back to the State Fair Park in West Allis WI. Until then, we will lose our exposure at the largest model railroad show in Wisconsin.

All that being said, how was Delavan? In the past, at one time, Delavan was a bigger show, drawing over 6,000 for the two-day event. Then Covid hit, it was cancelled for a while and the administration changed. The new committee is working hard to rebuild the show. This year the show had five additional venues outside of the American Legion post, one of which had a swap meet. There were some really great deals even on American

Flyer items. There were raffles and prizes. The kitchen had some really tasty food items, which were reasonably priced.

The Badgerland S Gauge, represented layout, was once again (as always) given the premier location in the main hall. A lot of the BSG and S Gauge material was picked up on our display table. This year the two-day attendance was around 2,000. With the committees plans for the future, more venues will be added for next years event. For BSG this show is always enjoyable.

Again, thanks to Paul Bartelak for assisting me with the setup. Dependable Fred Vergenz brought locomotives and passengers cars to run. With myself, Paul, Fred and Phil Piscitello we broke down the layout in less than two hours flat. I wish I had gotten his name but a young man (high school age) offered his assistance and it did make a difference, After the loading of the van, he said quote, "I still don't believe that everything fit in that mini-van".

Including the Mitchell Park Domes, Mad-City and the Delevan shows, BSG was present and had exposure to well over 13,000 individuals. Sooner or later, we have to figure out why we don't increase our membership.

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

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.

Once again, Wayne Friedrich brought along some trains for a playtime session. Above is his Lionel Milwaukee Road Northern. He also brought some of his Milwaukee Road freight cars. Wayne was given a set of entrance keys to the clubhouse affording him the opportunity to run trains on the clubhouse at his leisure.

Also in the picture is an American Flyer 322 Hudson which was donated to BSG along with the (4) Green heavyweight passenger cars. We have been fortunate in receiving a number of items to our club. Many of these items will be for sale to members at reasonable prices.

This will help our club financially and defray the cost of the clubhouse. We have a number of Gilbert AF, Lionel AF, American Models, Pacific Rails, S-Helper and other pieces that are for sale.



In the near future BSG will be scheduling play trains sessions. Wednesday evenings will likely be sessions since the Gandy Dancers HO model railroad club has work nights. Again, this might be just another great opportunity to see the full facility in action.

The BSG Searchlight

For Sale: As mentioned above, there is 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

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

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

March

16

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	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 March 22

Next BSG Meeting
Sunday March 23rd

Club Location:
Time: 1:30 PM
Corner of South St. & Grand Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

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

Badgerland S Gaugers Club Officers

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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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