



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

2026 March Issue

BSG MINUTES FOR 2/15/26

By Jeff Madden

Present at the meeting: Ray Puls, Doug Stoll, Wayne Friedrich, Jeff Madden, Ron Schlicht, Jerry Ponewicz, Roy Meissner, Bob Ristow, and Bob Blomberg.

President: Ron Schlicht opened the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Roy Meissner, treasurer, presented the financial report which remains positive.

Old Business:

1. Tom Patterson via cell phone discussed the re-order to American Models of the 2025 Fall S Fest Milwaukee Road boxcars. The original order had sold out, so the club is re-ordering a number of cars for those who missed out on the original order. Almost all are pre-paid with only a few extras to be obtained. The popularity of this boxcar spurred some interest in our leftover hoppers from the 2021 FSF. Only a few of these are left – gray as a single buy or 1 orange and 1 gray as a pair only.
2. The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

New Business:

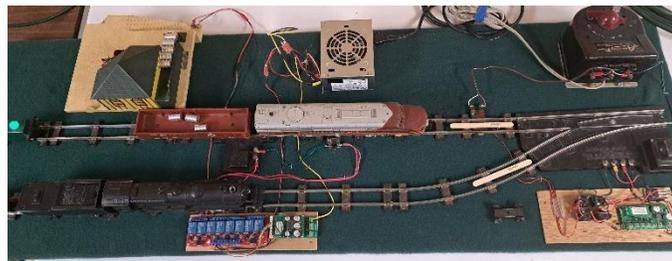
1. Discussion was held about giving the CASG and the St. Louis club the count of our walk-ins at our 2025 FSF. They would like contact info as well on these to help in future mailings. Roy Meissner said he would take care of this.
2. The club discussed a possible donation of a large collection of American Flyer equipment. A discussion was held regarding the situation, and whether or not it would be feasible to manage such a large collection. The decision was tabled until next meeting. One of the major issues is that the collection is in California.
3. Doug Stoll brought up that we should pay for an upgrade to secure our website. Motion passed.
4. Ron Schlicht, President, brought up ideas to help promote new membership including colorful posters, free new membership badges for members and new members, and some re-written membership forms.

5. All voted in favor of these ideas. Discretionary spending of \$100 or less was approved for these promotional items.
6. Needs for the current layout was discussed. Needs included a step-stool, some lumber, foam-core caulk, and a new control panel. Also mentioned by Ron Schlicht was the need for some club room decorations such as the hanging of many railroad type posters and pictures on the walls. The discretionary money can be used for some of this with larger expenditures needing a club vote.
7. Improved lighting in the club room is ongoing.
8. Ron Schlicht brought up several ideas for promoting the club (both HO and S) by having a large banner installed in our showcase window at the street level.
9. It was also discussed having Wednesday evenings as a continuous club night for members.
10. The club will have Ron Schlicht's "Hollywood" American Flyer layout represented at the upcoming Mad City train show (Madison, WI) on Feb. 21 and 22. This layout also represents our BSG club and promotional S handouts will be available. Noted also is that the CASG large hi-rail layout will be there also.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. Next meeting is March 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the club house.

Following the meeting Doug Stoll presented a "dead rail" demonstration using an AF PA and a Pacific. He showed how the E-units were replaced with batteries and other electronics to be able to run with a radio control remote controller. He even ran one on the floor with no track. The way he wired the small module he brought enabled the locomotive batteries to be continuously re-charged via track power. This has to be the future of electronics to power locomotives down the road!

OK. I'll admit that I don't look into every section of our website all of the time. For many like me, electronically deficient, my computer and my cell phone are more than I can handle. On our website, among other things, take a look at the Hints & Tips tab developed by or webmaster Doug Stoll. Admittedly there are a few things that I will never attempt, but there are some things that you and even I might take a stab at. Below are some of the pictures that accompanied parts of his clinic at the last meeting.



There were a number of functions that Doug performed with the above panel that he brought for the demonstration. Really over my head stuff, so what would impress me? You guessed it, trains running on a tiled floor. Maybe I'll try LEDs in cars.



Clubhouse Clatter

So, what's happening with the Badgerland S Gaugers The construction for the additional two loops is underway. The all of the ultimate details have not been worked out yet. Member Bob Blomberg is furnishing the base lumber for the project. As soon as some of the train shows, that we attend are over, the layout expansion will be our primary focus.

This was the first meeting that I presided at our BSG meeting as President. I might add I was not formally elected. You might say I was self-appointed, since when the nominations took place, you could hear a pin drop and everyone was looking at me. In saying that, at this meeting the members had to listen to my opinions and fortunately most of my suggestions were passed.

There are a few needs in order to improve and keep up the progress on the layout and our assigned area. From the financial standpoint, the 2026 Fall S Fest exceeding expectations. In addition, the reorder of the highly

successful FSF car will enable us to proceed with some of the projects that we have planned.

An apology is required. I have a confession to make. **YES**, I also belong to the Milwaukee Lionel Railroad club, primarily, because of the friendships that I have made over the years. There are many individuals in that club that I associate with and have been helpful to me in my model railroading hobby. And then there is their clubhouse, an **Absolute Gem**. For those who have never been there, you are missing out on a unique experience. Check out the website. No, I am not a spy, however the Lionel organization is a really well-oiled machine, which deserves admiration.

Admittedly their membership is much larger than ours. However, their membership spans beyond the Waukesha and Milwaukee area. Access to their facility for their members, is "**multiple days per week**", every month. Visitors come in on a regular basis.

In saying that, it has been an educational experience that BSG should learn from, and incorporate some of their policies. We will start with more access to the clubhouse. There are only a number of our general meetings and a small number of open house events during the year. The Gandy Dancers HO club schedules work sessions on their layout, on Wednesday evenings.

Starting Wednesday April 1st, this year, **NO FOOLING**; BSG will be open on **every** Wednesday night of **every** **month**. Not only will you have additional access to our clubhouse, but a chance to see the construction of a very unique HO layout. We only need one member to be present to open the doors for these occasions. There will be a set of keys given to the volunteers. Most of the nights will be covered by myself or Ray Puls. Perhaps in the future, with more willing members offering to help out, we will make more progress on the layout.

Train running sessions and club house renovation will also take place on those evenings. Realizing that parking is always a bit of an issue in downtown Waukesha, the hours will be from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. This will avoid any issues regarding the two-hour limit parking restriction from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Random work sessions have been taking place over the past few months. That involved layout work and other areas of the clubhouse. which improved the BSG and Gandy Dancers clubhouse. All of the ideas and improvements for the clubhouse should not come from "**two**" or **three** members. We need **new fresh** ideas to enhance our new home. Already one simple suggestion made a huge impact on the layout.

During the last open house session, we had a blast. Various members brought their engines and rolling stock to run on the layout, with multiple trains on the main lines.

We also need ideas on how to spread the news of our clubhouse and organization. New posters and displays have been made to try to encourage new memberships. Although model railroading is in decline, we should not just stand around and wait for a funeral.

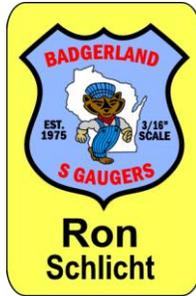
Some changes are being made to our constitution and membership applications. The club no longer has any patches left and has no plans on a reorder. In doing a little investigation, it appears among other organizations, patches are becoming a thing of the past. Sewing them on was always an unwanted task. This is also evident in FSF patch sales of which clubs are just hoping to break even.

Our old source for name badges no longer provides the type that BSG had made due to the material that was used. Many of you remember those badges particularly by the upper peninsula always breaking off. Following the style of the Lionel club, we are going to a new style printed magnetic type. It incorporates the BSG logo and patch design and has very strong magnets for placement. (For those that prefer the pin type, it is available at request. Pacemakers could be an issue with magnets.) The badge is 2 in. wide and 3 in. long. We are using the same vendor that the Lionel club uses. They can be made one at a time. We will be ordering the amount required when we finalize our 2026 roster.

Editors comment: My Lionel badge never falls off and I no longer stick my finger or put a hole in my vest or shirt when moving it around. Bloodless.

Another change was implemented. New members had to pay \$10.00 extra for the first year of membership. This covered the cost of the patch and namebadge. A badge will now be included with your the \$30.00 dues eliminating the extra charge. Years back, some individuals only joined the club to get into the swap meets that we held for free. We no longer hold those events. For those current members, whether you have an old badge or not, a new one will be provided for you, by the club if you wish to have one. Contact Ron Schlicht. You can indicate how you want your first name printed. **Nobody calls me Ronald.** Teachers usually use a full first name when you are disciplined. OK some personal friends occasionally call me Ronaldo.

The old timers will remember when Kathy Pilon would check if you had your badge on at the meetings. If you didn't, you incurred the wrath of her collecting a .50 cent fine for not having it. We will install a metal sheet in the storage area where members can place their badges in between meetings and events, therefore not have to worry about forgetting them or losing them. I don't have to worry I wear mine to bed.



2025 Fall S Fest Car Reorder

Tom Patterson has submitted the order for more of the Milwaukee Road 2025 Fall S Fest cars.

Our third 2025 Fall S Fest car run will be distributed exclusively by USPS mail. This will create a need for cardboard shipping boxes. Approximate sizes needed are 11 x 5 x 3 (for single car orders) and 11 x 5 x 6 or 11 x 9 x 3 (for two-car orders). The reasoning for being close in size is not only weight but cubic inches. If you have any sturdy boxes nearing these sizes that you are willing to contribute to our shipping effort, please contact Tom Patterson: email tpatterson31@wi.rr.com.

Editors Comments

I am looking for a lot of suggestions in order to get more information out about the **“ONLY”** S Gauge club in Wisconsin. **The Only bad ideas are the ones that are never given.** As is the same with other clubs, membership is dropping due to attrition. Many of our long-time friends are no longer with us. **We need more new members.** They don't even have to be an active, but are interested in keeping our club alive, and the only one in the state promoting S Gauge. As of now we are at the lowest level of members in the last 45 years or so.

I will include a promotional sheet that will be posted on our website and sent to various individuals that I have emails from that attended Fall S Fest. Feel free to share it.

(I don't think a GoFundMe is applicable for us.)

Mitchell Park Domes Show

Some additional information on the show. In 2025 the show drew around 5,000 hundred attendees. This year, over 7,000 came through the door. Due to my major assistant having some medical concerns, he will not be doing the setup and breakdown of the layout. That being said, the extremely popular S gauge layout may not be going to future domes shows, unless volunteers come forth. As a sidelight, the layout was always given a front and center location at the shows and had TV news coverage. BSG will lose that.

Mad-City Train Show

Once again, BSG was represented by the “Hollywood Meets Model Railroading”. The attendance was around 7,000 for the two-day event. BSG member Bob Blomberg was there for setup. His assistance cut down the labor-intensive layout setup by over two hours. I point that out because due to my aging, and the ever-present Paul Bartelak's knee conditions, this may be the last showing

BSG Inventory

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

With the popularity of the 2025 Fall S Fest car. if you haven't gotten one (or two) don't hesitate, the third order is nearing being sold out. The popularity also affected the 2021 Fall S Fest hoppers inventory that were unsold. The orange version is sold out and are only about six grays left.

2021 Fall S Fest Hoppers (Hi-Rail Only) \$50.00
EachFurnished with Coal Loads



Special Offer: Pair for \$90.00

Shipping \$10.00 on 1st car. \$3.00 ea. additional car.
The cars are also available at the BSG clubhouse.

Next BSG Meeting

Date: Sunday March 15th

Time: 1:30 pm

Club Location:

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

Future Open House Events

May 2nd, August 1st October 3rd

As of yet, I have **“not gotten any”** recommendations for clubhouse improvements.

We received no ideas about the club open hours. The days and hours were decided by two people

Notice:

Overdue notice.

Annual dues is \$30.00 year.

This will be one of the last newsletters that will be sent out the those who have not paid the 2026 dues and will be considered inactive.

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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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