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2000 - 2001



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NASG DISPATCH
Official Publication of the
National Association of S Gaugers

The NASG **DISPATCH** welcomes art, photographs, letters, articles and other S gauge/scale related materials contributed by the membership. Send all such materials to the editor.

Jeff Madden
438 Bron Derw Ct.
Wales, WI 53183
262-968-3729
nasgdispatch@hotmail.com

NASG membership runs from July through June, including all **Dispatch** issues for the membership year, irrespective of enrollment date. All applications, renewals and membership questions should be directed to:

Michael Paschall
PMB 410
2300 Bethelview Rd., Suite 110
Cumming, GA 30040-9475
770-205-4880
michael@bakerstreet.com

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The **Dispatch** - ISSN 10457178 is published bimonthly by MI Printing, 100A Church St., Millersburg, PA 17061. miprint@epix.net
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 1 year, \$20.00 which includes membership in the NASG. All subscriptions payable in U.S. funds. Postage is paid at Millersburg, PA. Printed in the USA. All rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address change to Michael Paschall at address above.

COVER:

A scene on Roy Hoffman's S scale Penn Western. Roy's freelance railroad represents various areas in pennsylvania. Roy, retired from Conrail, took the photo.

ORDER BOARD

Volume XXIII Number 4

August, 2000



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NASG Website: <http://trainweb.com/nasg/>

NASG Website Director Michael Greene: mgreene@cedarlane.com

STAFF

Jeff Madden	<i>Editor</i>
Terry Madden	<i>Graphics Editor</i>
Kent Singer	<i>Contributing Editor</i>
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The DEADLINES for articles are the 1st of February, April, June, August, October, December, for issues dated April, June, August, October, December, February, respectively.

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President's Message ...

Here's your new 2000-2001 NASG Membership Directory, and I hope our growth has reached the 2000 mark to match the year. Standard renewal, show promotion and especially the money we're spending on publications of general model railroad interest have hopefully given us a boost to a new level.

If you know fellow NASG members who have not renewed, please urge them to get back on track. Remind them to send their renewal forms to Michael Paschall. He is listed on the Officers and Committee Chairmen on page 37 of this Directory.

Your Directory is set up alphabetically and geographically to help you locate other members. Keep it handy and use it often throughout the year.

Paul Stevens
President, NASG
crafr@swbell.net

ABOUT THE DIRECTORY

A brief reminder from your membership chairman - keep the issue handy. While it may seem at first glance something you want to put on the shelf and forget, I want to remind you of its continuous value. You have in this issue both an alphabetical membership listing and a zipcode one. The zipcode listing is to assist in locating fellow S gaugers in your area. Both lists, along with the club listings, are valuable annually updated references for you to use.

Should you need your membership number at any time, say to order a car, it is the last entry of the alphabetical listing. Keep your directory handy and use it!
William Moore, Treasurer
wmoore@jnlk.com

NASG NEWS

Front Runner Progress: The pilot model was on display at the San Jose convention with modifications to the axles made by Stan Stokrocki. The SouthWind pilot model originally had rigid axles which had trouble negotiating model curves and turnouts. Stan rebuilt the model to have steerable axles and equalization such as he did on a previous scratchbuilt model. The modifications allowed the car to track an s-curve made up of American Models track sections.

If the project ends up being canceled, all deposit monies will be refunded, but plans are still in place to move ahead if the axle problem is solved.

RAIL MAIL

MEMBER COMMENTS;

About Ernie Horr:

Dear Friends, Ernie would want me to tell you about how much he enjoyed the magazine. He read them over and over. They inspired him to try new things. His railroad was always one of his major things to do. He always talked about all the great friends he made through model railroading. Thanks for being his friends. I will really miss him, and I wish all of you knew him like I did.

- God bless you all, Harriet Horr

.....I did know Ernie. As has been noted, he was a wonderful human being, and I enjoyed talking to him, whether in person, at the NASG meetings or over the telephone. What most may not realize is that Ernie was the first editor of the *Dispatch*. It was he who gave the magazine its name. He gave me a lot of support and encouragement when it became my turn to occupy that particular barrel.

- Bob Jackson

This is truly sad. Ernie's scratchbuilding skills and articles in the *S Gaugian* and the *Dispatch* were inspirational. For those who knew his family, please pass on my condolences.

- Kelvin White, Oxford England

Ernie Horr was a terrific person, always friendly, always enthusiastic about S scale. I met him in 1977 and saw him most every summer after that when I

went up to Idaho to visit Jess Bennett. Jess and Ernie have been friends for over 40 years. Ernie scratchbuilt terrific freight cars. He was one of the guys who got me going in S scale.

- Arden Goehring

I was a bit shaken up with the news of Ernie Horr passing away. Ernie was a great encouragement to me and was always happy to have my family and me over to see his Tinplate Road layout even though we had tow pre-school aged boys. When people say that he did a lot to positively promote our hobby, they aren't kidding. He was one of the few train people who had seen my layout as well.

I thought about his hospitality and decided that it was time to go out and clean up my train room so that it would be presentable if I had the opportunity to have visitors. Among other things that I learned from Ernie, I learned that our hobby is most enjoyable when it is shared. He modeled more than a train layout. He modeled a lifestyle worth following.

- Jacques Ollivier

To all of those who sent messages of hope and encouragement to Ernie a few months ago - thanks ever so much. It meant a lot to him to hear from all of you. Ernie was one of our "S Legends", and did so much to recruit to our scale. Our deepest sympathy to Harriet and the Inland Empire S Gauge Association of the Pacific Northwest, which was Ernie's pride and joy. So long, old friend. We'll miss you.

- John Eichmann, Rocky Mountain Hi-Railers

.....We visited Ernie and his wife in June of '98, and he and I had a great day railfanning Spokane. He wanted to take me over to Jess Bennett's but there wasn't time. He and his son were involved with Promise Keepers - he was a fine Christian gentleman.

Back when I started the Badgerland S Gaugers 25 years ago, he was a big help, and we have corresponded for many years. I think I met him at the first KC/NASG convention. He and Fritz Gemeinhart were sitting with their wives in the hotel restaurant and someone introduced us. We will all miss people like Ernie and the others who have been "special" in our lives. They will continue to live in our hearts and memories.

- Chuck Porter

I think I only met Ernie once, and that was in Vancouver, Washington at my first NASG convention. As contest chairman there, he helped me a bunch getting all the contest results for the *Dispatch*. I was also pleased to publish 4 or 5 of his construction articles since I became editor.

- Jeff

About John Craft:

Speaking with his wife at the funeral, she told me how much John meant to his S gaugers and how much he will be missed. John was only 42 years of age - rest in peace.

- John Foley

I first came across John when he was promoting the Chesapeake Models H39 hopper (now owned and put out by Des Plaines Hobbies). One aspect that few knew about John was that he was a great Beatles fanatic (the pop music, not the car). As a Brit that he knew, I used to get regular requests to go up to London and see what was available in Beatlemania.

- Kelvin White

I met John on several occasions, and he was a great guy. I can't believe he's gone. This sure has been a terrible year for S. We will all miss John, and it will be difficult filling the void.

- Wayne Hills

Department of Corrections: My face is red. It seems June issue article on Sergeant Coupler was credited to the wrong Keith Thompson. Rightful author is Keith B. Thompson of Brookline, NH. Methinks we should have a couple of Meet an S Gaugers on the two, or they'll have to come up with some catchy e-mail nickname. - Jeff

MR Readers' Choice Awards for 1999: In S the 1st place winners were: Locomotive - Pennsylvania Heritage Models RDC. Rolling stock - S Helper Service PS-2 3-bay hopper. Structure - B.T.S. EBT Orbisonia station. Other S winners: Loco - 2nd was SouthWind 4-4-2; 3rd Railmaster Sn3 WP&Y diesel. Rolling Stock: 2nd was Des Plaines tank car; 3rd B.T.S. EBT 35 ton hopper. Structure - 2nd Scenery Unlimited factory; 3rd Crystal River mercantile.

Jeff's Junction



REMEMBERING OUR PIONEERS...

In the past two years it seems almost incomprehensible how many S leaders and pioneers have had their last runs. And it's probably tougher for those of us in S because we are such a small, tight-knit group, thus losses of our leaders and pioneers tend to be much more personal and harder to replace than in larger organizations.

But instead of moping and feeling demoralized, S gaugers should instead be galvanized to step forward and fill the shoes of those who have gone before us. There are many ways we can do this as an organization, as manufacturers and as individuals.

1. Continue efforts at publishing articles, reviews and photos in the general model railroad press. Make sure our products and modeling are seen by as wide an audience as possible. I understand Roy Hoffman is taking over the *Model Railroad News* column.
2. Older (50+) members need to pass down experiences and enthusiasm to younger members and converts.
3. Continue and increase public displays.
4. Manufacturers continue quantity and quality of new products.
5. Continue recruitment to S and the NASG of both youth and the bi-focal other-gaugers.
6. Encourage the formation of new all-S clubs. and events.
7. Expand promoting via other organizations - NMRA (both national and regional), TTOS, TCA, etc.
8. Continue to support our new products.

The most important immediate need, however, is to have an influx of "new" leaders in all levels and areas of S. We need younger leaders who can provide more energy and fresh ideas. We also need more mature leaders for guidance and experience - and too, maybe this group has more time on its hands. We need S gaugers to step forward on both the national and local levels. Hint, NASG elections are upcoming.

While we should be concerned with ongoing leadership, we should also remember our fallen leaders and craftsmen and the examples they set. We could and should do this in several ways. One is through appropriate memorial awards for annual achievements - contests, club activities, authorship, and so on.

A longer term goal might be to look at establishing a national Museum/HQ/Foundation where S milestones and pioneers could be remembered in a permanent way. Such a facility or location would also serve as a "back door" way of promoting S. The NMRA has a museum/hq in Chattanooga, TN; the TCA has one in Strasburg, PA.

In the shorter term, S should be represented at both locations. There is a Flyer layout at the TCA museum already. Those interested in donating models or collections should contact these organizations. The NASG might even request a presence at these locations too. Also, the NASG should look ahead at making arrangements for accepting estate donations.

Eventually the big dream picture might be our own S museum. Because of the name recognition, American Flyer should be the key, but evolving scale and hi-rail should be an integral part. Where? Maybe the New Haven area, tying in with the Gilbert heritage. Or might some popular (read lots of traffic) railfan site be a good location - Strasburg, Steamtown, St. Louis Transport Museum... Piggybacking with another organization would be a less expensive route to look at as well.

And what should such a dream museum eventually contain or consist of?

1. Gilbert heritage displays.
2. Gilbert AF S gauge layout.
3. Hi-rail layout.
4. Standard gauge scale and Sn3 scale layout combined.
5. Various scale and hi-rail displays.
6. Pioneering S exhibits - Miller, Ace, etc.
7. Individual pioneers "hall-of-fame" plaques.
8. 20 minute video presentation.
9. Profit centers: all-S hobby shop, souvenirs, donations.
10. Non-profit status.

I think it's time we begin preliminary brainstorming for such a facility, naturally with the NASG in the lead. This could really establish our credibility as a national organization and gain added attention to S.

One last thing on this overall subject: Why don't S clubs begin offering commemorative cars honoring fallen leaders, especially those who had an operating layout and were widely known? This could possibly work out as a good fund raiser. The Tinplate Road comes to mind.

- Jeff

S-CALENDAR

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2000: Fall Jersey Get-Together. Christ Church Hall, South Amboy, NJ. Don Thompson: robin@showcaseline.com

Oct. 1, 2000: NER/NMRA, Colony Inn, Rte. 83, off I-84, 10am-3pm. Adults \$4, children 6-12 \$3. Family \$7. Joe Sokol (860) 872-2240.

Oct. 27-29, 2000: 25th Annual Fall S Fest. Special double anniversary event - 25th Fall S Fest and 25th anniversary of the Badgerland S Gaugers. Main location is the Waukesha County Expo Center (just west of Milwaukee). Plenty of nearby hotels. participating motels - 800-366-8474. Registration details to come. Mac McGrath: 815-455-7571 or macster1@earthlink.net. Website: www.trainweb.org/bsg.

May 18-20, 2001: Spring S Spree. Holiday Inn East, I70 East and Hamilton Rd., Columbus, OH. Info: John Gaffney (614) 764-3925. Regis. after Jan. 1, 2001. jgaffney@columbus.rr.com

July 24-28, 2001: NASG Annual Convention - Steamtown - Scranton, PA, Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. http://trainweb.org/csg/

Summer 2002: NASG Annual Convention - Cleveland, Ohio. Details TBA.

Bids Open for NASG Annual Conventions -- 2003 and beyond. Contact Dave Held, Convention Chairman, 6154 Lanake Ln., Imlay City, MI 48444. 910-724-5499.

THE NASG OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Whom and where they are:

OFFICERS:

President	Paul Stevens 9619 NW 71st St., Kansas City, MO 64152 816-741-1505 e-mail: crafttr@swbell.net
Executive Vice President	John Foley 164 W. Railroad St., Pottsville, PA 17901 570-622-3413 e-mail: foley164@ptd.net
Secretary	Glenn Ritter 374 Morris Rd., Harleysville, PA 19438 215-256-1640 e-mail: gartrain@net-thing.net
Treasurer	William Moore 220 Swedesboro Rd., Gibbstown, NJ 08027 856-423-0198 3-mail: wmmore@jnlk.com
Eastern Vice President	William Fuhrman 174 Lakes Rd., Bethlehem, CT 06751 203-266-7935 e-mail: cbr@snet.net
Central Vice President	Tom Nimelli 7867 Bellevue St., Grosse Ile, MI 48138 734-675-1955 e-mail: kknimelli@mindspring.com
Western Vice President	Gil Hulin 3895 Colony Oaks Dr., Eugene, OR 97405 541-344-6858

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Dispatch Editor	Jeff Madden 438 Bron Derw Ct., Wales, WI 53183 262-968-3729 e-mail: nasgdispatch@hotmail.com
Promotions	Gregg Miller (co-chair) RK5 Box 1031, Altoona, PA 16601 814-942-1848 e-mail: gwmiller@metlife.com
Promotions	Tom Robinson (co-chair) 1636 Prairie Ln., Montgomery, AL 36117 334-279-0540 e-mail: tomrsgauge@mindspring.com
Engineering	Bob Sherwood 2837 Olive Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001 307-638-2918 e-mail: softmoods@vcn.com

Lionel/NASG Car Project	Doug Peck 6 Storeybrooke Dr. Newburyport, MA 01950 978-465-8798 e-mail: portlines@aol.com
NASG Freight Car Project	Alan Evans P.O. Box 30345, Gahanna, OH 43230 614-471-7277 Fax: 614-471-3337 e-mail: rockyfork@worldnet.att.net
S-Mod Info	Ted Larson 5 Kenicott Circle, Fairport, NY 14450 716-223-0917 e-mail: mhrreast@juno.com \$9.00, per packet members
NASG Clearinghouse	William Mark, Jr. 438 Rossway Rd. Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 914-635-8553 NASG track gauges, coupler height gauges, patches, shirts, hats and pins.
Contest Chairman	Jim Whipple 1719 Middle Rd., Glenshaw, PA 15116 412-487-3364
Election Chairman	Jamie Bothwell 805 Hayes St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-868-7180 e-mail: mrbarker@aol.com
Convention Committee Chairman	Dave Held 6154 Lanake Ln., Imlay City, MI 48444 810-724-5499 e-mail: davido@cardina.net
Membership Chairman	Michael G. Paschall 2300 Bethelview Rd., Suite 110-410 Cumming, GA 30040-9494 770-205-4880 e-mail: michael@bakerstreet.com

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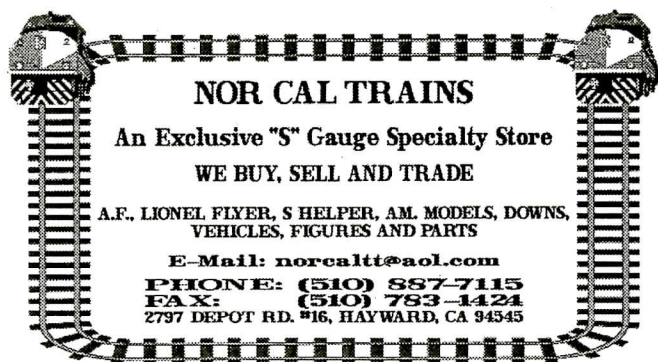
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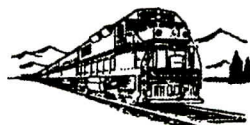
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Election Committee Report 2000

In the year 2001, the NASG will hold elections for the offices of President and Treasurer, as well as the three Regional Vice-Presidents. Nominations of 200 words or less must be received by the Election Committee Chairman no later than November 30, 2000. These will be forwarded to the Secretary.

Election Committee Chairman:

Jamie Bothwell, 805 Hayes Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015-3613

NOTE: On the eve after his return from the San Jose Convention, Jamie had a wreck with his bicycle and received a serious hip injury. We all wish him a speedy recovery. -ed.

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July 24-28, 2001

In Memorium

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NASG CLEARINGHOUSE**

c/o William Mark, Jr.
438 Rossway Road
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
1-914-635-8553

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL
NASG T-SHIRT	S,M,L,XL - \$8.00, XXL - \$11.00						
NASG GOLF SHIRT	Dark Blue or Royal Blue M,L,XL - \$20.00, XXL - \$22.00						
NASG COUPLER HGT. GAUGE - #5 KADEE \$3.50 ea. or 2 for \$6.75						Quantity	
NASG COUPLER HGT. GAUGE - #802 KADEE \$3.50 ea. or 2 for \$6.75							
NASG S-3, S-4 TRACK & WHEEL GAUGE - \$2.65 ea. or 2 for \$4.50							
NASG CAPS - \$5.50 ea. Royal Blue							
NASG PATCH - \$2.00 ea.							
MIS-STAMPED TRACK GAUGE - \$1.00 ea.							
SUB-TOTAL							
SHIPPING (10% of Total)							
TOTAL							

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