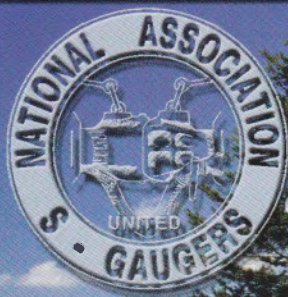
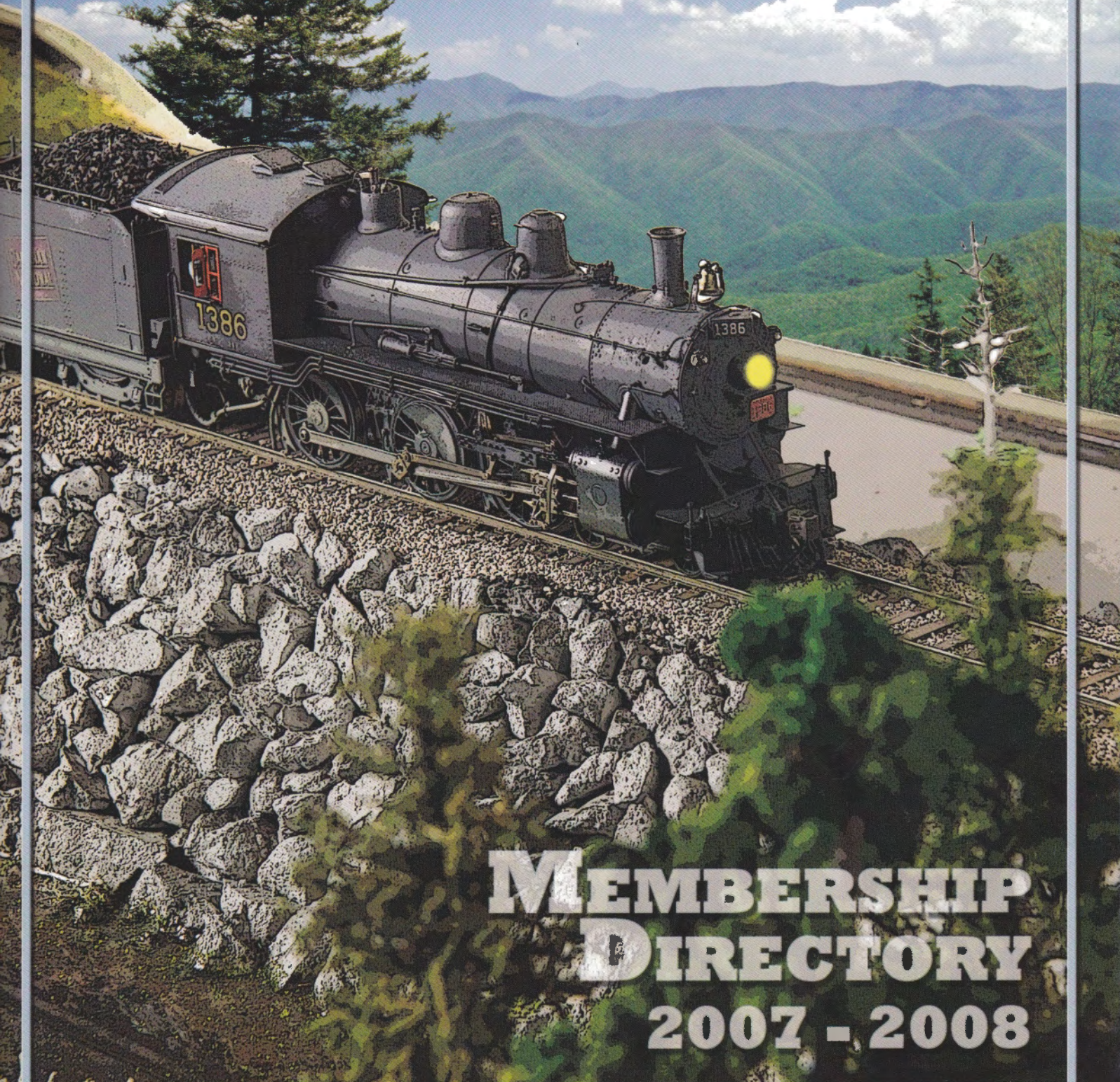


August 2007

Volume XXXI Number 5



DISPATCH

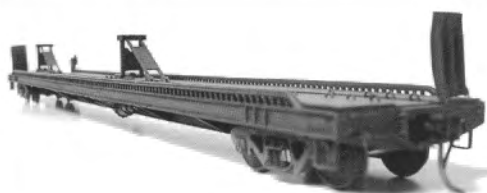


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In March 1955, 200 of these 75' TOFC cars were put into service on the PRR. Designed to carry two of the then-current standard 35' trailers, they were initially in PRR red with white lettering. Later, they became Trailer Train cars, and as of 1990, over 100 were still in service.

The kit consists mostly of pewter castings which can be soldered together with low-temp solder and iron, or glued together with a strong ACC or epoxy. Car weight with trucks and couplers is 11.4 ounces. While it will handle a 34" radius curve, it will look better on larger. Couplers, trucks, trailers, and decals are not included. The car is designed to use the SHS 35' trailers.

#09203 S Scale PRR F39 Piggyback Flat Car \$89.95

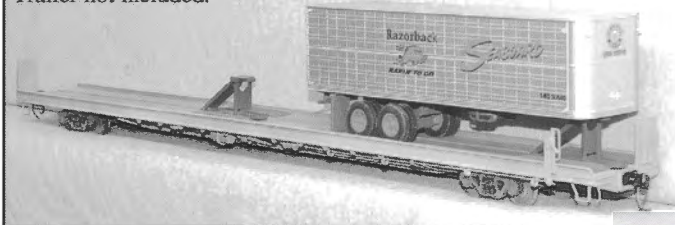
F89 Piggyback Flat Car

Introduced in the early 1960s, thousands of these 89' long cars were built during the 60s and many are still in service. They have seen duty hauling trailers, containers, autos, pipes, and just about anything that is long!

The kit consists mostly of pewter castings which can be soldered together with low-temp solder and iron, or glued together with a strong ACC or epoxy. Due to its length, very wide curves are required. Couplers, trucks, trailers, and decals are not included. The car is designed to use the American Models' 40' trailers - SHS 35' trailer shown also fits well.

#09200 S Scale F89 Piggyback Flat Car \$99.95

Trailer not included.



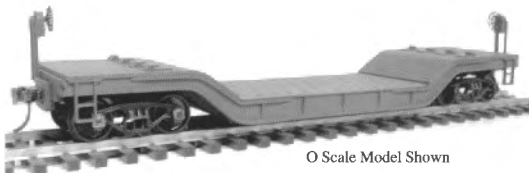
PRR H21 Hopper

Starting in 1911, 70-ton H21a "quad" hoppers were introduced for coal service. The original hoppers were built with the "old style" double-door configuration. During the 1930s and 40s, all old-style double-door hoppers were replaced with the "saw tooth" hopper.

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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.

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Membership year is determined by the date you sign up guaranteeing 6 issues starting with the next issue after signup. All applications, renewals and membership questions should be directed to:

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The **Dispatch** - ISSN 10457178 is published bimonthly by
Studio G
PO Box 745
Jonestown, PA 17038-0745
Email: T.Chuck Garman at
dispatch@tchuck.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 1 year, \$20.00 which includes membership in the NASG. All subscriptions payable in U.S. funds. Postage is paid at Harrisburg, PA. Printed in the USA. All rights reserved.

Postmaster: Send address change to
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Best In Show at the Baltimore NASG Contest, Master Craftsman Class. Built by Simon Parent.
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August, 2007



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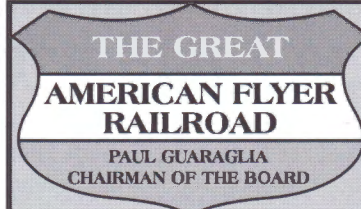
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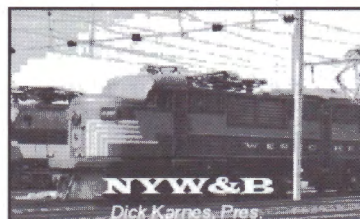
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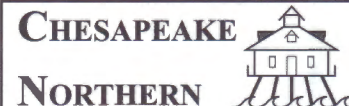


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RAIL MAIL

NMRA Gauge Needed: You asked once before what this hobby needs to expand beyond where we are at present, and the answer is perfectly obvious to me as a converted HO person. The one thing we do not have is one of those "standard type 1 NMRA gauges - the one with the profile outline. I've had nothing but problems correcting Flyer out-of-gauge wheels which the new type 1 should have, along with a complete set of scale or near scale wheels incorporated - both on the same device. You get one of these, and it will make the HO crowd aware what size trains really are. And if the HO "rivet counters" get really mad, then this means we are on the right track, because they may be upset on losing modelers to a larger scale - nobody's eyesight is getting any better - especially we "boomers".

- Joseph B. Kmetz *Well Joe, we do have a profile gauge that covers the scale side - check out our Clearinghouse ad - It has two parts, one made of wood and one made of clear plastic with the profile. It's \$7.95 and produced by Banta Modelworks. No, we don't have a dual one yet or a profile one made of metal. - ed.*

S-CALENDAR

Sept. 21-22, 2007: Fall Get-Together, Christ Church Episcopal, 220 Main St., South Amboy, NJ sponsored by the Central Jersey S Gaugers. Check www.showcaseline.com

Nov. 2-4, 2007: Fall S Fest, St. Louis, MO sponsored by the AFSGSLA. New larger location - St. Louis Marriott Hotel near airport. www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/.

Nov. 17, 2007: 4th Annual Indianapolis S Show, Carmel, Indiana, Lions Clubhouse (5 miles north of Indianapolis. 10a.m. to 3 p.m.. \$5 adm., dealer tables \$10. Check www.nasg.org or Charles Malinowski 317-566-1748 or bmry1905@yahoo.com.

Feb. 7-9, 2008: O/S Scale West, Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara, 5101 Great American parkway. 800-233-1234. Rod Miller 650-329-0424, www.oscalewest.com or rod@rodmillier.com. Arden Goehring's big S layout on tour, plus the usual agenda.

NASG NEWS

The NASG Returns to New England in 2008: The annual convention of the National Association of S Gaugers will return to New England for the first time since 1998 when the Bristol S Gauge Railroaders host the 2008 event in Lowell, MA, from August 5-10, 2008. The convention site will be the Lowell Doubletree Hotel located on the edge of Lowell National Historic Park, to which free admission will be included in conventioners' basic registration.

In addition to traditional activities such as layout tours, clinics and demonstrations, model contest, more than 10,000 square feet of convention space will be filled with dealer and manufacturer displays and sales tables. Plus, there will be several operating S gauge layouts.

Rail and non-rail tours will be available to the Mt. Washington Cog Railroad, the North Conway "Notch Train", the Hobo/Winnepesaukee Railroad and the under-restoration Flying Yankee, Boston's "Freedom Trail" and Duck Tour, and the Minuteman National Historic Park in Lexington-Concord.

Full information, including registration and convention car forms, hotel details and contact information can be found on the Bristol club's 2008 Convention website (www.nasg2008.com). Contact information: Doug Peck, 6 Storeybrooke Dr., Newburyport, MA 01950-3408, 978-465-8798, doug@portlines.com.

continued page 7

Feb. 14-17, 2008: 23rd Sn3 Symposium, St. Louis, MO. Ten Sn3 layouts, plus others, manufacturers, clinics, contests. Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel. 314-423-9700. Info: Jeff Boock 636-928-9969. Website: www.sn3symposium.org/2008symposium.

May 2-3, 2008: 21st Annual Spring S Spree, hosted by the Miami Valley S Gaugers, Dayton, Ohio. At the Crossroads Expo Center off I-75 at Benchwood Exit - Dayton, Ohio. Five hotels within one mile, many restaurants. Denny White (chair): dwhite@woh.rr.com. or bob Guckian 937-456-1226. Website: www.trainweb.org/mvsg.

Aug. 5-10, 2008: NASG Annual Convention, Lowell, MA. The Mountaineer Limited will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Bristol S Gauge Railroaders. Doubletree Hotel - 978-452-1200. Website: www.nasg2008.com. Or contact Doug Peck - doug@portlines.com.

Bids Open for NASG Annual Conventions -- 2009 and beyond. Contact Lee Johnson, 2472 Lariat Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94596-6635 - 925-943-1590 - email: leemax@jps.net

Jeff's Junction



POCKETS OF S...

Do some basic research, such as checking out the cities with model train hobby shops in the commercial magazines. Check the NMRA and TCA directories for where members live and clubs are located. You will most likely discover most large and moderately large cities in the U.S. and Canada have a substantial model railroad presence.

But what about S gauge? Check out this directory to see where our members live and where the clubs are. Is S about evenly distributed in these markets? I don't think as much as the other scales or hobby shops. From doing the *Dispatch* these many years I've got a pretty good feel as to where S modelers are concentrated. In general, this seems to be determined by the location of S clubs. Check this out for yourselves by looking at the club listings and the zip code directory.

Active S clubs would logically indicate a good following of S, thus these city/metro areas would include: Seattle, Frisco Bay area, Boise, Spokane, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Baltimore-D.C., St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Phillie, Dayton, Allentown, Columbus, KC, Boston, Buffalo, Rochester, Jersey metro area, New Orleans*, Toronto, Montreal, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Florida. S seems concentrated mostly in the northeast, the mid-Atlantic, the upper midwest and the Pacific coast with a few exceptions. Some areas seem lacking - maybe Flyer never originally developed sales in certain areas?

**Katrina has scattered many of the S group there.*

What areas then in the U.S. and Canada seem to lack active pockets of S modelers. My instincts tell me that the following locales are a little thin with S activity: San Diego (except for narrow gaugers), LA (only one group I know of), Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, San Antonio, Louisville, Memphis, Cincinnati, Atlanta (small group there), Charlotte, Toledo, Vancouver (BC), New York City, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, the Dakotas,

Nebraska, Tennessee, Edmonton.

So where geographically is the growth of S going to occur? Well, my opinion, is that most areas that have S now will at least maintain their status and may even grow as near-sighted HO and N folks gravitate to a larger scale. Another scenario has retirees heading for the sun and taking their S with them.

Clubs may actually proliferate wherever S modelers congregate because many retirees might downsize their living quarters and thus seek out fellow S gaugers to work on modular layouts or at the home of the modeler who has space for a bigger layout.

Existing S groups should look to the "boomer" generation (born 1946-'60) to fill out their ranks. Hopefully, kids and grandkids will tag along.

A case in point is the recent growth and activities of the Atlantic Coast S Gaugers. This is sort of a loose organization that encompasses several hi-rail S clubs up and down the east coast from Virginia to Georgia. And I'll bet many of these members have moved south from up north. Even the remote western North Carolina town of Hendersonville now sprouts 2 or 3 NASG members. A couple of years ago there were only HO and Lionel guys there.

Many of us are retired or getting there. Where will we retire? Will we stay put and just increase modeling activities in S where we are? Or, will we look to retire where it's warmer and there are smaller pockets of S? Before we pick a location to retire maybe we should check out this directory. Finding other NASG members or S modelers in an area might help us to decide where to retire. Make sure, though, to tell the spouse you're moving for the climate or the taxes - not to seek out other S model railroaders - hee, hee.

Hey, wait a minute, let's get together on retiring. We'll take over a retirement community with all S modelers. We can have space for scale, hi-rail and AF layouts - even Sn3. We can all be in one place and model our way to the sunset. The place should be in some place warm, near railroad tracks and near an outlet mall (for the spouses). We can take over the local HO and Lionel 3-rail clubs and convert them to S. We can





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NASG News continued from page 5

NMRA Convention

The NASG booth at the NMRA convention seemed to work just fine. I hope to post images next week. We ended up with a little more space than 3 booths. The track was on a wall display. I guess the one thing I should have done was invited Custom Trax to participate as they were at the show with S scale switches at their own booth and we did not have anything about them.

S Scale American/Des Plaines Hobbies also had a booth, but with just S scale. We gave out most of the literature provided and sent much of the remaining literature along with Sam for the NASG to provide at shows. We are now planning on doing the same thing for the 2008 NMRA National Train Show in Anaheim, CA. We hope everyone participates then too.

I will be sending display items back next week., I would like to thank all of those who helped or sent us items to display. Also, the SMSG layout and crew who were across the hall from us.

Best regards,
Don

PS My next show is the CJSS Fall Get-Together Sept. 21st and 22nd.



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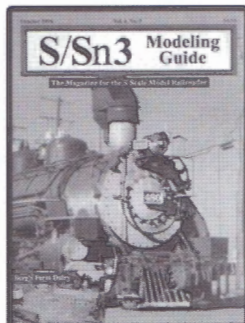
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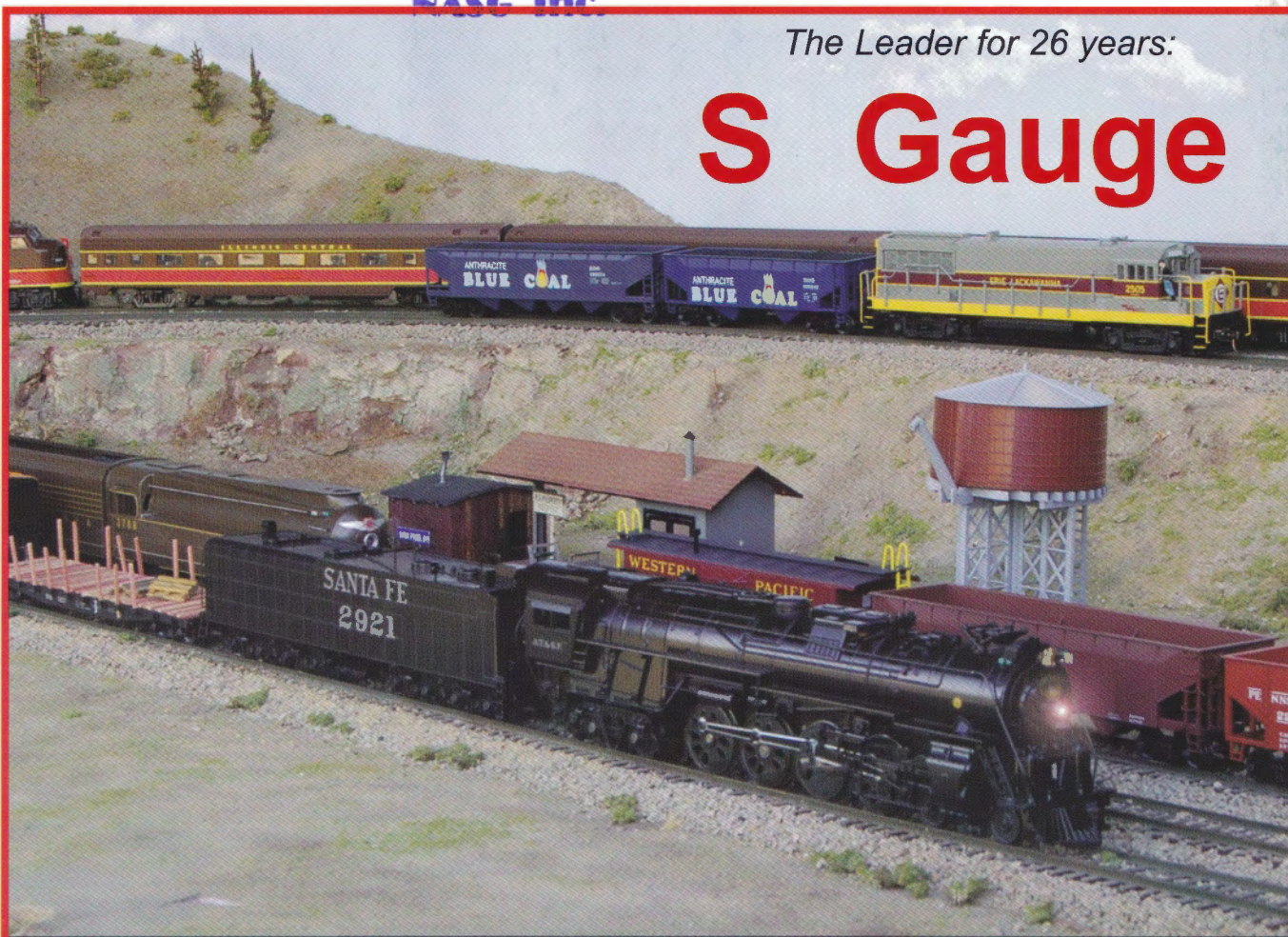
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