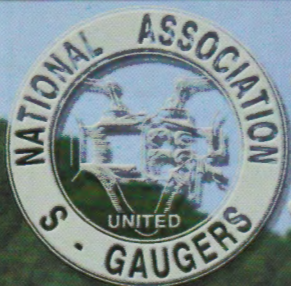
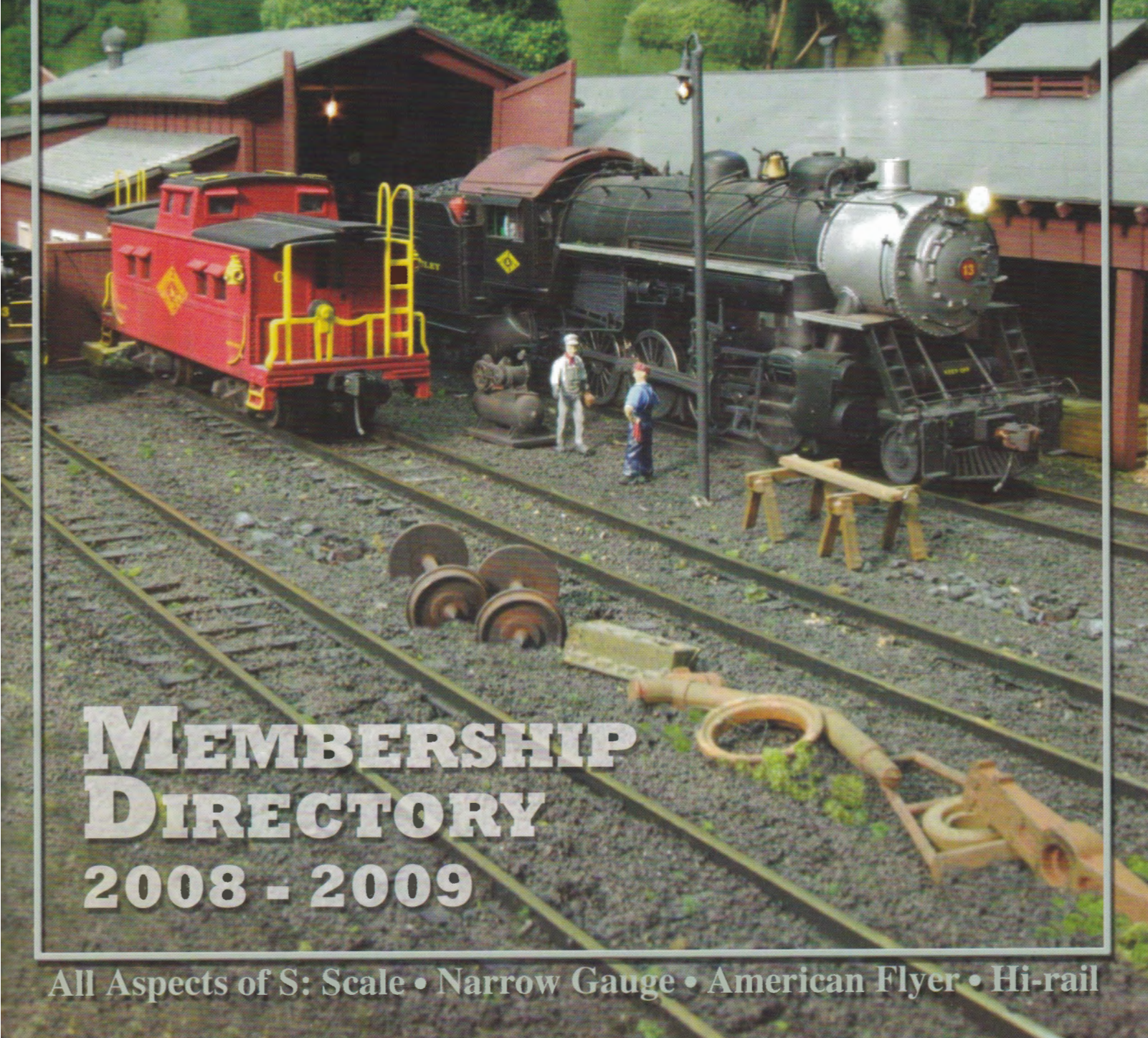


August 2008

Volume XXXII Number 4



DISPATCH



**MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY
2008 - 2009**

All Aspects of S: Scale • Narrow Gauge • American Flyer • Hi-rail

McCabe Lumber Co. Planing Shed

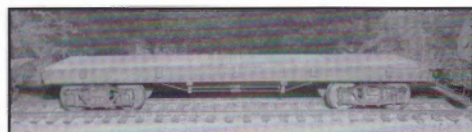
The McCabe Lumber Co. Planing Shed should be called a planing mill complex since it is more than just a simple shed. The planing complex consists of the transfer shed, two planing buildings, boiler house, water tank, and loads of details, and is a key part of the Slatyfork Sawmill Complex. The Planing Shed can also be used as a great stand-alone manufacturing industry such as a box factory.

This kit consists of laser-cut basswood, plywood, and cardstock, tarpaper roofing, brass, urethane, and white-metal detail castings, and loads of character. The tabbed, well-engineered construction provides fast and easy assembly. The footprint is about 70' x 90'. **#08225 \$349.95**



HO Models Shown. Detail castings vary between scales.

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34' Truss Rod Flatcar

This flatcar was inspired by an early drawing for one that ran on the V&T. This was before the time of air brakes, and the car featured link & pin couplers when built. It is a very generic car that can be used on many lines. The kit consists of laser-cut wood and styrene details. Less trucks and couplers.

#09603 \$ 25.95



34' Truss Rod Gondola

The gondola is an offshoot of our 34' flatcar with laser-cut sides and end boards. Two optional end sill steps are included. The kit consists of laser-cut wood and styrene details. Less trucks and couplers.

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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.

Jeff Madden
438 Bron Derw Ct.
Wales, WI 53183
262-968-3729

nasgdispatch@hotmail.com

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:

NASG Treasurer,
Michael Shea, 488 Stonewood Ave.,
Rochester, NY 14616 -3623
Phone: 585-865-4978
email: mikeshea@frontiernet.net

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COVER: Consolidation #13 (SHS with added details) is sitting just outside the scratchbuilt Dundon, WV engine house of the BC&G on Brooks Stovers' Layout. Caboose C-1 is a modified AF item. The layout uses NCE DCC and American Models track. *Photo by Brooks Stover*

ORDER BOARD

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Michael Greene
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We have no dues and no rules. Most members are in the North Georgia area but this is not a requirement. We operate a modular layout at various model railroad events in the area. The criteria for membership is that you have an interest in S Gauge model railroading, American Flyer, Hiram, Scale, and SN3 enthusiasts are all welcome. For more information contact:

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Jeff's Junction



The Price of Gas and S...

Bluntly, will the price of energy (mainly automobile gas) affect our hobby, and, in particular, our specialized S events? Will the inflation in food and fuel (2 Fs) cause S gaugers to cut back on their hobby expenses, such as purchasing new items, traveling to meets, and displaying layouts?

Well, yes, inflation in fuel especially will cause hobbyists to take a hard look at discretionary model train expenses - whether it be actual products bought on ebay, at meets, at hobby shops, and even mail order. There will be second thoughts on traveling to S events and conventions for buyers, sellers and those hauling display layouts.

Let's take the **negative outlook** first. Buyers may decide to buy less or even try to reduce personal inventory to make ends meet. This, of course, would translate to less sales for our manufacturers and sellers of new and used items.

Another negative result of a downward economic spiral is that buyers and sellers might decide to stay home instead of traveling any great distance to our S events. A dealer may not want to take a van or pull a trailer a couple hundred miles or so to a meet or convention where he might encounter a lesser volume of buyers or buyers unwilling to part with the dollars they had previously. Manufacturers of new items then may pull back making new products as demand stalls. In effect, we could fulfill the "falling domino" theory.

What also might suffer in these "lean" times might be the anchors of our s meets and conventions - display layouts. Most portable or modular layouts require a van, a larger vehicle or a trailer to get the layouts to the events. Again, clubs and individuals may decide to cut back or eliminate traveling over a few miles altogether.

If all this negativity prevails, then we'll all have to huddle at home amidst our collections and home layouts, email friends and order everything mail order - but that's no fun!

Now, let's take a more **positive outlook** and see how S gaugers can overcome these economically distressing times and keep our hobby and our social

events moving along.

Because we are still a minority scale, I feel we need to keep our major S events going. I personally look forward to attending the fests, sprees and NASG conventions as both a buyer and a small seller. I find these events are social reunions as well as being swap fests. Everything is dedicated to S - sale items, clinics, layout displays, contests, etc. There ain't no other place for this. Soooo, do we have to adjust our usual ways of attending and putting on these events? Yes, probably gradual changes will be made or forced upon us.

Sponsors of future events should start taking a look at some things they could do to assure that attendees, vendors and layouts will show up. For one, they could choose a location that is conducive to different modes of travel. This means having S events in a location that is easy to get to by auto, train and airplane. Most Fests, Sprees and get-togethers are locked into major metro areas anyway so that generally isn't a problem, but planning for future NASG conventions might be another matter. For example, our (Badgerland S Gaugers) upcoming Fall S Fest in Milwaukee will be convenient to all modes of transportation.

Obviously, car pooling will likely increase, so that at least the gas expenses can be shared. But with 4 or 5 S gaugers in one vehicle, a Honda Civic or Ford Focus won't get it. Even car poolers will have to travel in a vehicle large enough to be comfortable and store luggage and purchases. Let's do some math here -- a 600 mile trip at 20 mpgs would take 30 gallons of gas. At \$4 a gallon that's \$120.00. Now, divide by 4 - that's only \$30 each for 4 sharing a vehicle. At the old \$3 a gallon, the expense would still be \$23 a person. So it's only \$7 more per person.

Vendors who haul a lot of sale items are pretty much forced to use a larger vehicle. The largest might even have a trailer to pull as well. They might be more selective in shows they attend or they might bring a little less product along. And there's always UPS to ship sale items ahead so a smaller vehicle or public transportation could be used. Buyers traveling in packed cars or by public transportation can also think about mailing purchases home.

The other dilemma involves display layout transportation. Event sponsors might want to use their own layouts or those of folks nearby. Sponsors often offer to pay for gas and maybe a registration fee for those bringing display layouts any distance. Modules may have to be singly hauled by more members

Continued on page 8

Calendar

NASG NEWS

Sept. 26-27, 2008: 27th annual Fall S Get-Together sponsored by the Central Jersey S Scalpers. Christ Episcopal Church, 220 Main St., South Amboy, WI. Layouts, sales and Sat. evening buffet. Check NASG Website under events.

Nov. 8, 2008: 5th annual all S Gauge Meet hosted by the Hoosier S Gaugers, Carmel Lions Clubhouse, 141 E. Main St., Carmel, IN (near Indianapolis) . 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Dealer tables, clinics, door prizes, operating layouts. Bring and brag dinner for earlybirds on Friday night. 317-566-1748 or bmry1905@yahoo.com

Nov. 14-16, 2008: Fall S Fest, Milwaukee, WI, Wyndham Hotel - near airport and Amtrak stop. Large hall within hotel, display layouts, layout tours, banquet, clinics, train races, non-rail tours, contest. Easy access from airport, I-94 or nearby Amtrak station. www.trainweb.org/bsg. or contact: 262-538-4325

Jan. 29-31, 2009: O-S Scale West, info tba.

Feb. 25-29, 2009: Sn3 symposium, LaQuinta Inn, Clearwater, FL - www.sn3.org/2009.

May ?, 2009: Spring S Spree, Strongsville, OH, Holiday Inn Select, sponsored by the Cuyahoga Valley S Gaugers.

Aug. 4-8, 2009: NASG Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO, Marriott St. Louis Airport as selected by the NASG BOT.

July 21-25, 2010: NASG Annual Convention, Duluth, MN. NASG 50th Anniversary. Details TBA.

Bids open for NASG Annual Conventions -- 2011 and beyond. contact Lee Johnson, 2472 Lariat Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94596-6635. 925-943-1590 - email: leemax@jps.net.

Membership Applications: Mike Shea reports that at the recent Dayton S Spree some old NASG membership applications listing Michael Paschall as Membership Secretary were accidentally handed out. Mr. Paschall has not been Membership Secretary for 4 years and is no longer even a member of the NASG. Membership applications sent to him will be needlessly delayed and possibly lost. If you or your club has any of these old applications, please destroy them immediately and contact Stan Furmanak for a new supply.

- Mike Shea, NASG Treasurer

NASG

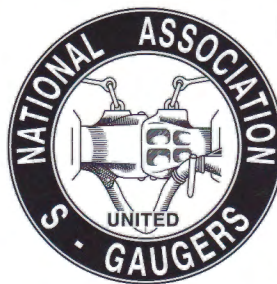
Banner:

The BOT is offering an NASG banner to clubs that are, or wish to be, active in promoting NASG. The banner is 2' x 4' and made of vinyl reinforced with nylon and has grommets for hanging. There are three options for qualifying clubs.

1. A free NASG banner as illustrated.
2. An NASG banner with your club logo on the right side, the NASG logo on the left and the text in between them for a charge of \$25.
3. If your club is getting a new banner or sign made, NASG will pay to have the NASG logo added to it.

To qualify, a club must participate in a reasonable number of train shows/events each year and agree to distribute NASG promotional materials. Promotional materials will be provided by the NASG.

Interested clubs should contact Monte Heppe, our Eastern Vice President, at flheppe@aol.com or 188



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RAIL MAIL

It's the Economy Stupid! We as consumers, as well as hobbyists, realize how tough the economy is now. I know my purchases won't be as hefty as they were four years ago. With the rising cost of fuel, I'm sure the readers are prudent with their purchases as well. Even so, for the sake of the manufacturers and the hobby, attempt to make some purchases. It's a reciprocal thing - they produce products for our enjoyment, and we purchase those for our use or enjoyment. As S gaugers we should attempt to purchase what we can afford for the sake of the hobby and keeping the manufacturers viable.

Besides that, what else can we do in these "lean" times? The guy with the home layout can finish it. Clubs can perk up their modules and display them to attract newcomers. Manufacturers can investigate other scales to see what they might produce in S in the future. It's a good time for clubs to assist new members with projects too - round-robin style. Again, try to support our manufacturers where you can.

- William Mezzano, Addison, IL.

1:64 Modeling Guide Sold: From Richard E. Bendever is this statement: The *1:64 Modeling Guide* has a new owner. Many of you may already know this publication's new owner, and if you do, you know that Bob Nalbene is a dedicated model railroader. Debbie and I will still be around to help Bob out with proofing, editing, and advertising. Bob has honored me by allowing me to continue the "Gasoline Alley" column as long as it draws readers.

If you are a current subscriber, there is no reason to panic. The new owner is honoring existing subscribers. If you are not sure if you are current with your *1:64 MG* subscription, all that you need to do is look at the back of the last *1:64 MG* issue (Volume 9, Issue 6) and the information there will tell you if this is your last issue, if you have 1 or 2 issues left, or the number of the issue in the future that your subscription expires. You can also email a question about your subscription if you can't figure any of this out. The first issue for the new owner will be along shortly in the fall of 2008.

- Sincerely, Richard E. Bendever.

S in Indiana: The Hoosier S Gaugers are pleased to announce the launch of two new S-related endeavors - the inaugural issue of the *HSG Quarterly* newsletter, and the debut of their new website. These creations are available for free to all interested persons with web access.

S Scale is alive and growing in Indiana and the surrounding region. We have received lots of encouragement to better communicate with each other and our friends. These publications should help us achieve our goals of providing increased and consistent communication, while promoting the NASG and all aspects of S scale in Indiana. Of course, your comments and suggestions are always welcome. The newsletter, authored by member Charles Malinowski, can be downloaded from the "Newsletters" page of our site. Please visit us at www.hoosier-s.org.

The Hoosier S Gaugers (HSGs) are a small group of dedicated model railroaders who promote the NASG and all aspects of S scale. There are no officers or dues. Presently, our regular meetings consist of a summer open house and the November S swap meet. Most of the HSGs are members of the Columbus (IN) Area Railroad Club (CARC) which houses a modest sized permanent S scale layout. Additionally, the HSGs have a modular scale layout built to NASG standards and a 4 x 6 foot portable layout to display at local events. Many members also have S modeling projects, layouts and modules under construction.

- Stan Maddox, webmaster HSG.

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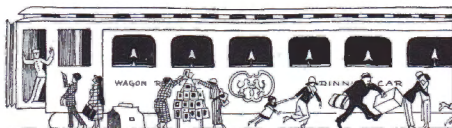


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Jeff's Jct. Cont. from page 5

instead of in big vans or trailers, for example.

Another idea for smaller manufacturers who don't want to travel long distances to S events might be to offer their wares via "ghost tables". That is, they pay for a table or partial table at an event and ship products to be sold by the event sponsor. The event sponsor would then ship unsold items back and work out the finances between them and the vendor. This way the product is available and visible but travel expenses are saved.

Another way to look on the bright side of things is to realize that most of us S modelers are 50 plus and nearing or in retirement. We are going to want to do things in our spare time - so we will find a way to attend, regardless. Maybe we can work in vacations with the events. Here, sponsors should try to build up any tours (rail, non-rail and layouts) that would attract folks. Make the events a "destination" rather than just a buy-sell thing.

Downsizing event locations may be another way to go if necessary to keep things going. There's nothing wrong with a separate sale location if it keeps costs down for everybody.

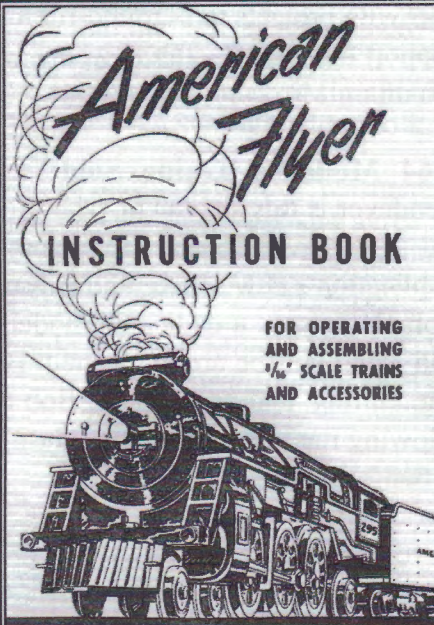
In other words, event sponsors need to be thinking ahead creatively. They need to make their events seem special and try to keep costs down for all. I feel that things will evolve, and we'll adjust to the higher fuel charges. At least I hope so, because I look forward to going to them, seeing my friends, seeing new layouts, going to clinics and buying and selling new and used items.

The new Harley Davidson slogan says it all -- "Screw it. Let's Ride!"

And if the Lowell NASG convention was any test case - I think it passed with over 400 in attendance. Let's keep it up.

On a sad note I'd like to convey sympathies to our Treasurer Mike Shea who recently lost his wife.

- Jeff



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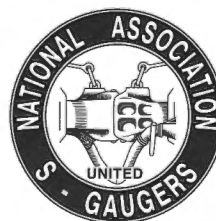
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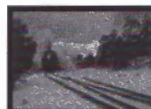


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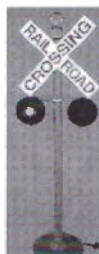
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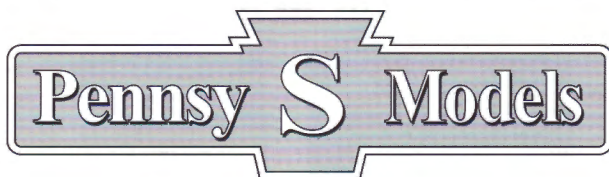
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