

THE DISPATCH

MARCH APRIL

2016



**A VISIT TO DES PLAINES HOBBIES
BUILD A TRACK CLEANING CAR
2016 NASG AF COMMEMORATIVE CAR
CLAYT PETER'S PLUM CREEK RAILROAD**

BILL'S BOILER WASH

The NASG officers and staff have been very busy working to keep the organization on track and improving. One question has been raised and needs to be answered by you, the members. We have had several conventions over the last bunch of years that have been held in venues that have been undergoing renovation or that have been around for a while and are not in the best of condition.



The NASG gets to use them at rates that keep our registration fees low. The question is: are you wanting and willing to pay for better, newer venues for our conventions, or are you satisfied with what you have been getting? The next several years' conventions are pretty much all lined up, so this does not affect them. As we get older, travel becomes more difficult and money can become tight, so the NASG needs to have conventions of great enough value to justify the expense to the member. The NASG needs to know what your priorities are in order to come up with a balance between cost and extravagance. Please contact me, or Convention Chair Dave Blum, or your regional VP with your thoughts.

Speaking of NASG VPs, we are coming up on our nominating season for officers. This begins with the end of this year's convention in Novi, Michigan in August. The offices up for election are the President, Treasurer, and all the regional VPs. One does not have to be nominated by another person; you can nominate yourself. If you have thoughts about getting involved in YOUR association (I can recommend it), becoming a regional VP is as easy and not very demanding position.

The Treasurer is one of the critical positions in the NASG and one must have some time and a little skill to do the job well. The President's job is to herd this group of cats, more a diplomatic position than a skilled position. I have not yet made a decision as to whether or not I would take the job again. I would like to have a bit more time to myself and get my model railroad "finished," but it has been an enjoyable experience working with a BOT that is really trying to make the NASG worthy of your dues. No matter what office you might take on, it is really only as much work and as effective as you make it. No one will be cracking a whip over you, but you will probably be remembered for the kind of job you did. So, think about who you would like to see in these offices and prepare a nomination. Please be sure that you have the person's approval and commitment that he or she is willing to take on the office before you nominate!

We are coming up on our major membership renewal period of May/June. At one time, all memberships expired in June, so there is a lot of carryover from that time. Please check your membership expiration date **NOW** so you don't cause the NASG to spend time and money looking for you later. You can find your date on the envelope mailing label of the Dispatch, on the website if you look yourself up, or you can contact me, your regional VP, Membership Secretary Dick Kramer, or Webmaster Peter Vanvliet for the information.

Along these lines, the new dues rates go into effect April 1st! Old rates still apply until the end of March, but mailed checks need to be postmarked on or before March 31, 2016.

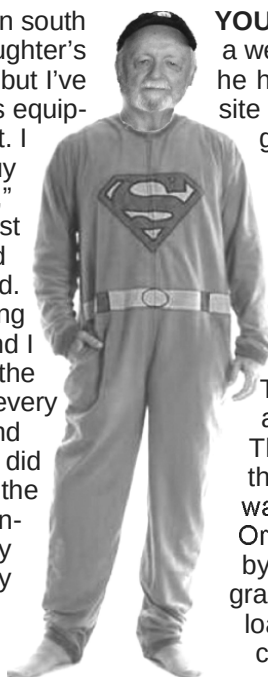
Have fun!

Bill Winans, President, NASG

On The Conductor's Clipboard

So I walk into the Fred Meyer's department store in south Salem, Oregon, looking for a present for my granddaughter's tenth birthday. She actually has an interest in trains, but I've already bought her just about every piece of Thomas equipment available, so I'm looking for something different. I round a corner a little too quickly and bump into a guy in a Superman suit. Embarrassed, I say "excuse me," then even more embarrassed, I realize that I have just said "excuse me" to a mannequin. Since nobody had witnessed my clumsiness, my chagrin was short lived. Looking closer, I realize that the mannequin is wearing a pair of adult size pyjamas. For about a nano-second I considered buying one, my rationale being that with the big red and yellow S on the front that it is just what every S gauger should have. However the \$44 price tag and my thrifty nature quickly stifled that foolish impulse. I did however, take a picture of the mannequin and using the wonders of PhotoShop®, affixed my head to said mannequin so that you all could enjoy a good laugh at my expense. If any of you really want a set of these, they are available on-line from several sources, including Amazon.

Bill Pyper, *Editor*



YOU HAVE TO BE EXACT when typing the address of a web site. Webmaster Peter Vanvliet informed me that he had gotten a complaint from a reader that the web site address for Brooks Stover's Guide to Digital Photography that I had published in the January-February issue of the Dispatch wouldn't work. Turns out that the problem was that the reader had not typed the address accurately. The address of the link is case sensitive and the reader had not capitalized the P and the G in the address. So to save yourself some grief be sure to type in any links or addresses **EXACTLY** as they are published.

The autobiography of **A. C. GILBERT** is available as an e-book. Titled **The Man Who Lives in Paradise**. The native of Salem, Oregon, is famous for inventing the Erector Set and the Gilbert Chemistry Set, but he was best known here for his **American Flyer** trains. Originally published in 1954, the reissue is published by Lucky Penny Publishing, owned by Gilbert's great-granddaughter, Melissa Marsted. To purchase a download of the e-book, go to **luckypennypress.com** and click on **Silver Dollar**. The price is \$9.99.



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MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The Membership Year is determined by the date that one enrolls, guaranteeing 6 issues, starting with the next issue. All applications, renewals and membership questions should be directed to:

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Post Office Box 268
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ADDRESS CHANGES

Should be reported to Dick Kramer at the addresses above.

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Ed Kirstatter *Contributor*
Jim Martin *Contributor*
Peter Vanvliet *Contributor*

DEADLINES for articles and advertising are the first day of January, March, May, July, September and November respectively.

The DISPATCH MANIFEST

Volume 40, Number 2, March-April 2016

COVER Jeff Madden's photo of the Diesel Fueling area on Brian Jackson's scale layout. Brian's layout, near Springfield, Illinois, follows a Southern California Transition Era theme.

BILL'S BOILER WASH

Words of wisdom from President Bill Winans 2

DES PLAINES HOBBIES

Jim Kindraka visits "Mal-function Junction" 4

BUILD A TRACK CLEANER

Joe Kimber's plans for a track cleaning car 6

ATTRACTING NEW PEOPLE TO OUR HOBBY

Executive VP Monte Heppe has some suggestions 7

2016 AF COMMEMORATIVE CAR

Announcing NASG's 2016 AF Commemorative Car 8

BLUE WATER EXPRESS

2016 NASG Convention in Novi, Michigan 9

S PRODUCTS

S Product descriptions 12

THE LAST DETAIL

To add to your freight cars, by Ed Kirstatter 14

PLUM CREEK RAILROAD

Jim Martin visits Clayt Peter's excellent scale layout 15

NASG WEB SITE AND AMERICAN FLYER

Webmaster Peter Vanvliet explains the AF Product Gallery . 19

MAKE A LIGHTWEIGHT MODULE

Get Your Weight Down, by Don Hand 20

EXTRA BOARD and CLASSIFIED ADS 22

FALL S FEST and 2015 TRAINFEST

Jeff Madden reports on two great train shows 23

CALENDAR of EVENTS 27

COMPANY STORE 28

COMMEMORATIVE CARS 29

NASG Web Site

<http://www.nasg.org>

NASG Website Director, Peter Vanvliet: webmaster@nasg.org

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== VISIT DES PLAINES HOBBIES ==

By Jim Kindraka, Photos by the author

Welcome to mal-function junction!

The friendly booming voice from behind the rear counter greets everyone; always with a smile. It's **Ron Sebastian** and this is **Des Plaines Hobbies**, a spacious 3900 square foot, full service model railroad oriented hobby shop in Des Plaines, Illinois, northwest of Chicago and literally just minutes from O'Hare International Airport.



Ron and his wife Susan grew up in Des Plaines. Ron's father was in commercial real estate and Ron can still point out the building that housed his father's office and a hobby shop on the main street. That street remains the frontage highway on the former C&NW; still a busy METRA commuter line. After stints flying helicopters for Uncle Sam and working as an investigator for the NTSB, Ron and Susan opened their first hobby shop in 1983. They are now in their fourth location, all in Des Plaines. The current store is in the Oak Leaf Commons shopping center at 1524 Lee Street, below.



It is obvious to anyone walking through the store that, in a predominantly HO world, Des Plaines Hobbies, has developed a comfortable niche in the S Scale community. Starting with the **American Models** line, they have been dealers for $\frac{3}{16}$ ths scale products since first opening. The shop also functions as a **Lionel service station** for the new Legacy systems and supports heritage Lionel equipment with sales and repairs. S products from Lionel and **MTH** are in stock and the store keeps two full-time employees busy performing **DCC installations** and repair work, including Lionel authorized factory repairs.

What makes Des Plaines Hobbies (DPH) so unique is that Ron is a manufacturer as well as a dealer. DPH began making S scale decals for the 48-foot containers then sold by Larry Jackman, the original owner of **S Scale America**. DPH also sold and eventually purchased the **Microscale** line of S Scale decals. From decals, DPH moved to selling stack cars and several sizes of stack car containers under the Des Plaines Hobbies name. In 1993, DPH acquired the entire S Scale America (SSA) line of freight cars and detail parts, taking the former SSA 10,000 gallon UTLX tank cars from kits to ready to run products. The Des Plaines' SSA line has continued to grow through the acquisition of the former **Pacific Rail Shops** (PRS) business and the subsequent addition of brand new items. S Scale America includes a wide variety of modern era rolling stock, likely the largest contemporary product line in S scale. The FMC Center-Flow 3-bay covered hopper car; Gunderson Husky Stackwell container car, with accompanying 40, 48 and 53 foot containers, and Johnstown American Bethgon 100-Ton Coal Porter are all in the SSA line and available at the store.

Des Plaines Hobbies more contemporary product line includes 50 foot Evans Double Plug Door box cars, modern PS-1 fifty foot box cars, the FMC 5283 50 foot double door and the FMC 5347 50 foot single door box car, both exterior post designs. Other S Scale manufactured and stocked by DPH include the H39 design 70-ton 4-bay hopper car, a line Ron rescued from the late John Craft; USRA gondolas, R40-23 steel reefers and the AAR 10' and 10' 6" inside height single and double door 40' box cars. The latter have been offered in several ready-to-run prototype road names and more have been hinted at for 2016.



Above: This is the pilot model for the **Alco RS-1**, the latest new product from Des Plaines Hobbies and S Scale America. The RS-1 will come as a brass kit with parts like the hood and side sills pre-formed for the modeler.

OR MALFUNCTION JUNCTION

In the last few years, under the SSA brand name, Ron released newly tooled flat kits for the **Pennsylvania Railroad X-29** box car and the **Pullman 1915** single sheath, 36-foot box car; sometimes referred to by modelers as the **Fowler Car**, pictured on the right. Tooling is already complete for a new S Scale car, the **PRR H-30** covered hopper, though DPH has not stated a release date. Des Plaines Hobbies also owns the **Oregon Rail Supply** line of S Scale signal heads and the **Mullet River** S Scale wood caboose body kits and detail parts.



DPH has made special limited runs of unique paint schemes to augment S scale's growing diversity. Examples were 40-foot **Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad** box cars with a Viking Roof, lettered "*Buy War Bonds*" and **C&EI** orange 40-foot express box cars: in-stock, ready to run with five different prototype slogan paint schemes. Many of the SSA freight cars are provided with hi-rail wheel sets installed and scale wheels included in the packaging for buyers who wish to convert.

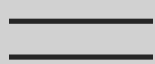
The hobby shop's S Scale detail parts line is continuously expanding including **hood conversion kits** for GP7 and GP20 diesels along with the previously mentioned decal line. Add to that the store's full inventory of 3/16ths scale structures; scale and hi-rail track; and an extensive array of locomotive detail parts and you realize anyone making a trip to Des Plaines Hobbies will seldom come away without a bag full of goodies!

Below left: The shop has a large selection of current and vintage railroad books. **Below right:** Display of Lionel/American Flyer rolling stock and other S products.

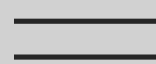


Ron routinely holds court at the store's rear counter, happy to answer questions and talk about model railroading with novice and veteran modelers alike. Many times discussions at that counter involve other customers passing along important bits of history and modeling techniques to the *newbies* among us. Ron's encyclopedic knowledge of the store and his connections throughout the industry make for lively conversations. Hardly anyone ever leaves the store without learning something! Ron likes to say that "he has the best job in the world."

Des Plaines Hobbies continues its long tradition of providing friendly service, passing along knowledge and contributing high value products and services for the growth of the S Scale model railroad market. When your travels take you to Chicago be sure to stop by, or you can see their products at major S scale shows, the **NMRA National Train Show** and several other major model railroad shows nationwide; or visit them online at: <http://www.desplainseshobbies.com>



BUILD A TRACK CLEANER



By Joe Kimber, South Jersey S Gaugers

Many years ago, when I modeled in HO scale I built a track cleaning car from an article in one of the popular train magazines. It was simply constructed from a boxcar, brass sheet and threaded studs with cotter pins. The cleaning pad was a piece of 1/8" thick hardboard, masonite or equal. The car ran continuously and did a great job of keeping the track clean. I built several of these cars for my S gauge layout.

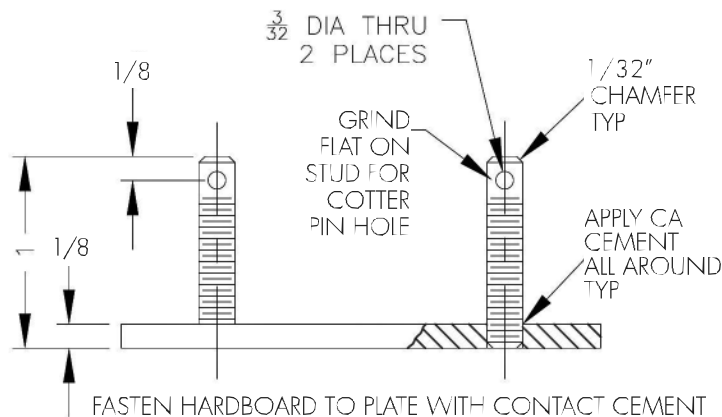
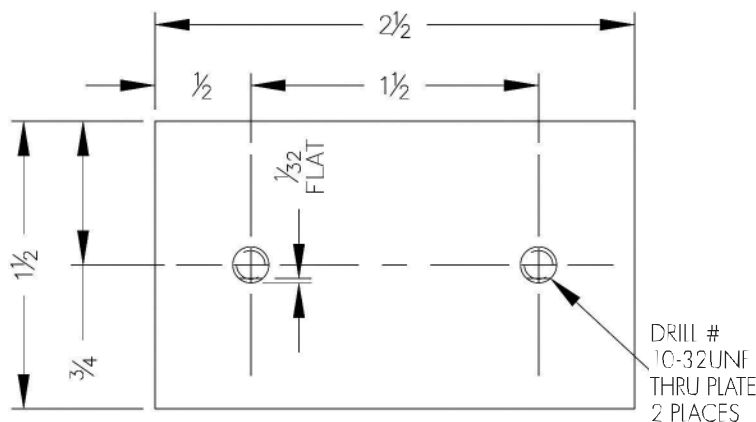
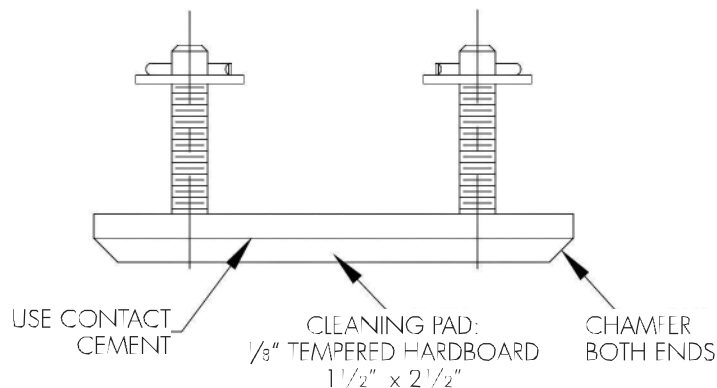
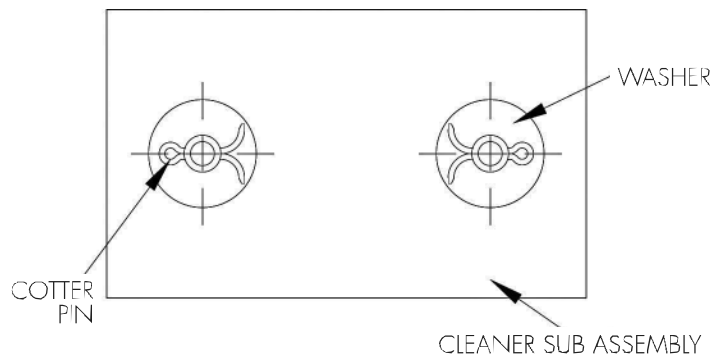
It was necessary to make the cleaning assembly larger for S gauge. The drawings show the dimensions I used and I have found this size works very well. If you have small radius curves it may be necessary to increase the width of the pad to prevent the corners from falling below the rails on the curves.



Photo by Judy Kimber

Begin with a strip of 1 1/2" wide x 1/8" thick steel strip (brass strip 1/8" X 1 1/2" is difficult to find). Cut a 2 1/2" length and file off any burrs and rough edges. Layout the two threaded stud holes and drill using a #21 drill. Tap these holes with a #10-32UNF tap. (The UNF means "unified national fine" threads.) Clean up the edges of the tapped holes by slightly countersinking them to remove the sharp edges and facilitate inserting the studs. If you plan to use locknuts no additional machining is necessary. If you wish to use cotter pins (I have versions of both types). Using a motor tool or grinder, grind a small flat, removing the threads where you will drill the holes. This makes drilling the cotter pin holes much easier. Now thread the studs into the tapped holes in the plate until they are just below the bottom surface, apply CA cement to the threads on both sides (see drawing) and set the assembly aside to dry. Cut a piece of 1/8" thick tempered hardboard 1 1/2" wide x 2 1/2" long. When the plate assembly has completely cured, adhere the hardboard to the bottom of the assembly with contact cement. Using contact cement allows you to remove and replace the hardboard when it is worn or very dirty. After the hardboard has been fastened to the plate, sand or file a chamfer on both leading and trailing edges. This prevents the cleaner from catching or snagging on uneven track. Now the cleaning assembly can be painted flat black. Place it on a flat surface and spray all around. This reduces the visibility considerably when the cleaner is installed under a boxcar.

Drill two holes in the boxcar floor with centers to match the studs in the cleaning assembly. I used an American Models boxcar with the metal weight under the floor. This requires a sharp metal cutting drill. Center these holes on the floor. Push the studs on the cleaning assembly up through the floor and retain the cleaner with locknuts or cotter pins and washers. When the boxcar is placed on the track, the cleaner will remain in contact with the rails and begin removing dirt as you run the train. This type of track cleaning car works especially well on layouts with difficult to reach track.



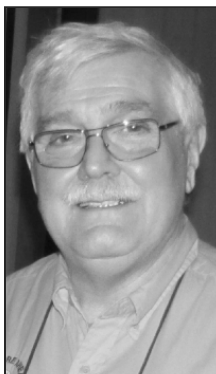
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Attracting New People to our Hobby and Organizations

By Monte Heppe

NASG Executive Vice President

Something we have all wondered about is how to get more people into our hobby. This is something our **Promotions Committee** has been working on diligently. At numerous events they have talked to hundreds of individuals about the joys and benefit of our hobby, and S scale in particular. It is difficult to measure their results because first you have to get people interested in the hobby, steer them towards S scale and only after they are actually working in S can you recruit them for NASG. To get them into S and then NASG requires face-to-face contact at the local level. It would be great if Promotions could refer interested individuals to a club or member in their area. The Promotions Committee has updated the S Club list with current contacts. If they refer individuals to your club, please do your best to help them.



An ongoing problem for many clubs is getting new members. The following are a number of ideas used by various clubs that other clubs might consider. The first thing is to become visible in your community. Some clubs, as well as being a model railroad club, act like a service club. Consider participating in non-profit and charitable organization activities, offering to help and bringing a portable layout to display. Telephone and electric cooperatives throughout the country are always looking for attractions for their annual membership meetings.

If your club is in an area that attracts retirees, many of them are looking for a new hobby or a way to continue their model railroad hobby. Many local organizations are always looking for program speakers. My local club has developed an **Introduction to Model Railroading** that we take to these events, along with a portable layout. We have also developed a number of talks on specific areas of modeling.

Working with the **Boy Scouts** is a great way to improve your club's visibility in the community. My club has developed a program to assist Boy Scouts in earning the **Railroad Merit Badge**. We have presented this to a number of Scout Troops both in our local area and adjoining areas that are served by Model Railroad Clubs that apparently are not interested in helping the Scouts. We also participate with the **Scouts Annual Investment in Leadership Breakfasts** and last year co-sponsored the event, which raised \$10,000 for Scouting. As these events are usually attended by community leaders and others involved in various community activities, our participation has increased our recognition within the community and gained us a number of new club members.



Railroading Merit Badge

If you become well known in your area through your participation in community activities, you will be viewed as an asset to the community and attract members.

Next time, I'll consider the issue of attracting new members to the NASG.

Russell M. Mobley Memorial Library Magazine Resources

3/16 "S"cale Railroading

Essense - the NMRA "S" SIG newsletter, 1985-1988

Mainline Modeler 1980 - 1997

Model Railroader 1937 - 1961

NASG Dispatch • S Gauge Herald

S Gaugian • S/Sn3 Modeling Guide

Sn3 Modeler

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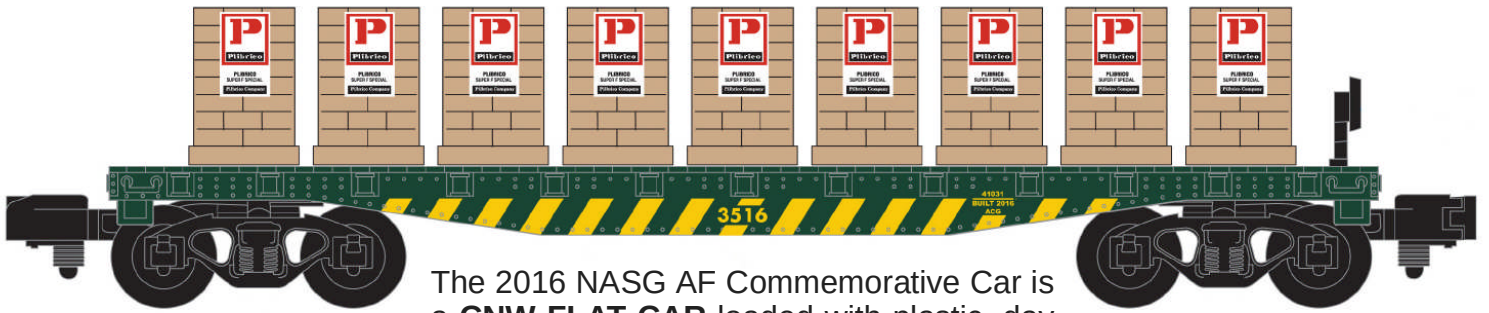
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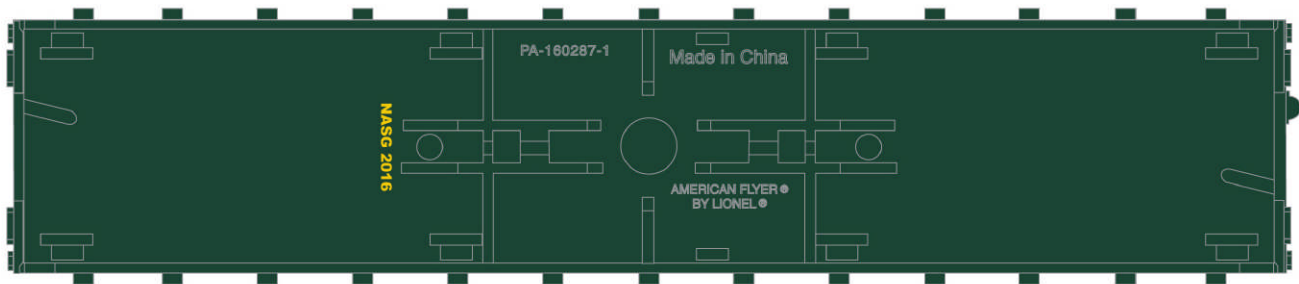
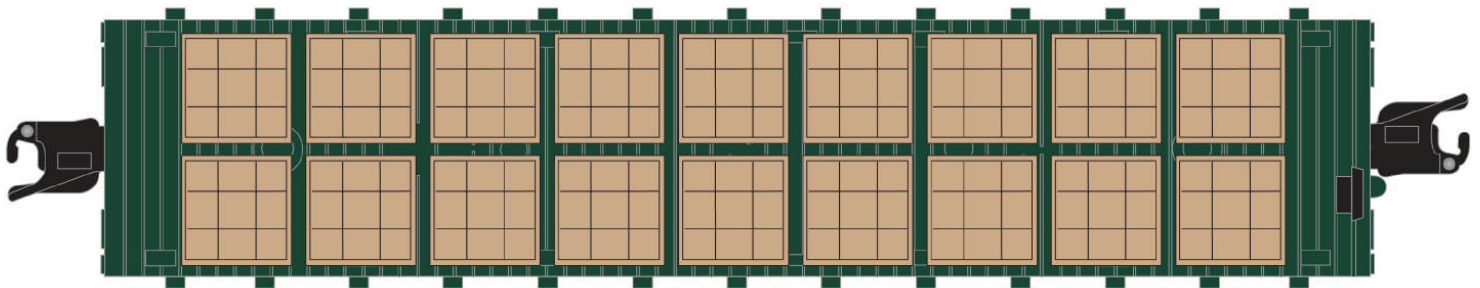
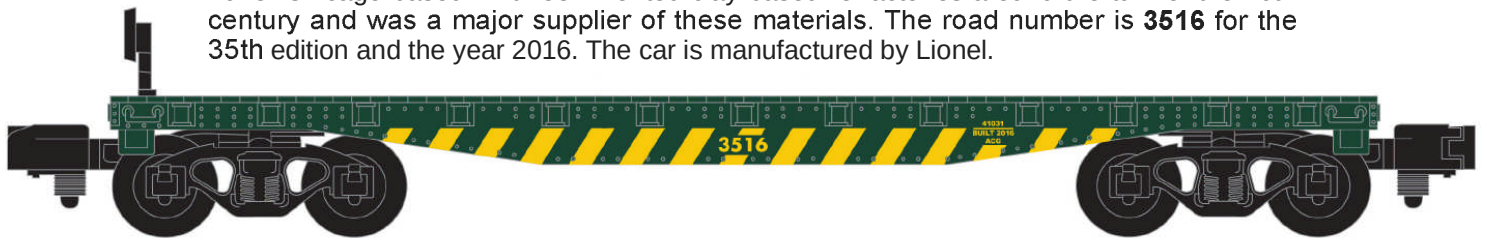
Member TCA and NASG



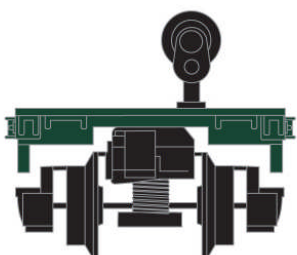
=2016 AF COMMEMORATIVE CAR=



The 2016 NASG AF Commemorative Car is a **CNW FLAT CAR** loaded with plastic, day bonded, refractories, headed for a steel mill for the relining of the soaking pits, or some other industrial use. Soaking pits were used by steel mills from the 1920s to 1975. Chicago based **Plibrico** invented clay based refractories around the turn of the 20th century and was a major supplier of these materials. The road number is **3516** for the 35th edition and the year 2016. The car is manufactured by Lionel.

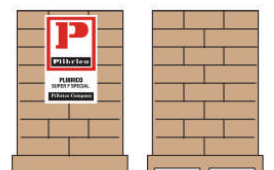


This is an official NASG sponsored project and you must be an active member to purchase a car.



Each year since 1981 the NASG contracts with American Flyer/Lionel to produce a limited run locomotive or car for the collector or American Flyer operator. The price for this car, including 18 pallets, is **\$79** which includes shipping in the US. Extra pallets can be bought for \$10 for 4, decorated or undecorated. Coordinator for this project is **Dave Blum**. He can be contacted at pikesvillemodels@yahoo.com

These cars can be ordered by mail or online. Go to page 29 of this issue for ordering instructions. Delivery will be in late November 2016.



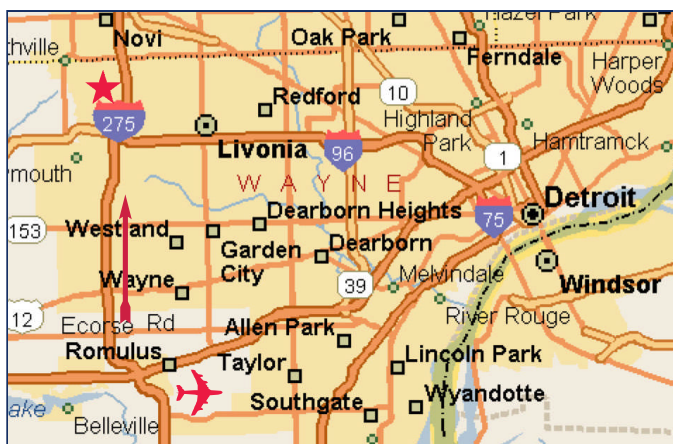
NASG 2016 CONVENTION

The **Southeastern Michigan S Gaugers** invite you to join them for the **2016 NASG National Convention**, Wednesday, August 10th through Sunday, August 14th. This year's convention will be held in Novi, Michigan, about 25 miles northwest of Detroit. Enjoy S Scale and Hi-Rail railroading at its finest. There will be over 9,000 square feet of dealer tables, Home and Club Layout Tours, more than ten clinics, Spouse's activities, Operating sessions, tours of nearby attractions (see page 10) and much, much more. This year's convention has been named the **Blue Water Express** because Michigan is called the "Blue Water State" by virtue of it being surrounded by Great Lakes.



THE CONVENTION HOTEL is the **NOVI SHERATON**, at 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, Michigan 48375. Check in and registration starts Tuesday evening, August 9th. Special convention hotel rates extend through Tuesday, August 16th. For reservations by phone contact John Frost at (248) 349-4897 and ask for the 2016 NASG Convention Rate. Or you can book your reservation online at www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/smsg

REGISTRATION: The 2016 NASG Convention registration form is included in this issue of the Dispatch. It is also available as an interactive form at www.smsgtrains.org/2016conv The mailing address for registration is on the form. The **deadline for early registration is May 31, 2016**



DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL:

From Detroit Metropolitan Airport take I-275 north to Novi. Take exit 167 at 8-mile Road. Turn left onto 8-mile Road and then a quick right onto Haggerty Road.

If you are arriving on Amtrak at the Detroit Amtrak station take Woodward Avenue southeast to I-94. Take I-94 southwest to I-96. Take I-96 west to I-275. Then take I-275 north to exit 167 at 8-mile road.



THIS YEAR THERE IS NOT ONE, BUT TWO CONVENTION CARS!



DETROIT & MACKINAC

Boxcar, made by American Models. Available with Hi-Rail or Scale wheels, in two road numbers 2843 or 2844. Priced at \$55 each. Order form can be found printed on the back of the Convention Registration Form or on the Convention web site www.smsgtrains.org/2016conv



MICHIGAN ALKALI CO.

Tank car, made by American Models. Available with Hi-Rail or Scale wheels, in two road numbers. \$49 each. Order form can be found on the back of the Convention Registration Form or on the Convention web site www.smsgtrains.org/2016conv

Turn the page for information on the tours

NASG 2016 CONVENTION

Convention Tour List

For the 2016 NASG National Convention

Sponsored by the Southern Michigan S Gaugers

Following is a description of organized tours offered by the "Blue Water Express" 2016 NASG National Convention.

For information, timing and costs for these events please visit

www.smsgtrains.org/2016conv



Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Henry Ford Museum with extra fare Rouge Plant tour

This full-day tour permits you to explore extensive collections including presidential vehicles, airplanes, American furniture from the 1670's to the present, manufacturing development, and agricultural equipment. The railroad collection ranges from early British developments through steam power, including a 600-ton Allegheny steam locomotive. You may also elect (at additional cost) to take the Rouge factory tour where the Ford F-150 is made, and in its theaters learn the history of this complex and explore the manufacturing experience. Lunch is on your own at any of the restaurants in the Museum.

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 — am and pm

Railroading 101 at the Norfolk Southern Training Center

During your 2½ hour "basic training" at this dispatching and training facility, you will view the regional Norfolk-Southern dispatch center and gain hands-on experience at a locomotive simulator. You will learn signal basics and significance, railroad signage and dispatching requirements. Choose either the morning or afternoon tour. Each of the tours is limited to 20 individuals. **Pre-registration is required for security reasons.**

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Greenfield Village (with added exclusive tours)

Beginning in 1929, Henry Ford gathered examples of 300 years of American life in his Greenfield Village. In this full-day visit, view working farms, home life across America, craftworks in glass and pottery, small town shops, and tour the working roundhouse where the steam engines and equipment of the village railroad are maintained. In addition, behind-the-scenes tours may include the Model T repair garage where the feet is serviced. Extra-fare passes may be purchased to ride the vintage train, horse-drawn carriages, 1931 Model A bus, and Model T autos (some vehicles are more than 100 years old). Lunch is on your own in the Village.



Thursday, August 11, 2016

Selfridge Air Museum/Stahl's Auto Museum/Great Union Northern RR This full-day tour visits the Selfridge Air Museum, where more than 30 military airplanes are on display outside in the air park. Some of the planes are open to visitors. Inside the museum you will see pilot trainers and other simulators, together with many historical items and memorabilia. After an on-your-own lunch stop, the tour will continue at **Stahl's Automotive Museum** where you may wander through the display of nearly 100 classic cars, many of them prize-winning vehicles. A separate exhibit allows you to view and hear large mechanical musical instruments as well as a full-sized theater organ. Small groups may also elect to travel from Stahl's to the nearby **Great Union Northern & Iron Range**, where visitors will see a fully — operating multi-deck HO model railroad with 175-car ore trains, using pushers to go from mine to ore dock. **Pre-registration is required for this tour due to security restrictions at Selfridge.**



Friday, August 12, 2016

Frankenmuth, Michigan's Little Bavaria

On this full-day tour, you will visit Michigan's "Little Bavaria," with stops at nationally-known Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, lunch on your own at Zhender's, the Bavarian Inn, the Frankenmuth Brewery or any one of many restaurants. A trip down the river on the Bavarian Belle steamboat, and time for shopping and sightseeing.

Friday, August 12, 2016 — Home Layout Tours

This 5-6 hour tour visits the home layouts of SMSG members Jan Burdzinski, Dave Campbell, Bob Stelmach and Brooks Stover. Each of these fully-scenicked operating layouts displays some of the finest and highest quality modeling. An on-your-own lunch stop will be provided. This tour will enable visitors to travel in small groups (a maximum of 15 individuals) and spend about 30 minutes at each tour stop.

S GAUGERS IN ACTION

2016 O SCALE WEST & S WEST 11

Held in February in previous years, this show, billed as the **Largest S scale show west of the Mississippi**, will now be running from **May 5th through 7th, 2016**. There will be S standard and narrow gauge dealers, clinics, videos and a model contest. The **Bay Area S Gaugers** club will have their modular layout up and running. Bring your equipment to run on the layout. Equipment must meet NASG standards.

This convention will be at the **Hyatt Regency Santa Clara**, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, California 95054. For reservations call 800-233-1234. The hotel switchboard is 408-200-1234 and the hotel fax number is 408-980-3939.

Admission is \$35 for registrations postmarked by March 31, 2016 or \$40 at the door. Registration fee includes spouse and all children under the age of 18. Saturday only \$20.

Table rentals are \$45 per table if registration is postmarked by March 31, 2016 or \$50 after March 31, 2016. Electrical hook up is free.

Additional information and registration forms are available at: <http://www.oscalewest.com>

For any additional questions, please contact John Gibson at gibson@myfam.com or 916-580-5444.

STATE LINE S GAUGERS TURN 35



The **State-Line S Gaugers** celebrated the 35th anniversary of the club founding with a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, 2015, with members and families attending. Vera Geerts Flood organized the celebration. Dave Tanner and Andy Geerts were the only two charter members who were able to attend. A delightful family-style dinner was served followed by our Anniversary cake. Dave Tanner shared his views of the club's beginnings and success. Vera, club historian, gave some history of the club from her historical records. The group enjoyed the annual Christmas gift exchange.

The **State-Line S Gaugers** club is open to all S Gaugers whatever their interest: collecting and/or operating American Flyer, S scale, Sn3 or just an armchair interest. In addition to the annual exhibits the club holds an annual family picnic. We can be found at www.state-line-s-gaugers.org

Reported by Vera Flood



Product Review

By Dave Campbell, Southeastern Michigan S Gaugers

In the November-December 2015 issue of the Dispatch, Bill Winans wrote a great product review of the new Lionel American Flyer Polar Express. True, it is a very nice train to display under your Christmas tree, but you don't have to put it back in the box after the Holidays.

I run the train with the five cars as an excursion on my hi-rail Fourville Branch Line. The layout is Legacy/TMCC running on 18 volts. Without any modifications, the Polar Express runs extremely well on my layout and is excellent at very slow speeds. The only drawback is that the train will not run with the Legacy or Cab 1 controllers but requires the original remote controller included with the set.

My friend Bob Stelmach also purchased a set and can run it with no problem on his beautiful Red Pine & Oxville RR. He uses code 137 track for his mainline with 17 volts DCC.

Either way, no matter what your layout, if you have fixed 17-18 volts, you can run this train by just setting it on the track. Not bad for around \$300.00.

As a shameless plug, both Bob's and my layouts will be featured on the layout tour for the 2016 NASG Convention.

A. C. Gilbert's

American Flyer Trains

Bob Iannacone

615-371-0948

cell: 615-429-8292

biannaco@bellsouth.net

www.americanflyertrains4u.com



monster modelworks

will custom inscribe anything you want on the cornice (up to 25 characters) of their new three story Store Front Starter kit. It comes with an English Bond brick that is only available on this kit. Plus updated building techniques and 3D printed parts.

This three-story Storefront structure fits anywhere on your layout because you custom fit it to your needs. Create the business that you need. You customize the text on the Cornice.

The kit includes:

- 3D laser engraved English Bond brick walls.
- Brick corner pieces.
- 3D laser engraved brick overlays.
- Lasercut peel and stick awning kit.
- Lasercut concrete coping.
- Decorative concrete lintels and cornice
- Custom cornice inscription.
- Lasercut peel and stick windows and rear door.
- 3D printed roof top vent.

S scale dimensions:

4.35" wide x 5.95" deep x 7.34" high

MSRP \$89⁹⁹

www.monstermodelworks.com



Pre-Size Model Specialties

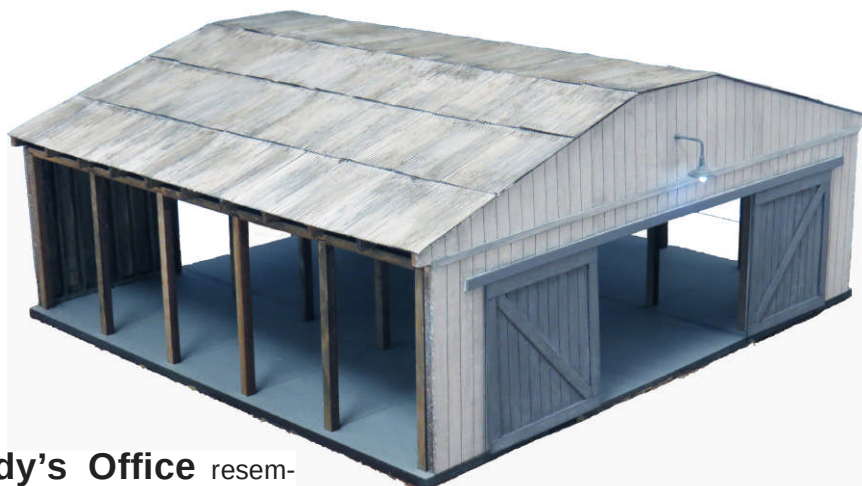
announces a new tunnel portal for S gauge double track. This is their second double portal and has a wider 7¹/₈" opening to allow for curved tracks.

It is in the **broken face granite block** series along with single portals, bridge piers, abutments and retaining walls. The price is \$34⁵⁰.

Check out all of their S scale cast resin scenery products on their web site at www.presize.com Free shipping on all orders of \$25 and more.

Woody's Lumber Yard is typical of many privately owned lumber yards that existed in the US up until the late 1970's. The Warehouse has open sides to provide customers with an easy access to the lumber. There are large sliding double doors at each end to allow the lumber inventory to be replenished when delivered from an adjacent rail line. There is also lighting over each door to allow for late evening work. The roof is corrugated metal. When assembled, **Woody's Warehouse** measures 8" wide x 7³/₈" deep x 3⁵/₈" high.

Introductory price \$62⁰⁰



Woody's Sign is a 3 dimensional, lighted billboard that acts as a beacon to mark the location of Woody's Lumber Yard. The kit includes a custom lighting module that has six bright LEDs to attract customers. **Woody's** name is engraved with a wood grain and is mounted on a acrylic backing to allow the LEDs to also light up the word **Lumber**. When assembled, the sign measures 2³/₄" wide x 1" deep (at the raised lettering) x 1³/₈" high.

Introductory price \$19⁰⁰

Woody's Office resembles many small field office buildings. Its primary function is as a shelter for customers to order materials or equipment and to make payments. The office kit can be built as a stand-alone facility or it can be built to become part of the Warehouse. The kit includes Grandt Line windows and doors as well as glazing. Like the warehouse, the office also has a metal corrugated roof. The Office footprint is 3¹/₂" wide x 3¹/₂" deep x 2⁷/₈" high.

Introductory price \$25⁰⁰



All three kits can be purchased separately or you can buy **all three for \$96⁰⁰**. Easy to follow step-by-step instructions are provided on a CD with each kit.

To view additional images of **Woody's Lumber Yard** and download a copy of the assembly documentation, visit www.eastwestrailservice.com

East West Rail Service 513-382-5136



MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS IS OFFERING LIGHTED BILLBOARDS FOR \$34⁹⁵

This Rail King product is constructed of intricately detailed ABS. It comes fully assembled with operating lights and can be self-standing or mounted on a building

Although this product is offered as an O gauge accessory, it's dimensions are ideal for use on an S gauge layout. It's footprint is 7¹/₂" wide x 5³/₄" deep x 6" high. The face of the billboard is about 5¹/₂" accross, which is about 26¹/₂ feet in S scale. A standard billboard of this style measures 28 feet. They are available for numerous different products.

more information at www.mthtrains.com

The Last Detail to add to your freight cars By Edwin C. Kirstatter, Northern Ohio S Scalers

If you are modeling the 1950s or up until the railroads went away from paper waybills to the computer bar code tracking of cars you may want to add a **car tag** to every one of your freight cars.

Back in those days the train's conductor carried with him the waybills for every car in his freight train to its destination. At that point the yard clerk took them and made up a wheel report, then a card to place on the arriving cars and filed the waybills. Each railroad had its own type and size of cards. He then hoofed it out to find the cars with his tack hammer, blue tacks and these destination cards to be placed upon each car for the switching crews to see. And he had to keep track of where these cars were in his yard.



On your model pike you can do the same thing, but abbreviated, just cut a small piece of cardstock to be cemented on each model on the tack board if they have one. If there is no tack board, you can make one about 6"x 10" from plastic, wood or metal about one scale inch thick to be attached on both sides and paint it the color of your car.

If the car is a composite car or wood reefer you may just tack this card to the wood near the car number. I put them on both sides of my models the yard clerks only placed one.

Another last minute detail to add to your boxcar models will be the placards that the shippers put on to the boards on the doors and the ends. All of your models have these boards.

These printed cards may be gotten from Building Paper's as advertised in the Dispatch. They have many varieties of these signs printed on a thin white cardstock that you need to cut out to fit on your placard boards and cement there. They come with many messages, ie; Do Not Hump, Unload This Side, Newsprint Handle Carefully, a total of 19 different ones in S scale. Do we need to add; Grain Doors Inside? The AAR Rule 36 calls for these to be 12" x 12" but some of these will be larger in the trimmed size. No advertising was allowed here!

Below: Wooden boxcar photographed in San Luis Obispo, California in the 1960s with two boards on its door.



Above: Placards can be on the doors and on the ends of box cars. The placard is on the top board and the Car Tag is on the bottom board.

Below: The Car Tag is tacked onto a board on the frame of an American Models detailed hopper car.



Placards below can be copied and used on S scale cars.

FREIGHT CAR PLACARDS							
UNLOAD OTHER SIDE	UNLOAD OTHER SIDE	UNLOAD OTHER SIDE	UNLOAD OTHER SIDE	NEWSPRINT HANDLE CAREFULLY	NEWSPRINT HANDLE CAREFULLY	NEWSPRINT HANDLE CAREFULLY	NEWSPRINT HANDLE CAREFULLY
UNLOAD THIS SIDE	UNLOAD THIS SIDE	UNLOAD THIS SIDE	UNLOAD THIS SIDE	PAPER HANDLE CAREFULLY	PAPER HANDLE CAREFULLY	PAPER HANDLE CAREFULLY	PAPER HANDLE CAREFULLY
DO NOT HUMP	DO NOT HUMP	DO NOT HUMP	DO NOT HUMP	APPLIANCES HANDLE CAREFULLY	APPLIANCES HANDLE CAREFULLY	APPLIANCES HANDLE CAREFULLY	APPLIANCES HANDLE CAREFULLY
GLASS DO NOT HUMP	GLASS DO NOT HUMP	GLASS DO NOT HUMP	GLASS DO NOT HUMP	CAREFUL AUTO PARTS	CAREFUL AUTO PARTS	CAREFUL AUTO PARTS	CAREFUL AUTO PARTS
FRAGILE AUTOMOTIVE GLASS	FRAGILE AUTOMOTIVE GLASS	FRAGILE AUTOMOTIVE GLASS	FRAGILE AUTOMOTIVE GLASS	CAREFUL CANNED GOODS	CAREFUL CANNED GOODS	CAREFUL CANNED GOODS	CAREFUL CANNED GOODS
DANGEROUS KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	DANGEROUS KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	DANGEROUS KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	DANGEROUS KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	EXPLOSIVES KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	EXPLOSIVES KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	EXPLOSIVES KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY	EXPLOSIVES KEEP FIRES AND LIGHTS AWAY
FRAGILE GLASS CONTAINERS	FRAGILE GLASS CONTAINERS	FRAGILE GLASS CONTAINERS	FRAGILE GLASS CONTAINERS	FRAGILE CLAY PIPE	FRAGILE CLAY PIPE	FRAGILE CLAY PIPE	FRAGILE CLAY PIPE
FURNITURE HANDLE CAREFULLY	FURNITURE HANDLE CAREFULLY	FURNITURE HANDLE CAREFULLY	FURNITURE HANDLE CAREFULLY	CAREFUL DELICATE MACHINERY	CAREFUL DELICATE MACHINERY	CAREFUL DELICATE MACHINERY	CAREFUL DELICATE MACHINERY
HIGH AND WIDE	HIGH AND WIDE	HIGH AND WIDE	HIGH AND WIDE	HOME SHOP FOR REPAIRS DO NOT LOAD	HOME SHOP FOR REPAIRS DO NOT LOAD	HOME SHOP FOR REPAIRS DO NOT LOAD	HOME SHOP FOR REPAIRS DO NOT LOAD
RULE 1 DO NOT LOAD HOME FOR REPAIRS	RULE 1 DO NOT LOAD HOME FOR REPAIRS	RULE 1 DO NOT LOAD HOME FOR REPAIRS	RULE 1 DO NOT LOAD HOME FOR REPAIRS				

S SCALE

THE PLUM CREEK RAILROAD

By Jim Martin, S Scale Workshop
Layout Drawing by Joe Kimber
Photos by Jim Martin

First Impressions: Although it's still a work in progress, **Clayt Peter's Plum Creek Railroad** is a fine example of the kind of clean craftsmanship that puts this author, and I'm sure many others of us to shame. While the unfinished parts of our layouts collect tools and other detritus, Clayt's is a study of neatness.



Jim Martin

Mind you his 14 by 28 foot layout room is in a finished and carpeted area next to the basement family room so I'm sure there must be some self-imposed and external pressures at work. Nevertheless the neutral color of his Homosote layout base blends nicely with the scenic areas, so the overall effect when one enters the room is of a finished layout. Backdrops, layout skirting and valenced lighting add the finishing touches.

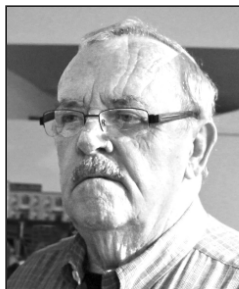
Beginnings: Clayt's interest in the hobby goes back to his teens and an American Flyer train set. From there he went to HO before landing back in the world of 1:64. He confesses to some large time breaks to pursue an education and girls, as well as mucking about with vintage Oldsmobiles, but now the hobby gets his full attention. Clayt was also one of the founding members of the **S Scale Workshop** back in the 1990s.

The Concept: Clayt's creation is a busy shortline serving industries beyond the reach or interest of the big railroads. He justifies any foreign motive power as leased. The name Plum Creek goes back to his HO layout which had a creek running through the center. He called it Plum Creek after his favorite color. Thus much of his diesel power, passenger and freight equipment is done up in a plum colored livery.



The Journey: We start at the busy engine terminal (above) where locos are serviced and turned between runs. The real estate here is tight but Clayt makes efficient use of the space, fitting a turntable and 3-stall roundhouse, a diesel shop, fuel depot, coaling tower, water tank and ash pit. The adjacent classification yard has its own switching lead, so between that and the locomotive servicing, there is lots of opportunity for intensive operation. Further along, the scene becomes more rural as we venture past Kay Tower and Kay station.

We then swing to the left over a bridged doorway onto what will be a separate area. The focal part here is the large mine, a Lehigh Valley kit expertly constructed by Clayt. It is here that the track starts to meander in true branchline fashion.



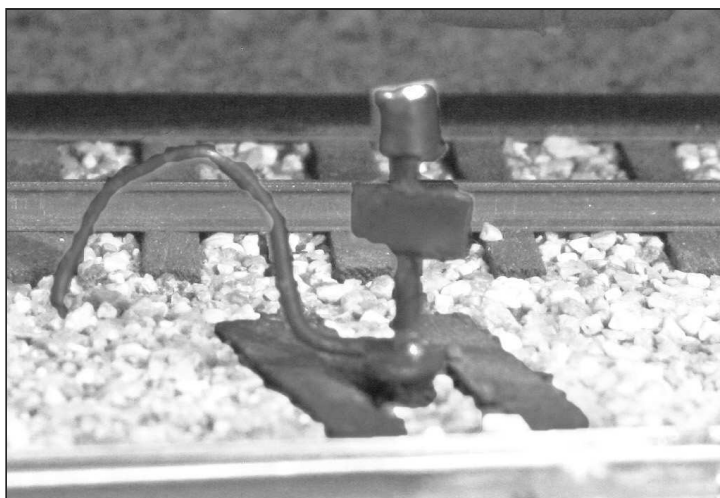
Clayt Peter

Heading across another door opening we emerge at Brady a busy and prosperous area with many imposing trackside industries. The first we pass is a large trucking terminal, a nod to Clayt's working years rolling big rigs down the highway. Clayt jokes that he used to drive trains . . . tractor trains that is. Again the track picks its way through the large structures which form an interesting visual canyon.

The final leg of the journey will be through Atwood and another swing to the left onto an area that, although the benchwork is in place, has yet to be started.

It is from here the track will loop back toward Kay Junction. Clayt currently runs his layout as a point-to-point operation but the loop will allow continuous running when wanted.

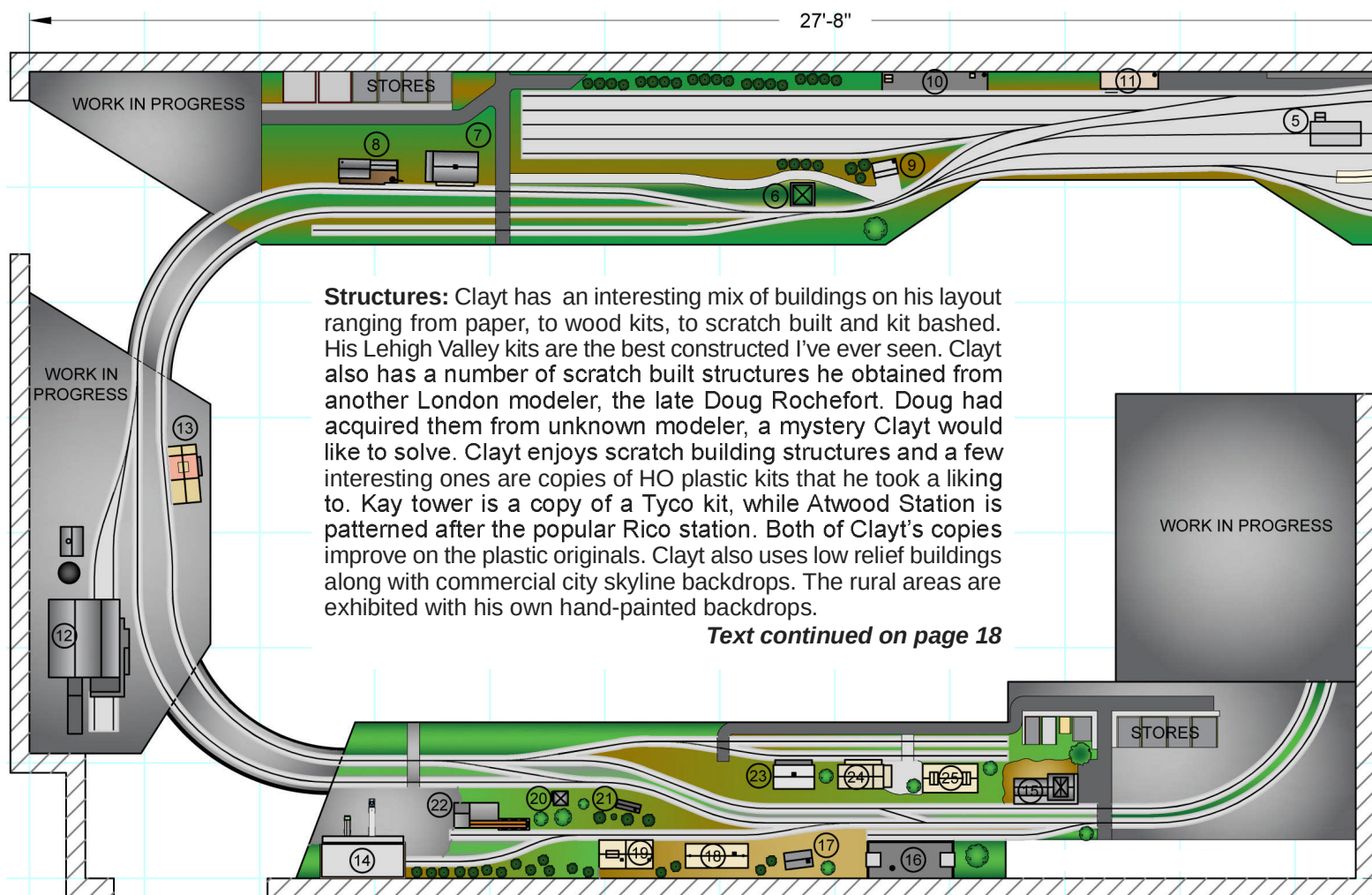
Construction: The layout is traditional open grid topped with a sandwich of half-inch plywood and Homosote. Most of the track is hand laid using code 100 rail. The yard area was salvaged from Clayt's previous layout. The yard turn-outs were built in place. Newer parts of the layout have been built using flex track, and turnouts constructed using **FastTracks** fixtures. These are powered either by vintage Hammant and Morgan switch machines or FastTracks Bullfrog manual controls. Turnouts in the yard area are thrown with homemade switch stands constructed from paper clips and rubber bands (below). They use a spring-over design and viewed from above are a most credible alternative to the usual commercial ground throws. Clayt runs DC wiring. The cost of equipping all his engines with decoders and converting his turnouts to DCC-friendly specs are for the time being, keeping him where he is.



Scenery: Clayt's design skills help set his layout apart. Scenery and track placement beckon the viewer's eye even without a train. There are many interesting scenic vignettes along the route to further flavor the recipe. Many of his trees have been made with wire armatures and skillfully applied foliage. Clayt is also very adept with foam ground-cover but now he is starting to apply static grass. He applies the grass and then brush paints it to achieve the color effect he is looking for.

Continued on the next page

THE PLUM CREEK RAILROAD



Structures: Clayt has an interesting mix of buildings on his layout ranging from paper, to wood kits, to scratch built and kit bashed. His Lehigh Valley kits are the best constructed I've ever seen. Clayt also has a number of scratch built structures he obtained from another London modeler, the late Doug Rochefort. Doug had acquired them from unknown modeler, a mystery Clayt would like to solve. Clayt enjoys scratch building structures and a few interesting ones are copies of HO plastic kits that he took a liking to. Kay tower is a copy of a Tyco kit, while Atwood Station is patterned after the popular Rico station. Both of Clayt's copies improve on the plastic originals. Clayt also uses low relief buildings along with commercial city skyline backdrops. The rural areas are exhibited with his own hand-painted backdrops.

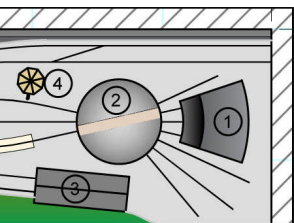
Text continued on page 18

Below: Consolidation 2149 glides past the Purina Feeds plant on its way to Bradley Tower. The corrugated box plant is in the background. The loco is by S Helper Service.



Above: Hiding the mainline behind foreground buildings adds an air of mystery. The large gray warehouse was made from two Walther's HO kits, also by Clayt's "mystery builder." Note the static grass that is now starting to grow around the layout.

LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA



LEGEND

- 1-ROUNDHOUSE
- 2-TURNTABLE
- 3-DIESEL SHOP
- 4-WATER TOWER
- 5-COAL TOWER
- 6-INTERLOCKING TOWER
- 7-KAY JUNCTION STATION
- 8-FREIGHT STATION
- 9-SECTION SHED
- 10-TRI-STATE MILLING
- 11-MANUFACTURING
- 12-BLACK DIAMOND COAL
- 13-FREIGHT HOUSE
- 14-CORRUGATED BOX PLANT
- 15-ATWOOD STATION
- 16-FOUR STORY FACTORY
- 17-JOHN DEERE SERVICE
- 18-FACTORY BUILDING
- 19-FACTORY BUILDING
- 20-BRADLY TOWER
- 21-SECTION STORAGE HOUSE
- 22-PURINA FEEDS
- 23-A.R.GILMORE
- 24-FACTORY BUILDING
- 25-FACTORY BUILDING

14'

Drawing by Joe Kimber



Above: Trees frame an inbound American Models Alco RS-3 as it glides past the Tri-State Milling building, a Walthers HO structure. Note Clayt's plum and gray colored Plum Creek livery.



Switcher number 7528 shifts some baggage cars at Kay Junction. The 0-6-0 is a River Raisin product. The background buildings are paper flats in front of Clayt's hand painted backdrop.

THE PLUM CREEK RAILROAD



Above: 3711 has just taken on a load of black diamonds from the Lehigh Valley coaling tower. The loco's original owner, Tom Spaulding, converted it to Canadian National specs from an Overland light Mike.

Rolling Stock: Like most of us, Clayt has more rolling stock than the few scale miles of track can justify. But isn't that what it's all about? He counts 18 locomotives . . . a mix of steam and diesel along with one gas electric and a yard full of freight and passenger cars. Clayt doesn't think he'll ever get around to scratch building any rolling stock, not when he's got so many kits still to assemble.

I enjoyed my time visiting with Clayt and his layout and plan to get back there more often. His is an enjoyable combination of art and craftsmanship.

Below: A local freight has just cleared Bradley Tower as it heads into the industrial area of Atwood. The meandering track creates an inviting scene. The two prominent buildings were scratch built by an as yet unknown talent.

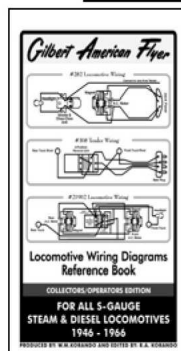


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SALE PRICE:
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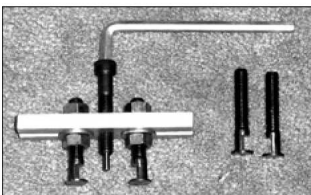


S Gauge Flat Car with Trailer



NEW! TOFC from MTH: 8 different road names.
\$59 each, Specify scale, or highrail wheelsets.

Various S-scale freight cars from MTH.
Most: 20% off!

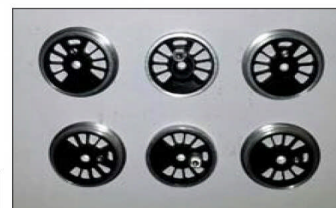


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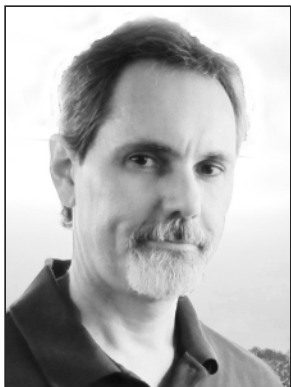


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NASG WEB SITE AND AMERICAN FLYER



By Peter Vanvliet, Webmaster

In this issue I would like to focus on what you can find on the NASG web site with regard to A.C. Gilbert American Flyer products.

Around Christmas 2015, I spent a few hours working on extracting the American Flyer products from the general Product Gallery pages of the NASG web site. I was asked to do this, but I also felt this was the right thing to do. The new design makes it so much easier for the

American Flyer enthusiast and collector to find information about A.C. Gilbert American Flyer products on our web site.

The information wasn't lost, of course, but rather it was moved to its own dedicated section on the main American Flyer page of the web site. On that page there is now a section called **AF Product Gallery**. This is essentially a miniature version of the main Product Gallery page.

There are reports that list the locomotives by their type, cars by their type, and accessories in their numerical order. I also added a report that lists products by the year that the product was first sold or introduced. There is also a special report that list the items for which we have no photos yet. Additional reports can be relatively easily created, if you need them. Just drop me an e-mail.

When I initially started to add A.C. Gilbert AF products to the database, there were only a handful of items (4 or 5), so I just added them to the main Product Gallery page. I've used this column to petition for help with this effort, since I am not an AF collector. Luckily, a few NASG members have responded. Over the last year or so, that database has grown to include 190 (at the time of this writing) A.C. Gilbert AF products. That was why it was time to have a dedicated AF section. Note that the Lionel "American Flyer" products are still kept with the main Product Gallery section of the web site.

There are a few entries in the list that are not 100% pure original AF products. A couple of them have been modified by the modeler to convert the car to scale, or repaint/reletter it. If that is the case, I make a note of that with the entry. I still think it is worthwhile to list those, because it shows what some modelers have been able to do with the original product, and be able to put the car or locomotive to use on their current layout.

On the American Flyer web page, below the reports in that Product Gallery section, I also list a few other online resources for learning more about A.C. Gilbert produced items. Other enthusiasts have created some nice web sites listing AF items which are fun to visit, or to use as research material.

A couple of reminders

The NASG dues will increase on April 1, 2016. If you want to, you can renew for up to 4 years (total) ahead of time with the old rates up until March 31st. I will update the web site's shopping cart first thing when I get up in the morning (to allow for other timezones to renew)! To renew online, click on the Membership button of the NASG web site, then click on the Renew Online yellow button.

Also, we are now sending out e-mail notices for those whose membership is about to expire. There are no longer early-warning notices being sent out by US Mail. If you would like to receive an e-mail notice, be sure to give our Membership Secretary, Dick Kramer, your current e-mail address.

Web site tidbit: we recently had to upgrade our web hosting account, because we exceeded our previous limit of 3GB of files. As of this writing the web site has 17,320 files!



Ted Hamler's 1961 models of the AF UP F9 engines include the #21215 and #21216 pre-production models (photo #1, above; note the square steps), and the #21215 and #21215-1 production models (photo #2, below). The square step ladders of the pre-production models were found to be too fragile, hence the streamlined steps. Also, #21216's number was changed. The #21215 was powered, while the #21215-1 was not. Both photos copyright Ted Hamler. Used by permission.



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GETTING YOUR WEIGHT DOWN

By Don Hand, Photos by the author.

In the late 1980s the S-MOD group put a lot of thought into developing the S Scale modular standards. The Houston S Gaugers (HSG) ten basic modules were built in 1989. They didn't seem so heavy when we were 25 years younger, but now we know that they were built entirely too heavy!

Initially all straight modules were six feet long with built-up sockets for four legs. When additional modules were built, they retained the basic design's 1" x 4" clear pine sides, ends and cross braces, plus blocks of 2" x 4" to squarely reinforce the corners. Each was topped with 1/2" plywood and 1/2" Homasote. These are all just too heavy.

In 2010 I wanted to build a pair of four-foot modules, and stuck with the basic design's dimensional lumber. To reduce some weight the top surface of these modules is 3/8" Coroplast corrugated plastic sheet rather than plywood or Homasote. To protect the top edges on my modules the Coroplast is inlaid in a 3/8" deep shelf routed out of the side and end lumber.

My pair of modules filled a unique requirement on HSG's layout. The late Jack Troxell had begun building a double track wye to S-MOD standards. He gave that work in progress to Peter Vanvliet for completion. Peter's finished work is beautiful. However the length of the wye's two legs on the mainline total eight feet, not six, so my two modules were bolted end-to-end, to offset the wye.

To get away from hauling my modules to train shows, and in order to install them in my home layout, I built a two foot *spacer* module, which when added to a standard six foot module, will close the gap when offsetting the wye.

Peter has prior N-Scale experience and he pointed me to *Lightweight N-TRAK Module Construction*, by Dave Thompson, which you can access at www.trainweb.org/nrmrc/pubs/Ltwmodconstr.pdf. Thompson champions foam-top modules built with very light materials with corner gussets to prevent racking. The top edges of the sides and ends protect the foam-top. He recommends three materials: Extruded Polystyrene foam; 1" x 4" poplar; and 1/8" Luan plywood (door skin).

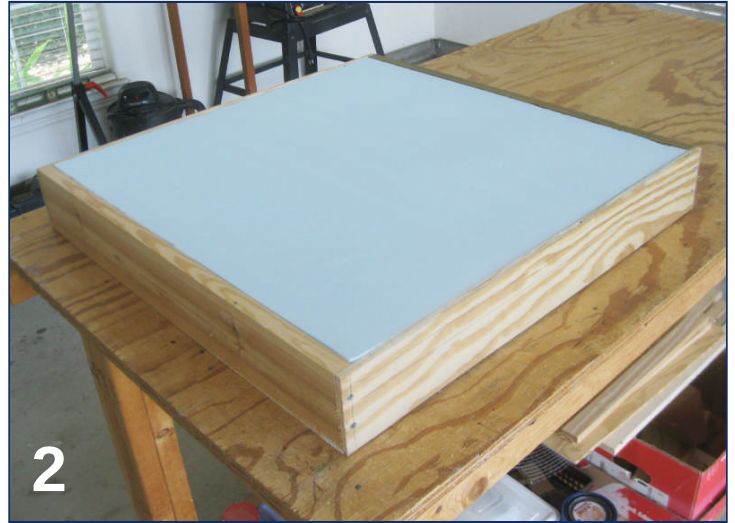
The key to his lightweight design is stiffening the thin sides by forming T-girders, then fixing those to the end plates with corner gussets. The example he used is a four foot N-TRAK module with foldable legs and a skyboard. I applied his example to a two foot S-MOD module, without legs or a skyboard.



Here's how

Cut two 4" x 24" pieces of Luan for the sides and two 4" x 23 3/4" pieces of Poplar lumber for end plates. When the sides and end plates are held squarely, using C-clamps and 2"x2" blocks, glue and screw them together. **See photo 1 below left.**

Cut the foam to size: Length = 24" minus two times the thickness of poplar used; Width = 24" minus two times the thickness of the Luan used. Check the fit inside the module's top. **See photo 2 below.** Turn the module upside-down, then mark the depth of the foam on the insides and ends, and remove the foam. These are your *depth of foam* marks.



Form the sides into T-girders by gluing and screwing poplar lengths (nominal thickness x 1 1/8") on edge, below the *depth of foam* marks; countersink screws from the outside. Lengths of the same material are then glued and screwed across each end, below the *depth of foam* marks; counter bore the screws from the inside. These all form a shelf that holds the foam.

Cut four 5" x 5" triangular corner gussets from other plywood, and glue and screw them in place from the module's bottom. **See photo 3 below.**



= MAKE A LIGHT WEIGHT MODULE =



Glue the foam onto the four shelf elements. **See photo 4 above.** Then you'll be ready to glue on the Homasote roadbed, lay track and wire it, all to S-MOD standards.

With that work accomplished, the semi-scenic module with one side painted HSG's fascia blue is shown in **Photo 5** between my own four-footers.

This spacer module is only needed when HSG's layout is in a large venue for a two-day train show (which only occurs about twice a year) so I didn't purchase poplar or Luan. I used materials that were on hand, but are not as light as Dave Thompson recommends. The total weight of this finished module is 8 pounds. The skyboard was built by Jerry Brewer.

Don Hand of Hempstead, Texas was raised in San Francisco, California and graduated from USF. He entered the Marine Corps following graduation in 1961, and retired in 1981. While stationed in Southern California, Don began scale model railroading in On3. Stationed in Virginia a few years later, where there was not then a network of On3 modelers, Don joined the HO club in Norfolk, then continued in that scale while he was stationed in North Carolina.



Upon retirement Don moved the family to Houston and he joined NMRA and the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club. He became an early member of the Northwest Crossing Model Railroad Club and a proponent of the club's modular layout concept, in both HO and N.

At the NMRA national convention in Houston in 1989, Don saw the Houston S Gaugers' modular layout, built for the convention, and he tried to add S scale to Northwest Crossing's offerings. When that didn't work out, Don joined the Houston S Gaugers and NASG in 1991.

With HSG Don participated in bringing their modular layout to Denver for the NASG national convention in 1997, and to the G.H.W. Bush Presidential Library in 2006. Don has been a member of the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society since 1992. He models SP's former subsidiary Texas & New Orleans (T&NO) in S scale.

Don Hand's published articles include:

Rethinking Modular Railroads, NMRA Bulletin, April 1992
Steam in the High Sierra, SPH&TS Trainline, Spring 1998
Hempstead, Texas, SPH&TS Trainline, Fall 2012

Articles in preparation are: Scratch Building a Cylindrical Tender and T&NO's Austin Branch.



EXTRA BOARD

S RELATED ARTICLES IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS

NASG member **James Ingram**, who is also a member of the **Susquehanna S Gaugers**, has posted an interesting video on **Youtube**, demonstrating **Wow Toyz/Fenfa** almost S-gauge trains. He created this video in an attempt to make other S gauge model railroaders aware of the Wow Toyz brand of **Classic Train Sets**, which are almost the size of S gauge trains. He observed that that the Wow Toyz cars will run on S gauge track, but the locomotives will not, because the Wow Toyz plastic track is about $\frac{1}{16}$ " wider between the rails than standard S gauge. James thinks that these may be of interest to S gaugers because they are very inexpensive and could be used for kitbashing or as gifts for young children. To view this video go to www.track2.com/info/258

Under the heading **COLLECTIBLE CLASSICS** also in the February 2016 **Classic Toy Trains**, **Roger Carp** has written a brief article about **American Flyer's No. 789 Station**.

American Flyer's tribute to the Santa Fe's top trains by **George E. Hoffer** appears on pages 66 through 69 of the January 2016 edition of **Classic Toy Trains**. This article, illustrated with pages from American Flyer catalogs, tells of Gilbert's efforts to market Santa Fe Warbonnet Alco streamliners and compete with Lionel in the 1950s. It also described the various combinations that were offered.

There is a picture of the S gauge hi-rail layout belonging to **John Davis of Noblesville, Indiana** on page 14 of **Classic Toy Trains** for February, 2016. This large collection and large layout is from the Post World War II period.

American Flyer Loved Rocky is an article by **Roger Carp** in the February 2016 **Classic Toy Trains**. Rocky was a mountain goat and the mascot of the Great Northern Railway. The article talks about how Lionel, Marx and Gilbert all tried to take advantage of the popularity of Rocky to sell toy trains

CLASSIFIED ADS

ANY ACTIVE MEMBER of NASG can place a non-commercial classified ad in the Dispatch for no charge. Ads must be limited to 10 lines+-. E-mail your ad copy to dispatch@nasg.org or mail to Bill Pyper, Editor, PO Box 885, Salem, OR 97308-0885. Please be sure to include your **member number**.

The **ROCK ISLAND REPORTER** is a free e-mail newsletter. To sign-up go to <http://leepurl.com/Ut8UL> Please pass this link to anyone who may be interested in the Rock Island. Back issues available. E-mail updates appreciated. Stories and small articles are welcome. Send to Editor Tom Brugman, tbrug@aol.com

WANTED: 1/64th truck models. ERTL promo labels for grocery, hardware, gasoline tankers, Hartoy, LLEDO gas trucks, Road Champs, Ralstoy, Winross. All new or used. D. Griebel, PO Box 6602, Sherwood, AR 72124. Phone 501-541-4508.

FOR SALE: Part of my Gilbert American Flyer S gauge collection. Freight cars, steam and diesel locomotives. Send SASE or e-mail for list: info@heimburgerhouse.com; Don Heimburger, 7236 West Madison Street, Forest Park, Illinois 60130; phone (708) 366-7763.

FOR SALE: Two passenger trains with scale wheels. #1 five-car SouthWind brass Southern Pacific mail trains of short Hariman cars. Includes 1 coach, 1 RPO/baggage and 3 baggage/express/mail storage cars, 3 factory-painted two-tone gray and 2 painted Pullman green. \$1,375 when new, now \$1,200 plus \$25 postage. #2, seven-car American Models Union Pacific Budd streamliner consisting of RPO, diner, lounge observation and 4 coaches, each with a different number. \$624.80 is the current AM retail price when available. Asking \$500 plus \$20 postage. Neither train includes motive tower. Gil Hulin, 1133 Olive Street, Apt. 619, Eugene, OR 97401-3504.

FOR SALE: Large collection of 3-rail O-gauge stuff. Lionel, MTH, Williams, Weaver locomotives and rolling stock. Never used Atlas track, miles of used Lionel track and switches, unique Marx track and switches. Send an SASE to Bill Pyper, PO Box 885, Salem, OR 97308-0885 for a hard copy or e-mail to rrbill10@comcast.net for a pdf.

AF COLLECTION FOR SALE: Over 100 pieces including 11 engines. Original AF plus contemporary Lionel and American Models. Contact Richard Hai for digital equipment lists and details. randrhai@comcast.net or 610-659-3802.

WANTED TO BUY: American Models Baldwin S-12 Chicago & Northwestern locomotive. Any condition. Call Jim Wright at 218-780-4691 or e-mail Cadislan@cpinternet.com

FOR SALE: Brass GP-30 phase II by Greenbrier. PRR low hood version with Trainphone antennas. Includes factory gearing upgrade. New in box \$750+shipping. NYC Baywindow Caboose by River Raisin. Factory painted Jade Green. New in the box \$199+shipping. 70-ton die-cast roller bearing trucks. Made by Lionel-AF. Scale wheels \$20 pair+postage. Have 3 pair. waschtman@verizon.net or call 717-497-5606.

WANTED: Quality Craft S wood caboose, kit or built-up. If you have one to sell call 717-497-5606 or wachtman@verizon.net



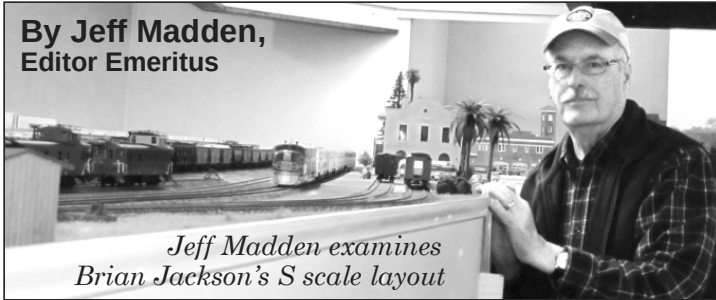
ALL THE FLYER YOU DESIRE!
E-mail: americanflyertrains@gmail.com

Dave Blum
PIKESVILLE MODELS
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Pikesville, MD 21208-4425
410-653-2440



2015 FALL S FEST

By Jeff Madden,
Editor Emeritus



*Jeff Madden examines
Brian Jackson's S scale layout*

Hmmm. It seems that whenever the **AFSGSLA** (*American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area*) sponsors an S Fest in St. Louis, a Missouri baseball team wins the World Series. Four years ago it was the St. Louis Cardinals, and this year it was the Kansas City Royals. Go figure. As last time, the Fest was held on Halloween weekend, October 30th and November 1st.

Anyway, it was a successful Fest again in the town of the ARCH. Chairman **Moe Berk** reported about 328 registrants (including walk-ins) with a total, including spouses and family members, of over 500. The vendor space at the Doubletree Hotel was sold out with about 192 tables. The banquet had a 140 diners in attendance. The hotel was a nicely remodeled former Holiday Inn in the Westport area where the Fest was held a couple of times previously. The only drawback that there was no free breakfast, but that's standard for hotels which cater to events. The convention cars, a **Lionel** Monsanto tank car and an **American Models** US Mail trailer on a Wabash flat, were selling well with over two-thirds of each sold.

Fall S Fest Model Contest Winners

Motive Power

1st Place — John J. Baker

2-10-2 Santa Fe Class Illinois Central heavy hauler.

2nd Place — Jim Wagner

New York Central Streamlined Hudson.

3rd Place — Jim Wagner

"Franklinstein" highly modified Franklin locomotive.

Rolling Stock

1st — James Larson

5-car Twin City Zephyr CB&Q passenger set.

2nd Place — Mark Heiger

8-car Royal Blue passenger set.

3rd Place — James Larson

3-car freight set, Pennsylvania Caboose, Land-O-Lakes reefer and CGW green tank car.

Honorable Mention — Norm Pilarsk

Christmas Caboose.

Other

1st Place — Randy Zbaren

Rock Island assorted rolling stock and vehicles.

2nd Place — Paul Wehrle

Circus Train with PA locomotive.

3rd Place — Ed Simmering

Burlington historic train.

Honorable Mention — Ray Garbee

Coal load for S Scale America rotary dump car.

Reported by Gary Mueller

At the regularly featured **Train Races**, the **Goeke** family of Wisconsin cleaned up again. **Donald Goeke**, his son **Donald** and daughter **Danielle** won most of the races, the exception being that a former drag racer, **John Baker**, won in the **modified** category. The Goeke family also dominated in the Incline setup.

The banquet included **Joe McDoke's** short film, a comedy from the 1940s about a train nut who runs his Lionel trains all over the house. He and his wife go to a marriage counselor, but it turns out that he's a train nut too. There was good food, an outstanding speaker, and awards, all followed by the auction. The end of Daylight Savings Time let us sleep in a bit on Sunday before heading out. Many stopped and visited layout open houses in the St. Louis area and even up to Springfield, Illinois. My wife and I visited **Brian Jackson's** scale layout and **John Nosari's**, both in Springfield, on the way home.



Photo by Jeff Madden

Jim Pauley, a serious collector of Gilbert advertising and store displays, gave a bang up Powerpoint presentation at the banquet. It was informative and held everybody's attention, even scalers and the ladies. He pointed out that some of the key words oft repeated in Gilbert's American Flyer advertising were: scale, smoke, choo choo and two-rail. It also was interesting to note that department stores and smaller venues like hardware stores often sold their display layouts after Christmas, and that's why not many survived.



Above: Jim Mirous from Chicago and FSF Chairman Moe Berk kibitz in the vendor hall.

Photo by Jeff Madden

Below: Jim Wagner's modified locomotive "Franklinstein" won 3rd Place in the Motove Power category.

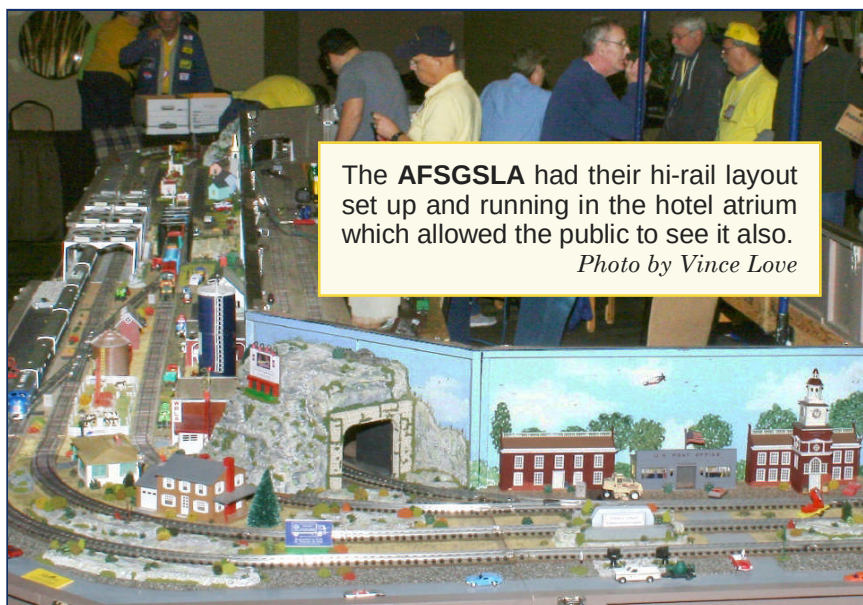
Photo by Jeff Madden



Next year's **Fall S Fest** will be in the Milwaukee area at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin on November 4th through 6th, 2016. It's the same place where the 2014 NASG Convention was held, and room rates will only be \$89.

Continued on the next page

2015 FALLS FEST



Above: Re-designed AF Barrel Loader on the AFSGSLA layout. Button on front of layout for viewers to activate loader.
Photo by Vince Love

Below: The metal bridges are one of the highlights of the AFSGSLA layout.



Befitting the St. Louis area is this custom painted American Models Missouri Pacific passenger train seen in the lobby on the AFSGSLA layout.
Photo by Jeff Madden

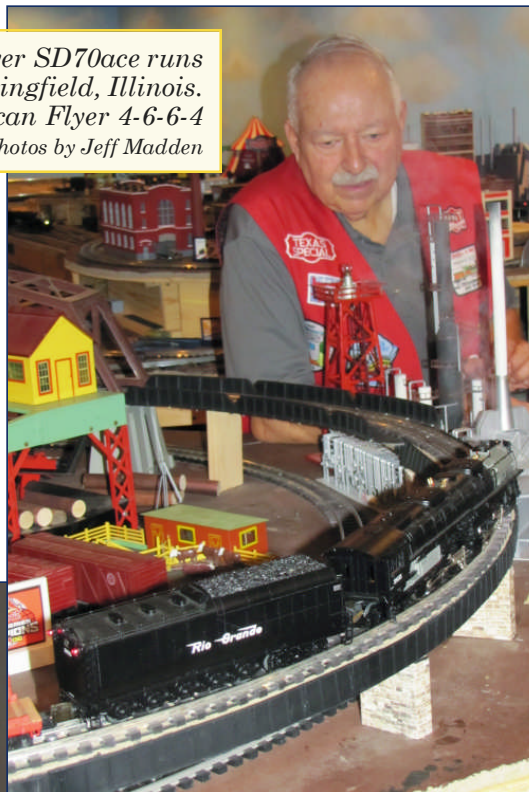
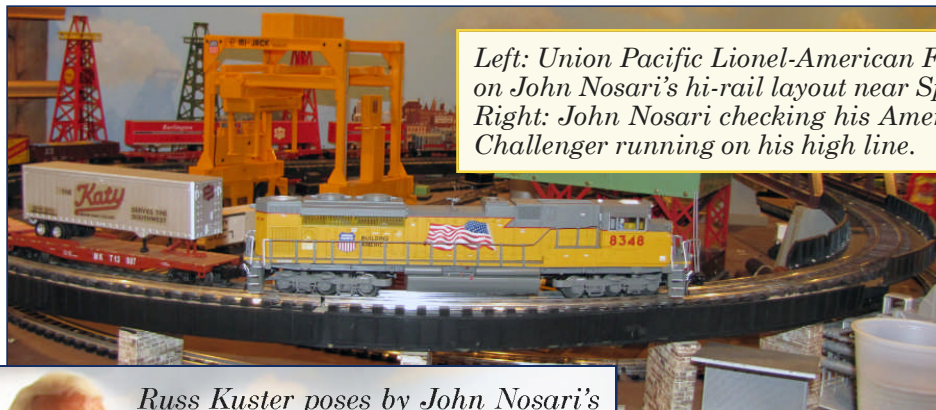
Some of the many excellent model contest entries. A list of the winners can be found on page 23.

Photo by Jeff Madden



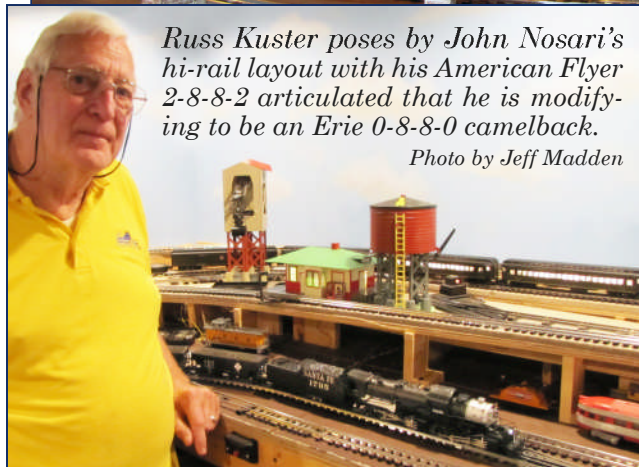
AND LAYOUT TOUR

Left: Union Pacific Lionel-American Flyer SD70ace runs on John Nosari's hi-rail layout near Springfield, Illinois. Right: John Nosari checking his American Flyer 4-6-6-4 Challenger running on his high line. Photos by Jeff Madden



Russ Kuster poses by John Nosari's hi-rail layout with his American Flyer 2-8-8-2 articulated that he is modifying to be an Erie 0-8-8-0 camelback.

Photo by Jeff Madden



Below: Kathy Daly, the AFSGSLA's talented resident artist putting finishing touches on the layout. Photo by Vince Love



Above: John Ellerbracht presents a clinic on scenery building techniques. Photo by Vince Love



The Highlight train was an **American Flyer Franklin** set, modified by **Jim Wagner**, and called **Franklinstein**, pushing a die-cast DeLorean **Back to the Future** car. The "future" in the first movie of the series was 2015, and that was 30 years ago. Hmmm, the Royals last won the World Series in 1985 as well. *Photo by Jeff Madden*

2015 TRAINFEST

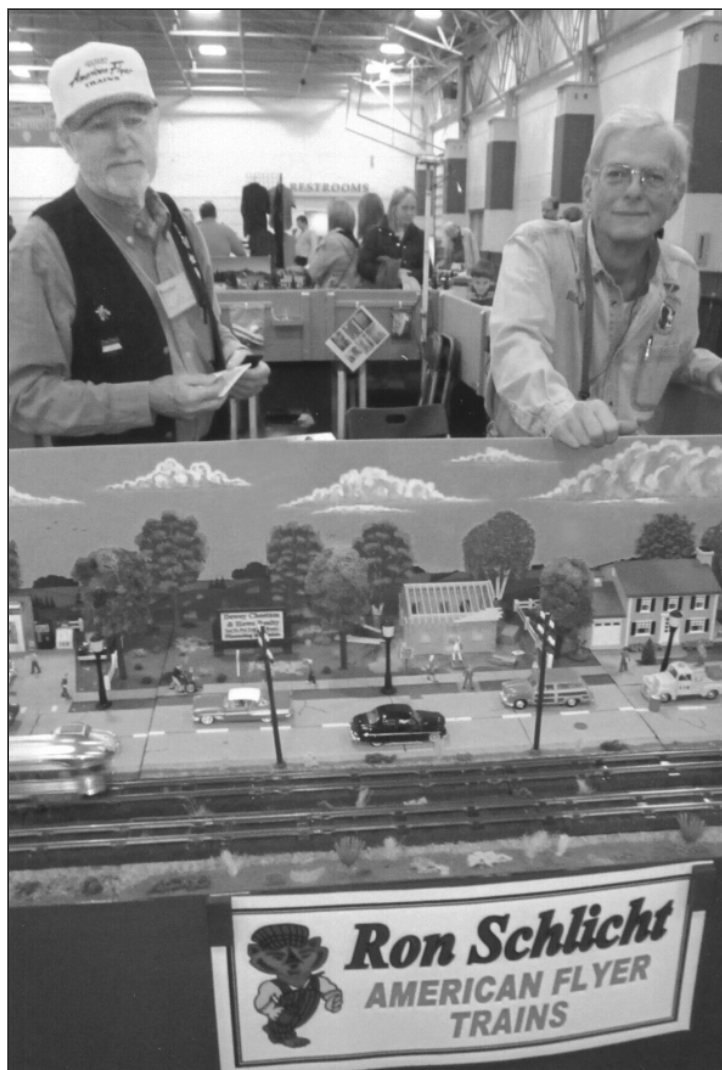
The 2015 Trainfest in West Allis, Wisconsin (Milwaukee area) followed the Fall S Fest by two weeks on November 14 and 15. **The Badgerland S Gaugers** had their scale/hi-rail modular layout running for the large crowds. Trains featured Saturday included a military train, Amtrak, modern diesel freight and a Milwaukee Road steam freight. DCC was used on the outside loop of the double track and regular DC operated on the inside. On Sunday a nice stack train and the new **AF Lionel Polar Express** were running. The club borrowed a new Lionel AF non-Polar Express Berkshire lettered for the Southern. It ran nicely on the DCC loop.

The other S layout present was **Ron Schlicht's** American Flyer layout which because of the low kid-level height was located in the area focused on the younger viewers. This worked out well. Vendors who carried S items included **Heimbürger House Publishing, Des Plaines Hobbies, MTH, Lionel** and a few others that carried some American Flyer.

The Badgerland S Gaugers were assisted as usual by **Will Holt** and **Joel Lebovitz** who bring two modules up for the BSG modular layout and operate the DCC loop.



Above: Joel Lebovitz looks over an SD60 pulling a pig train on the Badgerland layout. Below: A new Lionel-American Flyer Berkshire on the Badgerland layout at the Trainfest.



Above: Ron Schlicht and Rich Eveleth with Ron's layout at the Trainfest.

Below: Polar Express on the Badgerland layout at the Trainfest.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This column is for the listing of model railroad events, with emphasis given to S-gauge or S-scale.

If you know of an upcoming event related to S-scale model railroading, or model railroading in general, please e-mail the information to dispatch@nasg.org as soon as possible so that we are able to print it in a timely manner.

March 5-6, 2016 — Palatine, Illinois

HIGH WHEELER 2016 TRAIN SHOW

will be held at Harper College, 1200 West Algonquin Rd. The **CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF S GAUGERS** will display their layout. www.casg-trains.org

March 12-13, 2016 — Bakersfield, California

GOLDEN EMPIRE HISTORICAL & MODELING SOCIETY ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN SHOW at the Kern County Fairgrounds, Horace Massey Building, 1142 South P Street. Information at www.gehams.org

March 12-13, 2016 — Manassas, Virginia

WASHINGTON & OLD DOMINION S GAUGE CLUB will display and run their layout at the **Boy Scout Troop 964 ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW** 13557 Spriggs Road, Manassas.

March 12-13, 2016 — Atlanta, Georgia

2016 MODEL TRAIN SHOW at the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. The **GEORGIA DIVISION of the ATLANTIC COAST S GAUGERS** will show their layout.

March 12, 2016 — Clackamas, Oregon

WILLAMETTE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB SWAP MEET at the Camp Withycombe Armory, 15300 SE Minuteman Way, Clackamas, Oregon. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

March 19, 2016 — LaGrange, Illinois

35th Annual **ALL AMERICAN TRAIN SHOW** presented by the DuPage Division of the NMRA at Lyons Township High School Field House, Brainerd and Cossitt streets.

CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF S GAUGERS will display and run a layout. Info at www.casg-trains.org

March 20, 2016 — Rochester, New York

ROCHESTER AREA S GAUGERS will display at the **TOY TRAIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY** show at the Eagles Club, 1200 Buffalo Road.

April 2-3, 2016 — Rochester, New York

ROCHESTER AREA S GAUGERS will display at the **GREENBERG TOY & TRAIN SHOW** at Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex, 2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road.

April 9-10, 2016 — Eugene, Oregon

WILLAMETTE CASCADE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB 28th MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEET & TRAIN SHOW at the Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

April 14-16, 2016 — York, Pennsylvania

WASHINGTON & OLD DOMINION S GAUGE CLUB will display and run their layout at the **EASTERN DIVISION TCA TRAIN SHOW**, 334 Carlisle Avenue.

April 23-24, 2016 — Timonium, Maryland

the **BALTIMORE AREA AMERICAN FLYER CLUB** will operate their layout at the **Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds Cow Palace, 2200 York Rd. Info at www.gsmts.com/index.htm

May 5-7, 2016 — Santa Clara, California

O SCALE WEST & S WEST 11 Largest S scale show west of the Mississippi. The **BAY AREA S SCALERS** will have their modular layout up and running. Bring your equipment to run on the layout. Information at www.oscalewest.com

May 12-14, 2016 — Strongsville, Ohio

SPRING S SPREE at the Holiday Inn presented by the **CUYAHOGA VALLEY S GAUGERS** Go to www.cvsga.com for more information.

May 21, 2016 — Monrovia, California

S FEST WEST Presented by the **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA S GAUGERS** at the Monrovia Community Center, 119 West Palm Avenue Go to www.socalsgauge.org for information.

June 4, 2016 — Manassas, Virginia

WASHINGTON & OLD DOMINION S GAUGE CLUB will display and run their layout at the **MANASSAS HERITAGE RAILWAY FESTIVAL** 9201 Center St., Old Town Manassas.

June 25-26, 2016 — Crockett, California

CROCKETT RAILROAD DAYS joint show with the **CARQUINEZ TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM** and the **CARQUINEZ MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY**, 645 Loring Ave. (Across from C&H Sugar) Info at www.cmrstrainclub.org

August 10-14, 2016 — Novi (Detroit area), Michigan

NASG ANNUAL CONVENTION at the Sheraton Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, Michigan. Hosted by the **SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN S GAUGERS**. Information at www.smsgtrains.org/2016conv

NASG INFORMATION BOOTH

The NASG Board of Trustees has approved the **National and Large Regional Shows Program** as part of an over-all effort to promote S model railroading to current model railroaders and the general public.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The **NASG Promotions Committee**, National Show Coordinator, will use the information on the **NASG Booth Sign Up Sheet** to contact NASG members who are interested in helping staff the NASG Information Booth. At this time, the primary shows are **The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour** and the **NMRA National Train Show**. If you are interested, please use the NASG Booth Staff Sign Up Sheet to indicate which shows you can work. The sheet is available at www.nasg.org/events/index.htm#booths

SCHEDULE OF SHOWS

March 5-6, 2016 — WGH, Kansas City, Missouri
American Royal Complex

July 8-10, 2016 — Indianapolis, Indiana
National Train Show
Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium

NASG COMPANY STORE

FOR SALE TO MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS



NMRA Sn3 TRACK & WHEEL GAUGE

\$5⁰⁰ for members
\$12⁰⁰ for non-members



REFRIGERATOR MAGNET

50th Anniversary Logo
\$2⁵⁰ each



NASG S-3, S-4 TRACK AND WHEEL GAUGE

\$5⁰⁰ or 2 for **\$8⁰⁰**
instructions included



#802 KADEE COUPLER HEIGHT GAUGE

Measures
car on track for proper 17/32" height.

\$4⁰⁰ each or 2 for **\$7⁰⁰**



#5 KADEE COUPLER HEIGHT GAUGE

Measures
car on track for proper 17/32" height.

\$4⁰⁰ each or 2 for **\$7⁰⁰**

TO ORDER

any of the products on this page, download an order form at www.nasg.org/Store or write your order legibly on a piece of paper.

Make checks payable to NASG Company Store and mail to:

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IMPORTANT: Be sure to include your member number, quantity desired and sizes. Please include \$2.00 or 15%, whichever is greater, for shipping and handling. All orders will be shipped USPS Parcel Post.

Wisconsin residents please include appropriate sales tax and county of residence. If you have any questions contact Storekeeper Roy Meissner at 262-538-4325 or e-mail to companystore@nasg.org

TO SHOP ONLINE: Go to <http://www.nasg.org/Store/index.php> and click on **NASG Store**. Choose the items that you want to purchase and click **Add to Cart** and follow instructions.

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NASG



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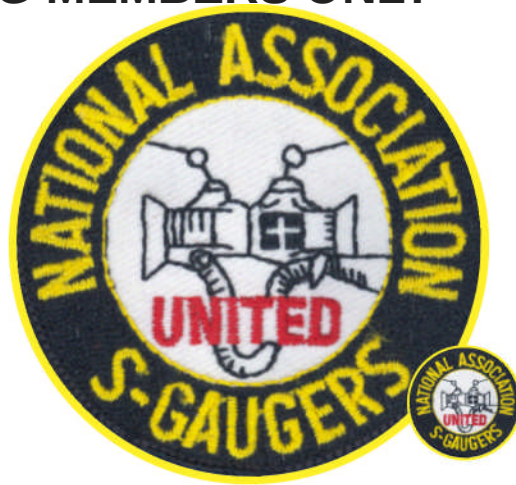
\$12⁰⁰

Khaki and Blue Denim with color logo

NASG LAPEL PIN

\$3⁰⁰

3/4" diameter



10" EMBROIDERED PATCH

\$13⁰⁰

2 3/8" EMBROIDERED PATCH

\$2⁰⁰



NASG T-SHIRT

\$8⁰⁰

Ash Gray with
blue logo
2X \$11⁰⁰



NASG GOLF SHIRT

\$22⁰⁰

Dark blue
with pocket
logo

COMMEMORATIVE CARS

Each year since 1981, the NASG contracts with one of the S manufacturers to produce a limited-run car or engine specifically geared toward the collector or American Flyer operator. Since this is an official NASG sponsored project, you must be an active NASG member to purchase one of these cars. This project is coordinated by Dave Blum, owner of Pikesville Models.



2015

NASG American Flyer Commemorative Car
BNSF waffle side boxcar, manufactured by Lionel, road number 3415 for the 34th edition and the year 2015. Price \$69



2015 Convention Car Kansas City Southern Hopper PS-2 made for NASG for MTH. Available in two road numbers 286707 or 286815. Hi-Rail or scale for \$68



2012

Convention Car NC&SL Dixieland boxcar. Price \$50. Road numbers 18872 or 18749.



2012 Marathon Motors Boxcar Price \$75



2010 Jenney Gasoline Triple-dome Tank Car built by Lionel. Car number 2910. Price \$75

TO ORDER THESE CARS

Make payment out to NASG and mail to:

Dave Blum, 3315 Timberfield Lane, Pikesville, MD 21208-4425
Please include the following in your correspondence:

1. Your NASG ID number from your NASG membership card.
2. Your name and shipping address.
3. Which car or cars that you want and how many of each.
4. Your telephone number or e-mail address in case there are questions about your order.
5. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax to your order.

All prices include shipping to addresses in the United States
To ship outside the US or for any question contact Dave Blum at pikesvillemodels@yahoo.com

TO SHOP ONLINE

Go to <http://www.nasg.org/Store/index.php> and click the **Add to Cart** for the item(s) that you want and follow the instructions.

2006 General Electric MOW Crane Car manufactured by Lionel. Price \$70*

2007 General Electric MOW Boom Car manufactured by Lionel. Price \$52*

***SPECIAL OFFER!** Buy both the Crane Car and the Boom Car for \$115



Letter to the Editor, NASG Dispatch

All too often, it seems we neglect to offer appreciation when we receive outstanding service. It's easier to just accept what we get and continue on about our private lives without saying anything. I hope to remedy a bit of that.

I am impressed with the crew that President Bill Winans has assembled as our leadership team in NASG. All deserve our gratitude for VOLUNTEERING their services on our behalf. If we even paid minimum wage for what we're now receiving for free from these devoted members, our membership dues would be prohibitive.

I'd especially like to give thanks to three committee chairs: Bill Pyper, Dispatch Editor; Peter Vanvliet, Webmaster; and Greg Klein, Promotions. All of these gentlemen are involved in critical areas of communication for NASG, keeping us, as our logo states, "United." The Dispatch is a delight to read, chock full of informative, educational, and interesting items. The NASG website is a treasure-trove of data, links, tips, and information about our association and our hobby. And the promotions offered with quick response and at no charge go a long way towards fulfilling my club's goal of locally promoting and recruiting to S. Keeping us informed — keeping us abreast of developments — keeping us in touch with each other — keeping our local grassroots efforts strong and viable — these are what make NASG a worthy organization, and I'm proud to be a member.

Keep up the great work, fellows, and thank you!

John Eichmann, Coordinator
Rocky Mountain Hi-Railers
Boise, Idaho

LET'S SEE YOUR WORKBENCH

I love to see other model builder's work benches and although neatness and organization are definitely attributes, it's so interesting to see what type of chaos happens to your work space as a result of many hours of building. I think it is an indication that real honest-to-goodness work is being accomplished (FOR A CHANGE!.. as in my case). By the way, wouldn't that make a nice magazine column in one of our magazines: "**At The Workbench?**" Work in progress is just as interesting if not more then the final result.

I know I'm guilty of not documenting my progress on projects as much as I should and hope to change that in the upcoming year. Thanks Jim, and all who have shared their expertise (You know who you are). I don't usually chime in but with all the dreary, rainy weather we're having in central Pennsylvania this late Sunday morn, I guess I've just got a little inspirational. With two stations on the build (in the early stages) and plugging away at my AM FA conversions, it's nice to have the chance (FINALLY) to relish and reflect a bit about what is good about our hobby in these trying times. Count our blessings and thank God for making me an S scaler!

Keepin' on,
Mike Byers,
Northumberland, PA

Originally I had sent this letter out to NASG Members Group yesterday . . . Then thought I should share it with everyone as this is the way I feel about the recent questions regarding our great NASG Organization. (with some re-editing)

First of all; Our NASG Dispatch is our foundation of our S Gauge -S Scale-Sn'3, Narrow gauge history. Only just recently, I donated all of my Dispatches (A complete collection) to our family friend, Larry Shughart who is following in my footsteps and has a very large S gauge layout at his residence, outside in a very large separate building, that also house's his antique automobiles and so on.

When I had those magazines here, I could answer any questions you may have had regarding our wonderful model railroading history. I have since referred those questions to Larry and his helpers.

Our Dispatch and our NASG Membership Cards are very important, any quality organization requires you to have (carry) their membership card.

I believe the point many are missing is that there are members who simply don't understand, or can't comprehend the workings of the NASG label, and they never will. I suggest that those few who can't fathom the workings of our membership renewal, be listed and sent renewal letters as a follow up. Renewal letters should be sent to anyone who misses his/her payment anyhow.

Our NASG is a very good organization and our President and BOT try to keep it running smoothly, and I'm sure that they would really appreciate your help in doing so. Also, kudos to Bill Pyper, Editor, who is doing magnificent work on our NASG DISPATCH. "Hang in there, Bill!"

Run the trains!
Bill Fraley, Owner Operator
Jefferson Central Railroad,
A Division of The READING Company
S Scale Model Railroad, Established in 1962

ERRATUM/OMISSION

Apologies to Mike and Judy Muetz of Placerville, California. The last line of the caption above their layout picture on page 25 of the January-February 2016 Dispatch dropped off leaving their great layout unidentified. Oops. Sorry 'bout dat.

FLYER FEST WEST CONVENTION CAR

For anyone wanting to purchase a Flyer Fest West Sierra Railroad Company boxcar, the correct e-mail address for Carl Rudolph is **ffw2015@sonnet.com** not .net as printed.

PAUL WASHBURN informed me that he used .030" thick styrene sheet material, to build his **PFE Woodside Reefers**, not .040" as stated on page 18 of the May-June 2015 Dispatch.

FALL S FEST
WHERE S SCALERS, COLLECTORS,
HI-RAILERS, NARROW GAUGERS,
AND MANUFACTURERS MEET
ONCE A YEAR IN THE MID-WEST
TO HAVE FUN!! FOR INFO:
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2331 S. 58th ST.
WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN 53219

BOOSTER ADS

can be placed in the Dispatch at any time. This size costs \$10. A business card size is \$20. Send ad copy with check made out to NASG to Bill Pyper, Editor, PO Box 885, Salem, OR 97308.

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Renew your membership

Beginning in **February 2016**, in order to save money and increase efficiency, Membership Secretary Dick Kramer will no longer send out renewal letters. The Board of Trustees has agreed to utilize the following procedure:

The line above your name on the envelope is the current expiration date of your membership. Please check this date each time you receive a Dispatch. If the date is within a month or so of your receipt of the Dispatch, your remittance of the amount to renew your membership will be appreciated. Changes to your contact information should also be included with your payment. This will assure that your membership is always current. Should your mailing address or e-mail address change, prompt submittal of updated information will help achieve this goal. Thank you for your cooperation.

You can now **renew your membership online**. Go to the web site **www.nasg.org** and click on membership. Under the heading **NASG Membership Renewal** click on renew and pay online. Enter your name and member number and follow the instructions. Have your credit card ready.

You can still renew your membership by sending a check or money order made out to NASG, to Dick Kramer, Membership Secretary, P. O. Box 268, Middlebury, CT 06762-0268.

MEMBERSHIP

From November 1 to December 31, 2015, the following people have joined the NASG. Welcome!

George Cooper Troutman, North Carolina
Bill Dunn Bath, North Carolina
Thomas A. Eubank Fort Wayne, Indiana
Charles Ganz Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Christopher P. Hilbert Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mark A. Hutchins Richmond, Maine
James J. Johnson Naperville, Illinois
Jeff Jundt Lake Orion, Michigan

Douglas H. Lape Mahomet, Illinois
Douglas G. Miller Flat Rock, North Carolina
Lee Olson Tucson, Arizona
Gene E. Ploeger Hartland, Wisconsin
George C. Rollin Luling, Louisiana
Steven P. Stallings Cerritos, California
Earl S. Wagner Danville, Pennsylvania

2015 was another good year for the growth of the NASG as we added 135 new members bringing our total membership to 1,592.

Of interest are the sources of new members;

11 Internet search engine

13 Referred by a club

15 Referred by a member

3 Referred by a friend or family member

2 Gift from a member

9 Magazine

45 Was a former member

7 "Always knew about it"

4 Convention

10 Train show

16 No source stated

Dick Kramer, Membership Secretary

NEW TREASURER

Jim Kindraka has retired after many years as NASG Treasurer. Michael Ferraro, CPA, and former partner in S Helper Service, has volunteered to take over the position for the remainder of Jim's elected period. All NASG people who had previously sent payments and/or notices to Jim Kindraka can now send those to Michael. The e-mail address **treasurer@nasg.org** has been updated to go to Michael. Thank you Jim, for all that you have done and thank you Michael for volunteering.

Michael Ferraro, CPA
NASG Treasurer
278 Route 34
Matawan, NJ 07747

At Last ! ALCO RS-11 Locomotives



Never before made in S Scale.*

American Locomotive Companies RS-11s were produced from 1956 to 1961 and was the replacement for the RS-3 road switcher. This engine featured a V-12 turbocharged engine of 1800 HP and was the answer to EMDs GP9 engines.

The RS-11 was rated with a higher tractive effort and used less fuel. Favored by modelers with its distinctive "chiseled" number boards. ALCO manufactured 425 of these road engines.

(AC HR versions \$249.95, Dual sets \$484.95. Scale \$15, \$30 less for dual sets).

*A small amount of hand crafted brass engines were made decades ago.



PRR RS1107



D&H RS1102



NH RS1105



NYC RS1106



MP RS1104



SP RS1108



CNW RS1101

(Undecorateds also available)

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