



DISPATCH

VOLUME TWO NUMBER 1 *NASG INC NEWSLETTER* JUNE 1979

A CHANGE

For better or for worse, the NASG Inc newsletter has undergone a change, not only in editors but also in a slightly different format. Bob Ristow, who initially got the newsletter off the ground, now feels he can better serve gauge in other fields. I believe we should commend Bob with a thanks and a job well done. We are all very appreciative of the many hours of time taken from his own rail activities to have started this newsletter and continued it for the past year. Thanks Bob.

As I am assuming the reins as editor of our newsletter I suppose I should introduce myself. My name is Ernie Horr and I am a rake and front end mechanic employed in a Uniroyal tire shop. I am married, with one son who is married and no longer living at home. He is however the reason for my being in S gauge, as it was an American Flyer set bought for him at Christmas that started my love affair with S gauge. This has culminated in a semi scale medium sized layout. As time passed and I became acquainted with other S gaugers in the Spokane Wash. area an S gauge club was formed and to keep our growing numbers informed and up to date on all the happenings a newsletter was started. Twelve years ago, I became editor of this, the S Train Rail. This then is my background in S gauge and in editing a newsletter.

The purpose of the newsletter, I believe, should first of all be in informing the members of what is happening in the organization. I also hope to make it a more personal publication so that members will be able to feel that they know each other especially the officers and committee members. But I also feel there is room for news of new products, general S gauge news that would not fit in our our fine S Gaugian magazine. I don't however, that the newsletter should grow beyond a newsletter and try to become another NMRA Bulletin. I also feel

that the newsletter can and should cover controversial subjects and as such will have a letters to the editors column to air your ideas, gripes, etc.

So far, just a thumbnail sketch of what your newsletter, the Dispatch will cover. For now however, let's get on to other things.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS PEN

Where are you? Our "This is S Gauge pamphlet" is at the typesetter's as this is being written. What seemed like an easy project that could be knocked out in 2 or 3 months has taken over a year. The project leader, Ed Loizeaux, had little trouble deciding what to put in it, how it should be arranged, or in writing the narrative part of it. But Ed beat his brains out trying to get pictures for the thing. Why?

At least half of all model railroaders claim to be photographers. Our skills and interests questionnaire shows that you folks make the same claim yet the repeated pleas for pictures of S models and layouts produced a fat zero. Does that mean that there are no models built or layouts even partially complete among our members? ? ? Does it mean that you really aren't capable of taking a picture? ? ? Or does it simply mean that you want other people to do the work?

The Potomac Valley S Gaugers have been in the middle of things for many years. For a while three of NASG's seven trustees (all of them officers, meaning 3 of the 4 officers) were PVSGA members. Its down to 2 for now. The leading writer for S Gauge in the major magazines is Sam Powell another member. The club has hosted 2 national conventions in the last ten years including the 1978 show at Silver Spring.

And now, most of the pictures in

the pamphlet were taken by PVSGA members, our equipment our railroads. It was either that or scuttle the project.

PVSGA isn't doing everything in S or NASG by any means. But the club's members, along with a handful of other folks, are doing far more than their share, Surely NASG and S Gauge would be better off if there were more people involved rather than the same old hands all the time.

Do you find the NASG to be uninterested in your area of interest? As long as you sit there fat, dumb, and (presumably) happy and let others do it, those others will do what they want to do.

If you don't like it, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Dick

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S GAUGE BROCHURE

Enclosed with this issue of the NASG newsletter you will find a copy of the "S" brochure "This is S Gauge". Ed Loizeaux engaged Vicom Services to do the production work, and they have done a first rate job. This copy does not show the brochure in its best light as the photographs, with offset printing, do not show the excellent detail and background that that brochure has. However, it does give you a good idea of what the brochure contains and the message given. And believe me the photographs show excellent in the brochures.

I think Ed, and all the people who submitted photos, worked on the text etc., are to be highly congratulated. I also believe these brochures can be used very effectively at shows, displays, conventions to promote our chosen gauge. For information on obtaining copies of the brochure contact Ed Loizeaux. His address is:

15611 Kavin Lane
Monte Sereno, CA 95030
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CLUB NEWS

The Bristol S Gauge Railroaders has only sad news for you at this time. Our president, Roland Pelland, passed away suddenly on March 20. Needless to say that this has been quite a shock to all the members of our club, as well as to all of his many friends and neighbors. He was nearing his 57th birthday. He was right at his height of enthusiasm for S gauge and for the meetings of the Bristol Club. As a result of this tragic occurrence, we cancelled

our March 25th meeting. The next time we meet will be on June 24th at the home of Wil Gelineau in Oxford, Mass.

A number of S gaugers in this area had expressed interest in our club and they will be invited to attend the next meeting. If they still like us after this visit maybe they will want to join up.

Tom Coughlan
Tom Coughlan, Sec.

The Delaware Valley S Gaugers, now has 11 members (12 is limit), all of whom are active S builders, some with their own layouts.

Delaware Valley S Gaugers were going to transport and set up their modular layout, which has grown considerably, to the Princeton Convention. However, since it is a 5 day affair, and most members have jobs, only three were finally willing to do this. This meant paying for all costs and spending all their time with the layout. None of us were willing to do this so it is off.

Last meeting was held by Matt Lacko with several visitors present. They were Jeff Wilson, Don Thompson, Jerry Viemeister and another fellow, whom I am sorry to say I cannot place. The club's secret project were unveiled and to everyone's astonishment all had completed their tasks as listed. A Blue Comet loco with all striping and lettering, various kit cars, a turntable, an A.F. converted combine, Modeltronic's sound in a Geep diesel, a scratchbuilt covered hopper, and the most outstanding contribution by Sy Behrens, a scratchbuilt GG-1 were the models exhibited. Sy cast his own drivers complete with torque eliminating quills, and fashioned the body from laminated styrene. It was a beautiful scale model and it may spark a marketable loco in the future.

Next meeting at Sy Behrens' place promises to be quite interesting. The old D&W layout, now being rebuilt and expanded will feature a Reading consolidation with complete Modeltronic sound. When this layout is photogenic, RMC will feature a photo story on it's rebirth. Speaking of RMC, I hope to have my article Impressive Scenery, an oreboat construction article published sometime this summer. At present I am reviewing S products and building locos for friends. This has created the need for some sort of test track type of layout. My wife has encouraged me and I have settled on the Kenebec R.R. shown in the Sep.-Oct. 1975 S Gauge Herald as the basis for it.

If you will, please stress the need for our manufacturers to send me products to review in RMC. They show at least one each month but so far no one is supplying me.

Frank Titman

The Inland Empire S Gaugers, IESGAPN are very busy getting things in order for IESGAPN '79, An All S Gauge Get Together, to be held at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Spokane Washington, starting at 6 PM Friday Aug 31 and running through Monday Sept 3. A full schedule of events is planned including clinics, auction, slides, movies, model contest, displays, layout tours, banquet as well as a full ladies program. Price for the convention including banquet and a Sunday breakfast has been set at 25 dollars.

For further information contact:

Ernie Horr
1307 W Dalke
Spokane WA 99208
(1) 509 325 0392

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HI RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks again to all who dropped us a line with your comments on RTR S gauge from Fundimensions.

The general concentus from most Hi Railers appears to agree with the Hi Rail Committee that RTR S gauge from Fundimensions should be authentic with quality.

The proposed cars leave something to be desired. Hopefully prior a product onrun by Fundimensions some improvements can be incorporated.

We need not be reminded that Fundimensions is a profit making organization. The continuation, and expansion of their venture in RTR S gauge will depend on satis factory sales. Can the present S gauge market satisfy their expectations?

This is the main reason the Hi Rail Committee favors the most authentic RTR car that are possible with the old AF tooling Cars like this would recieve the largest market penetration in the S gauge market.

If Fundimensions S gauge cars are successful, motive power and sets are possible. A low hood diesel seems the first noice. The second is the reintroduction of the Penn O-6-0. Both should be DC powered and geared for realistic operation.

The meeting with John Brady of Fundimensions is still pending. Lets hear your comments.

Sig Fleischmann
22475 Violet
Farmington, MI 48024

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THE NASG PRINCETON MEET

J. A. Lorenzen

Railcon '79 will be the site of the 1979 National Scale Gauge Associations 1979 convention. Officially, the NASG will be participating as part of the overall Railcon program, along with various other organizations representing O gaugers, N gaugers and others. The basic program will be for the Mid Eastern Region of the NMRA.

In order to cater a little more to the needs of the S gaugers attending, several additional programs have been set up outside the nominal convention schedule to continue the traditionally friendly atmosphere of past S gauge get-togethers.

Many of the S gauge manufacturers will be displaying in a common booth to demenstrate the range of products and services available in Scale S. If you are interested in participating, please contact Don Thompson of Train Stuff, or J. A. Lorenzen of the Locomotive Workshop for information.

Several S gauge layouts in the surrounding area will be open to visits. Since not all are on the scheduled convention bus trips, some private arrangements for transportation will have to be made. An exception will be Jerry Viemeister's layout on Long Island. The layout is basically accessible from Princeton by rail, allowing S gaugers to travel via AMTRAK, ConRail and the Long Island RR to see this fine layout. Alternatively, you can also travel via the PATH system and the New York City subways. As somebody has remarked (several times), the only time they ride a bus is at model railroad conventions; this will be a chance to ride the train and see quite a bit of the rail operations in the New York - New Jersey area. This is scheduled on Saturday August 4th.

Jerry's layout, in Valley Stream, NY., serves as the focus for the activities of the Long Island S Scale Modellers' Association. The layout is approximately 24 feet, with about 150 feet of handlaid

handlaid Code 83, 70 and 55 track in place. Scenery is described as "in progress" which means that most of it is in, but some of it has been removed for one or another project

The layout is interesting in that it combines three different modes of modelling standard gauge, Sn3 and traction. Operation is basically "point to point" although a reversing loop is planned, basically to facilitate operation for shows.

Several Ladies outings are planned, including arrangements for walking and auto tours of the historical areas of Princeton. There are a number of interesting shops in Princeton, and information on their whereabouts will be available from some experienced shoppers; these will include places not in your usual Shoppers Mall.

A picnic, for NASG members, will be held in Englishtown on Sunday. This site was selected because it is close to the famous Englishtown Auction and Flea Market and also happens to be on the Locomotive Workshop property. The swimming pool will be open, and there will be lots of grass and sun and shade. Space for an S Scale Flea Market will be available. Please contact NASG or A.D. Lorenzen of Locomotive Workshop in advance if you plan to attend the picnic.

There will be quite a few people at Princeton for this convention, and let's make the S gaugers the most active group there.

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FROM THE NASG CLEARING HOUSE

The 1979 NASG convention cars are now on sale. They are \$16.00. NASG has gone to a Rex lowside gons with AF trucks

"Railcon 79" is on the side, and the decals on the inside. In order to get a car you must send a \$16 check made out to NASG. Include your NASG number. These cars will be sold by mail only. They will not be available at any convention. These cars are

in short supply so order now. Deadline for ordering is Oct 31, 1979. Cars will be sent in November. If the cars are sold out before Oct 31, 1979 we will advise the membership and the cars will be shipped. If you wish a 2nd car inclose \$20.00 extra. Please use two checks. Money will be refunded if cars are sold out. Send checks to

NASG Clearing House
P.O. Box 650314
Miami, FL 33165

I must emphasize that these cars will only go to members of NASG and only by mail order and now!

Be sure to tell the membership they should vote before August 4. get those votes in. Also only NASG Ballots will be accepted, others will be voided. So do not make copies. Send ballots to:

Dick Schlott
NASG Secretary
P.O. Box 650314
Miami, FL 33165

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CONCERNING THE ELECTION

It seems that somehow through an oversight, or whatever, a candidates name for the Pacific Region Vice President was omitted. Also Ernie Horr has requested that his name be dropped. Therefore the previous ballot as far as the Pacific Region is void. New ballots are in the process of being gotten to these members.