



# DISPATCH

VOLUME THREE NUMBER 1 **NASG NEWSLETTER**

FEBRUARY 1980

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The Board of Trustees is now considering a proposal for NASG, Inc. to publish an all-S scale catalog. This would be a successor to the catalogs once published by Nixon, Vavrnick, Branch Line, and others from the late 1940's to about 1970. In recent years, there has been no catalog showing the S products available, though the S Scale Catalog tried hard and had some success. This void really hurts our promotional efforts. It is a problem for current S gaugers too, in that ads and news in the press just do not cover the full gamut of what is available at any one time.

The catalog would cover all products made specifically for the S scale model railroad market, including scale, hirail, tinsplate, and narrow gauge. Some mention as to other usable products may be made but it will not be thorough. The format would be by type of model, e.g. steam locomotives, passenger cars, track components, and parts. Some editing may be necessary on such large and rapidly changing areas as parts and decals. Anything that is out of production or not yet on the market just will not be in it. Obviously, the catalog will have to be updated on some periodic basis. Prices will be printed on separate sheets since they now become obsolete very fast with the high inflation rate.

At present, all illustrations will be line drawings. This will be cheaper to prepare and print. Most of Walther's catalog is done this way and it is very effective.

Preparation of this catalog may take up to a year or more. It will not be a rush job. Right now it is expected to be about 60 pages long and cost between \$1200 and \$1500 to make plates and print it. That cost would have to come from NASG funds in either fiscal 1981 or 1982. Most, if not all of the investment would be recouped if it sells well. It definitely will not be given away.

If the project is approved, the Board will set a pricing policy that will probably be 3-tiered. NASG members will probably get a discount compared to nonmembers. Dealers who purchase the catalog in quantity (and there are several who would probably use it as their own catalog) would surely receive a quantity discount. Final pricing cannot be done until the catalog is ready for the printers and NASG costs more easily calculated.

The 3 freight cars run by Lionel/Fundimensions hit the dealers rather late in the year. Lionel must have gotten the message quickly because they had to cut most dealers' orders in half or more. The packaging is attractive, though not at all reminiscent of A C Gilbert. Does that matter?

At a recent train show in Odenton, Maryland, the asking price of the cars was \$20.00 each! Lionel admitted aiming their first efforts at collectors and they surely hit the mark. Those already scarce cars will probably cost \$50.00 in a couple of years. I guess that's collector's heaven.

It would be nice if some of Lionel's future production would be aimed at model railroaders. Namely, that they produce enough of some models that the price and availability make them attractive to Tinsplate and Hirail operators. They can continue to make short runs for the pure collector market and charge outrageous prices to compensate for the small volumes. Each market is probably sufficient to make both strategies profitable for Lionel.

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## 1980 NASG CONVENTION

Badgerland S Gaugers sponsorship of the 20th annual NASG convention is now in full swing. The convention, scheduled for July 18, 19, and 20, will be held at Milwaukee's Red Carpet Hotel where 10,000 square feet of meeting space is available.



The Red Carpet is located near Milwaukee's airport on the city's south side and a shuttle is available for those people arriving by air. The hotel is also conveniently accessible to the interstate highway system serving the Milwaukee area. Milwaukee is served by Amtrak with 6 arrival daily from Chicago and 2 from the Pacific northwest. Transportation will be provided from the Amtrak station to Red Carpet by BSG for those requesting it.

While not entirely complete some convention activities have already been outlined. Manufacturers are being invited to attend, display, and market their products. The usual fare of a banquet, model contest, and annual business meeting are planned and several clinics have been booked. Clinic topics include locomotive superdetailing, brass work, rivet detail, and the demise of the Milwaukee Road. The superdetail clinic will be given by Linn Westcott, editor emeritus of Model Railroader magazine. Beside the usual layout tours, special tours of Wm K Walthers, Inc. and Kalmbach Publishing Company have been arranged. These are all included in the registration price.

The registration price for the 1980 NASG convention is \$16.00. Anyone pre-registering will receive \$1.00 off this price. The buffet - style banquet will be \$13.50, half price dinner tickets for children under 12 will be available. A limited number of BSG cars commemorating this convention will also be available. The price for these cars has not been set, but should be less than \$10.00.

Anyone desiring further information or pre-registration should contact the convention chairman - Mr Dave Koehler, N66 W24076 Champeny Rd., Sussex, Wisconsin 53089. Pre-registrations will be accepted from now until July 1, 1980.

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FROM THE TREASURER

While looking at a calendar recently and doing a little work it occurred to me that in about a year the NASG will be holding an election again, this time the President and Treasurer will be the positions that will be up for grabs. I would like it to be known at this time that I do not intend to run for the office again, 4 years as treasurer is enough. I would like to see a few people show some interest in the position as it is one of the most important ones, I feel, in the NASG especially in our dealings with others in financial matters could make or break us over time. Also

it would seem advisable to me that any candidate for President would prefer to have someone he trusts in the treasurers position as they need to work pretty close together on many matters, so anyone out there considering running for president may want to see if they cannot find a reliable running mate so to speak.

For those of you who are interested the duties of the treasurer are roughly broken down as follows: (1) Keep the books to include, a record of all income and expenses, a record of the checking and savings accounts. (2) Reporting to the IRS and the State of New York as required. (3) Prepare financial reports on a regular basis to include annual financial report which is required, quarterly financial reports optional but recommended. (4) Prepare and submit to the Trustees an annual budget request. (5) Monitor all expenditures during the year to avoid overspending the budget, Determine if financing of special projects is within NASG's ability. Pay all bills as they come due and are approved. (6) Order certain supplies as required.

Depending on the time of the year time required of the treasurer can be as little as 2 hours a month and as much as 12 hours I would estimate. As can be seen keeping up with all of the above can be hectic if it all comes at once. Since Gene Fletcher has taken over the processing of the memberships, that chore has been relieved from the treasurers position. I do recommend that you have a typewriter and know a bit of typing as it comes in handy. If anyone out there has any questions about the position feel free to write to me. By the regional vice-Presidents will also be up for reelection and it would be interesting to see some more people running, those of you who feel the NASG policies are set by an unenlightened clique at the top of NASG may have a better chance than you realize to get into that group and NASG needs new ideas to improve and be better able to help all facets in 3/16 modeling.

Bill Oertly, Treasurer

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FROM THE MAIL SACK

I was just going over my latest NASG newsletter doing the survey and going thru the other columns again. After closely reading the comments by Dick about the coming catalog, an idea occurred to me. Rather than printing a separate catalog (ie Walthers) what about separate pages, tear out or similar to recent RMC center



for pull out - in MR or RMC. The number of additional people it could reach is enormous, not to mention that it could be easily kept up to date adding and dropping items and Mfgs as needed on a monthly or quarterly basis. A folder or binder could be produced by NASG for people that would want to keep the pages in a binder designed for that purpose. These could be marketed by NASG and include the "S" standards, copy service, clearing house, NASG contest rules etc. as info sheets included with it. Dealer and distributors could get their packages from the NASG clearing house - who would be responsible for completeness of material. I'm not saying 25 pages at once but 1,2 or maybe 3 pages, printed on both sides in each monthly issue. The cost may be high, but if we want national press to a lot of modellers, we have to go after it.

L. C. Stephens

I woke up - With the words of our president ringing in my ear, "And yes, for five bucks a year you can only expect so much."

As a new member I got an emblem - (beautifully done) to wear on my RR Hat, that loudly proclaims I'm a minority.

Strangers walking up and giving me the glad hand 'ol buddy routine only to find out I'm not an AF collector. Scale huh! Well, as long as it's not contagious drifts back as they fade away.

A membership card with a strange looking number on it. All those zeros in front of the number? Must be converting to metric now, because surely they have more members than that.

Also a real bonus, a bimonthly bottomless pit newsletter. Wonder if the real DISPATCH was gobbled up by the Black Hole?

Get involved he says, with what I wonder? Volunteer he says, for what I ask? Write the officers he says, who are they I wonder? Write the Committee Chairman, they got committees too? I say. Guess my five bucks didn't get very far this year. Complete our surveys! I wonder what the Board of Trustees learn when all you can fill in is NO and DON'T KNOW?

And yes, it is pretty hard to participate if the door that lets you in is dozzzzzzing. The Hi railers and tinplaters that there know what I mean as the fundimentals AF Market Research Teams door pulled a Rip Van Winkel on them.

Last fall I actually saw a copy of the NASG Constitution at the S Fest. The

Gentlemen behind the table at the time agreed with me that it would be nice if every member could have a copy.

The president says develop your idea, write the editor and share it with all.

Needed is . . . . A new member kit that spells it all out and maybe a booster shot for those still asleep, an Old Timers Revival Kit.

Lou Aprile

In talking to Tom O'Connor on the "Dispatch" we feel you should have a "Back Shop" Column in which commercial products are reviewed.

Or, Tom suggests that the NASG charge extra amount of money each year for those who would want to receive "bulletins" on new products that were reviewed.

Tom O'Connor, who belongs to NASG, said he would volunteer to do the reviewing if you like.

William J Fraley

A great deal was made of Lionel bringing out the 3 AF retread cars. Perhaps the cars will continue being produced, but actually Lionel has been producing S scale cars for years. The Lionel O-27 cars are excellent for S gauge when fitted with S ga trucks I have quite a few of these conversions, using both AF and Ace trucks.

Lionel's O-27 cars such as Air-Ex (blue) - Auto-Lite (white) and Baby-Ruth (red) are fine box cars and are practically the same size as AF castings, being about 1/4" higher. This tends to be more realistic for modern trains, as the 1-1 scale trains are getting bigger components all the time.

Any smart S gauger who is looking for freight cars can benefit by the use of these Lionel O-27 cars. Some of these cars are available for what seems a bargain - about \$4 from various outlets.

What we as S gaugers should do is to convince Lionel to continue producing such cars as will fit into S gauge - and as they have tooled up to produce the AF trucks - should continue, possibly in the accessory list. Thus both body and trucks could be available, instead of having to wait a year. I have made this thought available to S Gaugian, I - (and several other local S gaugers). Hope something like this develops.

Wallace Bradley

As per my letter in the October Dispatch, I was having difficulty getting any response from Mr. J.R. Ives of Bronx, New



York regarding my purchase of an S gauge Trolley Car but very shortly after seeing this article in the Dispatch I received a replacement car so everything is satisfactory in this transaction now as far as I am concerned. However, there has been no further communication although I expressed an interest in purchasing several more pieces when and if available, so the main problem seems to be one of communication.

In respect to communication, I'd like to suggest that all of the officers of NASG be listed, with addresses, in each issue of the Dispatch. This would save much searching thru files each time members wish to contact someone in the organization, especially when your way out in the wilderness like I am and don't know each of you personally. Also, I'd like to see an annual publication of a list of NASG members.

Paul Miles

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#### MORE ON MODULES

The standards for the electrical system for the NASG modules is now in print and will be sent to anyone on request. An envelope with name, address, and stamp will be appreciated. Send request to:

Thomas G Hawley  
2311 Strathmore  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

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#### S CLUB NEWS

The CICHOLAND ASSOCIATION of S GAUGERS December meeting was well attended and a large amount of S gauge material was available for sale - of special interest were the long awaited cars from Lionel. The idea of a summer swap meet is in the planning stage.

Newly elected officers for 1979-80 are president - John C Mann, Vice-President Paul Nicholson, Secretary and editor of the "Switchlist" - Joe Ilmberger, and Treasurer - Arnold Cisco Jr.

DELEWARE VALLEY S GAUGERS rendezvoused at the home of John Bortz for the January meeting to see his huge Pennypack Valley & Western Railroad in operation. Anyone who has had this opportunity knows what a treat this is to an S gauger. John told the club members that his Texas type (Gold Award winner) is in the shops with worn side rod bearings from continuous long distance running. The P V & W has a five minute mainline run which gradually takes its toll. John's boys have been adding new scenery and John has begun work on a 1 1/2" scale live steam Berkshire built from scratch.

The rest of the meeting was at L. Jod Whitworth's home where his wife had prepared a scrumptious dinner, the election of officers was held, and a slide show was given by Frank Titman.

The December meeting of the BADGERLAND S GAUGERS was held at the home of Mr. Jim Brown, chosen as BSG member of the month. The group was treated to an operation session on Jim's new layout. Chuck Porter treated the members to a slide show of the 1979 NASG convention trip.

1980 BSG officers elected are as follows, Dick Kloes - President, Jim Brown - Vice President - Jim Kindraka - Secretary and Harold Imnekus - Treasurer.

13 members and 3 guests attended the second meeting of the season for the BRISTOL S GAUGE RAILROADERS. Don Riley's basement and home of the Boston & Worcester S gauge Railroad was the locale. Although interest was shown in Don's HO railroad, the members migrated to the S gauge layout. President Riley opened up a discussion on having clinics and swap meets at the meetings. The club decided to try same. After the meeting the members adjourned to the York Steak House for a fine meal.

John W Steinbach has assumed responsibility for editing the CENTRAL NEW YORK S GAUGERS ASSOCIATION newsletter. At the December meeting by-laws were proposed and accepted. Officers and Directors for the new year are: President & Director - Charles Brown, Vice-Pres. & Director - Rolfe Faste, Secretary & Director - John Steinbach, Treasurer & Director - Jack Creiman, Director at Large - Charles Stackpoole, and Director (former officer) Walter Danylak. Tom Canne continues as noble Historian.

A Tom Barker film on the A C Gilbert Company was shown, thanks to Mark Lazor. The next big event for the club was their Mid-Winter Train Meet.

The KEYSTONE "S" GAUGERS are sorry to report the loss of a very good Hi Railer in S, Maynard McKissick. Not only was Maynard an S modeler but a well known musician in the Harrisburg Pa. area.

Bill Fraleys S scale Jefferson Central is now approximately 150 feet, with O'Connor yard and terminal detailed. Tom O'Connor has purchased a home with large basement to build an S gauge layout in. Even though 2 members are operating in HO the group has no friction.



NASG Survey #3 Results in percentages

|  | Yes  | No   | Don't Know |
|--|------|------|------------|
| 1.) Have you ever heard of the NASG Copy Service?  | 94   | 6    |            |
| 2.) Are you familiar with the activities of the NASG Copy Service?   | 56   | 38   | 6          |
| 3.) Have you ever used the NASG Copy Service?  | 13   | 87   |            |
| 4.) Should NASG continue this service?   | 44   | 6    | 50         |
| 5.) Have you ever heard of the NASG Clearing House?  | 81   | 19   |            |
| 6.) Are you familiar with services provided by above?  | 31   | 63   | 6          |
| 7.) Have you ever used this service?   | 19   | 81   |            |
| 8.) Should NASG continue to operate the NASG Clearing House?   | 31   |      | 69         |
| 9.) Do you know if NASG has its own Modelling Contest Rules?   | 81   | 6    | 13         |
| 10.) Have you ever participated in an NASG Modeling Contest?   | 31   | 69   |            |
| 12.) Should NASG continue to use contest rules different from those of the National Model R.R. Assn. (NMRA)? | 37.5 | 37.5 | 25         |
| 13.) Have you ever heard of the NASG Standards Committee?  | 87   | 13   |            |
| 14.) Are you familiar with the activities of this committee?   | 75   | 25   |            |
| 15.) Do you use NASG standards in your modelling?  | 12.5 | 69   | 18.5       |
| 16.) Should NASG continue to promote S Gauge Standards that differ from NMRA standards for S Gauge?          | 12   | 50   | 38         |

| Rate the following                               | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't Know |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|------------|
| 17) The NASG Copy Service                        | 6         | 6    |      |      | 88         |
| 18) The NASG Clearing House                      |           | 6    | 13   |      | 81         |
| 19) The NASG Contest Rules                       | 13        | 30   | 13   |      | 44         |
| 20) The NASG Standards                           | 12.5      | 18.5 | 18.5 | 12.5 | 39         |
| 21) NASG's promotion of itself                   | 6         | 38   | 31   | 19   | 6          |
| 22) The NASG Dispatch (newsletter)               | 25        | 50   | 12.5 |      | 12.5       |
| 23) NASG Surveys                                 | 9         | 54   | 9    |      | 28         |
| 24) NASG's service to Hi Rail modellers          | 6         | 25   | 19   | 19   | 31         |
| 25) NASG's service to Scale modellers            | 6         | 31   | 13   | 6    | 44         |
| 26) NASG's service to collectors                 |           | 6    | 13   | 35   | 56         |
| 27) NASG's response to questions and suggestions | 6         | 44   | 6    | 6    | 38         |

NEWS FROM THE SURVEY SQUAD .....STEVE BUTLER

Thank you for your help in filling out survey #3. Over 25% of the membership responded, with 65 arriving in time to be tabulated.

As usual, there were questions and comments attached to many of the replies. Since I can't answer each of you personally, here are a few answers to the questions asked most often.

1.) The Nasg Copy Service is now operating under the leadership of Bill Fraley, 150 W. Caracas Ave., Hershey, PA. 17033. Today Bill can copy you practically any article printed in the former S GAUGE HERALD at a cost of 20¢ per page. For a listing of articles please write to Bill. In the future, perhaps S GAUGIAN articles will be available as well.

2.) The NASG Contest Rules and Modelling Standards are listed in the 1977 NASG Portfolio which was printed by Dick Cataldi in January, 1978, I believe. But, since many have joined in the last two years it may be time to print them again. Briefly, NASG Contest Rules offer more chances to win than NMRA rules do, since there are more classifications. NASG rules allow for Hi Rail Models as well as Kit and Converted and Scratchbuilt Models in Master Craftsman, Craftsman and Amateur Classes. The difference in NASG and NMRA Standards are mainly in the Track Gauge and Wheel Standards. NASG Standards call for smaller wheel rims, and tighter clearances between wheel and track.

3.) Does anybody use survey information? NASG Survey #2, the opinion survey had a major effect on planning for the future. While many thought the membership favored "closed", members only conventions, the overwhelming majority of those replying favored an open convention, with non-members paying only a slight fee, possibly \$5.00 which would also give them membership in NASG.

We are ready to take another survey. This survey is directed to the non-member wives of male members. So give this survey to your wife right now. We value her opinion, so please ask her to fill it out right away. Send it to: Steve Butler, 32 Elsom Parkway, So. Burlington, Vermont. 05401. Thanks!

NASG Survey #4 : The "Railette Preference" Survey

Dear "Railette":

In order to help prepare for the 1980 NASG Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 18-20, would you please answer the following questions? Thank you.

- 1.) What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2.) Have you ever attended an NASG National Convention or any S Gauge Convention? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.) If Yes, please tell where and when. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.) What did you like about the convention? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5.) What did you not like about the convention? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6.) What would you rather have done, seen, or had available for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7.) Do you like to participate in railroad - oriented activities with your spouse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8.) Do arts and crafts clinics interest you? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9.) If yes to above please state preference (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 10) Would you bring a hobby - craft item to show? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 11) Would you be interested in one or more of the following?  
(please check those which would interest you.)
- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| a.) Milwaukee Brewery Tour                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b.) Milwaukee Museum Tour                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c.) Milwaukee Area Historical Sites Tour     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d.) Horticulture and Gardens Tour            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e.) Shopping Tour at a Large Shopping Center | <input type="checkbox"/> |