



# DISPATCH

To web

VOLUME THREE

NUMBER 2

NASG NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1980

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One of the member services we have definitely fallen short on is a separate annual report that tells you more than just how the treasury stands. The first (and so far only) complete annual report, the "Portfolio" of December 1977, was a wealth of information. Since we have more than twice as many members as we had then, we need to get the information out to you.

The primary problem has been the cost although deciding on a format and finding someone to prepare it are also problems. Also what should go into it? Obviously, the annual Treasurer's Report. Also, our constitution, by-laws, and names of officers and committee chairman. Other things that might be included are members' names and addresses, standards, contest rules, reports by officers and committees, and addresses of club secretaries.

The Board of Trustees is grappling with the question of whether to add the various aforementioned into the newsletter on some kind of rotating basis or put them all into a special publication. Some of these items already appear in the newsletter periodically. We'll add the scale standards in either this or the next issue as space permits.

A combination of the inflation that is hurting everyone and the fact that our committees are developing a lot of programs is forcing the Board to put some priorities on things. The recently approved S Catalog will have to be funded over two fiscal years ('81 and '82). A proposed scale standards gage will have to be manufactured (if it is approved) in a small run that is not as economical per unit. We may even be forced to cut back on the newsletter sometime soon.

What do we do? The easiest thing is to drop some projects. We could also change the constitution to raise dues. Or find other sources income. (We have to make our conventions profitable for NASG.) Or increase the number of members to increase the income. We may do each of these things in the next year or two. We can each personally help out by recruiting some more members. If each of us would talk just one other person into joining NASG in 1980, the roster would increase by almost 300, bringing in almost \$1,500 a year. The S Gaugian sells over 2,000 copies of each issue. So surely you know an S or Sn Gauger who doesn't yet belong to NASG. Our best salesmen stare back at us from every mirror.

If anyone has a desire to have a copy of the Constitution/By-laws anytime soon, drop me a line and I'll send a copy to you. I have a small supply of mimeographed copies. The address is: 626 Welles St., S. E., Vienna, Virginia 22180. If you are thinking of running for office next year, you'll want to have these fairly soon.

I'd like to thank the folks who sent me get well cards following an automobile accident in February. They helped to get me back onto the main line.

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## HIGH RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

More on RTR cars from Fundimensions, In my last Hi Rail report in the December Dispatch I briefly outlined my views on the new RTR cars from Lionel. Apparently I was a little to brief that some got a distorted picture of my views. Lets review the facts.

Since the very first hint that Lionel of Fundimensions was going to produce some RTR S gauge cars from the old AF tooling my views and position have not changed. As the

Chairman of the NASG Hi Rail Committee I was in contact with John Brady, the assistant production manager at Lionel offering our committees help and support in the promotion of Lionels venture into S gauge. Mr. Brady welcomed our offer and promised a meeting when their RTR S gauge project advanced toward production. Subsequent communications were not answered and the meeting never matured.

I still feel Fundimensions entry into RTR S gauge is an asset to S gauge regardless of the type cars they come out with. My position is and has always been Lionel should produce the most authentic S gauge equipment possible with the tooling available to them. The three cars they introduced are not..... Authentic cars would not deter collectors and would certainly be more appealing to a greater portion of S gaugers including AF operators, Hi Railers, and some scale modelers.

My reason for questioning Lionels market research was twofold. First, not one word appeared in any TCA publication which is the ideal place to market research for Collectors. Not a word was mentioned in any of the S gauge publications to market research Hi Rail and Scale model railroaders. Secondly, what kind of a market research was conducted when it was so secret that apparently, no one regardless of their interest in S gauge heard of, or about it?

No manufacturer should be given an award for something he is proposing to manufacturer, although Lionel did follow through with a rather limited run for collectors this is not my idea for candidate for S Manufacturer of the year award.

Toy trains no longer enjoy the popularity they did in the Fortys and Fiftys, on the other hand model railroading is stronger and growing. Lets promote 3/16 inch model railroading. Lionel can help with the proper products without deterring collectors. I will continue to promote authentic products from Fundimensions which are within their capabilities with the available tooling.

The Hi Rail is still in the process of evaluating couplers, we would like to hear from you about the couplers you are using. We are especially interested in your mode of operation and how your railroad uncoupl-

les cars and spots them. Many model railroads uncouple by hand which adds fun to operations plus it is like the prototype. When sidings are out of reach how do your railroad solve this problem? At the present time my own Midwest Central is mixing Kade O gauge magna-matics with the AF knuckle coupler to evaluate the operational problems etc. So far on a limited basis no problems have been encountered. As further testing and evaluation of couplers continues we will forward the results. Lets hear your comments. Send your comments to:

Sig Fleischmann  
22475 Violet  
Farmington, MI 48024

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S SCALE CATALOG

I am certain that all S gaugers would like to see a catalog published and kept current periodically. No magazine can possibly cover the complete spectrum of what is now available in our scale through their ads and a catalog would make the best and most useful promotional item NASG could have on hand. As an S gauger, you wouldn't have to try to explain to an interested newcomer what there is on tap.....just hand him the catalog, or better still, tell him where to purchase one. It would always be a handy source of information for your own use and any hobby shop that handles S products will be grateful to have one.

A catalog requires a lot of work, money to print, and time. NASG is willing to provide the money, if we do the work and furnish the hours necessary to complete it. Since I have been singled out, I will try my best to see that we have a good catalog, but I need help and cooperation. If I do not get it, I will not do it alone!

The S Gaugian has had to raise its price because of the cost of publishing and because the artwork, layout, and half tones are very high. To keep costs at a minimum, we will have to use line drawings instead of photos (half tones). This means that fellows with the ability to draw good pen and ink renderings of every S scale item manufactured are needed. The sketches will be as simple as possible, yet convey the shape and features of the subject. Also, whenever necessary, the item must be furnished or a good clear photo made available by the manufacturer for copying. The resulting artwork would resemble the simple-

drawings in the S Scale Loco & Supply catalog put out by Claude Wade.

I feel sure you can visualize the tremendous amount of work this project will involve. If you feel qualified to do the drawings, please contact me and let's get this job underway as soon as possible.

Frank R Titman  
1225 N Arch St  
Allentown, PA 18104

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#### SCALE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The chairmanship is vacant and looking for someone to fill it. Experience in model railroad standards development is not absolutely necessary, but a knowledge of the field is helpful, as is an engineering or fine machinist background. In addition, you must be able to communicate by the written word and use the mails. If you are interested, write to Dick Cataldi.

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#### CLUB NEWS

Bristol S Gauge Railroaders still meeting on schedule. February meeting at Paul Riley had 15 in attendance. The club library is taking shape with the master list of all books and non-periodical literature owned by the club being compiled and should be ready by the April meeting. The topic of the possible use of club funds to encourage smaller S manufacturers was discussed at the last meeting as well as urging all members to join NASG.

Inland Empire S Gaugers (IESGAPN) still sorely missing Francis Patten, one of the original club members who passed away in January. Francis was well known for his HO power conversions. The club is now preparing for their annual Secret Project meeting to be held the third Saturday evening in May. Hopefully all the members are busily engaged working on their projects.

The Delaware Valley S Gaugers gathered at Merton Smith's home in Palmerton for their February meeting and enjoyed two reels of railroad movies. The members decided to set up and man a static S Gauge display at the Spring Thaw Train Show held in the Allentown Agricultural Hall on March 2, 1980. This turned out to be well worth the time, attracting several prospective members, a fellow S gauger from Syracuse, and Fred Freed, our newest member, who asked to join on the spot. In March, the meeting was hos-

ted by Frank Titman, who held a golden-spike ceremony for completion of his Spiral Hill main line. The occasion was celebrated with Cold Duck, the poor man's champaign. The club members were treated to an O gauge basement layout and several reels of color-sound movies of steam, diesel and interurban movies presented by Arthur Angstadt.. Lee Johnson, a former club member now living in California, was in the area and welcomed as guest of honor.

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#### FOR SALE

NASG patches \$1.75 ea.  
NASG T Shirts to be available at Milwaukee NASG Convention and the Fall 'S' Fest \$15 for adults and 14.50 for kids - whitewith NASG emblem on back - most popular sizes will be available. Interested parties send name, address, size, number wanted with 2.00 deposit for each to:

NASG Clearing House  
c/o Dick Schlott  
P.O. Box 650314  
Miami, FL 33165

Also persons who recieved NASG cars without trucks will recieve them as soon as they are obtained from the supplier.

#### THE FIREMAN'S SIDE OF THE CAB

This column will cover various aspects of our organization, its activities and function of its committees. We hope in time we can touch on all of them, explain their duties so that you, the member will understand their purpose. We welcome your comments and will attempt to answer questions about them.

#### COMMITTEES

Else where in this issue is a list of NASG committees. If it seems a bit long, it reflects a growing organization seeking to improve itself. Each of them owe their existance to either supporting or improvement of NASG functions. The first committee on the list is the NASG Clearing House located in Florida, the second, Contests is chaired in Idaho. You will notice that no fewer than twelve states are involved in these committees. We keep in touch with these committees by mail, which can, from time to time, be difficult. But work gets done and reports are filed which keep the trustees informed on new ideas and developments meant to improve the Association.

lets start with an explanation of the NASG Clearing House-----

Many years ago, before NASG incorporated, a few pieces of jewelry, a decal and patch was available through various dealers. nobody was in charge to see that these items were kept on hand for the membership. The decal and jewelry stock ran out, leaving few NASG items available. Thus the reason for the Clearing House.

Since its inception, Dick Schlott attempted to reassemble the goodies and make them available to us again through our own outlet. In addition, he has added a few new items and more coming. This year, for example you will be able to purchase a genuine NASG T-shirt, jewelry will be back in stock later this year. Also in the works a set of decals for a box car, a decal for your car window, and, if feasible, a set of gauges for laying track. NASG Clearing House will be growing! This will develop into the warehouse for NASG oriented items. Look for the display at Milwaukee.

If you have a suggestion for an item for the Clearing House, drop me a line, I'm on the Officer's list. A list of items will appear in the Fall Dispatch.

The next committee, Contests, is an improvement group. The contest rules were developed ten or more years ago to supplant NMRA rules because they were inadequate for S gauge. We have a unique situation in that many of the entries are converted AF, either to scale or hi-rail. Further, we have different classes of skills so that the amateur is not competing with craftsmen. With NASG's contest rules the entries are more evenly matched. The Contest Committee's function is two fold in that it is responsible to see the rules are being followed as well as periodically reviewing their adequacy. Under current consideration is an instruction sheet that will brief judges on what to inspect. (Sure wish we had this at Railcon!) Also, a new category which will deal with difficulty in construction and a redefinition of Hi-Rail.

As you can see, this is a busy committee and serves a very important function in the integrity of our contests. The one big difference in our rules and those in NMRA is that ours are more responsive to S gaugers, and like Blind Justice, the rules guarantee that all S gaugers, scale or hi-rail, amateur, and craftsman are treated with equal fairness.

Of all of the benefits your membership in NASG has, the contest should be the topmost on the list. Only members can participate,

insuring that your rights as a paying NASG member are looked after. We will have copies of the rules at the convention for those who attend and will reprint them in the Dispatch next winter.

We hope that this column will help you to understand the functions of these committees. Future columns will cover the rest, and we will attempt to answer your questions, space permitting.

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BY - LAWS CHANGE

There is presently a motion before the Board of Trustees to alter the current NASG regional boundaries by revising Article IV of the By-Laws. This reorganization is not aimed at shifting large numbers of people from one region to another, but, at eliminating the use of time zones as boundaries. In some areas, notably Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, time zones split states in half and can lead to confusion in NASG regional matters. To alleviate this the following has been proposed: Revision of NASG By Laws: Article IV, Regional Organization.

1. There shall be three NASG Regions as follows: A. Eastern Region - The states of Ala., Del., Conn., Fla., Geo., Kty., Mair MD., Mass., Miss., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N. Carolina, Ohio, Penn., R.I., S. Carolina, Tenn. Ver., Va., W. Va., Dist. of Col., Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ont., and Europe.

B. Central Region - The states of Ark., Il Ind., Iowa, Kan., La., Mich., Minn., Mo., N.Dak., Neb., Ok., S. Dak., Tex., and Wisc.

C. Pacific Region - The states of Alaska, Ariz., Cal., Col., Hawaii, Idaho, Mont., N. Mex., Nev., Ore., Utah, Wash., Wyo., and the Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Australia.

2. The Board of Trustees shall reserve the right to apportion members of the NASG located in areas not supportive of a regional organization into existing regions.

Send comments on this motion to:

James A Kindraka Central Region V.P.  
3813 W Rochelle Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

MEMBERSHIP COUNT AS OF JAN 1st	
1979.....	231
1980.....	281 Up 50!

# National Association S Gaugers, Inc.

FROM: Bill Oertly, Treasurer  
 TO: Board of Trustees and membership

DATE: 19 February 1980  
 SUBJECT: Semi-annual Report FY 1980

**Beginning Balance 1 July 1979**

Checking	\$	251.86	
Savings		2095.41	
Petty Cash		<u>5.63</u>	
<b>Total Available balance</b>			<b>\$2352.90</b>

**Income during the year to 31 December 1979**

Dues	\$	490.00	
Pre-Paid Dues		50.00	
Misc sources		<u>212.65</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$ 752.65</b>

**Total cash available** **\$3105.55**

**Expenses during the year to 31 December 1979**

Postage	\$	267.58	
Printing		365.77	
Miscellaneous		<u>163.90</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 797.25</b>

**Ending Balance** **\$2308.30**

**Ending Balance 31 December 1979**

Checking	\$	449.49	
Savings		1851.06	
Petty Cash		<u>7.75</u>	
<b>Current Balance</b>			<b>\$2308.30</b>

As a word of clarification on two of the above entries, the pre-paid dues figure represents dues paid by members for multiple years and as such should not be counted in this years income to make that figure truly representative of our income. Secondly the reason for the reduced savings figure is that \$300.00 was transferred to the checking account during the year to meet a certain need, it will be replaced shortly.

Respectfully Submitted

*Bill Oertly*  
 Bill Oertly  
 Treasurer