



NEWSLETTER

Dick Karnes, Editor

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WELCOME!! The time has come for S scale to take its rightful place along with other mainstream model railroading scales. Formation of this new S Scale SIG is one step forward in letting folks know that S scale exists, is alive and healthy, has all the essentials, and is ready to assist you in considering this active minority scale. The S SIG can answer questions, solve problems, illustrate accomplishments, promote socializing, inform our non-S friends, present new products, and promote S scale on a worldwide field. We hope you join us for the journey.

As with most such endeavors, we encourage S SIG members to send us S scale information of all kinds. We'd like to see your modeling projects at all stages of completion. Layout photographs with meaningful captions and honestly-written new-product reviews are all welcome. Let us know about S scale magazine articles in the non-S press, train shows and conventions, local clubs, and just plain old gossip. We'll organize and categorize your submission for everyone to see. The more we cooperate and contribute to this venture, the more valuable it becomes for all of us. The possibilities are truly limitless...



Here we are – Brand spanking new and clean, no blemishes – Yet!

F unit mfd. by EMD Division of General Motors, photo ca. 1960s

General Motors LLC 2011

So, without further ado, I'd like to welcome you to the S Scale SIG. Check us out at sscale.org and see for yourself.

-- Ed Loizeaux, Coordinator

DEFINITION and MISSION

The S SIG has the following mission:

- Promote S scale model railroading compatible with NMRA/NASG standards and recommended practices.
- Provide a forum for S scale camaraderie, exchange of information, expertise, advice and technique.
- Emphasize S scale's size advantage.

S SIG membership is free and members do not need to be NMRA members, although we do encourage that. In fact, S SIG members can be hi-railers, American Flyer fans, or even people not in S, as long as they have an interest in S scale topics.

For purposes of the S SIG, we define "S Scale" as follows:

- Wheels and track compatible with NMRA specifications S-1.2 and S-3.2 and S-4.2.
- A coupler size equal to or smaller than Kadee #802 and compatible with NMRA specification S-2.
- A rail height in the approximate ratio of 1:64 to the prototype being modeled.

S scale offers all the essentials for a dedicated hobbyist to build an outstanding model railroad. One can

buy rail, ties, flex track, turnouts, Kadee couplers, high-quality locomotives in both plastic and brass, rolling stock, detail parts, NWSL wheels, laser-cut structure kits, etc. without difficulty. S-specific tools are available, e.g., turnout-construction jigs from Fast Tracks, coupler height gages, and wheel/track gages from the NASG.

THIS NEWSLETTER

The S SIG's Newsletter is published quarterly, first in the *1:64 Modeling Guide* (www.1-64modelingguide.com), then 30 days later on the S SIG website, sscale.org.

PHILOSOPHY

We've adopted a philosophy that simplifies S scale from the point of view of the potential convert from some other scale. We emphasize that S offers one major advantage, and that is its size – large enough to appreciate the detail and operating characteristics, yet small enough not to crowd your family out of your house. Standing still in the usual three-foot-wide layout aisle, one's eyes can take in the detail within a complete vignette, including several car lengths with a vista of structures and scenery. S locos are hefty but still "handle-able." Wheel profile standards are the same as HO, but the wider gauge and heavier equipment both contribute to greater stability on the track as well as excellent pulling power and better electrical continuity. These are especially cogent "pluses" for HO narrow-gaugers considering a switch to Sn3 or Sn2.

For the experienced S modeler, we offer an arena for sharing your expertise. For the less experienced, we offer a helpful forum, an S Specialist program, and resources to share *bona fide* expertise.

The following paragraphs will further acquaint you with what we feel will be a worthwhile venue for your entertainment, relaxation, and consideration.

WEBSITE

Our website (sscale.org) offers an array of useful information – videos and photos of numerous S scale models and layouts, a forum conversation group, articles specifically for and by our members (*The S Scale Journal*), an exhaustive listing of S scale magazine articles, a repository of prior Newsletters. The forum is strictly moderated to filter out messages with non-S-scale topics such as religion, politics, flaming, negativity, American Flyer and Lionel (except scale conversions), etc.

Forum message categories are as follows:

- S scale modeling (tutorials, tips, techniques, how-to's)
- "Show 'n' Tell" (your latest projects)
- Manufacturer announcements, specials, sales, news
- S scale events, meetings, open houses, open sessions
- Narrow gauge (Sn3, Sn42, Sn2)
- S Classifieds: Buy, sell, trade new/used
- New member introductions
- S SIG issues (complaints, suggestions,

comments, etc.)

- Real railroads as related to S
- S-related DCC, electrical/electronic

Message creators can specify the appropriate topic area for each message when they post. Each S SIG member can choose to receive, or not to receive, messages in each of the topic areas. Thus, banter and chit-chat can be isolated from hard-core S modeling messages.

The rules are clear and unambiguous. As soon as an off-topic message appears, one of the moderators immediately deletes the message or moves it into the correct topic.

WHO'S WHO AROUND HERE

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SUPPORT S SCALE'S DEDICATED PUBLICATION

If you're reading this S SIG Newsletter for the first time on the website, we urge you to subscribe to the *1:64 Modeling Guide* e-zine.

Each Newsletter is first published in the *Guide*. It's then released to the S SIG's website 30 days later. Want to keep up while the news is hot? Subscribe to *1:64 Modeling Guide*. The quarterly *Guide* (www.1-64modelingguide.com) is full of how-to articles, latest product news, product reviews, and ads from S suppliers.

This Newsletter and the S SIG's website will not compete with the *Guide* or any other publication. The S SIG's purpose is limited to the mission stated on page 1 of this Newsletter. Unsolicited product announcements (other than those that appear informally in our forums) as well as *bona fide* articles, will be forwarded to the *Guide* for possible consideration unless specifically limited to the S SIG's web site by the author. If accepted by the *Guide*, the author will receive payment according to the *Guide's* terms. Otherwise, the S SIG will consider the material a gratis contribution for the S SIG's website.

MENTORS & SPECIALISTS

One of the more frustrating aspects of e-mail is that every note looks authoritative, even when responses to a question may vary widely. Some responders have the experience and skill to provide proper

guidance, others may extrapolate their limited knowledge beyond their experience level, and still others may simply guess. The questioner is left to his own devices to sort the wheat from the chaff.

In order to provide *bona fide* added value to forum members, we are launching a program of Mentors and Specialists. Our Specialists are here to respond to your particular technical questions; you may contact them directly. Your exchanges with the Specialists may appear in subsequent Newsletters in order to assist others.

If you're an S scale newcomer, want expert help, and don't really know where to begin, we will assign a member of our Board of Directors as your "Mentor." He'll provide assistance on a more personal level than simply answering questions, dialog with you to determine how best to help you toward your dream layout, and proceed to do just that – "help" – with the assistance of our Specialists.

Our Specialists have decades of experience; all are masters of their particular specialties. You'll come to know them well over time, and you can depend on their answers.

JOIN US!!

We'd love to have you with us! Take a look at www.sscale.org and join our forum. It's free! Welcome aboard!

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(The opinions expressed in the S SIG Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the 1:64 Modeling Guide, its editorial staff, or RLN Publishing.)