



# The OSKER

The O Scale Kings Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

May, 2008

## Inside

President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Secretary's Report	2
The Quarter Inch Blunder	3
Module Report	4
Train Shows 2008	4
O Scale National Convention	5
York Meet	5
Officers	6
Volunteers	6
Membership Application	7
Sound Off!	8

## Editor's Note

Unfortunately, the newsletter this time is late because of an automobile accident that my wife and I had in February of this year. Thank you for your many phone calls and emails. Both my wife and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. We are doing much better and hope to see you at the upcoming O Scale National Convention.

We have a new staff member for the O Scale Newsletter, Mr. Al Askerberg, O Scale Kings #614. Al models the LNA&C, in O 5 and the OT&W in On30. Al will help us publish the newsletter.

Thank you for your help and we invite you to become involved in the production of the Newsletter by sending us your comments, suggestions or an article.

Dan Mason, Editor

## President's Report

The two major meets this quarter went well. I was trapped by bad weather en route to O Scale West and did not make it. Rod Miller and David Vaughn co-chaired the OSK meeting. There was a discussion about making OSK a clearing house for 2-rail marketing information to be given to O scale manufacturers. A request was made for train related articles for use in the Newsletter. It was announced that Bill Louie received an official copyright on the OSK Primer. The Primer is on our website and can now be legally downloaded for your use. The organizers of the 2008 National Convention in Worcester gave an update of activities planned for this meet. The bank balance was \$4,067.

I did make it to the Chicago March meet and it was up to its usual high standards. Attendance of both vendors and attendees seemed a little off. I am worried about the future of train shows and conventions as the high gas prices, increasing airline ticket prices and the falling dollar are taking their toll. The OSK meeting was well attended and some lively discussions took place. We again discussed using OSK members to do surveys on what they want from manufacturers. We would be doing our suppliers a great service if we could tell them what products we would buy in sufficient numbers and at what price range so they could proceed with confidence on new products. They are faced with the additional challenge of the falling dollar in negotiating with foreign manufacturers. It is almost impossible to predict the final price of a project which takes months or years to complete. They will need the very best market surveys before they will commit. We will run these surveys on our [Oscalekings@yahoo.com](mailto:Oscalekings@yahoo.com) website. Please participate and please be as accurate as possible on what you want, how many items you will buy and what you are willing to spend. We discussed the informal product reviews that results from inputs on our yahoo groups site. It is good to point out problems with new products and suggest ways to fix them. However, I suggest we not be too harsh on our manufacturers that are trying to bring us good models at very reasonable prices

(continued next page)

## President's Report (continued)

The source book is now on the website. It can be downloaded for your use now. It will soon be in a more user friendly format and will be updated with current information

We need volunteers to man the OSK booth at the World's Greatest Hobby show in Louisville, KY on June 28 & 29 and the National Train Show (NMRA) in Anaheim, CA on July 13 through 19. Please contact me if you can help out at either of these shows.

Bob Lavezzi is spearheading the most ambitious recruiting effort we have ever attempted. We felt that with an estimated attendance of 23,000 established modelers, the York, PA show provided our best source for new members. The entire building will be strictly O Scale 2-rail. There will be two big O scale modular layouts, a trolley layout and a switching layout. In addition to the OSK booth, O Scale Trains magazine will also have their booth there. We hope it will be worth the resources we have committed to this effort. Our ad, which we have included in this newsletter, will be in all the publications advertising the show. The results from this show will demonstrate just how effective we can be in converting 3-railers to full scale modeling.

George Wallace  
President

---

Why not submit a photo of your layout for the newsletter? We will publish photos of members' layouts as space permits. Contact Dan Mason at [dmason@danielrmason.com](mailto:dmason@danielrmason.com)



Photo by Al Askerberg

A view of Al Askerberg's  
Louisville, New Albany and Corydon

## Treasurer's Report

As of April 3, 2008 there is a balance of \$5,785.82 in our account. All bills that have been submitted have been paid. Our biggest expense item that we incurred was for the display booth that has been approved by the Board and is under construction. The cost for the booth was approximately \$3,633.00.

A reminder to all members, dues are due at the first of the year and are past due on June 30 of that year. I encourage all that have not paid their dues to do so right away. Our dues are \$10.00 minimum. However, most members pay \$25.00 or more. Please send your dues to my attention, Bob Plageman, Treasurer, O Scale Kings, Inc., 2117 Stratford Way, San Mateo, CA 94403 or call me if you have any questions at 650-349-1496 or email [plageman33@comcast.net](mailto:plageman33@comcast.net).

Our bank account is now with Wells Fargo as a result of a merger with our previous bank. We now have bank charges for processing international checks. This means that members that live in foreign countries will need to send their dues in the form of a money order payable in United States funds. I am sorry for this inconvenience.

That's it for this time! Thanks to all members who have paid their dues. Your dues enable us to stay financially healthy.

All the Best,  
Bob Plageman  
Treasurer

---

## Secretary's Report

I was honored to be considered to be the secretary of the O Scale Kings. I have enjoyed my association with the leaders of this organization and all the rest of the great members who enjoy the same things that I do. I am here to serve you, and to help build a good solid base to organize our efforts into an informative and informational group.

I have spent some time going over the membership records. I am updating and reorganizing them into a different data base. We are working towards publishing a roster with name, city, state and e-mail address for active members that want to be included. We will not publish anyone's name without their approval. It will be published on the O Scale Kings website and in a forthcoming letter.

(continued next page)

## Secretary's Report (continued)

I have sent emails to all the paid up members that we have an email address for. There are still a few that have not responded. If you are one of them, please do so. We will first contact everyone that is an active member and then we will contact all those that have been active but have forgotten to send in their dues for 2008.

We have 153 members who have paid their 2008 dues as of the end of April. There are an additional 100 members who paid dues in 2007 and have until June 30th to pay their 2008 dues before becoming delinquent. This is the last newsletter being sent to members who do not renew their membership. We are enclosing an O Scale Kings Membership application for you to renew or to give to a friend who might want to join us. Of course we would welcome back any of our former members who have dropped out over the years.

I am requesting that you send me any information of your local clubs, conventions, groups or fellow cronies that get together to play and talk O scale trains. We would like to create a data base that allows us to contact as many OSKers as we can and promote the hobby. This includes all variations of O Scale 2-rail: Standard gauge, Narrow gauge, Traction, P48, etc.

We are looking forward to the continued growth and preservation of this hobby. If there is anything we can do to assist you and promote O Scale 2-rail, let us know. My e-mail is [oscalekings@yahoo.com](mailto:oscalekings@yahoo.com).

Kind regards,  
Jim Allen  
Secretary

The OSKER  
Published by the O Scale Kings, Inc.  
5742 South 6100 West  
Hooper, UT 84315  
Editor - Dan Mason  
Design and layout - Al Askerberg

### The Quarter Inch Blunder

Being involved with Model Trains since quite an early date  
I find my scale of choice to be one/forty-eight

While the trains are impressive down to every detail  
The supporting manufacturers are having problems with scale

Why can't we find a truck or a car in one/forty-eight  
I find this bizarre  
We get one/forty third or one/fiftieth, close but no cigar  
Will they ever learn to hit the mark

A quarter inch to the foot seems easy enough  
Why are we stuck with all this other stuff

We O scalers need to take a stand  
Just quit buying and reprimand  
I believe their sales would double  
If they break out of this one/forty-third bubble

Even the S scalers have it better than us  
One/sixty-fourth, now that's a real plus  
The HO'ers lead a charmed life,  
Every vehicle looks just right

I hate to come down so heavy,  
But I despise a twenty foot Chevy

With a little luck, things may change  
If those slide rulers would engage their brains  
And build a few models in one/forty-eighth  
Before we all begin to lose faith

What ever lies ahead for quarter inch scale  
It will always take a team effort for a ship to sail

I say lets get together to show them the way  
With outstanding models, we'll be here to stay

---

Ken Scheich, OSK #307 - *Let there be rail*

## Module Report

Listed below is our latest 2 rail O Scale Train Show schedule for 2008. These are module clubs/groups. They are working hard to represent 2 rail O Scale model railroading throughout the United States. If your club or group does not have a listing in the flyer, please contact Bob Retallack, 2224 Adner Court, Columbus, OH 43220, bobretallack@aol.com, 614-459-4974 or Dan Mason, 160 South Church Street, Canton, Georgia 30114 dmason@danielrmason.com.

Bob Retallack  
O Scale Kings Module Coordinator

### 2-rail O-scale Train Shows For 2008

Merchantsville, NJ May 3

John Dunn

Bensalem, PA 19020

215-639-7290

609-432-2871

E-mail: eostrainsd@comcast.net

E-mail: jdunn8888@hotmail.com

www.easternscalers.com

Garner, MA

Eastern O Scalers

Dave Richter (Contact for show dates)

PO Box 1781

Bensalem, PA 19020

215-639-7290

E-mail: eostrains@comcast.net

www.easternscalers.

Worcester, MA July 23 - 27

O Scale National Convention

Rich Godfrey

Holden, MA 01608

508-820-4529

www.2008oscalenational.org

Oklahoma City, OK September 19 – 20

Southwest O Scale Meet

George Wallace

11937 Stratford Drive

Oklahoma City, OK 73120

405-751-7649

E-mail: thudcheif1@sbcglobal.net

Denver, PA August 9

Eastern O Scalers

Dave Richter

P.O. Box 1781

Bensalem, PA 19020

215-639-7290

E-mail: eostrains@comcast.net

www.easternscalers.

Wind Gap, PA October 11

Eastern O Scalers

Dave Richer

P.O. Box 1781

Bensalem, PA 19020

215-639-7290

E-mail: eostrains@comcast.net

Web www.easternscalers.com

Indianapolis, IN September 5 - 6

Jim Canter

1203 Rotherham Ln

Indianapolis, IN 46107

317-9065-6475

E-mail: jcanternkp@aol.com

Kirtland, OH November 8

Bob Frieden

9695 Chillicothe Rd

Kirtland, OH 44094

440-256-8141

E-mail: tworailoscale@aol.com

For a current listing of O Scale train shows and club layouts, check the O Scale website: <http://www.oscalekings.org>

## O Scale National Convention

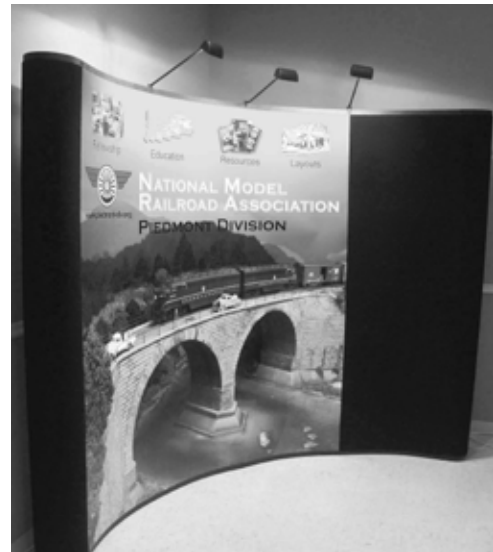
**East Wind '08**

**Worcester, Massachusetts**

**July 23 – 26, 2008**

O Scale Kings will have our new display booth at the upcoming National Convention. Please stop by and say hello to us. O Scale Kings proudly supports the convention and the convention host. We will also have our annual meeting at the convention, so please attend if you are there.

We look forward to visiting with all of you and encourage you to attend the National Convention.



Type of display booth obtained for O Scale Kings exhibits



## **The Two Railers Are Coming To York. . . The Two Railers Are Coming To York . . . The Two Railers Are Coming To York . . .**

Where? The Black Hall

### **4 Operating Modular Layouts**

1 Massive Trolley Layout running off overhead wire.

2 O Scale Modular Layouts, featuring TMC, DCS, DC, & DCC.

One of the largest military trains in the country, large and small steam engines, long passenger trains, modern diesels pulling the latest in rolling stock, long lines of reefers, stock cars filled with cattle, long coal drags, mixed freights and specialty cars.

Switching contests on the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers' modular with prizes for the best time.

Sponsored by the O Scale Kings

# Here's How to Contact Us

## Officers

George Wallace  
President, O Scale Kings, Inc  
11937 Stratford Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
Home: 405-751-7649  
Cell: 405-818-2277  
thudchief1@sbcglobal.net

Jim Allen  
Secretary, O Scale Kings, Inc  
5742 South 6100 West  
Hooper, UT 84315  
Home: 801-985-0633  
Cell: 801-643-3665  
oscalekingsd@yahoo.com

Bob Plageman  
Treasurer, O Scale Kings, Inc.  
2117 Stratford Way  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
Home: 650-455-1544  
Cell: 650-455-3143  
plageman33@comcast.net

Rod Miller  
Immediate Past President, O Scale Kings  
876 Boyce Avenue  
Alto, CA 94301-3003  
Home: 650-329-0424  
Cell: 650-218-5752  
rod@rodmiller.com

## Directors

Bob Lavezzi  
Director, O Scale Kings, Inc  
422 Birchwood Road  
Linden, NJ 07036  
Home: 908-925-6035  
Cell: 908-337-7532  
oscalet1@comcast.net

James Canter  
Director, O Scale Kings, Inc  
1203 Rotherham Lane  
Beech Grove, IN 46107-3323  
Home: 317-782-3322  
Cell: 317-965-6475  
jcanternkp@sbcglobal.net

Daniel R. Mason  
Director, O Scale Kings, Inc.  
3000 Creekside Drive  
Marietta, GA 30066  
Home: 770-928-8618  
Cell: 770-337-5139  
dmason@danielrmason.comv

David Vaughn  
Director, O Scale Kings, Inc  
13732 Lakeside drive  
Clarksburg, MD 21029  
Home: 301-854-2476  
Cell: 301-529-9974  
nkp48@aol.com

---

## Volunteers

Ted Byrne  
O Scale SIG  
P.O. Box 449  
Chestertown, MD 20620-0449  
Home: 410-778-2768  
mdflatland@cs.com

**Al Askerberg**  
**Newsletter Publisher**  
**1411 Parkside Drive**  
**Columbus, IN 47203**  
**Home: 812-379-2697**  
**aiberg@comcast.net**



# O SCALE KINGS (OSKers)

## Membership Application

Complete and mail to:

**Jim Allen**  
5742 South 6100 West  
Hooper, Utah 84315

**Dues:**  
**Regular**      \$10 per year  
**Commercial** \$25 per year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Line: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_ Male\_\_ Female \_\_ Year born \_\_\_\_\_

Publish your name, state, phone number and e-mail address online in the  
O Scale Kings Directory? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Primary Scale: Z \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ HO \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Standard Gauge \_\_\_ Narrow Gauge \_\_\_

Secondary Scale: Z \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ HO \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Standard Gauge \_\_\_ Narrow Gauge \_\_\_

If O Scale: 2 Rail \_\_\_ Proto-48 \_\_\_ Traction \_\_\_ 3 Rail-Scale \_\_\_ 3 Rail-toy \_\_\_

Do you buy brass? \_\_\_ Do you buy kits? \_\_\_ Do you buy ready to run? \_\_\_ Do you kitbash? \_\_\_

Do you have a layout? \_\_\_ Do you belong to a club? \_\_\_ Does your club have a layout? \_\_\_

Do you shop in local hobby shops? \_\_\_ Do you shop on line? \_\_\_ Do you buy by mail order? \_\_\_

What hobby magazines do you subscrib to?

O Scale Trains \_\_\_ O Scale News \_\_\_ Model Railroader \_\_\_ Classic Toy Trains \_\_\_

O Gauge Railroading \_\_\_ Railroad Model Craftsman \_\_\_ NG&SL Gazette \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

What Railroad(s) Do You Model? \_\_\_\_\_

What Era Do You Model?

1800s \_\_\_ Steam \_\_\_ Transition \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation \_\_\_ Modern \_\_\_

What Conventions Do You Attend? (Please Check)

NMRA \_\_\_ O Scale National \_\_\_ Narrow Gauge \_\_\_ O Scale West \_\_\_ Indy \_\_\_ Chicago March Meet \_\_\_

York TCA \_\_\_ TCA National \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish, please use blank space on the reverse side, or use a separate sheet of paper, to tell us anything you want about our hobby, conventions, this organization, manufacturers, and products. You may use a facsimile of this form if you prefer. If you have layout photos, send one or two for our website. Visit us at: [www.oscalekings.org](http://www.oscalekings.org) and [Oscalekings@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Oscalekings@yahoogroups.com) .

## *Sound Off!*

We periodically receive comments and suggestions from our members which will be presented in this column. One of our members responded to the question we posed at the membership meeting at the 2007 O Scale National concerning O Scale Kings being more proactive with the manufacturers. A member writes that “he felt that this is one of the reasons that we created O Scale Kings”. He further writes that “our input would be helpful in determining what the manufacturer decides as to what models they offer”.

O Scale Kings intends to continue to have an active relationship with manufacturers and vendors that would include reporting to the manufactures and vendors our ideas, opinions or request by members.

O Scale Kings represents you and therefore we want to hear from you regarding any suggestions, requests or wish list that you may have. We may also publish your responses in this Newsletter, so therefore make sure to advise us if we have your permission to use your name, address, etc. in case someone may want to contact you directly in the future

**O Scale Kings, Inc.  
c/o Jim Allen  
5742 South 6100 West  
Hooper, Utah 84315**