



# THE OSKER

## THE O SCALE KINGS NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Number 2

August, 2008

### President's Report

I had a great time at the O Scale National Convention in Worcester, MA. The Southern New England Model Railroad Club is to be congratulated on putting on a first class event. You could go on a 10-layout tour without ever leaving the spacious hall plus they had tours of several home layouts. Attendance of about 800 was good considering gas prices, airline fares, and the general condition of the economy. Many vendors did not attend citing the price of fuel being prohibitive. O Scale Kings held the O Scale Hall of Fame election and Dave Waddington, Lou Cross and Joe Giannovario were elected. Our O Scale Kings Booth looked great and worked out well. Its next stops are Indianapolis and York. See Rod Miller's write-up for more convention details.

Some good things to come out of the Convention were the signing up of several new members and two volunteers to help with projects. John Dunn has taken on an OSK tee shirt project. Larry Grant has offered to help keep the on-line Resource Book current. Rod Miller is rapidly converting the book to a format that can be updated.

Many thanks to Bob Trimble for volunteering to distribute our literature at the NMRA National Convention in Anaheim, CA. We are an all volunteer organization and we can be no more effective than the efforts of our members. This quarter, we missed a presence at two major shows for lack of volunteers. If you can help out at Indianapolis or York, please contact me. We are also looking for news articles for our newsletter. Starting with our next issue, we will be featuring a modular club layout each issue. If your modular club participates in a train show, let us hear about it.

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Photograph by Richard Bourgerie

ST96 draws the attention of Gladys on member Warner Clark's P48 Layout.

## President's Report (continued)

Our annual elections are coming up. The offices on the ballot will be President, currently held by myself, and two director positions, currently held by Bob Lavezzi and Dan Mason. Send your recommendations for these positions to our Secretary, Jim Allen by September 30<sup>th</sup>. We will send out ballots that must be returned by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

I get many suggestions about getting Hi-Railers more involved. We obviously cannot promote the three rail hobby. However, we can ask these hobbyists to join our organization to learn how to make their models more prototypical. Exposure to our models may encourage them to convert 2-rail models to 3-rail thereby increasing our suppliers sales, which ultimately benefits us. The presence of two Hi-Rail layouts at Worcester was a major step in increasing cooperation between the two groups. Ultimately, we would hope that some of these modelers would convert to 2-rail.

I will be meeting with NMRA and other group officials at Indianapolis to explore ways to promote our diminishing hobby. High gas and airline prices are an immediate concern, but all scales must attract young members or our future is bleak. Again, your inputs are most welcome.

Hope to see you at Indianapolis

George Wallace  
President, OSK #49

## Treasurer's Report

As of 8/12/08, cash in the bank is \$5187.41. Dues paid at the National was \$140. Total income for this period was \$650. Not bad for this time of year. Just a reminder for new members, as well as us oldtimers, Dues are Due the First of the year and are past due June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dues amounts vary. Base rate is \$10. Most members pay \$25. Dealers and manufacturers usually pay \$50 to \$100. Most members are very generous with their dues payments. Major expenses have been for the processing and mailing of "O" Scale Show flyers. These flyers show dates, locations and contact people at various 'O' Scale Meets at which 'O' Scale modules will be operating. The flyers are handed out to the attendees at these meets and is a more direct way of advertising 'O' Scale Kings than magazine ads. Costs for this year and last were \$796.11 Not bad compared with over \$2000 paid for magazine ads in years past.

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that dues checks should be sent to me, the Treasurer. This is incorrect!! All dues payments are to be sent to the Secretary, Jim Allen, 5742 South 6100. West Hooper, UT 84315. He maintains the payment records and forwards the checks to me for deposit in the Kings bank account.

That's it for this time !!

Bob Plageman, OSK #262  
Treasurer

# DUES DUE?

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2008 DUES?

Dues are currently \$10 per year.  
Send a check or money order  
(DO NOT SEND CASH!) to:

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

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)

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[dmason@danielrmason.com](mailto:dmason@danielrmason.com)

## Secretary's Report

Dear Members,

This summer has been a busy one for me. I have been overwhelmed with summer activities and yard work. Enjoying the hobby has been put on the back burner and from what I can see, many of you are in the same boat.

I have been working on getting verification and permission from all the current members and past due members for a roster update that will be posted on the OSK's website. It will be ready very soon. I will update and keep it current as new members join, old members pay their dues and as corrections come my way. We currently have 206 members. There are about the same amount of delinquent members that have neglected to pay their dues this year.

I have been considering what we as the OSKs can do to help promote our portion of the hobby. We all do this because of the love we have for O scale trains. So the question I ask myself is, how can I, as an individual, help promote the growth of our interest. I was pondering it the other night and this idea came to me. My wife and I took a weeks vacation and headed for Clearwater Beach in Florida. I put out a few feelers to try to locate any active clubs and or individuals that would allow me to visit with them and enjoy their efforts. I had one reply from Allen Novak.

He invited me to visit the Sarasota Model Railroad Club in Sarasota Florida. Well I looked at the map and said that isn't very far so off we went. I spend about 2 hours visiting with Allen and a few other members and they gave me the throttle and said have fun. I spent some

time moving the train around so I could take pictures. I am no photographer but I got a few good shots. I have included them with this letter. I will be posting a few of them on the [Oscalekings@yahoo.com](mailto:Oscalekings@yahoo.com).

I want to thank Allen for hosting me for a day. It was a very enjoyable experience and the modeling was fabulous. There are many scratch built buildings and scenes, with lots of neat ideas on hiding switch machines and layout necessities that all layouts have. It was great to hear the history of the club and to listen to the plans they have for the future.

After this experience with the Sarasota club, I have been wondering what we have to do to give more exposure to people that have no idea 2-rail O scale even exists. We need to have open houses but somehow make sure that new people are showing up at them. Train shows are great but we have to make sure that we are not singing to the choir. Now most of this has already been said a thousand times. We as promoters have to make sure that others are hearing us and getting the message. We need to open our doors to the general public so that 2-rail O scale gets maximum exposure. We have many clubs and home layouts already in place. Make sure we use our existing resources effectively.

Enjoy the summer!

Regards,

Jim Allen  
Secretary OSK

NKP Mike 597 lies in the hole while Geep 475 passes with its drag. This action occurred on Warner Clark's P48 layout.



Photograph by Richard Bourgerie

# National Convention Report

Hi Folks,

Here is my take on the convention. Hopefully others who attended will add their impressions to this and/or correct any mistakes or omissions on my part.

New products:

Rich Yoder was showing his tank car. Apparently the models had just arrived and Rich's painter was able to get a couple of them decorated for the convention. The cars look very nice. Rich was also showing a 3-axle Buckeye truck; as one who just finished assembling a PSC kit for the same truck, it is a real boon to have them RTR.

Lenz had some very nice O scale products on their table. Perhaps the most exciting to me was their RTR #6 double slip switch! It was very smooth and will mate with Atlas O sectional track. The price is \$177 for the non-DCC friendly version which isn't bad for four turnouts and cross-overs all in one piece. Lenz also is offering #6 turnouts, again Atlas O compatible; now we have the choice of RTR #5.5, #6, and #7.5 turnouts. Lenz also is offering curved and straight sectional track along with one meter (39") flex track, all in.148. The prototype is European, but once ballasted and weathered, only track inspectors will notice. Disclaimer: I am a dealer for the above items, but my motivation in posting this is that I am excited about new additions to the spectrum of 2-rail track that make O scale more attractive to HO modelers who don't hand lay track, and that also gives existing 2-railers more options for track. Lenz will also produce left and right curved turnouts and a 3-way turnout, again all are RTR.

Ted Schnepf (Rails Unlimited) was showing his new ACL low-side gon and a new item, a PRR class GRA 43' low-sided gondola.

Glenn Guerra of Mullet River was showing an amazing

array of laser cut wood cabooses kits. If he keeps up his pace for a few more years the number of non-modeled wood cabooses will approach zero! I presume the web site at [www.mulletriver.com](http://www.mulletriver.com) has more info. I turned over to Glenn the pattern for the correct smokestack for the SP C30-1 caboose, so he should have that available in white metal. I will offer the same stack in brass.

The O Scale Kings had their new booth set up. It was very impressive. It is designed for easy set up/teardown and easy shipping, so now the O Scale Kings can have a professional presence at train shows where we can work on converting others to 2-rail O scale.

Irish Tracklayer continues to churn out lots of small detail parts, many of them precision etchings.

Sunset/3rd Rail was showing their 20th Century Hudson along with the Golden Gate 20th Century cars. Their display SP AM-2 was running on Bill Driscoll's layout as his AM-2 was temporarily laid up because of a lost screw - thanks Sunset!

I was selling coupler adapters for the Weaver troop sleeper cars. The adapters move the couplers inward for close coupling using all the original mounting holes and screws. If the modeler wishes, air and signal hoses and the steam line can be added by drilling dimples on the casting and installing the appropriate castings. When the demo car arrives back here next week, I'll post some photos on my web site.

There were nine portable/modular layouts including the Southern New England group's huge layout, Bill Driscoll running my personal favorite SP, the Central Ohio O Scalers' big layout, the East Penn Traction layout, the New Jersey O Scalers' layout, the Delaware Valley Hi-Railers, the nicely scened Connecticut Society of Ferroequinologists' 3-rail layout which included a rolling

(continued on page 6)

## Module Report

Listed on the next page 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](mailto:bobretallack@aol.com), 614-459-4974 or Dan Mason, 160 South Church Street, Canton, Georgia 30114 [dmason@danielrmason.com](mailto:dmason@danielrmason.com).

Bob Retallack  
O Scale Kings Module Coordinator

# O SIG Report

I would like to raise some possible ideas for the O Scale SIG to work on during the coming year. During the past several years we have reviewed several of your suggestions. One was for On30 standards but that has been largely done. I would welcome your reaction to them.

Another was for better O Scale couplers. People were pretty satisfied with the present Kadee couplers but there are no couplers for passenger cars. Kadee's often don't work because they are not long enough and do not swing widely enough. There are some kits and schemes to modify the couplers that work fairly well and, of course, dummy couplers could be used. My question is whether you think that we should work toward a standard passenger car coupler and maybe talk someone into building them. Tell me what you think.

I have another proposal. As you know the NMRA has requirements for various awards for skillful achievement of Model railroading construction and operation tasks. Some of you might be interested and indeed have some of these achievement awards, maybe even enough to qualify for the Master Model Railroader award.

But they also have something simpler called the Golden Spike Award. It consists of a nice certificate. The concept is as follows. The mark of a true Model Railroader is to create a model railroad layout. But what constitutes a layout? For the Golden Spike award the minimum requirements are:

- at least 8 square feet of layout,
- track installed with proper roadbed and ballast, including at least three types (turnout, crossing, etc.)
- track wired to operate two trains simultaneously, with double track main or sidings, and appropriate electrical supply,
- at least six units of rolling stock, either scratch built or detailed,
- at least five structures, either scratch built or detailed,
- at least one additional electrical feature such as turnout power, signaling etc.

In O Scale, 8 square feet will not even allow a circle of track but it would be just about right for a module. Or, it could be part of a larger layout.

My question is whether anyone is interested in pursuing this? We, in O SIG, could provide some articles on construction of the necessary items. We could gather stories from people who have completed the Golden Spike and display entries at an O scale train show. We could simplify the qualification process mechanics to take place at one of our O scale train shows.

Please send me your comments, through the newsletter editor, on either these ideas or some other proposal.

Ted Byrne  
O Scale SIG

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## O-scale Train Shows For 2008

Indianapolis, IN September 5 - 6  
Indianapolis O Scalars  
Jim Canter  
1203 Rotherham Ln  
Indianapolis, IN 46107  
317-9065-6475  
E-mail: jcanternkp@aol.com

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

Wind Gap, PA October 11  
Eastern O Scalars  
Dave Richer  
P.O. Box 1781  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
215-639-7290  
E-mail: eostrains@comcast.net  
Web www.easternscalars.com

Merchantsville, NJ, Sept. 6  
Eastern O Scalars  
Dave Richter  
P.O. Box 1781  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
215-639-7290  
E-mail: eostrains@comcast.net  
www.easternscalars.com

Garner, MA, Oct. 4  
Eastern O Scalars  
Larry Grant  
347 Balcom Street  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
508-337-6661  
E-mail: bigbrotherLAR@netzero.net  
www.easternscalars.com

Carlstadt, NJ, Oct. 25  
NYSME  
Bob Lavezzi  
422 Birchwood Lane  
Linden, NJ 07036  
908-925-6035  
ocalet1@comcast.net

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

## Convention Report (continued)

lift bridge, the Metrowest Model Railroad Society 2-rail layout running mainly NYC, B&M and NH equipment, and the On30 Narragansett Bay Railway and Navigation Co. with its novel bridges and kit-bashed locos including a camelback 0-6-0.

It seemed like most of the rolling stock for sale was RTR Atlas O and Weaver. There were some brass vendors but they were out-numbered by the RTR stuff, at least in terms of number of boxes if not also in terms of number of vendors.

I spent some time talking to Triple-A Precision. He was showing a prototype for a 3 stall engine house, apparently based upon WP's Keddie house. His other product was what has to be the nicest engineered and fabricated turntable I have seen. It was pricey, to be expected once the engineering and manufacturing quality were taken into consideration, but I suspect that durability and reliability will be excellent.

The facility was first rate. The floor space was about 60,000 SF, so there was a nice open feeling inspite of all the space consumed by layouts.

The food at the banquet was very good. The Baltimore SME gave a presentation on the 2009 convention which they are hosting. They have gotten very creative and are having the convention at Towson University. Housing will be in dorm rooms; room costs include food. Lest you be concerned, let me tell you from first-hand experience that dorm rooms nowadays are nothing like what most of us experienced during our college days. I gave a short presentation on the 2010 convention, for which we are now in contract negotiations. The dates for which we are negotiating are June 27 to July 3. July 4 is Sunday, so Monday will be a holiday which should remove time pressure on getting back to work. June 27 - June 30 will be devoted to visiting the approximately 35 home and club layouts that will be open for the convention; of course many of those layouts will be also open during the convention days of July 1 - July 3.

Gotta get back to post-convention business. Regards,

Rod Miller

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## Here's How to Contact Us

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# 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. O Scale Kings intends to continue to have an active relationship with manufacturers and vendors that would include reporting to the manufacturers and vendors our ideas, opinions, or requests by members. Watch for a survey of prospective model products, and sound off.

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.  
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