



THE OSKER

THE O SCALE KINGS NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Number 3

December, 2008

President's Report

Our participation at the York show was a huge success. Thanks to Bob Lavezzi for spearheading this effort and to all involved in bringing and operating the modular layouts. See the show reports in this newsletter. Our Display Booth was well received, people were packed around the layouts and interest in 2-rail was high. We plan to return to York soon. Our next event is the World's Greatest Hobby (WGH) show, January 3-4, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA. Joe Giannovario of O Scale Trains will have a table at our booth which will be a great help in furthering interest in 2-rail. We intend to participate in all five of the WGH shows in 2009. We will be soliciting volunteers to help work our Booth at these shows and the NMRA National, July 5 – 11, 2009, in Hartford, CT.

I wish to thank Bob Retallack, Jim Hackworth, Tim Diebert and Bob Plageman for their efforts in assembling, printing and distributing the "O Scale Train Shows" flyers for the past few years. They have been distributing the flyers at general train shows and club shows to attract model railroaders to O Scale shows and hopefully into the 2-rail hobby. Please contact Bob to

add your club's permanent or modular layout to his list so that you too can pass out these flyers and/or advertise your shows.

We are currently running an election and I am quite concerned about the reluctance of our members to become involved in the management of this organization. Although we have good people on the board who are well qualified and all have agreed to run for another term in office, the intention was to have a turnover in these positions to utilize the expertise and ideas of as many members as possible. I have been underwhelmed by volunteers despite requests at our OSK meetings at major meets, advertising on the yahoo group and many personal calls and e-mails. Out of all that, I have one volunteer. The election becomes basically just a show of support for those people already in office. Next election, we will all have served our maximum of two terms and will have to be replaced. Please seriously consider getting involved.

We are reminded daily that our nation's economy is in trouble but we can tailor our recruiting efforts to the hard times in several ways. We can point out the low cost products available such as the Atlas Trainman line and that the price of many of our models, whether high end plastic or brass, compare quite favorably with similar HO products. Encourage the fun of kit building for those on a modest budget. This is a chance for us to sell off some those un-built kits the so many of us have stashed away. I could start a large number of new O scalers with my collection alone. Add to that the larger size of O Scale for those with eyesight problems and the comradie of our smaller fraternity, I think we can be quite successful in continuing to recruit new O scalers. We can be encouraged by the fact that the hobby experienced great growth during the Depression. Please continue to support our manufacturers and vendors. It is easy to get overly conservative with

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President's Report (continued)

your purchases with all the bad economic news, but if possible, continue your normal buying habits. Our O Scale business friend's futures depend on our sustained support. Finally, there's great news. Rich Yoder and John Dunn are filling the void left by the departure of Eastern O Scalers from hosting O scale shows. Check out their three 2009 shows to be held in Strasburg, PA at www.scaletworail.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us on the board of directors.

George Wallace
President, OSK #49

Treasurer's Report

We have paid all of our expenses for the period which included publishing and distributing Bob Retallack's list of O Scale train shows, the OSKER Newsletter costs, and our York Show expenses. Our cash balance as of 12/4/08 is \$4,441.02.

Bob Plageman
Treasurer



Bob Jarvis layout - Ron Mitchell - Photo

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?

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

Secretary's Report

Members,

I have been thinking a lot about our hobby and where it is going. My interpretation of the O scale portion of our hobby appears to be growing, yet also declining. I do admit that we live in the greatest time ever for our hobby. There are more things available now in more accurate proportions than any time in history. I am not a rivet counter nor do I profess to be a purest in any sense of the word, but my wants and interests become more focused all the time.

You can find on the market many excellent samples of pretty accurate engines, cars and buildings in various mediums from plastic to brass. For those brass junkies out there, there are many models available. Some are easy to find and some very rare, but enough to keep you happy. There are plenty of wood and plastic kits. There are plenty of ready to run items in many road names. There are numerous models to kit-bash into your favorite car or buy the materials for a scratch build model.

Now I do realize that many hobby shops don't carry the things we need anymore. The more society goes to ready to run items, the less demand for those scratch building materials, the less availability there is. However, there are still many sources on the internet. All we have to do is ask on some of these forums and answers come pouring in. We may need to be more willing to ask for help and advice, but we are limited to our own abilities.

The down side of all of this is the age group interested in our portion of the hobby is aging and aging rapidly. In part that is a sad thing for many great layouts have already been abandoned and many more will reap the same fate. The knowledge base of older items will gradually dry up. On the other hand, that does open

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Editor - Dan Mason
Design and layout - Al Askerberg

Send submissions to:
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Two for the Show at the Wooster National

One of the things that attracts modelers to train shows is the chance to see portable layouts where trains will be in operation. While n-trak was one of the pioneers of this aspect of our great model railroading hobby back in the '70s HO, S, O and G scale have also followed. The Southern New England Model Railroad Club began as an informal modular group in 1990 with a 21' x 45' unscenic'd oval.. For some groups setting up and running modules is the only chance they have to use their layout, and for five years that was the case for us. In 1995 we obtained space where we could set up our layout "permanently" in Gardner MA. This gave us a chance to operate more frequently and work on the layout, but it also meant that the effort for every show now doubled. Over the years we have developed several tools and techniques to help speed up the process, but then we figure out how to add more modules! Two steps forward and one step back...

Today's layout is 33' x 81' with five internal peninsulas providing a steam facility complete with turntable and 5 stall roundhouse; a diesel facility that can handle 60 units; a freight yard with a 200 car capacity; a passenger terminal capable of holding 8 full length trains with an above-track station; and an industrial park that provides hours of switching fun. With Digital Command Control we can run four main line trains while simultaneously making up and breaking down other trains, hostling locomotives and keeping the local crew busy switching the many industrial locations. A Custom Signals block signaling system has been installed which significantly enhances the operating and viewing fun. Scenery is essentially complete and consists of both three-dimensional scenery and approximately 100' of view-block backdrops, both photomurals and custom painted.

Exhibiting at a show begins with packing up all the trains, signals, buildings and backdrops. Special carrying cases have been designed and built to safeguard the high level of detail found on our O scale equipment. Most of our ten members have minivans or SUVs, which are filled with these cases for the trip to the show. Wiring for the DCC busses and the signal system are carefully disconnected and placed in their own carrying rack. Once cleared the connector rails between modules are removed and packed up. The modules are unclamped from each other and carefully placed into specially

built wheeled racks, which safeguards the scenery and facilitates loading the rental truck. This initial breakdown takes three evenings or about 70 man-hours.

After driving to the train show exhibit hall, we roll out the racks and begin assembling the modules. Steel alignment pins are used to assure the modules align perfectly and leg adjusters are adjusted to keep the modules perfectly level (no exhibit hall ever has a level floor!). We build the layout in two directions with two crews of three and when we meet on the other side a slight adjustment in level is usually necessary but never more than 1/2". Meanwhile the other club members are setting up the peninsulas and attaching the backdrops. The connector rails between modules and the DCC wiring are installed so its time to test the electrical circuitry. Special plugs between the modules have eliminated most of the electrical snafus of the past. Since the legs on a modular layout are not all that beautiful we install a floor length curtain all around the layout – over 200 feet! This is usually the end of day one, with about 80 man-hours logged, not counting travel time.

Day two finds us installing and testing the signal system. Because the length of the blocks can change with each setup some fine-tuning is always necessary. All the track is cleaned. Meanwhile a nearly endless supply of cars and locomotives is unpacked and placed on the layout, as are the many structures. A few repairs are inevitable so we always bring paints, soldering equipment and all those neat model railroading tools conveniently packed in tool boxes. Day two usually involves about 40 man-hours.

Show Time! Trains run continuously, questions are asked, answers are given. Kids count the cars in long freights, and someone inevitably asks "where's the third rail?" (Tongues are bitten). By the end of the show we're hoarse and dead on our feet, but its time to tear it all down and pack it back in the rental truck. And the show promoter wants us out by when? Little talk or wasted motion as we know what we're doing now. Breakdown goes a little quicker, probably about 60 man-hours.

The next day we're back at the club to unload the truck, but we leave the modules in the racks. Setting the

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York Show Module Report

The Central Jersey "O' Scalers Modules' are mostly the work of Russ Kress of Plainfield,NJ and Chris Bond of Phillipsburg, NJ. Yours truly, made up the rest of the crew for the modular exhibit. Usually and hopefully there is another three crew members. But, this trip was a little far and four days, a little long, so just us three.

Starting at 9:00am Wed. morning we pick up the modules from storage and headed to the T.C.A. Meet at York. Arriving at 1:00pm, we met with a member of the Meet committee who was not quite sure where we were going to set up. The modules need an area 18 feet by 36 feet. This was assigned, but without the 8 foot aisle space around the layout. After an hour or more of measuring floor space and moving some dealer tables, we were able to start setting up. The modules go together fairly easy and after 2 hours, we had all of them on their legs and clamped together. We were just about to start the power hookups when the "Hall Monitor" said the hall will be closing at 5:00pm or in ten minutes. Well, that gave this over 60 crew a good excuse to call it a day.

We returned Thursday Morning and with another two hours of work and tinkering we had an operating layout with trains, signals, scenery, buildings and a lot of tree stumps. No trees. Someone forgot to pack the trees!

The modules do have a small yard and some switching can was done but for the most part "operation" is an East Bound and a West Bound train just looping. Every so often we change trains with the "0-5-0" switcher.

The main function of our participating and operation is educating. We did a lot of talking to meet attendees and explaining the operation of Scale 2-rail. This is for the most part 70%, a 3-rail meet, though all scales are represented. There was also a large 20 foot by 88 foot "HO" Scale module layout in another building set up by a Delaware group.

Along with our modules, John Dunn of South Jersey had an extremely detailed 2-R "O" Scale switching layout in operation.

The Baltimore Society of Model Engineers had a switching layout and were testing the switching skills of anyone who cared to try. There was a nice display of "high rail" equipment that had been converted to two rail. "High Rail" is the term being used to define

Scale size equipment that is being produced by Lionel, MTH, Bachman to run on three rail track. It can and is being converted to scale operation.

I also have to report the "O" Scale Kings display is very eye catching. It could be seen from any place in the hall and attracted a lot of attendees to the 2-rail Scale displays.

The unofficial count of attendees was about 18,000. We did a lot of educating.

Andy Brusgard

More on York

Many thanks to Russ Kress, Chris Bond, and Andy Brusgard for transporting the Central NJ O Scalers' modules and setting them up and running them at York. Also many thanks to Joe G at O Scale Trains for contributing 100 copies of O Scale Trains magazine that we were able to give away. The magazines were not just put on a table for people to pick up, but instead were given to those people that expressed a genuine interest in 2 rail O Scale railroading. . . those who talked to the O Scalers that were operating the layout.

I want to report, too, that at times the layout was surrounded - from three to eight people deep. Attendance at York was 14,300, and we definitely saw a good portion of those attendees at the layout. The White Hall, in which the layout was set up, was a

wonderful venue for us, due to the level of traffic going through this hall. The O Scale Kings booth was set up close to the modular layout. This striking booth also drew much attention from the TCA members in the hall... drawing them to the layout. Thanks to Dan Mason and David Vaughn for manning it.

Much thanks must also be given to the Baltimore Club for their switching module which they ran time trials on. The winner won a car donated by one of our O Scale dealers who was at York.

Finally, thanks to John Dunn, from the Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club, for bringing his highly detailed modular switching layout, showing how very detailed O Scale can get.

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O-Scale Train Shows for 2009

Santa Clara, CA – 1/29 thru 1/31/09
 O Scale West
 876 Boyce Ave
 Palo Alto, CA 94301-3003
 405-751-7649

Arlington Hts, IL – 3/20 thru 3/22/09
 March Meet
 PO Box 333
 Park Ridge, IL 60068
 847-401-4333

Hudson, MA – 4/05/09
 Larry Grant
 347 Balcom Street
 Mansfield, MA 02048
 508-337-6661

Strasburg, PA – 4/18/09
 John Dunn
 PO Box 325
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609-432-2871
 eostrains@comcast.net
 www.easternscalers.com

Merchantville, NJ – 5/02/09
 John Dunn
 PO Box 325
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609-432-2871
 eostrains@comcast.net
 www.easternscalers.com

Baltimore (Towson), MD
 Jack Tracey
 5507 N Charles St
 Baltimore, MD 21210
 410-323-2964

O Scale National Convention –
 6/18 thru 6/20/09

Strasburg, PA – 8/08/09
 John Dunn
 PO Box 325
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609-432-2871
 eostrains@comcast.net
 www.easternscalers.com

Indianapolis, IN -- date TBA
 Jim Canter
 1203 Rotherhan Lane
 Beech Grove, IN 46107-3323
 317-782-3322
 jcanternkp@aol.com

Merchantville, NJ – 9/12/09
 John Dunn
 PO Box 325
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609-432-2871
 eostrains@comcast.net
 www.easternscalers.com

Oklahoma City, OK – date TBA
 George Wallace
 11937 Stratford Dr.
 Oklahoma City, OK 73120
 405-751-7649
 405-818-2277 (cell phone)

Gardner, MA - 10/03/09
 Larry Grant
 347 Balcom Street
 Mansfield, MA 02048
 508-337-6661

Strasburg, PA – 10/10/09
 John Dunn
 PO Box 325
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609-432-2871
 eostrains@comcast.net
 www.easternscalers.com

Carlstadt, NJ – 10/31/09
 Bob Lavezzi
 432 Birchwood Rd
 Linden, NJ 07036-5210
 908-925-6035
 908-337-7532 (cell phone)
 oscale1@comcast.net

Kirtland, OH – 11/07/09
 Bob Fieden
 9695 Chillicothe Rd
 Kirtland, OH 44094
 440-256-8141
 tworailoscale@aol.com

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

This is our latest 2 rail O Scale Train Show schedule for 2009. 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



SNE layout at Wooster National
 Rich Godfrey - Photo



COOSE layout at Wooster National
 David Richter - photo

More on Modules (continued)

This was our first venture into the lion's den. We were well received. A lot of good compliments were paid to us there, and posted on a number of websites. We have expressed an interest to the TCA in going back, and they have said they want us back. We are looking forward to hopefully returning in the near future.

Bob Lavezzi
Director

Two for the Show (continued)

layout back up can be done at a more leisurely pace, but in the end its another 120 man-hours before we're again operational at home in Gardner.

In the end we've invested about 370 man-hours plus travel time or about a full work week for each of us. Out-of-pocket costs include the truck rental and fuel for the truck and each of our ten vehicles, and often a motel room. Fortunately our wives are very understanding but they always understand better over a nice dinner at their favorite restaurant...

Secretary's Report (continued)

the door for items to circulate through the hobby again thus creating new layouts and new modelers cherishing older items anew. But the never ending question still arises, "How to attract new, younger modelers?"

I still believe that our best efforts still come from our promotion at train shows, printed materials and information that can be gathered from the web. We need to share the layouts that we have with the public regardless of the stage of completion. Some great layouts are never finished!!! I am attaching a photo of Bob Jarvis's layout, from Park City, Utah who has been in and out of standard gauge O scale numerous times. Please enjoy and study the photo. Notice the things that can be shared and enjoyed, overlook the unfinished portions, but enjoy the progress of the layout. What can I learn from this layout? Can it motivate me and others to initiate action and start to build, model, run and enjoy our hobby no matter what stage we are in!!

Long live O scale trains!!!

Jim Allen
Secretary

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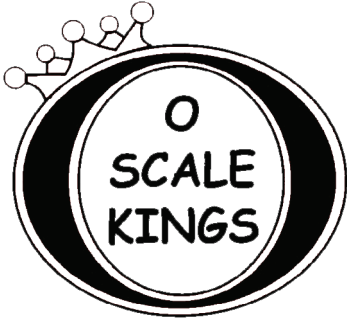
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O SCALE KINGS (OSKers)

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 ___ 2nd 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 and Oscalekings@yahoo.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

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 **dma-son@danielrmason.com**. Images should be 300 dpi or as produced by camera without resizing.

O Scale Kings, Inc.
c/o Jim Allen
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