

O Scale Central Board of Directors  
Draft Minutes  
March 12, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Vaughn at 8:33 pm EDT using Zoom.

Roll Call

Officers present: D. Vaughn, S. Shippy, K. Nesper, and J. Norman

Directors present: J. Barker, W. Horlacher, A. Oslapas, E. Peterson, and D. Schultz

Advisors present: P. Hanson, S. Kurzawski, and R. Randall

Members present: None

Agenda. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Minutes. The February 2024 Minutes were accepted.

Officer Reports

President. Vaughn deferred discussion of preparations for the Chicago March Meet to Old Business. He shared that George Wallace is in poor health and recently moved to an assisted living facility. Vaughn praised the efforts that Wallace made to keep O Scale Kings afloat. He announced that Ryan Shawyer will be using the professional grade audio-video equipment donated by Terry Terrance on behalf of OSC. Vaughn added that a Sunset B&O 4-8-2 locomotive, also donated by Terrance, will be sold at the Chicago Meet at market value to benefit OSC.

Vice-president. Shippy's activity was focused on preparations for Chicago March Meet.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report was sent to all board meeting participants. Audio problems prevented Norman from adding any comments.

Committee Reports

Membership. Director and committee chair Barker submitted a written report.

Marketing. Director Horlacher emphasized plans to coordinate with the Website Committee with the goal of improving the user experience.

Social Media. Although absent, Advisor Shawyer submitted a written report.

Website. Advisor Kurzawski submitted an extensive written report. Peterson noted the need for a Product Guide coordinator to work with the website team.

Publications. Although absent, Advisor Kjelland submitted a report outlining the content of the April 15<sup>th</sup> Coupler.. Vaughn repeated the need for an associate editor.

OSC On-line. Vaughn provided a summary of the March 10<sup>th</sup> event.

Train Show Outreach. Advisor Carlton was absent and did not submit a written report.

Club Outreach. Vice president and Advisor Shippy submitted a written report noting that preparations for the Chicago show precluded additional meetings with group leaders.

NMRA SIG. Peterson's report was sent to all board meeting participants.

Traction. Although absent, Advisor Skuchas reported submitting an O Traction article for the O Scale Trains annual issue.

Old Business

OS2R Clinic Program – Deferred

Preparations for the Chicago Show. Vaughn recounted the OSC activities planned for the Chicago meet. He noted that additional volunteers are needed at all events.

New Tracks/PSR (NMRA) Virtual Convention. A working group, chaired by Shawyer, is brainstorming ideas for a 10-minute video promoting O Scale and OSC to be shown during the convention. The video will be available for subsequent promotional placements.

O Scale West. Vaughn reported that he has had Zoom conversation with the organizing committee for the train show. Tim Debert, the committee chair, made a pitch for OSW at the March OSC On-line event. The committee is going ahead with the train show.

St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Show. OSC has requested a table and offered to provide clinics and a modular layout, but has not received a response.

New Business

None.

Good and Welfare. Director Schultz announced that the next OSC segment on New Tracks will focus on the impact of 3D printing on O scale.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 8:30 pm (EDT) via Zoom

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

# O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

The purpose of this report is to provide timely status information to all OSC leaders on topics that do not require immediate action by the board of directors.

## O Scale Central Topic: Membership

### Activities since last board meeting:

**Membership:** 194 memberships as of March 12, 2024. (This number includes people who have not yet renewed).

2023 Renewals Since Last Report: 16

2023 Remaining Renewals: 47

New Members Since Last Report: 1

### Planned activities and expected time required:

1. **Renewal Notices:** I emailed a second renewal notice in early March. This resulted in 16 new renewals. Forty-seven people whose membership expired December 31, 2023 have not yet renewed. David Vaughn has been provided a current membership list and a renewal list to use at the March Meet.

2. **Membership Application Process:** Our members are having problems accessing the OSC members section of the website and receiving OSC emails. I am working with Eric and Dan to solve this problem.

I expect that some people will join OSC at the March Meet. Please make sure that their handwriting legible.

3. **Draft a Membership Instruction Manual:** This is a 2024 project

**Is there any action by the board for your Topic? No.**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval? None.**

## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

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**Meeting date:** 3/12/24

### **O Scale Central topic/activity: Social Media**

**Activities since last report:** I continue to build our OSC Facebook page with 3-4 posts a week. I'm trying to share local OS2R club events (such as open houses, etc.) as well. We have gained 117 followers over the past 28 days and are now up to 1,326 on Facebook. On YouTube, I've added several OSC online programs as well as some Terry Terrance videos. We've gained 32 new subscribers on YT in the past month. Regular content will help increase those numbers.

**Planned activities and expected time required:** Continue with regular Facebook posts, highlighting OS2R events, layouts, clubs, and news. This generates buzz and expands our reach to new hobbyists and hobbyists in other scales. I have more Terry Terrance videos to upload to YouTube, which I will continue to work on over the next month. I will also edit and upload the March OSC Online program to YT.

**Is there any action by the board for your topic? No**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**

## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide timely status information to all OSC leaders on topics that do not require immediate action by the board of directors.

**Meeting date:** 03/11/2024 8 – 9 PM EST Preparing for 03/12/2024 Board Meeting

Attendees:

Eric Peterson

Scott Kurzawski

Dan Dawdy

Joe Barker

David Vaughn

### **O Scale Central topic/activity:**

Review new membership processing and member directory feature.

### **Activities since last report:**

Updated the OSC Events web page with the following additions: Detroit Model RR Club  
O Scale Spring Gathering

West Penn Trolley Meet

PA, NJ, DE, MD November Model Railroad Layout Tours

Posted December '23, January '24 and February '24 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes to Members-Only Welcome page.

Added many Traction items supplied by Ed Skuchas to the main OSC web page. Still need to add Traction items to the 2-Rail Product Guide pages.

Provided Home Page draft document, test web page link and BOD feedback to Walter Horlacher to finalize the Home page text from the OSC marketing perspective.

Dan Dawdy has a prototype of the member directory feature for the OSC web site behind the password-protected paywall. Based on the 3/11 meeting feedback, Dan will pursue looking into investing in the \$100 (one-time) fee for a WordPress plug-in package as it provides more flexibility for order processing. More research and discussion will take place once Dan is able to get the paid version of the plug-in and work with it for a little while. Below are links Dan's initial prototype: The test-bed is not live yet but can be viewed here: <https://oscalecentral.com/Directory.php>

Here is what the format may look like in the members-only area: [https://dev.oscalecentral.com/?page\\_id=41](https://dev.oscalecentral.com/?page_id=41)

### **Planned activities and expected time required:**

Continue to test out Board of Directors and Advisor contact info (1-month). Some of the BOD and Advisors contacted have responded back.

Continue discussion adding password-protected member directory access with Dan Dawdy, Eric Peterson, Joe Barker, and Scott K. to finalize on a design that satisfies the desired goal. (Ongoing)

Participate in marketing organization decisions regarding the OSC web site. (Ongoing)

**Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

No

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**

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**Meeting date:** March 12, 2024

### **O Scale Central topic/activity: Publications**

#### **Activities since last report:**

Next Coupler issue date: April 15

Submission Deadline: April 1

features in the works are:

- President's Message
- Chris Smith and his experiences and advice on moving a layout
- A modelgenic prototype industry for a shelf layout
- March Meet roundup
- O scale south roundup
- Using Amtrak trains/Google to research inaccessible prototype railroad facilities
- On-Line resources for O scalers (promos featuring OSC Zooms, and Getting Started and Resource pages, Facebook pages)
- Ken Burny's shadowbox portable layout
- Preview of O Scale West
- Upcoming events

#### **Planned activities and expected time required:**

**Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**



## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

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**Meeting date:** March 12, 2024

**O Scale Central topic/activity:** Clubs Outreach

**Activities since last report:** I have no new information to report as I have been focusing on preparing for the March Meet, and finalizing enough information for the Cleveland o scale train show that I can pass out flyers while in Chicago.

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

**Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**

## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

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**Meeting date:** 3 12 2024

**O Scale Central topic/activity:** NMRA and Special Interest Group

### **Activities since last report:**

Organize details for March O Scale Meet model evaluations using NMRA personnel and criteria

Review and list OSC promotion items for shows.

Prepared listing of OSC Marketing items I have

### **Planned activities and expected time required:**

Attend the March Meet and participate in the model evaluations.

Attend Midwest Region May 2-4 convention in South Bend, IN

Plan activities as part of the NMRA Central Indiana Division Danville Train Show with featured O and S Scale space and possible activities.

Lead brainstorming session for NMRA PCRx convention video topics on 3/18.

Plan promotion and involvement with the NMRA CID Danville Train Show 11/23/2024 including dedicated space for S and O Scale.

### **Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

Yes

### **If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**

Key marketing team members volunteer for 3/18 Zoom brainstorming

## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

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**Meeting date:** March 12, 2024

**O Scale Central topic/activity:** O Traction

### **Activities since last report:**

I am out of town and will not be at the meeting.

Only thing to report for the Traction group is that I authored a traction construction article for the O scale Annual Magazine.

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

**Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?**