

O Scale Central Board of Directors
Board Approved Minutes
May 14, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Vaughn at 8:32 pm EDT using Zoom.

Roll Call

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

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

Advisors present: D. Dawdy, P. Hanson, S. Kurzawski, R. Randall, and E. Skuchas

Members present: A. Askerberg, P. Edholm

Agenda. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Minutes. The April 2024 Minutes were accepted without objection.

Officer Reports

President. Vaughn introduced Phil Edholm who made a presentation regarding his extensive experience hosting virtual and hybrid conventions. Edholm is Director, Coast Division, Pacific Coast Region, NMRA, and an OSC member. Following Edholm's presentation and a short Q and A session, Vaughn introduced OSC Webmaster Dan Dawdy who demonstrated membership module that could be used on the OSC website to improve handling new and renewing member transactions. He indicated that a second module could be implemented that would facilitate the collection of member addresses and contact information.

Vice-president. Although absent, Shippy submitted a written report.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report was sent to all board meeting participants. The bank balance remains over \$11,000.

Committee Reports

Membership. Director and committee chair Barker submitted a written report. There are 180 paid members and 29 outstanding renewals.

Marketing. Director and committee chair Horlacher submitted a written report. He shared a draft of revised text/images for the OSC web site home page.

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

Website. Advisor Kurzawski submitted a written report. Using input from Advisor Skuchas, the O Traction sections of the web site were updated.

Publications. Although absent, Advisor Kjelland circulated a memo showing the proposed cover of the April edition of *The Coupler*.

OSC On-line. Vaughn provided a summary of the May 19th event.

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

Club Outreach. Although absent, Shippy wrote in his report that he plans to conduct a second Zoom session with selected club leaders.

NMRA SIG. Although absent, Director Peterson sent his report to all board meeting participants. He is in contact with organizers of the 2024 NMRA National Convention regarding OSC participation.

Traction. Advisor Skuchas' written report summarized his efforts to integrate O Traction products and services into the OSC web site.

Old Business

OS2R Clinic Program. Discussion deferred.

St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM): OSC Program and Payment. Barker moved and Horlacher seconded a motion to spend \$200 for registration/tables at the RPM meet.

NMRA National Convention Preparations. Discussion deferred.

O Scale West Status. Vaughn and Barker will be attending.

OSC Website: Member Only Section (Layout Videos and Directory). Discussion deferred.

New Business

New Tracks Prize Program. Discussion deferred.

Future Virtual Programs and Conventions: The PCR Model. Vaughn intends to hold a discussion among board meeting participants regarding the ideas and insights presented by Phil Edholm (see President's Report) at a future meeting,

OSC Website Membership Module Upgrade. In followup to the presentation made by Webmaster Dan Dawdy, the board approved a motion by Barker and seconded by Horlacher to obtain the modules necessary to manage new or renewed memberships online and to record addresses and contact information from each member. An expenditure of 200 Euros was authorized.

Good and Welfare

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 8:30 pm (EDT) via Zoom

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned after 10:00 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.

Meeting date: 5/14/2024

O Scale Central topic/activity:

Vice President Report

Activities since last report:

Visited 6 O Scale layouts - 2 in Texas, 1 in OKC, and 3 around Indianapolis
Started a draft on layout documentation

Planned activities and expected time required:

Need to create a professional flier for Cleveland Show

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

Yes

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

I would like to have an OSC booth setup at the Cleveland show, as I will promote the show for new modelers or those thinking of jumping scales, and OSC would be a resource for them navigating an O scale train show.

(If confirmed please let me know, thanks!)

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

O Scale Central Report for the May 14, 2024 Board meeting.

O Scale Central Topic: Membership

Activities since last board meeting:

Membership: 209 memberships as of April 16, 2024. (This number includes people who have not yet renewed).

2023 Renewals Since Last Report: 7

2023 Remaining Renewals: 29

New Members Since Last Report: 4

Planned activities and expected time required:

1. **Renewal Notices:** Twenty-nine people whose membership expired December 31, 2023 have not yet renewed.

2. **Membership Application Process:** We are in the process of updating the membership section of the website to make it easier to join and renew OSC. The is ongoing.

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

Is there any action by the board for your Topic? Yes.

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval? When should I remove people who have not yet renewed from OSC's membership?

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: 5/14/2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Marketing

Activities since last report:

Completed rewording for the opening page of OSC web page

Planned activities and expected time required:

Kalmbach Publishing has sold off Model Railroader magazine to Firecrown Publishing of Chattanooga, Tennessee as well as their other train related magazines. I will be keeping an eye out for revisions in their advertising schedule for various size magazine ads. I will also keep abreast of any planned annual periodicals for 2025 like Layout Ideas or Great Layouts. This may be a more viable alternative than in a monthly magazine.

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

Yes,

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

To approve wordage to be uploaded to our web page.

I managed to save some wordage, my goal was not only to showcase the benefits of paid member but rather how they can help us and how we put their dues to work for the organization placing the value on they themselves and how WE value them as a member. Also, any reference to “O” Scale Kings or even “King of all Scales” has been removed. See copy below:

Welcome to O Scale Central

O Scale Central is a 501 c-3 non-for-profit organization with its primary focus to promote all aspects of 1/48 scale model railroading from O, P48, On3, On30, On2 and right down to On18 to include modelers in 3 Rail 1:48 Scale (3RS) modeling.

O Scale Central is growing and wants you to join our expanding organization to help us promote 1:48 through education, when somebody mentions O Scale, all too often people equate O Scale to the toy trains running on tin plate track around the Christmas Tree or on a sheet of plywood and not the well detailed 1:48 scale models and finely detailed layouts. This is all the more reason to support OSC to remove that stigma through education and exposing modelers to the attributes of 1:48 scale modeling. To help us accomplish this, we need your support by joining OSC today. By joining us you'll be taking the first steps in helping us together in promoting 1:48 as a formable scale in the model railroading community through fellowship, education by mentorship and exhibiting fine examples of 1:48 as well as layout tours and modular layout operations at various events.

By joining OSC we put your dues right to work by helping us promote 1:48 scale through advertisements in magazines and periodicals as well as brochures and educational materials used at train shows.

We fully embrace those that want to take an active role, as well as those that want to stay on the ready track, but please know this, that we work for you through the organization with OSC activities and benefits that include:

- Keeping you informed of OSC's proactive activities.

- **Supporting national and regional model railroad meets and shows.**
- **Representation at NMRA National Conventions and to include O Scale Central is the national home of the NMRA Special Interest Group for 1/48 Scales.**
- **Monthly Online Zoom events with hobby leaders and manufacturers**
- **OSC works with 1/48 manufacturers new products and consumer testing**
- O Scale Club outreach and information exchange
- **Exclusive with your membership to O Scale Central, you get access to O Scale Central's quarterly magazine, *The Coupler as well as* O Scale Central's newsletter *The Drawbar*, which keeps members up to date on O Scale Central activities between issues of *The Coupler* magazine.**

Take a moment to browse our website where we have excellent O Scale resources:

- O Scale Product Guide
- Club and Group Listings

• O Scale Events Calendar

• **Getting started in O Scale and other background modeling information.**

• **How-To articles**

• **3-Rail to 2-Rail conversions**

• **Historical information about model manufacturers, modelers and our history.**

Be sure to check out our social media presence via our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

So what are you waiting for? If you're an O Scaler or just starting out join today and become part of our inspired team of O Scale community. Use the "Contact Us" box below for help and for further information. Our leadership contact information is also available under "Organization," "Officers."

Enjoy your visit to O Scale Central!

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: 5/14/24

O Scale Central topic/activity: Social Media

Activities since last report: Due to busyness at my job, I haven't been able to post as often to our Facebook page. However, I'm still making 2-3 posts a week and the page audience continues to grow. We now have over 1,400 followers on Facebook.

Planned activities and expected time required: Upload April's OSC Online program to YouTube. Continue to make 2-3 Facebook posts a week and grow our audience/outreach.

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

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval? No

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: 04/28/2024 11 – 11:30 AM EDT Preparing for 5/14/2024 Board Meeting

Attendees:

Walter Horlacher

Scott Kurzawski

O Scale Central topic/activity:

More review of OSC Home Page text.

Activities since last report:

Updated the OSC Events web page with the following additions: Added Big Train Show – George L Carter Railroad Museum (East Tennessee State University) ▪ Also requested to be added to the NMRA.org Online Calendar

Updated May O Scale Central Online meeting invite content but still need full itinerary

Posted April '24 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes to Members-Only Welcome page.

Had another meeting with Walter Horlacher regarding Home Page draft document, test web page link and BOD feedback to finalize the Home page text from the OSC marketing perspective. Walter will update with his revisions and submit his feedback.

With the help of Dan Dawdy, figured out how to add the new Traction category and respective Traction subcategories to the OSC Product Guide page, so there is now a new Traction category. I reached out to Ed Skuchas to let him know and now waiting on more detailed Traction vendor text and photos/logos that the vendors want to use for their entries. Ed said in a previous email that he would provide this information at a later date once he has had a chance to compile it.

Dan Dawdy will join the 5/14 BOD meeting and provide an update for the new member directory feature for the OSC web site. I ran some tests on the test site and provided feedback.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Continue adding Traction Product Guide vendor information (ongoing as received)

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?

None

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

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Meeting date: 5/14/2024

O Scale Central topic/activity:

Modular / Club Outreach

Activities since last report:

Second zoom meeting planned later this month
Visited the OKC club during my Vacation last month

Planned activities and expected time required:

Host an additional Zoom meeting - Mid May

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

No action

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

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

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Meeting date: May 14,2024

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

Activities since last report:

Contacted NMRA National Convention leadership for 2024 SurfLiner in Long Beach, CA August 4-11,2024. Mike O'Brien is the SIG Coordinator for SurfLiner. I have requested information on possible convention site layout displays, exhibits in the SIG space and possible additional O Scale layout visits.

<https://surfliner2024.org/>

I presented two clinics at the NMRA Midwest Region convention in South Bend, IN. including an OSC slide. The first was about track geometry and templates for curves, spirals and turnouts. The second was about Polymeric Sand and my experience so far using it for scenery and ballast.

Hosted a layout visit after a visit to Warner Clarks for additional Indiana area modelers.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Work with SurfLiner leadership about O Scale activities.

Prepare an additional clinic on my Salamanca, NY passenger terminal on my layout included the just received 3D printed Passenger Station building.

We need help from those attending O Scale West to identify possible layouts to visit and displays. Same for members in CA. I have requested a flyer.

I am not sure I will attend but I hope to if possible.

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

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: May 14, 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Traction

Activities since last report:

Received and reviewed previous Product Guide Summary sent by Al Oslapas. Of the 165 vendors, 5 supply traction products. General questionnaire information was noted. Scott Kurzawski recently sent information about the changes made to the OSC website to incorporate traction material.

Reviewed changes made to the website based on my recommendations. Thank you. A great start.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Supply photos to be used in website for traction.

Provide vendor information for website updates including photos, logos and other vendor data.

My approach will be to prepare the vendor information, review with the vendors, and update based on their recommendations. I have a much shorter list. Some vendors are also difficult to communicate with. Scott made recommendations for building up the entries which will be followed.

Add additional traction vendors and resources.

Prepare input for Newcomers/Traction page.

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

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