

O Scale Central Board of Directors
Board Approved Minutes
December 17, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Vaughn at 8:32 pm ET 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: D. Brennan, S. Kurzawski, R. Randall, E. Skuchas

Members present:

Agenda. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Minutes. The November 2024 Minutes were accepted without objection.

Officer Reports

President. Vaughn noted that this was his last board meeting as president. He stated his belief that the organization has improved greatly over the last six years and that it is led by a good team. He will continue to serve as Past President and as O Scale Central Online host.

Vice-president. From his written report, Shippy highlighted work on the layout documentation initiative and signing a contract for the Cleveland 2025 show. Vaughn and he have held numerous conversations about the transition to president on January 1.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report for November showed a bank balance of nearly \$10,000. Treasurer Norman continues to collect inputs for a 2025 budget.

Election Results. Secretary Nesper shared the results of the officer and director elections.

Office	Candidate	Votes
President		
	Skyler Shippy	63
	Write In	0
Secretary		
	Ken Nesper	62
	Write In	0
Directors		
	Joe Barker	62
	Nick Bulgarino	60
	Write In	0

Committee Reports

Membership. Director and committee chair Barker's reported 223 paid members. There are 122 members dues for renewal on January 1.

Marketing. Director and committee chair Horlacher reported that he is seeking ad rates and deadlines for O Scale Resource. Regarding the Marketing Annual Report submitted to the board in November, concerns were raised about the focus on The Coupler as a principal benefit of membership, during a time of erratic publication. It was noted that OSC also offer the Products and Services Guide and O Scale Central Online. There was general agreement that OSC marketing needs to be two-phased: broadening awareness of OS2R within the hobby generally and broadening awareness of OSC within the OS2R community.

Website. Advisor Kurzawski submitted a written report. He continues to update the website. Director Peterson reported that the on-line membership application process went live on December 3rd. Renewing members will update their data as they renew. Members who have paid for multiple years were asked to update their data. The Calendar of Events is being recreated. There are more details in the written report.

Social Media. Advisor Shawyer was absent and did not submit a report.

Publications. Advisor Kjelland was absent, reported by email that two issues of The Coupler are ready for publication. Vaughn suggested that the appointment of a Managing Editor might help keep the publication of The Coupler on schedule.

OSC On-line. As noted in his report, Vaughn will continue as host and organizer of the program with Viggiano providing technical support. Vaughn would like more ideas and material from OSC members.

Traction. Advisor Skuchas submitted a written report. He continues to work with Advisor Kurzawski to develop the traction section of the website and to visit O scale layouts that include trolley lines.

Narrow Gauge Outreach. Advisor Ferrell was absent and did not submit a report.

Club Outreach. Shippy reported no activity because of other engagements.

Manufacturer's Liaison. Advisor Brennan continues to build a list of suppliers with whom he can discuss how OSC can help them. He asked for ideas about how to approach large manufacturers.

NMRA SIG. Director Peterson reported extensive activity promoting OSC at NMRA events.

Old Business

George Wallace Tribute. The board approved Treasurer Norman's proposed qualifications and selection criteria for the George Wallace Continuing Service Award.

Future of The Drawbar. Vaughn related that the erratic publication of The Coupler was disrupting the publication of The Drawbar. The Drawbar was intended to provide a concise update of upcoming events to the membership in the months that The Coupler was not published. Moreover, Vaughn has assumed responsibility for publishing The Coupler. He strongly suggested that a permanent editor needed to be appointed and The Coupler needed to be published quarterly. Further action was deferred to January.

Management Program Discussions. Vaughn and Shippy discussed forming focus groups to discuss and develop program plans for specific issues. Possible topics include outreach, publications, and marketing. These groups would meet between scheduled board meetings.

New Business

Additional Compensation for Dan Dawdy. Compensation for Dawdy as Webmaster was initially set at \$100/month based on 2 hours of work per month. The improvements and added features to the website now consume at least 4 hours per month of Dawdy's time.

Peterson moved that the monthly stipend be increased to \$200/month starting January 2025. The motion was approved with objection.

Zoom Business Account Expenditure. To date, Zoom meetings of the board or O Scale Central Online were held using Vaughn's business account. Some members of the board expressed concerns about putting the burden of Vaughn for hosting future OSC online meetings and events. The board approved a motion to spend up to \$220 per year for a group Zoom account.

2025 Meeting Dates. Soon-to-be- president Shippy expressed concern about continued board meetings on Tuesday evenings. Shippy will present a 2025 schedule at the January meeting, the date of which will be announced in early January.

Open Source 3D File Directory. Vaughn first introduced this topic some months ago. He believes that OSC could play a role in sharing information about open source 3D files for O scale modelers. He added that Greg Viggiano is interested in serving as Coordinator and that Dan Dawdy has expressed some interest.

Good and Welfare

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 8:30 pm (ET) via Zoom

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 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: 12/17/2024

O Scale Central topic/activity:

Vice President Report

Activities since last report:

- Continued work on a draft on layout documentation - Will discuss this topic with Ryan Sawyer
- Cleveland show 2025 contract is in progress
- Had a good discussion with Rich Randall regarding modular standards
- Discussed multiple topics with David V

Planned activities and expected time required:

- Create executive discussion groups regarding the coupler and outreach
- Document both the DMRRC layout as well as Dick Tomlinson's Michigan Shore Line - Will present the concept of layout documentation at Jan.OSC online
- Work with Scott on creating a page on our website for layout documentation (Once we have final drafts to post)
- Work with Scott on adding the Cleveland 2025 Show in upcoming events (Waiting for a signed contract first)
- Announce the Cleveland Show / Modular meet in January
- Need to work with Eric Peterson regarding O scale modular standards - announce the standards and recommendations ASAP and push the modular layout project at the March Meet

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

No board action

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

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O Scale Central Topic: Membership

O Scale Central Report for the December 17, 2024 Board meeting.

Activities since last board meeting:

Membership: 223 memberships as of December 17, 2024 (This number includes people who have not yet renewed).

Renewals Since Last Report: 19

New Members Since Last Report: 2

Planned activities and expected time required:

1. **Membership Application Process:** The new membership application process has been implemented and is mostly working. There are a few problems with the PayPal payment process that need to be resolved.

2. **2024 Renewals:** We still have 122 members whose membership will expire December 31. Renewal notices have been sent to all of them.

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

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval? Not Applicable

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

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O Scale Central topic/activity: Web Site

Meeting date: 12/17/2025

O Scale Central topic/activity:

OSC web site updates

Activities since last report:

Added new “What’s on your workbench” article submitted by Eric Peterson

Added October Meeting Minutes to Members-Only section

Assisted in implementing the new Membership Directory feature

Planned activities and expected time required:

Changes in the new Membership Directory seemed to have caused an issue with the Events/Venues database and this issue basically requires all the events and venues need to be manually re-entered. Restoring the Events/Venues section will be the immediate effort until this is brought back up to date. (1-month)

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

No

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

None

Meeting date: 12-17-2024 rev. 12 13 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Website Membership

Activities since last report:

Working with Dan Dawdy the new membership website software implementation started December 3rd, 2024. All members were deleted. We do have copies of the membership files.

Members expiring 12 31 2024 received a renew message with the new form. Renewals started.

Renewal includes answering the member questions, setting a new password and paying.

Dan completed adding the rest of the paid members expiring after 2025 on 12 13 2025. They will need to set a new password and answer the member questions. As each member completes the new form information and sets a new password they will have access to the Members Only portion of the O Scale Central website.

12 11 2024 Joe Barker started using the new backend report writing features of the software.

12 14 2024 We found the calendar events have been removed. The information will be reentered as soon as possible.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Support the membership implementation as needed. I expect this to be substantially complete by 12 31 2024. There will be as in the past members that do not renew or delay renewal.

We have some report writer explanations recorded to edit and use as training.

The next major website activity will be completing and testing the Membership Directory. The member information will only be available to OSC leadership and current members with a website password. The website Membership Directory will only include the member information for current members that answered “Yes” to the directory question.

There are additional website topics for review, revision and improvement:

O Scale National Convention. This page needs an update to explain the recent history and that there are currently no organizations preparing for another O Scale Nation Convention. We are retaining the on-line Domaine.

The website needs to be reviewed and tested periodically to confirm information is current and links are correct and working.

The Website “What’s on Your Workbench” appears to be out of date because the last entry was done in 2022. I added a new entry this past week. A few more new entries will make this current again and share additional information.

The Product Guide needs to have a periodic review process established to contact each supplier and ask them to confirm and update their information.

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

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Meeting date: December 17, 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Traction

Activities since last report: Review of information for inclusion in the web site

Planned activities and expected time required:

Continue product review.

Develop articles and subject material relating to O scale traction

Contacting modelers and clubs about traction activity

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

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

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Meeting date: December 17, 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Manufacturer's Liaison

Activities since last report: Reviewed our listed O Scale Venders. Drafted initial introduction email as the Manufacturer's Liaison geared to the small venders like myself. Large manufacturer's (Bachmann, Woodland Scenics et al. will be handled separately and require a slightly different approach.

Planned activities and expected time required: Begin sending emails. Draft an approach to large manufacturers.

Is there any action by the board for your topic? Approval.

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

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Meeting date: 12 17 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: NMRA and CID

Activities since last report:

The Danville, IN train show included an O and S Scale room and this was sold out. In addition, Jim Canter displayed his P-48 layout in one of the larger halls.

Pat and I hosted the NMRA Central Indiana Division holiday lunch and board meeting. This gathering included showing my O Scale layout.

Planned activities and expected time required:

NMRA Midwest Region judges have again volunteered to evaluate the models for the Chicago O Scale March Meet.

I plan to attend the NMRA National Convention in Novi Michigan that will include several O Scale layouts. We can again request Special Interest Group display space if the OSC desires. I am currently considering presenting several possible clinics.

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

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Meeting date: 12 17 2024

O Scale Central topic/activity: Webmaster Compensation

Activities since last report:

The below email exchange includes my message to Dan Dawdy and his feedback with background and a proposed increased recognizing the major contribution Dan provides to O Scale Central.



Daniel S. Dawdy

to me, Joe, David, Skyler

As we discussed during the Danville, IN train show the OSC leadership feels it is important to review and improve the financial support for you as the OSC website manager.

David Vaughn has asked Joe Barker and myself to propose an improvement. You have undertaken a major effort for the membership software upgrade and the upcoming member directory. This is appreciated by all of us.

The current support is \$100 per month. Please give us some ideas for increasing support for you.

Thanks for all your support and website management.

Eric Peterson

My Responce:

Well as you know there are times when nothing big is going on. I do monthly checks on the WordPress installs of which we have had as many as five plus the Email system.

https://oscalecentral.com/	Main O Scale Central Site
https://oscalecentral.com/Products/	O Scale 2 Rail Product Guide
https://members.oscalecentral.com/List/admin/	Email List System
https://oscalecentral.com/Models/	3D Model Repository (Demo)
https://dev.oscalecentral.com/	Was used for testing the new membership system
https://oscalenational.com/	Decommissioned and forwarded to OS

Knowing what to update and what not to update helps alleviate down time.

The ongoing membership system took a lot of time, over 40 hours, but one could say it was a one shot deal. We still need to program the members roster once we have enough members in the new system.

Other things pop up like programming voting items and the like. Simply building out a demo like the 3d Model site will take many hours to install, gather the right plug-ins and making modifications.

For instance, the O Scale 2 Rail Product Guide is running a heavy modified version of woocommerce to hide pricing and ordering to make it a simple catalog.

I am not here to make a living from OSC, but there is a lot of time involved and as you all know, I have a couple of real jobs also, which for web work I charge clients \$55/hr.

So putting me on the spot to ask for a raise is a bit weird, but I would be very satisfied with \$200 per month to maintain and continue to grow the sites we have and maintain them accordingly.

Dan,

Thanks for your reply with good information. Your support of our website and other OSC support is greatly appreciated and continues to be a very significant part of the success and continued growth of OSC. When I think about our relationship the words Professional and Effective come to mind first. Thank you.

I will present your information to the OSC board next week.

Eric Peterson

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

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

I request discussion of the proposal and approval of an increase.