

O Scale Central Board of Directors  
Board Approved Minutes  
January 21, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Shippy at 8:30 pm ET using Zoom.

Roll Call

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

Directors present: J. Barker, N. Bulgarino, W. Horlacher, A. Oslapas, E. Peterson, and D. Vaughn,

Advisors present: T. Farrell, B. Kjelland, R. Randall, E. Skuchas

Members present: D. Schultz

Agenda. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Minutes. The December 2024 Minutes were accepted without objection.

Appointment of Vice President. President Shippy nominated and the board approved the appointment of Nick Bulgarino as Vice President to fill the remaining term of former Vice President Shippy.

Officer Reports

President. Shippy referred participants to his written report. He called attention to the section entitled "Future of OSC". His goals are: (1) continue to promote OSC; (b) continue to expand and improve the website; (c) develop and promote module standards; and (d) fully commit to participation in the NMRA Convention being held in Novi MI.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report for the end of the year showed a bank balance exceeding \$11,000. Treasurer Norman will present a proposed 2025 budget at the February meeting.

Committee Reports

Membership. Director and committee chair Barker's reported 230 members. This total includes 90 members who have not yet renewed for 2025. He will be sending renewal reminders.

Marketing. Director and committee chair Horlacher supplemented his written report with a discussion of spreading the marketing budget to a wider audience by reducing the advertising in the NMRA Bulletin to quarterly. He provided subscription numbers for the NMRA, but not for the other journals/magazines that carry our ads. He agreed to

provide those numbers in February.

Website. Advisor Kurzawski was unable to attend, but submitted a written report. Director Peterson submitted a report on the implementation of membership system on the website. Most hiccups have been resolved.

Social Media. Advisor Shawyer was absent and did not submit a report. Past President Vaughn added that Shawyer continues to feed content to the OSC Face Book account.

Publications. Advisor Kjelland noted the imminent release of The Coupler #12. He added that #13 is ready for review and proofing. Numbers 14 and 15 will be focused on small layouts and European railroading respectively.

OSC On-line. Vaughn reported that the January 19<sup>th</sup> show went well. He would still like more help (i.e., a co-host), 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.

Narrow Gauge Outreach. Advisor Ferrell discussed researching methods of merging Ong into OSC in a manner similar to what has been happening with Traction.

Club Outreach. Shippy reported that he hopes to deliver a template for profiling clubs later this year.

Manufacturer's Liaison. Advisor Brennan was not present and did not submit a report.

NMRA SIG. Director Peterson reported extensive activity promoting OSC at NMRA events. After the Chicago meet, he will be focused on OSC participation in the NMRA convention/

## Old Business

Publications. Vaughn summarized his findings and observations after analyzing the irregularity of OSC publications throughout 2024.

- Regular publication of The Coupler and The Drawbar is critical to the good reputation of OSC.
- Publication of each is dependent on one person. When that person has other life issues, publication falls behind schedule.
- The composition and publication software is not conducive to sharing the workload.

- There is no formal process for coordinating between our various media producers: The Coupler, The Drawbar, Website, OSC Online, and Social Media.

Vaughn will conclude his discussions in January and plans to present a package of motions at the February meeting.

Management Program Discussions. Shippy indicated that he will initially form three focus groups: Publications, O Scale Free-mo (modules) and NMRA Convention.

2025 Meeting Dates. Shippy announced the following meeting dates through August: February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July TBD, and August 11.

Open Source 3D File Directory. Vaughn reported that while he believes that OSC can add value, an enthusiastic champion with technical expertise is needed to lead the effort.

New Business

O Scale Free-mo Meet in Cleveland November 2.

Chicago Spring Meet. Vaughn noted the need for a coordinator of OSC activities.

Good and Welfare

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 8:30 pm (ET) via Zoom

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 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:** 1/21/2025

**O Scale Central topic/activity:**

President's Report

**Activities since last report:**

- Draft on layout documentation - 90% completed - Will discuss this topic with Ryan Shawyer
- Cleveland show 2025 deposit made
- Had a good discussion with Nick B regarding modular standards
- Had a meeting discussing publications - See DV report

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

- Create executive discussion group for publications
- Document both the DMRRC layout as well as Dick Tomlinson's Michigan Shore Line
- Will present the concept of layout documenting @ OSC online when ready
- 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 - TBD -No later than March Meet
- 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?**

**SEE NEXT PAGE**

*Below is an outline I described during our OSC Online meeting on 1/19/25. I will briefly discuss my proposed vision for 2025 during my report.*

## **Current OSC**

Attending O scale shows and RPMs

March meet - biggest presence as David has mentioned, modular layout, membership meeting, judging model contest, social evening

Website progress

Always working on the website - we have a great group continually working on the website - product guide - upcoming events

OSC Online - continuing to grow thanks to Greg Viggiano, David Vaughn, and all guests

Working with Jim Kellow's New Tracks program

## **Future of OSC**

Continue all that we are doing

Website work

- Product guide - expand and continually update

- Membership Directory

- Introduce layout documentation

- Club Documentation - Club Outreach

- History of O scale - well known modelers and organizations

Initiate and promote O scale freemo - new name TBD

- Conference on November 2nd in Cleveland

- To test and prove proposed standards

- To create regional modular groups to attend trainshows

Continue attending RPMs - Bringing O scale models - showing off the scale - introducing OS2R to those who were not aware of the scale - O scale is a great scale for superdetailing - David to discuss later in the program

Lastly, - NMRA national in Michigan - Detroit club turning 90 this year

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

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### **O Scale Central Topic: Membership**

#### **O Scale Central Report for the January 21, 2025 Board meeting.**

#### **Activities since last board meeting:**

**Membership:** 230 memberships as of January 21, 2025 (This number includes people who have not yet renewed).

Renewals Since Last Report: 19

New Members Since Last Report: 7

#### **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 90 members whose membership expired December 31, 2024 who have not yet renewed. We sent a reminder to everyone but perhaps we need to email another reminder.

**I**

**s 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**

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:** Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. 8:30 PM (EDT)

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

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

OSC was represented at Proto Rails held at Cocoa Beach Florida manning the table were myself and David Vaughn

Updated the “Who we are and What We do” brochure to reflect Proto Rails event.

Designed a new ad for the White River On30 Annual publication copy is due to publisher by 1 February.

At the last board meeting I was asked to compile what we spend annually on advertising and with what publications and is as follows:

Narrow Gauge Gazette \$267 6 x \$44.50

MRC \$468 6 x \$78 (that's with a 50% discount)

NMRA \$840 12 x \$70

Cow Catcher \$300 6 x \$50

On30 Annual \$280.00

O scale Trains Annual \$280

#### **Total Annual Expenditure \$2,435 \***

\*Numbers based on the Marketing Annual Report for 2024, and represent current ad rates.

Please note that highest line item for advertising is with the NMRA magazine at \$840 annually and its circulation rate based on membership of 18,000...This a very small segment of the total individuals that are model railroad enthusiasts. According to USA Today from December 9<sup>th</sup> there are about a half million model train enthusiast in America and Canada with well over 350, 000 est. in the US alone which means only 5% belong to the NMRA

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

Update ad for O Scale Trains Annual (30 Days)

Look into the possibility of placing a with Model Railroader possibly in one of their annual publications like Layout Planning, Great layouts or other similar annual publications or if future edition of MR has a heavy content of O Scale like happened last year. If the publisher is aware that we would like to place an ad when this accrues they could provide us advanced notification of such magazine issue. (90 Days)

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


- 1.NMRA Magazine
- 2.On30 Annual
- 3.O Scale Resource Magazine

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

Board approval to cut back the number of NMRA Magazines publication from the present monthly 12 to 4 quarterly and divert fund to place ads in O Scale Resource Magazine not to exceed the funds diverted from the NMRA Magazine


Board to review ad for On30 Annual

## "On30" is o so great in 1:48

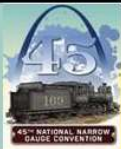



- ◆ *Scale-wide Product and Service Guide®*
- ◆ *Monthly live online programs, interviews with manufacturers and newsmakers, layout tours and news you can use.*
- ◆ *Promoting O Scale at scale shows, conventions and meets.*
- ◆ *Membership only directory to network with other modelers*

**Get the benefits of membership**  
Check us out at [OScaleCentral.com](http://OScaleCentral.com)



Please be sure to visit our table at the 45 National Narrow Gauge Convention





**With your membership in OSC you will receive our quarterly digital journal the Coupler**



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

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

**Meeting date:** 1/21/2025

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

Eric Peterson, Joe Barker and Dan Dawdy had several side meetings to discuss issues that arose as a result of the new membership application implementation but Eric can provide an overview of the discussions in his report.

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

Due to some accidental deletions of some web pages as a result of resetting my account related to renewing my membership, much of my time in the last month was to go back and add back all the O Scale events for 2025 from scratch. If you find any events that are missing and you would like added, please let me know.

Added November 2024 BOD Meeting Minutes to members-only section.

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

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

Add back any missing information as a result of changing over to the new membership application transition. (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?**

No.

**O Scale Central topic/activity: Additional Website Information**

See also Scott's report

**Activities since last report:**

Working with Joe Barker supported implementation of the Membership Software

Resolved several issues: Website deletions, member requests for help.

Implemented increased financial website support for Dan Dawdy

Tabulated initial membership form answers by the first 45 memberships

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

Move on to developing the Member Directory

Expand use of Club Listing

Start planning additional club and individual layout display with President Shippy

Support improved coordination for our Publications and Marketing communications.

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

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

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**Meeting date:** January 21, 2025

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

**Activities since last report:** Completed article for The Coupler

**Planned activities and expected time required:** Web site and article prep.

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

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

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**Meeting date: January 21, 2025**

**O Scale Central topic/activity: NMRA SIG**

OSC is an NMRA Special Interest Group

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

Most of my time was spent on OSC membership and website activities.

Model evaluation by NMRA qualified people is arranged for the March Meet Contest

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

Prepare for the NMRA National Convention in Novi, MI. O Scale opportunities include:

Clinics featuring O Scale Modeling

O Scale Layouts to be open

Models to be displayed in the Model Showcase and/or entered in the Contest

Layouts/Displays in the National Train Show

Special Interest Group display and possible meetings.

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