

POLICY ON LOST/STOLEN PROPERTY

Unfortunately property loss, some probably by theft, has been reported at O scale meets. Don't let it happen to you! Here is O Scale West's policy on property that is misplaced/disappears/stolen:

1. This policy applies to all O Scale West activities, e.g., the sales/exhibit area, contest areas, modular layouts, clinics, and home layout visits.
2. Each individual is responsible for protecting their belongings. If you have a table, cover it when you are away.
3. O Scale West's insurance does not provide coverage for theft. If you have a loss, you are financially responsible for it.
4. Individuals suspected of stealing will be turned over to law enforcement officials, no exceptions.

O Scale West regrets that a policy on this subject is necessary.

SILENT AUCTION

Items entered by sellers will be displayed at the Company Store along with a bid sheet. Buyers can review the bid sheet and write in a higher bid if desired. Full details on procedures, rules, etc. will be available at the Company Store. At the 2006 meet some nice items were offered; the bidding action was hot and heavy at the last minute!

O SCALE WEST
876 Boyce Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3003

Address Service Requested

YOU MAY WIN A DOOR PRIZE

Winning registrants are determined by random draw. Be sure to check your packet envelope for a door prize tickets. Each year several prizes are unclaimed. Don't miss out!

INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO O/S SCALE

To help you introduce friends to the world of O/S scale, on Saturday you can bring in a non-O/S scale modeler *who is new to OSW for free*. Meet them at the registration desk where they will register to receive a free badge.

Contacting Us / Making Suggestions

Please write us at 876 Boyce Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301-3003. If you need to talk to someone, call Rod Miller at (650) 329-0424 day and early evening PST.

BUS RIDES TO HOME LAYOUTS

In addition to privately arranged rides, if there is enough interest, OSW plans to offer transportation to the home layouts in one or more 10-15 passenger vans. There will be a charge to ride in the van. Reservations must be prepaid and my not be refundable if you have to cancel and your seat cannot be filled. If you are interested and want more information, please call Neil Chichizola at (650) 591-4136 by November 30.

THE WESTERN O SCALER

This is the newsletter of O Scale West, an informal association of O Scale model railroaders primarily from the Western part of the United States.

It is published 2 times a year by the O Scale West committee as a way of keeping O Scalers informed about the O Scale West meets. It is sent to those who have attended O Scale West and those who may be interested in future O Scale West Meets.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The 2007 Meet will be held in the carpeted Grand Ballroom and various meeting rooms of the **Hyatt Regency Santa Clara Hotel, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, California**. The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara is about 30 miles south of the San Francisco airport; however, it is only 5 miles from the San Jose Airport, which is a major airport.

The **2007 Meet dates are February 15-17:**

Thursday, February 15: Registration, exhibitor move in/ set up, clinics, videos, layout visits, local attractions.

Friday, February 16: Exhibitor move in/set up, registration, sales/trading, clinics, contests, layout visits.

Saturday, February 17: Registration, sales/trading, clinics, contests, layout visits, tear down and vacate hall.

Note: some home layouts are open for visiting Sunday, Monday, and possibly Tuesday after the meet.

For those of you who are coming to OSW from out of the area and who will be renting a room during your stay, please bear with me while I repeat what I said here last year:

One of the risks for OSW in having the meet in a hotel is that hotels want to sell rooms. OSW's contract with the Hyatt Regency specifies a number of rooms to be rented by OSW attendees. If the contracted number of rooms isn't rented, OSW has to pony up the value of the vacant rooms; e.g., each vacant contracted room costs OSW \$99 plus tax per night.

At the 2006 meet the S scaler presence helped us meet our room rental goal by a slim margin. For the 2004 and 2005 meets OSW had to pay a significant amount to the Westin (prior to Hyatt Regency ownership) because of vacant rooms, even though we had adjusted the contract.

So, if you rent a room while you are at the meet, please help by staying at the Hyatt Regency. Your doing so may make the difference between OSW either having to raise prices or change the meet location. If the latter occurs, the amenities of having the meet in a hotel environment may become a thing of the past.

The 2007 meet will see the return of the S scalers. Your comments both in the survey and to members of the OSW committee were strongly in favor of the S scaler presence.

At the 2006 meet we grouped all the S scalers together. That displaced some folks from their favorite locations and they let us know about their unhappiness. As a result we are making a one-time exception to our policy of placing people in the same location year after year if possible. At the 2007 meet we

will put you at your 2005 (*not 2006!*) table locations *if and only if* the 2005 table location is specified as a preference on your registration form.

Please note that registration and table rental prices will **increase** after December 31! See below for details.

People coming to OSW from outside the U.S.A. may pre-register without sending payment. Fees owed and refunds will be processed when the registration packet is picked up.

We can always use volunteer assistants during the meet. You do not need to be local. Your commitment would be for 2 to 4 hours. If you want to help, please contact Bob Plageman, the event manager, at the meet.

If you are interested in what goes on in planning OSW, you are welcome to sit in on meetings or to join the organizing committee. Please contact me for more information.

For shipping service in addition to that provided by the hotel, there is a UPS Store next to the ballroom.

Thanks for listening. Let me know if you have questions.

Rod Miller, Chairman

(650) 329-0424

e-mail: rod@rodmillier.com

Web Page: <http://www.oscalewest.com>

Thank You! **Tim Diebert** and **Palo Alto Research Center**. **Tim** for newsletter proof reading and formatting assistance, and **PARC** for newsletter and registration form printing.

2007 MEET DETAILS

Dates:

O Scale West 2007 will be held **Thursday through Saturday, February 15th through the 17th, 2007. The selling table area will be open for business Friday February 16, 9 AM to 5PM, and Saturday February 17, 9 AM to 6 PM.**

Location:

The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara hotel, is located in Santa Clara about five miles north of the San Jose airport. See Hotel Information below.

Costs:

The registration fee for individuals or a family (family includes spouse and children related or not under 18) is \$25 by December 31, 2006, \$30 after December 31, 2006. This fee covers all meet activities. Table rentals are \$35 each by December 31, 2006, \$45 each after December 31, 2006. There is no charge for electrical service, but *we have to know in advance* that you need it; please use the registration form to indicate your need for electrical service.

Registration Hours:

Registration is open Thursday 1 PM - 9 PM, Friday 8 AM - 5PM, and Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM. Registration will be located outside the Grand Ballroom.

Trading Room Hours:

Move In/Set Up: Thursday 3 PM-8 PM. **No selling!**

Move In/Set Up: Friday 7 AM-9 AM, Sat. 8 AM-9 AM. **No selling before 9AM!**

Ballroom Open: Friday 9 AM-5 PM, Saturday 9 AM-8 PM.

Vacate Hall: By 8 PM.

Registration Packets:

All registrants, whether pre-registered or walk-ups, will receive a registration packet. O and S will have different packets, so be sure to indicate your scale when you register.

The registration packet will contain your badge(s), contest ballot, door prize award notice if you have won a door prize, a survey form, and a registration form for the 2008 Meet. All other meet information will be on a table near Registration. Note that the packet envelope is pre-addressed to O Scale West for your convenience in returning the survey.

Videos:

Don Olson will use a video projector to show movies that he has transferred to video. Don's presentation is 7PM Thursday in the hotel lobby mezzanine - look for the sign.

Don is hard of hearing. Please take that into account if you ask a question during the presentation.

You are encouraged to bring your own videos to share. Please note that if you plan to do so, please coordinate with Don by December 31 so that he can fit them into his program. Don's telephone number is (925) 256-0557.

Information Central:

Information Central will be co-located with Registration.

Contests:

The contests, co-chaired by **Dick Bettinger** and **Colin Eldridge**, will be in the Grand Ballroom. Winners are determined by popular vote. Note that this year the S scale contest will be merged with the O scale contest, e.g., there may be both O and S scale model entrants in the same category - may the best model win!

Favorite Model Contest Categories: Steam Loco, Diesel Loco, Electric Loco, Passenger Car, Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way, Traction, Structure, Favorite Train.

Photo Contest Categories: Prototype B/W, Prototype Color, Model B/W, and Model Color.

The contest area will be open to accept entries from 6 PM to 7 PM Thursday, and 8 AM to noon Friday. Viewing/voting starts at noon Friday. Winners will be posted by 3 PM Saturday. Viewing closes at 4 PM Saturday, after which entries can be retrieved; all entries must be claimed by 6 PM.

This year we did not include contest entry forms with this newsletter. If you want a form to complete in advance of the meet, please send an LSSAE to:

OSW Contest Entry Form
1370 Orange Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-4635

Clinics:

John Houlihan is your clinics chairperson. The clinics schedule will be in your packet; it is also posted to the OSW web page. If you want to give a clinic please contact John at (559) 435-0874 or e-mail him at rubbyjohn@comcast.net

Home Layout Visits:

Bob Dupont is your home layouts visits chairperson. Thirty plus O, S, and HO scale home and club layouts will be open.

Why some HO scale? The layouts are very nice and are well known. We thought you would enjoy visiting them.

If possible layouts in the same general area are open at the same time. Maps to the layouts along with hours they are open will be available near Registration. Thanks to **Gary Schrader** who creates the maps.

Local layouts are open at various times Thursday - Saturday, with a few open Sunday. Some layouts are open more than once. The day(s) and hours each layout is open is provided in the maps package.

If you would like maps and open hours information in advance, send a 9x12 self addressed envelope with postage for 4 ounces affixed to it, to the OSW Palo Alto address. The map packets will be mailed late in January. Condensed information is also posted on the OSW web page.

In addition to the local layouts, several *large* layouts in the San Joaquin Valley and the adjacent Sierra Nevada foothills may be open for visiting. Depending on how many layouts you want to visit and your traveling style, your trip away from Santa Clara could take two or more days.

Here is a tip on finding layouts: GPS systems are becoming very common and easy to use; they can guide you to each layout. If you rent a car, get one with a GPS system (or if bringing your own GPS system and renting a car, be sure the car has a power outlet for the GPS system.)

On Site Layouts:

Neil Chichizola is your chairperson who arranges for these fine layouts to be at the meet:

The **Citrus Empire's** nicely done O scale layout.

The **Gauge O Guild** great British-prototype layout.

Dave Connery and friends' On30 Yosemite Short Line.

An 11' x 23' **S scale** layout with full scenery. Dual track mainline with 3 switching modules and 53" minimum radius.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The following lists major local railroad attractions. Some *may not* be open during O Scale West. *Contact Information Central at O Scale West for a complete list of local prototype attractions and current open hours for each attraction.*

- The California State Railroad Museum, in Sacramento, is a three hour drive each way. This museum is open year around seven days a week. See cab forward SP 4294 and many other standard and narrow gauge equipment in indoor exhibits. An excellent bookstore is on the premises.

- The Pacific Locomotive Association, in Sunol, is about 20 miles from Santa Clara. The PLA has a nice collection of preserved equipment and offers a several mile ride on the first Sunday of the month (February 4, 2007). The power could be an ex-WP F-unit or an ex-SP GP-9.

The GP-9 is painted Black Widow, and the F-unit is painted in its as-delivered scheme.

- Roaring Camp, Big Trees and Pacific RR, in Felton, less than an hour from Santa Clara. Operations include narrow gauge shays, and a scenic ride through the forest behind a diesel to Santa Cruz and back.

The Santa Clara County light rail system runs past the convention center. Occasionally they operate restored trolleys;. You can also ride the light rail to downtown San Jose.

GOT EXCESS ITEMS? WANT \$\$\$?

Consider renting a table to dispose of your excess items. You will make other O scalers happy, and you will make some money (if you can resist spending it on some treasure found at O Scale West!)

For CA sales tax purposes, you will probably qualify as an Occasional Seller, and not have to collect and report CA sales taxes. The one simple form (name, address, driver's license number, check a box) will be provided by OSW. Rod Miller will personally help you with the form and explain the process. Call Rod at (650) 329-0424 for more information.

ALREADY REGISTERED?

If the first line of the address label on your newsletter contains the number 2007-xxxx, where xxxx is a four digit number, you are already registered for the 2007 meet and your registration number is xxxx.

CONTACTING BILL McCLUNG

For S scale at OSW-related questions. U.S. Mail: c/o Red Caboose, PO Box 220, La Salle, Co. 80645

Phone (business hours): (970) 284-6830

e-mail: STACKTALK@aol.com

MEET CARS

The 2007 O scale car will be the 70 ton ACF covered hopper RTR and lettered in the post-1955 SP scheme with red letters on a gray car. 2-rail cars will only be available from OSW; 3-rail cars will be available from Petersen Supply, who normally attend OSW. OSW will have one hundred cars.

OSW will also have for sale a variety of flat car loads and previous year's meet cars.

The S scale car will be the Pacific Rail Shops PFE reefer, *Ready-to-Run*. There will be three brand new road numbers of the double herald (black and white UP herald) scheme. Fifty cars will be available.

The cars and loads will be available at the Company Store.

CALIFORNIA SALES TAX

For table renters who are in business or sell several times a year, the same procedure and California Board Of Equalization forms that were used last year will be used for the 2007 Meet. Please contact Rod if you have any questions.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The 2007 meet will be at the Hyatt Regency (formerly the Westin) Santa Clara hotel located at 5101 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara is about 5 miles north of the San Jose airport. Yellow Taxi Cab charges about \$20 for a one way trip between the airport and the hotel.

The O Scale West group room rate is \$99 *plus tax* per night for single, double, triple, and quadruple occupancy. This rate is available February 14 - 18; check with the hotel if you wish to arrive earlier and/or depart later than those dates. There is a \$15 charge for roll-a-way beds.

To make your room reservation, call (800) 233-1234. A deposit of one night's rental or a credit card number is required. Any cancellations must be made more than 24 hours before the date for which the room is reserved, or one night's room and tax will be charged. When registering be sure to say you are attending O Scale West and ask for the special rate. If you stay fewer nights than you had reserved, there will be an early departure charge.

Reservations must be made by January 14, 2007! Reservations received after that date *may* be given the hotel's regular room rate for that time if the OSW room block is sold out.

There is a free parking garage adjacent to the hotel. Check in time is 3 PM or later, check out time is noon.

If you have any difficulties with your hotel registration please let Bob Plageman (650) 349-1496 or Neil Chichizola (650) 591-4136 know right away so the problem can be handled.

Hotel guests can ship packages to themselves at the hotel. Check with the hotel for information on how to address the packages. Packages must *not* arrive at the hotel earlier than the week of February 12 or *they will be returned COD*.

After the meet the hotel will ship packages for guests provided you have informed the hotel by 4PM Friday February February 16; freight and handling charges will be billed to your room.

There is a UPS store in the convention center next to the Grand Ballroom.

The hotel staff will assist guests in transporting items to and from the Grand Ballroom.

WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE

Only have one or two items and don't want to spring for a table? Bring it to the Company Store white elephant table. For one dollar per item we will either sell your item for your fixed price or put it in the silent auction.

The silent auction is described on page 4.