

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 2009 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 **2009 Meet dates are January 29-31:**

Thursday, January 29: Registration, exhibitor move in/set up, clinics, videos, layout visits, local attractions.

Friday, January 30: Exhibitor move in/set up, registration, sales/trading, clinics, contests, layout visits.

Saturday, January 31: Registration, sales/trading, clinics, contests, layout visits, tear down and vacate hall.

Note: some home layouts are open for visiting Sunday, 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 say here every 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 \$109 plus tax per night.

For some previous years' 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 S scale modelers will join us again in 2009. The S scale attendance is a big help in OSW meeting its room night rental requirement; we are very appreciative of that.

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.

CONVENTION NEWS DEPARTMENT

The 2010 O Scale National will be held in conjunction with O Scale West July 1-3, 2010; there will be no OSW in February that year. The event will be the usual OSW meet expanded to include national convention activities such as a banquet and organized outside tours. Any of the added activities that have a cost associated with them will be priced separately.

The key activity for this convention will be the marketing effort to get the non-OSW attendee to come to the convention. Our plan is have layouts open for visiting June 27 - July 4 to enable visiting more layouts than is possible with the OSW schedule.

The S scaler participations will be the same as at OSW.

If you are interested in working on the committee for this convention please let me know; you don't have to live in the Bay Area in order to help out.

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

Rod Miller, Chairman

(650) 329-0424

e-mail: rod@rodmiller.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.

2009 MEET DETAILS

Dates:

O Scale West 2009 will be held **Thursday through Saturday, January 29th through the 31st, 2009. The selling table area will be open for business Friday January 30, 9 AM to 5PM, and Saturday January 31, 9 AM to 5 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, 2008, \$30 after December 31, 2008. This fee covers all meet activities. Table rentals are \$35 each by December 31, 2008, \$45 each after December 31, 2008. 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.

POLICY ON LOST/STOLEN PROPERTY

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

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. 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.

NMRA AP PROGRAM

NMRA members who wish to have their models judged for AP points/certificates can do that at OSW. OSW needs to know in advance about your plans.

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 2008 meet some nice items were offered; the bidding action was hot and heavy at the last minute!

NO DOOR PRIZE ACTIVITY THIS MEET

Scott Irby, who has served OSW so well by soliciting and organizing door prizes, and then manning the table where prizes could be retrieved, is unable to help with the 2009 meet.

Thank you Scott!

If you are interested in helping with door prizes for the 2010 Convention, please contact Rod.

Contacting Us / Making Suggestions

Please write us at 876 Boyce Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301-3003 or call Rod Miller at (650) 329-0424 days and early evening PST, or e-mail rod@rodmiller.com. Rod will be unavailable until the end of November. No registrations will be processed until Dec. 1, so please be patient if you expect an e-mailed confirmation of your registration. Please hold off e-mailing him until after Dec. 1.

If you need to talk to OSW before Dec. 1, please call **Bob Plageman** 650-349-1496 or **Neil Chichizola** 650-591-4136.

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 to the left.

Registration Hours:

Registration is open Thursday 3 PM - 9 PM, Friday 8 AM - 5PM, and Saturday 9 AM - 3 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-5 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, a survey form, and a registration form for the 2010 National. 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 emerge from his retirement to again entertain us royally with portions of his collection of old railroad films. The films have been transferred to video format, and a video projector is used to project them onto a screen. Don's presentation is 7PM Thursday in the hotel lobby mezzanine.

This year Don will continue his preview of his upcoming video on Sierra Short Lines. Roads covered are the Yosemite Valley, Hetch Hetchy, Amador Central, and the Nevada County Narrow Gauge RR.

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.

Contests:

The contests, chaired by **Dick Bettinger**, will be in the Grand Ballroom. Winners are determined by popular vote. Note that the S scale contest is 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 9 AM to noon Friday. Viewing/voting starts at noon Friday. Voting closes at noon Saturday. 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 5 PM.

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 john@irishtracklayer.com

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 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 and to **PARC** who prints them.

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 Priority Mail envelope with priority mail postage affixed to it, to the OSW Palo Alto address. The map packets will be mailed mid-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. If you rent a car and bring your own GPS system, be sure the car has a working power outlet for the GPS system - the cigarette lighter in a non-smoking car may have been disabled.

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.
The **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.
A **novel framework construction** layout in On30.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The following lists some local railroad attractions.

- The California State Railroad Museum, in Sacramento,

is about three hours away by train or car. 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 Sundays. The power could be an ex-WP F-unit or an ex-SP GP-9, SD-9, or any of the other operational locos on the PLA's roster. See <http://www.ncry.org/>
- 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. See <http://www.roaringcamp.com/>
- The Santa Clara County light rail system runs past the convention center. Occasionally they operate restored trolleys.

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 remit 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 label on your newsletter contains the number 2009-xxxx you are already registered for the 2009 meet and your registration number is xxxx. This is current as of mail received through October 4th.

S SCALE CONTACT

For S scale at OSW related questions. U.S. Mail: Lee Johnson, 2472 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; phone: (925) 943-1590; e-mail: leemax@jps.net

MEET CARS

The O scale meet car is the Red Caboose wood side reefer. We will have 95 cars lettered for PFE SP-UP with all side hardware painted orange (1952). We will have another five cars lettered for GN WFEX.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

To have a description of O scale collections that you will be disposing of at OSW appear here, please contact Rod with the information about the collection.

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 2009 Meet. Please contact Rod if you have any questions.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The 2009 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 \$25 for a one way trip between the airport and the hotel. Information on getting to OSW from Amtrak is on the OSW web site, <http://www.oscalewest.com>

The O Scale West group room rate is \$109 *plus tax* per night for single, double, triple, and quadruple occupancy. The Regency Club is \$145. This rate is available January 28 - February 1; check with the hotel if you wish to arrive earlier and/or depart later than those dates. There may be a 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 8, 2009! 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 OSW for information on how to address the packages. Packages must *not* arrive at the hotel earlier than the week of January 26 or *they will be returned COD*.

After the meet, the hotel will ship packages for guests provided you have informed the hotel a week in advance (OSW will help you with this); 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; there may be a charge for this service.

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.