



**O SCALE WEST - S SCALE WEST  
NARROW GAUGE WEST  
May 24 - 26, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA**

## **Pre-2018 Show Newsletter**

Thank you to all of you! I hope you have a good time at this year's show.

The alert reader has noticed that in the above sentence I used the word "show" in place of "meet". This is prompted by a comment made recently by Brian Scace, Editor of O Scale Trains, that the term "meet" implies a gathering of "members" or "in" people, suggesting a form of exclusivity. Since a major effort is being made this year to encourage non-O and S scalers to attend, while we always have been "open", I think we need to be careful that we're not perceived otherwise. Since Brian's comments rang true with me, all the material describing O Scale West (OSW) now uses either the term "show" or "convention".

Note that I use the term "O Scale West" to describe the combination of O Scale West, S Scale West, and Narrow Gauge West because it isn't a mouthful and has great marketplace recognition.

Another change for OSW is the inclusion of narrow gauge modeling in **all** scales. We have always had On3 and Sn3 at the meet; however this change includes all narrow gauges regardless of scale. This makes a lot of sense since the Narrow gauge Convention has variable locations and dates; a show that embraces narrow gaugers and that has predictable locations and dates is expected to see the narrow gauge segment grow over the years. Thank you to John Hamilton, OSW Chairman after the 2018 show, for this suggestion.

John has signed the contract for the 2019 OSW. The dates are May 23 - 25, 2019 even though John and I worked very hard with the hotel to get the normal February dates. The reality is that the hotel is located in the heart of the Silicon Valley, where the economy is booming and meeting space is at a premium. Since Memorial Day weekend is a slack time for the hotel, we can get good room rates and a great rate on the ballroom. Any other time of the year would see a huge increase in costs to attendees. So the meet will remain in its historical location (this year is our 20th consecutive year at that location!) which keeps your costs low. We understand the Memorial Day weekend isn't popular with a lot of folks, and are working to increase attendance by including all scales narrow gauge and promoting the show to other age groups using social media. If you participate in forums, please help by talking about OSW.

The web site, [www.oscalewest.com](http://www.oscalewest.com), has been upgraded. It looks much better with color, and is easier to use, with a menu bar at the top of every page that facilitates navigating to other pages. The site was designed by Jim Allen. Rod Miller added the OSW content to Jim's design. The web site now provides for paperless registration using the typical Internet purchase transaction; one can also purchase a registration and tables on eBay with only 6 clicks and entry of one word – how to is described on the web site.

Every year we provide a survey to get your thoughts about the show and to help us make decisions about the show. To encourage participation in the survey, we offer a prize which is awarded by random drawing to one of those who turned in a survey. The prize for 2017 was a brass reefer donated by **Protocraft**. The winner is **Leon Fairbanks!** Thank you for your thoughts, Leon.

To encourage participation in the model and photo contests, OSW also awards the prize of a free admission and a free table to one of those who vote in the contest. The winner among the 2017 model contest voters is **Dusan Petras!** Thank you for your participation Dusan.

The 2017 model and photo contest winners can be downloaded from the website [www.oscalewest.com/contests.html](http://www.oscalewest.com/contests.html).

The 2017 show walk up registration form asked if the registrant was a first timer at OSW, and if so, how did they learn about it. The results were startling – over 90% of the first timers came because a friend told them

about the show. So please tell your modeling friends about OSW!

A new Diorama Contest is being offered for O and S scales as well as all narrow gauge scales. Dioramas are an interesting part of our hobby and enjoyed by many. Every show registrant is invited to build a diorama and try for the cash prizes. The rules and more information are enclosed on a separate sheet.

Some of our fellow O and S modelers have passed or had other unfortunate events that dictate disposal at OSW of some or all of their collection. The web site, [www.oscalewest.com](http://www.oscalewest.com), is updated when there is new information about collections and estates that will be available at the show, so check it often.

You are encouraged to bring your train-oriented videos to the movies night on Thursday starting at 8PM; if you plan to do so, please contact Rod so that we can work out any technical issues. If you would like to see a repeat of a video shown at a previous show and can tell us who showed it, well, requests are accepted.

**John Houlihan**, your clinics chairperson, is busy recruiting clinics for this year. If you would like to present a clinic, please contact John at (h) 559-435-0874, (cell) 831-252-0983, or email [oscalejohn@gmail.com](mailto:oscalejohn@gmail.com).

**Russ Clover**, who designs our printed material, has been working on a deluxe book about the layouts open for visiting. The book should be ready this year. You can order a copy in advance using the registration form; we also expect to have a limited supply in the Company Store. The price is \$25.

This year we plan to reduce the contents of the registration packet envelope to: your badges, the contest ballot, and the survey, all of which have registration numbers on them. The meet schedule, layout visits schedule and locations, and any other material will be self serve pick up in the registration area.

Every year we get phone and email requests for information that is already available on the OSW web site. We understand that not everybody is comfortable using the Internet, so don't mind the requests. This is a reminder of what is quickly and easily available on the web site. The OSW registration form can be downloaded from the web site, filled in while being displayed on your screen, then you can print a copy to mail and another for your records. The website can also help you plan your meet activity because in the weeks before OSW it is updated to include:

- the schedule (but no location information) for layout visits
- the daily schedule for the meet including the clinics schedule
- contest entry forms that can be downloaded and printed
- any other information that is pertinent to the upcoming meet and/or is a change from the traditional OSW format

So if you already don't do so, in the future please consider using the website to find out about the upcoming OSW. The website address is [www.oscalewest.com](http://www.oscalewest.com). If you have suggestions for changes in the website, let Rod Miller know.

If you use **Facebook**, you might find the oscalewest group will help your enjoyment of OSW. Find rides to layouts while at the show, find a room mate, post items you are looking for, etc. Search Facebook for the name oscalewest and join the group! There are many other groups worth looking at to see some very good modeling in O and S scale. Lastly, when you are in the Groups section of Facebook, there are no ads in the main area of the screen, unlike the conventional Facebook screen.

The 2018 Scale O National Convention is near Washington, DC. If you haven't been to a national, consider 2018 because the committee is working hard to make it a great show. Info is at [www.2018oscalenational.com](http://www.2018oscalenational.com).

As outgoing Chairman of OSW, this is probably the last newsletter I will write, so I want to thank all of you for your trust and support over the last 28 years, and last but not least, I thank the organizing committee, many of whom have been on the committee since Day 1. **Thank you all!**

#### **Contacting Us**

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