

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. The Spring newsletter describes the recent O Scale West meet. The Fall newsletter describes the upcoming O Scale West meet.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The 2012 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 and about 5 miles north of the San Jose airport.

The **2012 Meet dates are February 9 - 11**. Mark your calendars now so those dates are open for you when February rolls around.

This is the 22nd consecutive annual OSW!

For those of you who will be renting a room during your stay, please bear with me while I repeat my appeal that you stay at Hyatt Regency.

Hotels exist to sell rooms. OSW's contract with the Hyatt Regency specifies a number of rooms to be rented by OSW attendees. The hotel's term for a rented room is a Room Night. One room rented for one night is one room night, 10 rooms for 10 nights is 100 room nights.

If the contracted number of room nights isn't rented by OSW attendees, OSW has to pony up the value of the vacant room nights. Thus each vacant contracted room night at OSW 2012 will cost OSW \$112 plus tax. The penalty adds up quickly - just 10 vacant room nights will cost OSW over \$1120.

At OSW 2011 we were short 30 room nights on the contract. Fortunately, because of an unusual need of the hotel where OSW was able to help, we dodged a \$3000+ penalty.

While the 2012 OSW rate of \$112 per night plus tax is more than what one would pay at motels miles away, there are advantages to staying at the Hyatt Regency. You don't have to leave the hotel to go to your room, saving you time and going out in the weather. You also have a convenient place to put your purchases other than in your car where there is the risk of theft, if you are seen doing so - the savings in room cost won't look so good if your newly purchased items are stolen and your vehicle is damaged by the thief.

Why all the words on staying in the hotel so OSW can avoid paying the room night penalty? OSW contracts for a realistic number of rooms based upon the actual rentals at previous OSW meets. OSW is budgeted to break even. If we have to build a room night penalty expense into our budget, we will be forced to increase fees to cover that expense.

Those of you who are local and commute to the meet need to be grateful to those attendees who do rent rooms in the hotel

and make it possible for all of us to have the amenities of a hotel environment for the meet venue.

In addition to not assessing the room night penalty, the hotel reduced the ballroom charge for 2012. As a result we were able to reduce our registration and table charges by \$5. If people register using the old forms we will refund all overpayments when you pick up your registration packet.

People coming to OSW from outside the U.S.A. may pre-register without sending payment. Payment will be collected 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 let **Bob Plageman**, the event manager (phone # below), know in advance of the meet so he can contact you to make arrangements.

The S scale meet is called S West; the 2012 meet will be S West 7.

I will be away until mid-November, so if you need something handled before then call Bob Plageman at 650-349-1496 or Neil Chichizola at 650-591-4136.

Thanks for listening.

Rod Miller 650-329-0424, fax 650-329-0423

e-mail: info@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.

2012 MEET DETAILS

Dates:

O Scale West 2012 will be held **Thursday through Saturday, February 9th through the 11th, 2012. The selling table area will be open for business Friday February 10, 9 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday February 11, 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 the Hotel Information section 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, 2011, \$30 after December 31, 2011. For Saturday only the walk-up registration fee is \$20. The registration fee includes all meet activities. Table rentals are \$35 each by December 31, 2011, \$40 each after December 31, 2011. 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 2011 meet some nice items were offered; the bidding action was hot and heavy at the last minute!

DOOR PRIZE NEWS

Richard Hofmeister has taken over the Door Prize activity. Before and during the 2012 meet he will be contacting potential door prize donors.

If you would like to donate a door prize, in return for which you will be acknowledged in the post-meet newsletter, please contact Rod for Richard's contact information.

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 info@oscalewest.com. Rod will be away until Thanksgiving, so registrations will not be processed until he returns.

If you need to talk to someone about OSW before Rod returns, 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 9 AM!**

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

Vacate Hall: By 8 PM Saturday.

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 2013 OSW. 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:

Videos, which will be projected onto a screen, will be shown 7 PM Thursday in the hotel lobby mezzanine.

Don Olsen may not be willing to "un-retire" again this meet, so the details of the program are TBD.

Videos of some O scale home layouts were well received last year, so we encourage you to bring videos of your layout to share. Please note that if you plan to do so, please coordinate with Rod by December 31.

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, and Display.

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 contest entry form to complete in advance of the meet, please send an LSSAE to:

OSW Contest Entry Form
876 Boyce Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3003

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 late 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 outlet 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's** great British-prototype layout.

The nicely done 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.

Other layouts may also be present.

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. See Cab Forward SP 4294 and many other pristine indoor exhibits of standard and narrow gauge equipment and model trains. 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. See www.ncry.org
- The Golden Gate Railroad Museum is also located in Sunol. See www.ggrm.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 www.roaringcamp.com
- The Santa Clara County light rail system runs past the hotel. Occasionally restored trolleys are operated in downtown San Jose.

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 2011 OSW AtlasO 53' gondola (SP); the Weaver UP double door express box cars are also available. The S meet cars will be the 2011 cars: S-Helper 40' steel box (SP) and the PRS DD box (WP).

RETIREMENT

As announced in the June 2011 newsletter, I (Rod Miller) plan to retire as chairman of O Scale West after the 2015 meet.

The O Scale West chair is available for an individual or group to take over. Those of you with an interest in taking over will receive plenty of support from the committee and me to help you learn what it takes to put on OSW and how to continue OSW's highly successful run.

I encourage you to talk to me either at the meet or by phone or E-mail outside the meet. Whoever takes over the OSW chair will get lots of assistance from me as it is my baby and I want to see it's success continued. More will be said in future newsletters.

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

Consider renting a table to dispose of your excess items. You might make some other O scalers happy, and in the process 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. A simple government 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.

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 2012 meet. Please contact Rod if you have any questions.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The meet will be at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara hotel at 5101 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara is about 5 miles north of the San Jose airport. Information on getting to OSW from Amtrak is on the OSW web site, www.oscalewest.com

The O Scale West group room rate is \$112 *plus tax* per night for single, double, triple, and quadruple occupancy. The Regency rate is \$140. These rates are available February 8 - February 12; 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 or (408) 200-1234. A deposit of one night's rental or a credit card number is required. 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 might be an early departure charge.

Reservations must be made by January 18, 2012! 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 February 6 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.

ALREADY REGISTERED?

If the first line of the label on your newsletter contains the number 2012-xxxx you are already registered for the 2012 meet and your registration number is xxxx. This is current as of mail received through August 31st.

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.