

## The O Scale Kings

All,

A good friend of mine told me that the O Scale Kings was nothing more than a “Rat Hole” for your hard-earned money. We had a long hard discussion and he was surprised to see what the O Scale Kings have accomplished with so little money. So . . . where has your \$10 dues been going?

- I. The O Scale Kings have given you a new website. Our secretary built this new website free of charge, saving us thousands of dollars. He developed it as a college project, enlisting his classmates and professor to work on it for free. The only cost we incurred to build the website was for some necessary computer programs. And of course, going forward, we have to pay for the hosting. What does the website offer?
  - A. In conjunction with *O Scale Directory*, we are very much involved in a vender/manufacturing list to help you locate the source of the products you are looking for. It includes a listing of “out of business” manufacturers.
  - B. In conjunction with the *O Scale Trains Magazine*, we are coordinating an event calendar where we endeavor to list all “O” scale events throughout the country. Note, though, that you, the “O” scale community, must advise us of these events so we can post them.
  - C. Also in conjunction with *OST*, we are compiling a list of all the clubs and modular groups that are in “O” scale... 2-rail, high rail, ON30, Proto48, and Maine 2 Foot. *OST* is developing and maintaining the Club Listing, and has made it available to us for the OSK website. Please let *OST* or the Webmaster of the OSK know of your organization and whether your membership is open.
  - D. Work has begun on posting historical catalogs, as we continue to give you a background of what was once out there, and may be lurking in those dark corners... perhaps in someone’s collection. Somewhere out there may be that item for your collection or project that you are looking for.
- II. The O Scale Kings endeavor to bring O Scale to the forefront of model railroading by encouraging our module groups to bring their layouts to train shows outside the O Scale community, giving them small stipends to help defray their costs. These shows include the NMRA, TCA, World's Greatest Hobbies, the Amherst show in Springfield MA, and other high visibility shows. We have seen some success with the conversion of some of our friends in their smaller scale they call “Half O” and getting other people to get rid of that center rail.
- III. Our O Scale Kings’ great-looking display booth had to have its center two panels with a mural depicting a terrific O Scale layout replaced because they became severely damaged.

One thing we do not use your dues for. . . The OSK Board of Directors and officers travel to shows, at their own expense. We do this to promote the OSKs, in hopes of having you join us or renew your membership. These shows include the March Meet in Chicago, O Scale West, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Strasburg PA, and Springfield MA. Please stop by our booth and talk to one of the officers or directors.

Sometime in the future we hope to have the ability for you to check out layouts throughout the country. When traveling, you could visit a home or club O Scale layout. We envision you e-mailing OSK, and we would endeavor to hook you up with someone in the area with a layout... clubs or individuals. Of course, we will also need you, the O Scale community, to be willing to open your home or club layouts. More to come on this concept.

Thanks to a member of our board of directors, we were incorporated as a tax-exempt 501c3 group. Your dues and contributions are, therefore, totally tax-deductible, which is the envy of a lot of groups.

Yes, we have done a lot, but a lot more needs to be accomplished. We need your help by either joining, or continuing your membership in the O Scale Kings. I hope you will agree that you're not sending your money down a "Rat Hole".

Yours truly,  
**Bob Lavezzi**  
President, O Scale Kings