

O Scale 2020 Progress

As over the last few years, our layout continues running very well with few track or electrical problems. Most of our operational problems are occasional equipment related issues such broken couplers, malfunctioning trucks and dirty wheels or tracks.

Due to the Corona virus outbreak, most of our on-side work had been restricted. However, we have made some progress:

We started off the Winter work period with long needed ballasting of the mainlines around the Midway to south end of the layout. Also, added a small water flow behind Mt. Heller into the train crash site area, and operating grade crossing signals at the Churchill highway crossing.

On electronics: we installed a digital camera system as backup to our older analog system. The digital system gives much better resolution and require much less cabling since it operates over our O Scale local network. Also, the O Scale main computer was upgraded to a Windows 10 version. The JMRI program used for signal and track control was upgraded to latest version. We are rewiring the Midway block feed terminal board to make it more accessible and adding some commercial block detectors as replacements for our home-built versions.

Starting in Jan we helped with a large (~400+ items) 3-rail donation- including transportation, pricing and cataloging. This work took many days, but has resulted in two bids so far which may be beneficial to off-set GSMRM loss of revenue this year.

Other: we have an O Scale library bookcase, a new radial arm saw table and new shelving for our scenic supplies.

We received a historic picture and text donation from a former Emeryville member. Over 100 pictures from the 1980's+ at Emeryville were digitized and added to the GSMRM O Scale web site at [DanSmithCollection1983](#).

Month by month progress and members responsible can be viewed at the O Scale Web Site. **Due to Corona** situation starting in March 2020, we are making very little progress until further notice. Some of us drop in occasionally to work on a few items during the access restriction.

Month by Month

These are sent to the EBMES secretary

O Scale progress for Dec 2019:

The layout continues to run well.

- **Jeff Rowe**, installed IP digital cams for Depart West yard and Post Road areas. Also installed a 22in HDMI monitor at Departure.
- **Rob Fassano** is repairing the original Departure 16 channel multiplexer. We ordered a replacement for backup. Rob has installed that so our analog cameras are back.
- **Mike Leahy** continues on wire management under Midway. He is working on the main block wiring terminal board replacement.
- **John Engel** is busy cataloging a large donation of 3-rail trains. **Larry Price** is doing the price estimates.

O Scale Progress for Jan 2020:

At our first winter 2020 Sat workday:

- **Jim Ambrose** added a new ladder to access some of the On3 layout.
- **Bob Brown and Andy Olson** worked on cleaning up and adding adhesives to the block D3,A3 (Skyway area) tracks.
- **John Engel** continued work on cataloging the Doug Abeles 3-rail donation.
- **Rob Fassano** worked on sorting tracks and electronics from the donation.
- **Mark Francis** installed a storage cabinet he made for Zenith.
- **Jeff Heller** worked his trains in storage. Also gave some advice on tree layout for Mt. Heller area.
- **Mike Leahy** worked on the Midway block terminal board replacement project.
- **Jeff Rowe** built and installed a cabinet for O Scale library materials (Wed) and started work on the Zenith remote panel power control.

O Scale Progress for Feb 2020:

At our first winter Feb Sat workday:

At our 22 Feb Sat workday:

- **Jim Ambrose** working on new power for the On3 layout. Also, planning a return loop for upper level.
- **Bob Brown, Mark Francis and Andy Olson** worked on ballasting south end tracks. **Andy** is adding a water scene at (Skyway area) tracks.
- **Rowe** repaired brokend toggle on Zenith west yard.
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- Other Feb Work:
- **John Engel, Jeff Rowe** continued work on cataloging the Doug Abeles 3-rail donation.
- **Mike Leahy** worked on the Midway block terminal board replacement project.
-I worked on rewire of detectors on new Midway block feed terminal board.

Rowe wired in a new detector from Dallee for testing as possible replacement for our home made detectors.

- **Jeff Rowe** worked on IP video cam software and several new camera installs.
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O Scale Progress for Mar 2020:

At our first winter Feb Sat workday:

- **John Engel, Jeff Rowe** continued work on cataloging the Doug Abeles 3-rail donation.
- **Mike Leahy** continues work on the Midway block terminal board replacement project.
- **Jeff Rowe** worked on IP video cam software and several new camera installs.
- Also, found an inexpensive(\$45!) Dell PC to replace our ancient and broken OSCI computers which control signals and layout for our JMRI programs.
- Andy Olson adding a waterway on south end of layout

O Scale Progress for Apr-Jun 2020

Due to Corona, we are proceeding at a restricted basis.

- **Jeff Rowe** now using a Dell Optiplex 790 SFF (\$70 on Ebay) PC to replace our ancient and broken OSCI computers which control signals and layout for our JMRI programs. This PC has Windows10 and able to use latest Java, JMRI, VLC software.
- **Andy Olson** continues work on a waterway on south end of layout
- **Jeff Rowe** continues adding IP cams for Departure, Passenger and other areas.
- **Jeff Rowe** has updated the Abeles donation spreadsheet and is soliciting bids.

Jul-Aug 2020:

- **Jeff Rowe** installed a Sapphire GPU on the Dell 790 to provide video output to three monitors. Still need duplicate output to the walkway monitor with a DVI amplifier.
- Replaced the Midway IP Cam PC with a Raspberry Pi.
- **Andy Olson** continues work on a waterway on south end of layout
- **Jeff Rowe** continues adding IP cams for Departure, Passenger and other areas.

Sep-Nov 2020:

Due to Corona, we are proceeding at a restricted basis.

- **John Engel and Jeff Rowe** re catalogued the Doug Abeles 2020 donation to make sure all items (~400) present for bidding (several days work). We now have two bids, just waiting for tax appraisal form from Doug before we can sell.
- **Mark Francis** installed fences around the Bascule bridge piers and added other scenic details.
- **Jeff Rowe** installed grade crossing signals at the Churchill grade crossing on Blocks A3,D3. Used an Azatrax control board and eight of their infra red sensors (\$115). Signals from OSW at \$25. Misc \$25. Trains can activate signals from far and near crossing in either direction on either track. Can also stop before crossing and reactivate signals when proceeding. Signals auto return when last detector past, or after a time period.
- **Jeff Rowe** -The Java based IP Cam App is installed on Departure, Midway, Zenith Pi's. App allows for individual camera viewing, Division cams, or scrolling thru cameras 2, 4, 9 at a time. TrainCam also available.
- **Jeff Rowe** received a historic picture and text donation from former Emeryville member **Dan Smith**. Digitized over 100 pictures from the 1980's+ at Emeryville. A draft is on the GSMRM O Scale web site at [DanSmithCollection1983](#) Full donation is in library.
- **Andy Olson** continues work on a waterway project on south end of layout
- **Mike Leahy** is working on re-wiring the Midway track feed terminal blocks so they are more accessible.

Dec 2020:

Due to Corona, we are proceeding at a restricted basis.

- **Jeff Rowe** -Rewrote The Java based IP Cam App in C++ to see if any performance increase.
- **Jeff Rowe** Installed a few Dallee block detectors (for both DC&DCC) on the Midway track feed terminal board so future maintainers do not have to rely on our home-made detectors. Cost: Dallee- \$29ea, vs. ~\$5
- **Andy Olson** continues work on a waterway project on south end of layout
- **Mike Leahy** is working on re-wiring the Midway track feed terminal blocks so they are more accessible. Also, doing wire management on the InterUrban line so more wire clearance at Midway track feed terminal section.
- **Mike Leahy** also built new shelving and arranged and sorted all of our scenic materials.
- **Jeff Heller** and **Mark Francis** making plans for the mine building in Diablo Canyon.