

# O Scale 2023 Progress

## Month by Month

These are sent to the EBMES secretary

### Jan 2024:

We had a O Scale meet on Jan20th:

Jeff Rowe voted as 2023 TrainMaster. I would like to thank all members for helping run, maintain and improve the layout during the last year. After the Corona situation, we have been able to make progress on some of our scenery, digital cameras, general wiring and other layout needs. For the most part, the layout continues to run well the entire season with only the usual rolling equipment failures or op problems. We had had good crew coverage for most of our run days, many had more than 3 crew members which greatly increase the layout action. Our Saturday coverage was also good. Good for our viewing public also.

[Minutes are here.](#)

- Work in progress

**Following are placeholders for remainder of 2024.**

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### Feb 2023:

- Feb 11 work day.

we had a lot of our O Scalars plus others at club today:

**Ambrose, Carpoﬀ, Engel, Francis, Heller, Leahy, Olson, Rowe, Trenkle.**

Several of us were in for EBMES board meetings, and another group for the GSMRM board meet at 12n. Since that meeting ran until 2pm, we skipped lunch and some of us continued work on the layout.

**Mike Leahy** worked on the Departure cleaning train spur.

**Jeff Heller** on back tunnel walls.

**John Engel** on one of his engines.

**Jeff Rowe** worked on the Arrival swing gate electric+ installed a channel to grab and align the latch side of gate, Will do the hinge side next time. **Mark Francis** worked on the future Departure swing gate scenery cut out.

**Josh Carpoﬀ** prepared a WiFi equipment list for GSMRM.

**Jim Ambrose** making plans for the Zenith stairway replacement. Plans to build at home and bring in for installation.

**Mark Francis** brought in some for-sale and free stuff from his collection which several members took advantage of.

**Andy Olson** brought in some scenery items.

**Mike Leahy** worked on a spur track at Departure east yard for storing a cleaning train. Hand laid track and turnout

- **Other work after 14th:**
- **Jeff Rowe** added power interlock on the Arrival swing gate.
- **Mike Leahy** helped with swing gate and Departure spur track.
- **Jeff Heller** continued with tunnel walls.

### **O Scale Progress for March 2023**

At club on Cleanup Day: **Jim Ambrose, John Engel, Mark Francis, Andy Olson, Jeff Rowe**

We spent most of our time cleaning tracks- the main lines and yards are done. **Rowe** did the Departure, Arrival, Midway mains,

**Jim Ambrose** worked on Zenith, **John Engle** and **Mark Francis** worked on the Arrival and Departure yards. **Andy Olson** also helped outside. Actually I noticed the the Departure and Arrival main lines were already pretty clean since we have been running the cleaning train a few times during the winter.

**Rowe** repaired one turnout in Departure east lead where the throw-bar had lost a o-80 screw.

Also repaired the Midway building light power problem.

Overall, it looks like we are ready for operations. Don't forget to sign up for run days starting in April.

Other work during month:

- **Jeff Heller** continue working on tunnel walls
- **Mike Leahy** finished installing the Departure 11x spur and turnout motor. It's linked to turnout 12e as a crossover for now.
- **Jeff Rowe** wired the panel power toggle for track 11x with and a momentary toggle for 11x turnout motor.
- **Dan** and **Armando Vargas** added water texture to the Yreka harbor area. Looks great!
- **Jeff Rowe** put finishing touches on Arrival gate
- **Jim Trenkle** continued with track cleaning

### **O Scale Progress for Apr 2023**

- Layout continues to run well. We are now running the track cleaning trains more frequently which helps reduce time spent cleaning engine wheels. Some of our members are out for a while due to health issues so operations are somewhat limited.
- **Jeff Rowe** visited the estate of the late EBMES member Bill Hoffmann (1940-50's). His daughter donated two display cases of his custom built trolleys. I copied some of his pictures for our History web site.
- **Jeff Rowe** updated the Departure IP Cam PC to a Dell 3070-I9500. It's 6-8 time the performance of the RPi's and able to show all cam's on the 4K Hisense monitor with 40% less latency.
- **Rowe** repaired the main cab train power supplying added a second power supply for Arrival for the local cab.
- **Mike Leahy** repaired Arrival 4e turnout.

### **O Scale Progress for May 2023**

Layout continues to run well. We are still experiencing crew shortages due to on going health issues with some O Scalers.

- **Jeff Rowe** and **Mark Francis** debugged a block 14-15 short on Sunday 20Apr. Rowe repaired turnout Zenith 14w points out of gauge. Also re-soldered route board diode contacts for Zenith track 32e, 33e routes.
- **Mike Leahy** repaired a feeder wire problem on Arrival turnout 4e.
- **Mark Francis, Mike Leahy, Andy Olson, Jeff Heller and Jeff Rowe** attended **O Scale West** (May 26-27) in Santa Clara. Again as last year, show attendance was rather low. No large vendors attended. I sold about \$185 in some old trolleys which had been donated by Gene Chamberlain several years ago. **Jeff Heller** hosted lunch on Saturday.
- **Dave Roth** from HO has been helping to run our Arrival and Departure divisions when we are short of operators.

### **O Scale Progress for June 2023**

- Rowe away on travel to Germany, Sweden.

### **O Scale Progress for July 2023**

- **Mike Leahy** continues wire management. Mike also added non slip surface to our entrance ramp.
- **Jeff Rowe** solved a short problem on Arrival track 4. Also repositioned the Midway 5-7 crossover IP camera for better view.

- The new **Dell 3070 SFF PC** (2019) is now operating our JMRI and signal systems OK. It's much faster to boot up and start JMRI with the division panel displays in 40sec vs 3-4 minutes for the old Dell 790 (2012)PC-**Jeff Rowe**.
- Two **Accessory Decoder** boards have failed in the Departure panel. These are used when JMRI wants to change a turnout etc. Normal operations are not affected. These boards from CVP Products were from 2004, and the voltage regulator have burnt out. Will return for repair or replace. **Jeff Rowe**

## O Scale Progress for Aug 2023

**Layout** had been run-in well with mostly equipment problems on run days. We continue to miss some crew supports but are getting along OK. **Dave Roth** from HO has assisted on several occasions.

**Armando Vargas** has been in several times to work on the OA&E tracks.

**Jeff Rowe** made the Departure AD4 decoder boards easier to access/replace. Also replaced two which had failed due to overheated voltage regulators.

**Mark Francis** ran layout for a children group on the 9th.

**Rowe** converted one of Bill Hoffmann's Sacramento Northern trolleys to DC two rail for our Pt. Richmond or OA&E line. **Mike Leahy** contributed a new DC motor.

## O Scale Progress for Sept 2023

**Layout** had been run-in well with mostly equipment problems on run days. We had a few problems on the Midway block 7 loop tracks and east lead turnout. We continue to miss some crew supports but are getting along OK.

- **Rowe** replaced gears in one of the SF 0-6-0 diesels used on the Pt. Richmond line.
- **Rowe** up dated our **JMRI layout panels** to show the latest Departure 11x siding and the Powerhouse sidings. Also updated document on how to add new turnouts, signals and other information for panel construction.
- **Rowe** arranged and sorted a donation of mostly trolley stuff from Kirby Churchill. These were brought in by his son Micheal. **Mike Leahy** also helped.

- **Rowe** sorted a 3-rail and On30 donation from former member Rich Talk?. Some will be sold at our Sept 16 Swap meet or later at OSW2023. Thanks to **Larry Price** who made several trips to El Sobrante to bring in the donation.
- **John Engle, Mark Francis, and Rowe** prepared and priced the 3-rail and On30 donations for the Swap meet. **Mark** handled the very few sales at the meet on Sat the 16th.
- **Mike Leahy** rewired the safety sections on the block 7 and Midway east lead turnout. Also added missing power feed drops and remounted the turnout motor.
- **Rowe** added signals on the Departure yard bypass tracks 11a,11b.

## O Scale Progress for Oct 2023`

The layout continues running well on Sundays.

The block 7 7L/7S problems on the Midway block 7 loop tracks and east lead turnout. have been addressed.

Thanks to all the O Scalers who continue to help run on Sundays and with the Saturday door duties. Please sign up whenever you can.

- **Mike Leahy** finished rewired of the safety sections on the block 7 and Midway east lead 7Le turnout. Also added missing power feed drops and remounted the turnout motor.
- **Rowe** added signals on the Departure yard bypass tracks 11a,11b. Also, at the West lead track 12b and at the block 11a/11b boundary. Signals are added since this is a yard bypass track.
- **Mike Leahy** added a safety walk fence on the upper Zenith north end platform. It was possible for unsuspecting guests to step off the platform and fall.
- **Rowe** finished work on the OSCI main computer so it can run DCC trains as well as signals using separate NCE systems.
- **Rowe** coordinating with Joe Barker of the Alameda O Scale club to host a Bay Area O Scale meeting at **GSMRM** on Nov 18th.
- **Rowe** converted a **Kirby Churchill** Pacific Electric trolley to run on either 2-rail or 2-rail with overhead. This will be used at either the Pt Richmond trolley line or on the OA&E line.

## O Scale Progress for Nov 2023

The layout continues running well on Sundays.

## O Scale Progress for Oct 2023`

The layout continues running well on Sundays. Sunday the 5th was a total problem free run day!s

Thanks to all the O Scalers who continue to help run on Sundays and with the Saturday door duties. Please sign up whenever you can.

- **Rowe** Also added option so the JMRI program won't send commands to local panels except if it is auto running trains. This may prevent conflicting panel operations.
- **Rowe** coordinating with **Joe Barker** of the Alameda O Scale club to host a Bay Area O Scale meeting at **GSMRM** on Nov 18th. We had over 15 attendees. **Marty Campbell** and **Joe Barker** gave presentations on battery power engines. Both Joe and Marty ran on the layout with battery and DCC. Another

meeting is planned in the Spring at Alameda County Central Railroad Society club.

## O Scale Progress for Dec 2023

**The layout continues running well on Sundays.**

**The block 7 7L/7S** problems on the Midway block 6->5,7 crossing have been addressed.

Thanks to all the O Scalers who continue to help run on Sundays and with the Saturday door duties. We have enjoyed a good year for train operations and are looking forward to our Winter projects.

- **Mike Leahy, Jeff Rowe** finished rewired of the safety sections on the block 7 Midway block 6-> 5 or 7 crossing.
- **Rowe** investigated and tested NCE DCC Signal Decoders as replacements for the Tam Valley signal decoders. TV is no longer making their decoders and the few remains cost \$20 ea. NCE units are \$6ea and use a standard NMRA DCC signal command with up to 15 aspects. TV units used two DCC commands per signal head and can not do flashing aspects.
- **Rob Fassano** is installing rubber padding on framing where head contact can be made.
- **Peter Aylward** making plans for painting the backdrop behind Zenith.