

O Scale 2019 Progress

In 2019, we focused on improving electrical safety and access to the layout.

At Departure, all new track base supports have been added for the block 5 and block 7 loop tracks. The grades have been precisely adjusted for smooth tracking.

At Midway, worked on adding point rail jumpers to all the Midway diesel and engine yard turnouts. Also replaced the turntable bridge railings with styrene to increase strength. Repaired the turntable auto polarity relay, and added a remote turntable control at the roundhouse access hatch.

At Zenith, the West stub yard has been ballasted and three new sidings and industrial buildings added. The remote panel with dual operation from the main panel was completed.

For Pt. Richmond, The Pilkington Hotel area LED building lighting completed. A new street has been added to allow downtown access to the passenger station. Also, a street from passenger station to backside has been added. Other street pavement has been added for the harbor areas and track crossings. Tracks ballasting continues. Power feeds were added to track drops to improve operation.

Many safety hand rails and grab irons were installed around the layout to help with access and duck-unders.

We have made some improvements to the On3 train control and turnouts. Goal is to have more reliable operations. Rebuilt the stairs at On3 Empire platform and adding safety railings.

We are adding IP cameras for backup to the analog video surveillance for train operations. The analog video multiplexer was replaced.

Overall, 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.

Month by month [Progress and Pictures](#) and s responsible can be viewed at the O Scale Web Site:

—Jeff Rowe, O Scale Trainmaster.

Month by Month

These are sent to the EBMES secretary

O Scale progress for Jan 2019:

- **Carpoff ,Rowe, Engle** working on Pt. Richmond building lights. Light circuits also being extended to On3 area.
- **John Engel, Rowe** continue on street pavement around the east harbor area. We are now working on street from town to station.
- **Dave Goslee** adding ballast to Pt. Richmond trolley tracks.
- **Mike and I** worked on O Scale electric and safety items for the yearly fire inspection.
- **Mike Leahy** is adding grab rails beneath our duck unders.
- **Jeff Rowe** and **Mark Francis** added handrails for the front ramp and back stairs.
- **Mark Francis** painted the bascule bridge and fixed the counter-weight.
- **Rob Fassano** is building a new DC power supply for the video cameras.
- **Rowe** is working on the Zenith West yard panel construction and installations.

O Scale progress for Feb 2019:

- **Carpoff ,Rowe, Engle** working on Pt. Richmond building lights. Light circuits also being extended to On3 area. **Josh and John** updated the buildings to control panel cabling.
- **John Engel, Rowe** continue on street pavement around the east harbor area. We are now working on street from town to station and for Hotel Pilkington area.
- **Dave Goslee** adding ballast to Pt. Richmond trolley tracks.
- **Mark Francis** has painted the bascule bridge and working on the counter-weight.
- **Rowe** is almost finished wiring the Zenith West yard remote panel. Over 50 input&output connections are needed. Panel is interlocked with the main panel.
- **Mike Leahy** continued his work on adding more track base supports around block 7L at south end. Also, put in some additional supports under some of the other tracks coming into Departure, Arrival. And did some wire-management along the way.
- **Rowe** updated the O Scale Progress web site with Progress and Pictures for 2018. Check this link: http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/OSProgress/O-progress.shtml, then open the 2018 links. Previous years are also available.

O Scale progress for Mar 2019:

- **Rowe** added pavement for the Hotel Pilkington area in Pt. Richmond. Also, added new sidewalks to the hotel complex and replaced the original LED lights with the newer SMD LED's which we are using for Pt. Richmond.
- **Rowe** finished wiring the Zenith West yard remote panel.
- **John Engle** worked on Pt. Richmond trolley lines and pavement crossings.
- At club for cleanup day: **Bob Brown, Mark Francis, John Engle, Mike Leahy, Andy Olson, Jeff Heller, Jeff Rowe**. Most all of us spent time cleaning tracks. and getting layout ready for opening day. **Mike Leahy** did the BBQ.
- **Rowe** wrote a VLC (Video LAN Client) script to show any number of IP cameras for the Midway video PC

- **Rowe** finished the Spring 2019 edition of the Zephyr.
- **Mark Francis** has painted the bascule bridge and working on the counter-weight.
- **Mark Francis** repaired scenery damage at Post Road.
- **Mike Leahy** finished wiring the Zenith west yard tracks.
- **Mike Leahy** helped **Dave Illich** with HO 110vac wiring.
- **Dave Goslee** has repaired several of the damaged cars from our RIP tracks.

O Scale progress for Apr 2019:

- **Rowe** worked on adding point rail jumpers to all the Midway diesel and engine yard turnouts. Also replaced the turntable bridge railings with styrene to increase strength. Repaired the turntable auto polarity relay . Raised the turntable bridge to improve operation.
- **John Engel, Rowe** continue on street pavement around the east harbor area. John reset trees at Churchill yard and cleaned overhead wires. **Rowe** added temporary power feed and connected track drops to improve operation. Added lights to Pilkington Hotel. **Dave Goslee** continue with track ballasting.
- **Dave Goslee** helped clean Departure yard tracks. Also repaired two refer cars on the SP black widow train.
- **Mark Francis** has painted the bascule bridge and working on the counter-weight.
- **Mark Francis** cleaned On3 trackage. **Jim Ambrose** and **Mark** debugged the On3 power system. **Mark** tested some train movements from Eureka yard up to Empire.
- **Mike Leahy** re-built the wire storage area beneath Long Tunnel. Added ballast leak protection under the track roadbed to keep ballast from falling all over the wire shelves and floor. Also, removed front shelf so we have access to the long tunnel for track cleaning and derails. Build a custom shelf for the Midway IP monitor PC.
- **Rowe** finished wiring the Zenith West yard remote panel. Over 50 input&output connections needed. Panel is interlocked with the main Zenith panel. **Mike Leahy** wired the stub yard tracks and lead. Added point rail jumpers as needed.
- **Rowe** added two more IP cameras for the Midway IP video monitor. Wrote software to display mosaic or individual camera views.
- **Rowe** prepared script/plan for TGS video shoot in May.

O Scale progress for May 2019:

- **Jeff Rowe, Mark Francis** At OSW 2019: Mark Francis, 3 tables, GSMRM 2 tables. So Friday was pretty good for GSMRM, I sold nearly all our stuff— about six boxes, plus some of Dox's three rail cars. The 2-rail guys like to convert these. As last year, older freight cars go for about \$5. I had a hard time selling some at \$3-4. Just too much supply as older gents dismantle their layouts or want to down-size. On Sunday, I only sold \$30. But I only brought back 1 bin of remaining items, so we will have less clutter under Pt. Richmond! Gross for show: \$332.
- **Rowe** rewrote the Midway IP camera software in Python for more portability. Also working on a GUI version for easier control.
- **Mark Francis, Jim Ambrose** working on On3 track and control so we can get trains running up to Empire and back. **Mike Coustier** also helping.
- **Mike Leahy** continues with wire and track work at the Zenith West stub yard.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting track at Pt. Richmond trolley lines.
- **John Engel** worked the GSMRM swap meet on May 25.

O Scale progress for June 2019:

- **Jeff Rowe, Mark Francis, Dave Goslee, John Engel, Rob Fassano** attended our June meeting. Minutes at http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o_scale/OSDocuments/OScale_Business/Previous/Jun2019-Minutes.pdf
- Rob Fassano worked on Departure S-video connection problems.
- **Rowe** working on a GUI for IP cams for easier control.
- **Mark Francis, Mike Coustier** continue working on On3 track and control so we can get trains running up to Empire and back. **Rowe** lowered the main power controls so they are accessible without having to climb to the Palisade platform.
- **Mike Leahy** continues with wire and track work at the Zenith West stub yard.
- **Mike Leahy** rebuilt stairs for On3 Empire platform, and added a safety railing. Also brought in 16" grab irons for various duck unders and stairs.
- **Mike** rebuilt some storage shelves for our electric tools.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting of the Midway engine terminal.
- **Rowe** built a remote control for the turntable for use at the engine house access hatch area.

O Scale progress for July 2019:

- The layout continues to run well.
- **Rob Fassano** worked on Departure S-video connection problems.
- **Rowe** working on a GUI for IP cams for easier control.
- **Mark Francis, Mike Coustier** continue working on On3 track and control so we can get trains running up to Empire and back.
- **Mark Francis** and **Jim Ambrose** tested On3 power system.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting of the Midway engine terminal.
- **Rowe** built a remote control for the turntable for use at the engine house access hatch area.
- **Mike Leahy** rebuilt the stairs at On3 Empire platform and adding safety railings. He also has new 16" grab irons to install in various areas.
- **Jim Ambrose** took his miniature On3 demo module to the Wig-Wag event day in Point Richmond last Sat. It was a big attraction. Thanks Jim!

O Scale progress for Aug 2019:

- The layout continues to run well. Usual equipment mal functions e.g. broken couplers or dropped engine gears, mostly from Atlas engines. We are ordering replacements.
- **Jeff Rowe**, installed latest Java IP cam app at Midway. Now have four HD cams running at 1020x720, 15 frames/sec. These show most of the hidden Midway areas. Looks pretty good and tracks trains with about 1 second latency. Ancient windows XP CPU running at about 50%. I plan to get newest handsized Raspberry 4 (~\$40) to see if it can be used as a replacement.
- **Mike Leahy** continues on wire management under Midway.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting of the Midway engine terminal.

O Scale progress for Sep 2019:

- The layout continues to run well. Usual equipment mal functions. e.g. broken couplers etc.
- Some Atlas engines are developing gear problems. We have replacements. **Rowe** repaired two engines, **Dave Goslee** is working on two Dash 38's.
- **Jeff Rowe**, installed a IP cam for north side of Arch mountain showing blocks 10.11,15 for Zenith operators. Displays OS_Cam App with a Raspberry Pi3 at 12%CPU! Also added necessary hardware at our patch panel4 and power over internet for a couple cameras.
- **Jeff Rowe** and **Mark Francis** debugged Zenith turnout 31e.
- **Bob Brown** and **Rowe** debugged a track problem at Zenith turnout 12e.
- **Mike Leahy** continues on wire management under Midway.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting of the Midway engine terminal.

O Scale progress for Nov 2019:

The layout continues to run well. Usual equipment mal functions. e.g. broken couplers etc.

- **Rowe** repaired the SFW Alco C44 rear truck central gear, **Dave Goslee** is working on two Dash 38's.
- **Jeff Rowe**, installed IP digital cams for Depart West yard and Post Road areas.
- **Mike Leahy** continues on wire management under Midway.
- Mike also added additional grab irons for center duck under and Arch Bridge ramp areas.
- **Dave Goslee** continues with ballasting of the Midway engine terminal.

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.

