

## The Pumpkin Patch Run



There is a lot of joy in giving, and we had over fifty OCME volunteers give their time and smiles to 397 passengers as they road the rails, played games, and went home with treats, trick-or-treat bags and pumpkins at our First Pumpkin Patch Run on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. Our train crews did a superb job of making our guest enjoy each and every ride. Private trains were out to illustrate our solar and steam powered capabilities to the delight of many. Thank you Eric, Steve and Jim.

The Kiwanis and their contingent of 30 plus volunteers provided games, face and pumpkin painting, handed out candy treats and also provide a low cost lunch for all who were hungry. They were also responsible for finding the children and families (approximately 160) to come and support this wonderful event, and did so in fine fashion. We enjoyed the camaraderie, fellowship and enthusiasm shared between the organizations during the Pumpkin Patch Run and look forward to working with them again in the future. Wendy Dahl (pictured below) was our liaison between OCME and the Kiwanis, and without her smiles and dedication, our event wouldn't have been nearly as successful.

We were supported, in part, by Costco of Fountain Valley, who donated money to purchase water for the event. Ariana Douk (pictured below), who is not a member of OCME but has volunteered her time and effort to our cause, interfaced with the management of Costco and others to help obtain sponsorship for this event. Good Job Ariana!! We are grateful for Costco's contribution and look forward to their support towards our civic projects in the future.

Gary and Angela Dutra rustled up the straw that we laid out at the Pumpkin Patch and used for a seat at the station. According to Angela, they had a ball going from hay barn to hay barn to find the best deal. From now on, well just refer to you as "Partner". Gary & Angela thank you so much for your planning efforts and help with our guests out at the pumpkin patch!

Holly Ferguson headed up the contingent of our volunteers at the Pumpkin Patch. This little fellow pictured was but one of many who enjoyed the fruits of his efforts in deciding which perfect pumpkin was for him. The photo opportunities abounded and more often than not, Holly was behind the camera taking pictures for a family portrait. What a treasure! Holly also was our First Aid person, and we can thankfully say, she had no business

Betty Cummings graciously opened the OCME Store and although business was slow, she managed to re-stock for the upcoming holiday season. If you have time to give, Betty is always looking for help and would sincerely appreciate new volunteers. See article on Page 3.

Carolyn Hayes researched, purchased and organized the Trick-or-Treat items and special prizes that we handed out to the children. She and her assistants were the last stop of the day, and as such, were given many thanks of gratitude for a job well done by the entire volunteer crew of OCME & the Kiwanis. Great job!

Patrick Ledbetter did the art work for the T-shirt and banners (pictured below) and then found a source to purchase them from.

Everyone has commented on how much they embellished the event and will cherish these shirts for years to come. To quote one of the Circle K members (the college equivalent of Kiwanis) "AWSOME DUDE"! Thank you!

Terry Cummings was our official photographer and had 'results' back at the hobo pot luck in the form of CD's. We hope everyone takes the time to visit our web site and look for both a slide show and the video that Terry provided to Alex.

Ronald Blanchard (a new member) and Alex worked together to install and activate the sounds systems set up at the station, bridge and water tower. Ronald saw a need, pitched in and volunteered to help using his expertise and talent to enhance the day's events!



Phil Parker set up the club trains and made sure they were gassed, ready for operation and decorated appropriately. We certainly enjoyed a day without incident and lots of comments on how the trains performed and looked.

My special thanks go to Dixon Sheldon and Joy Hayes, for without their dedication to the cause in such a positive and enthusiastic manner, the Pumpkin Patch Run would not have been the successful event that it was! Their tireless efforts contributed greatly towards the achievement of yet another positive community event for us here at OCME. Whether it was making phone calls to enlist volunteers, installing track grounding straps, obtaining pumpkins, identifying deficiencies that needed to be resolved, Dixon and Joe stepped up and found ways to fix the issue before others even knew there was a problem. We are so very grateful for your help and positive, result oriented attitudes. GREAT Job guys!!!

For the many OCME members and guest volunteers (yes we even had 'guests' show up who wanted to help) that devoted time, expertise, smiles and effort to this project that I have not specifically identified, your positive contributions did not go un-noticed, YOU made this event the success it was. Thank You on and ALL!

Combined with the Pumpkin Patch Run, we had a HOBO Camp Out. We shed the water well, and woke up Friday morning in a puddle or two, but our spirits were still high. The Hobo's who camped were also instrumental in setting up the Pumpkin Run, organizing and keeping on top of the myriad of activities that are required to put on an event such as the Pumpkin Patch Run. Alex's & Mark Speer's non-stop contributions to assist others were noted by many. Thank you for being so flexible and doing so with such a positive attitude.

A big "Thank You" to our members who helped in this great endeavor are : Alex Acuña, Ronald Blanchard, Dave Bowen, Wendy & Connor Terry & Betty Cummings, Dahl, Ariana Douk, Gary & Angela Dutra, Eric Engle, Jim, Holly & Hunter Ferguson, Russ & Peggy Green, Joe & Carolyn Hayes, Raymond & Cherron Hill, Ken Matassa, Doug & Bailey Maywald, Larry & Geri Ogle, Phil & Joanie Parker, Bill Pemberton, Bob Platfoot, Jerry Platfoot, Gary Sharp, Dixon & Carroll Sheldon, Jeff Sumners, Sid Smith, Steve Trom, Chuck Trom, , Doris Vidal-Dorsch, Jack Young, Dick Zeleznikar.

For those of you who could not participate, for whatever reason in either the HOBO Camp out, the Pumpkin Patch Run or both ~ you missed a great time and we hope you choose to come out and support OCME and its activities whenever possible.

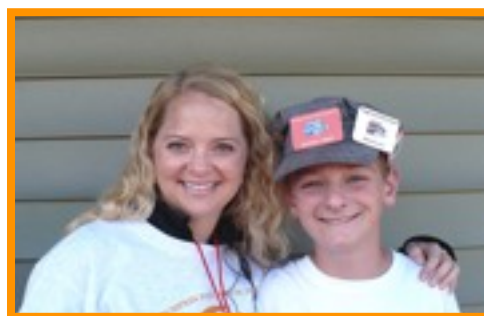
Giving to others without expecting something in return is a blessing for us all.

Russell W. Green

Chairman – Pumpkin Patch Run



Ariana Douk



Wendy Dahl & Connor



Patrick's Banner