

**ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS WEBSITE: [www.ocmetrains.org](http://www.ocmetrains.org)**

## **The Beauty of OCME**

Our November public run days (November 20th and 21st) were both rained out but look at the beautiful picture (taken by Terry Cummings) of our great view of the snow capped mountains.



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A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD  
BY  
President Jim Ferguson

**Perhaps this can be our new rallying cry.**

If it's a new problem, perhaps it demands a new approach. If it's an old problem, it certainly does.

We are in an exciting time for the Club, lots of things happening that will come to pass over the next tenure of the board. However, we need people to serve. We have 2 vacancy's on the Board that is not only necessary but critical to fill. I want to urge you to step up and serve. If you have never served now is your chance. If you have served before please considering doing so again. Please let me or one of the other Board Members via email or phone that you are willing. (See Page 3)

On an exciting note December is busy (see Dates to Remember box below). Starting off with the Polar Express we need all hands on deck. Should be a great and festive month for all. Thanks for all you do to making this a first class railroad.

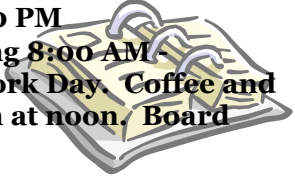
**2010 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors**

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**Appointed Officers:**  
**Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs:**  
 Betty Cummings.....\*82(714) 979-9390  
 Janet Trom.....(714) 546-4721

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 4th Sat.: Newport Beach Police Department Family Run at 10:00 AM, followed by the Polar Express Run at 1:00 PM. There will be no Work Day.**  
**December 18th - 19th: Sat. & Sun. : Public Run Weekend 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM**  
**January 8th Sat.: General Meeting 8:00 AM - Club house followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon. Board Meeting 1:00 PM.**



**THE WAY FREIGHT** is published by **ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC. (OCME)**, a non-profit California Corporation which has created **THE MACKEREL FLATS & GOAT HILL JCT. RAILROAD** in Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, California. It is the intent of OCME to educate and enlighten people of all ages in the rich railroad heritage of the United States of America and other parts of the world. As a qualified non-profit organization, all donations are fully tax deductible under IRS ruling 501 (C) (3). Views and opinions expressed in **THE WAY FREIGHT** are not necessarily those of **OCME**. Material for **THE WAY FREIGHT** may be submitted to Bill Pemberton, 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741 or bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com.





# Phil Parker



Phil was born in 1951 in Pasadena, California and for as long as he can remember, he's been fascinated by machinery and mechanical things that move. That's probably because his father was a bulldozer operator. From an early age, Phil would ride on his dad's bulldozers and in his trucks. This probably also has something to do with why Phil is more interested in motor sports than stick and ball sports. Anything that goes fast and/or makes a lot of noise, he's into it. Everything else is just a game!

Phil doesn't really remember when he caught the train bug. Seems like that's always been there too. It might have been the early train trips he and his mother would take in the summers to visit family in New Mexico. They would catch a Southern Pacific passenger train in Alhambra, California and the next

day they would arrive in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Those trips were like magic! It also could have been some of the railroad stories he heard there from some of his relatives who worked for the Southern Pacific out of nearby El Paso, Texas. Or it might have been that one Christmas, when he was 5 and he received his first Marx train set. A few years later, it was an American Flyer train set with a 4-6-0 Pacific locomotive with the chug chug sound and real smoke. If only he still had it! With that set, he and his father built their first layout on a 4' X 8' sheet of plywood. Then came his first HO train set. One that he bought with the money he saved up from a summer paper route. It was a Tyco with a Santa Fe GP 40. This time, Phil built the layout himself on the same sheet of plywood and it even included his HO slot cars. There's that motor sports thing coming in!

By now, Phil was about 13 and a lot of other things started to catch his attention. He and his family moved from Pasadena to New Mexico in 1965 but returned to Pasadena in 1966. Through his teenage years, he was an avid model car builder and had started playing bass guitar in a lot of local garage bands. He had also started racing his 1964 Chevy Nova at the original Irwindale Raceway in Irwindale, California. While trains weren't always on his mind, they weren't far away either. Especially since one of the main Santa Fe rail lines ran parallel to the drag strip.

Eventually, family obligations and the mundane task of making a living took center stage in Phil's life and he didn't have the time or the room to continue with the railroad hobby. But it still wasn't far away. He still read Model Railroader, and went to train shows and museums every chance he could.

For the past 34 years, Phil has worked in the title insurance business. He settled in Pomona, California in 1982 and married his wife, Joanie, in 2008. Right about that same time, he met Allen Stephens who works for the same company that Phil works for. After some conversation, Allen mentioned OCME and the trains. Phil and Joanie came down during the Fall meet in 2008 and that was it! They both joined and have been having a ball ever since. Phil keeps in close touch with a cousin who works for the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific conglomerate in Omaha, Nebraska. And he still has that original 4' X 8' sheet of plywood with some old HO track and ballast on it. Maybe someday...