



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

## **Remembering Harvey Prechtl**

*by Erik Hansen*



H a r t w i c k  
Rudolf Prechtl  
was born April  
3, 1921 and  
died April 6,  
2008. We lost  
a great member  
a n d I ,  
personally, lost  
a great friend.  
Harvey and I

had common interests, we both liked Indy cars, midjet racers and trains.

He told me when he was in the service during WWII he was sent to India where he worked for the military railroad there.

He also worked with flowers. His grandfather had a big nursery in Montebello where Harvey grew up and that is how he got involved with flowers.

Harvey joined OCME in 1992 and at the same time he was also a member of Riverside Live Steamers. He owned a steam locomotive but never operated it himself. He loved his train but always had someone else run his engine for him. He had close friends who used to operate his engine for him. The first, a man named Nelson, who ran Harvey's engine until he passed away. Then another friend

named Shirke ran Harvey's engine until he passed away and then I ran his engine until the club bought it.

He bought a Diesel Engine in 1992 from Backyard Rails in Chicago. It took a long time before he got it. In fact he had to go back there and get it because in the mean time the company went out of business.

In the past few years Harvey would come down to OCME for only a few hours at a time because he could not stand for long periods.

I will miss him very much. I was lucky enough to see him a week before he passed away. We talked about everything. His mind was still sharp and he talked about coming to OCME this month.

Bless him and I give thanks for knowing him.

O.C.M.E., P.O. Box 3216, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-3216, (949) 54-TRAIN  
Editor and Publisher: Bill Pemberton  
[bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com](mailto:bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com); 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741



# A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD

BY

## President Bob Brooks

Our First Class Railroad had a First Class Spring Meet. Russ Green and Dixon Sheldon did an outstanding job of organizing and leading the event. Please read Russ's after action report in the Way Freight and complement them on a superior event.

The City of Costa Mesa's Neighbors to Neighbors Fairview Park spring cleanup on April 12 was a resounding success. The painters did a great job painting the station. No drips or spatters – really clean and neat. They came in at 7AM and were done around 2PM. Professional in every way. The young volunteers did a good job on the picnic tables. They cleaned them and painted the tops and seats a nice green color. The bike path was cleared of weeds, and several trees were planted by the volunteers. A lot of sweat equity was invested. Jacqueline Reeves the city of Costa Mesa's coordinator for the event did a great job of directing the activities and arranging for the painting of The Mackerel Flats & Goathill Junction Railroad Station. Go up and take a look.

The April workday accomplished several worthwhile projects. The latch on container K was repaired and strengthened so it should not be possible to break it as the burglars did in February. Security signs were installed on the compound perimeter fence and on the containers. Side-to-side track leveling was performed over much of our track. The station was prepared for painting on 12 April. The bridge track panels were completed. New valves were installed on the hoist. Ballast was added to the Platfoot Yard.

New projects to be under taken include: installing the new awning in the compound, widening the bridge rail on the north side, building a back stop for the gravel pile, grading under the bridge to prevent water damage to the newly rebuilt bridge bent, and the never ending saga of track and tie replacement. Bob Osborne has conducted a survey of switches and noted were the club needs to perform maintenance. To support this activity the club has purchased tie material that will be used for maintenance and to install switches for new sidings and spurs. We are getting the bridge ready so that it can be painted as an Eagle Scout project this summer.

April was a busy month for work and the spring meet. Please come out and enjoy the facility, run your trains, and work on your rolling stock. Besides the official club workday on the first Saturday of the month there are members here on Wednesdays and Saturdays. So come out when you can to our First Class Railroad.

See you there.

<b>2008 O.C.M.E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>
<b>President:</b> .....Bob Brooks (562) 429-8325
<b>VP-Operations:</b> .....Jim Ferguson..(714) 744-2707
<b>VP-Facilities:</b> .....Myron Peterson (949) 494-9655
<b>Secretary:</b> ..... Carol Hunneyman (714) 960-4862
<b>Treasurer:</b> .....Allen Stephens (714) 533-4774
<b>Appointed Officers:</b>
<b>Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Mgr.:</b>
Rowena Asuncion-Duong..... *82(949) 429-3992

<b><u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u></b>
<b>May 3rd Sat.: General Meeting 8:00 a.m.</b> Clubhouse followed by <b>Work Day.</b> Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon.
<b>May 14th Wed.: Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. -</b> Clubhouse.
<b>May 17th &amp; 18th Sat. &amp; Sun. : Public Run Weekend 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>June 7th Sat.: General Meeting 8:00 a.m. -</b> Clubhouse followed by <b>Work Day.</b> Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon.

**THE WAY FREIGHT** is published by **ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC. (OCME)**, a non-profit California Corporation which has created **THE MACKEREL FLATS & GOATHILL 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.

## **SPRING MEET 2008**

I am not sure if I can define the Orange County Model Engineer (OCME) members as Chow Hounds, Story Tellers or Train People, but I am sure that those young and old alike, who attended the Spring Meet, participated in one or more of these activities on a regular basis! Often times when a yarn was being spun, the only pause that came from the hobo spinning the tale was when a spoonful of nourishment was ingested. This often meant the end of 'THE' story because it allowed another hobo to quickly get his two cents in. In this case, long windedness is beneficial – careful consideration of when one eats is mandatory; else you lose your position at the podium. How wonderful a time that was shared by all!

Thank you **ALL** for making this an eventful, fun filled and safe OCME train event. We are all truly fortunate to be able to share in our hobby. A debt of gratitude goes to the Costa Mesa Fire Department for providing a brief class and a hands on demonstration for our Club members on how to extinguish a class "B" fire. An experience many will remember for years to come. To Mr. Doug Cavanaugh who on behalf of Ruby's Diner provided the hot dogs and hamburgers and also to Doug Hansen and the City of Costa Mesa for proving the bottled water, thank you for your valued support. We are gratefully appreciative.

To those of you who pitched in and volunteered your time to assist in what might have seemed like small tasks, you turned out to be life savers. To our club President, Mr. Bob Brooks, you did extra duty as the engineer for the afternoon birthday party on Sunday – operated the train lift and a myriad of other tasks - first rate! To all of the committee members (Gary and Angela Dutra, Jim Ferguson, Peggy Green, Carol Hunneyman, Gary Kimble, Carroll and Dixon Sheldon) who graciously gave of their time and efforts to make this possible, I sincerely appreciate your time and dedication. Additional thanks to Jerry's friend, Alicia for donating attractive OCME black hats (the ladies liked them too!). Some lucky bean bag game winners got to walk away with the first ones, and 20 more were sold soon after. The rest of them will be sold in the Mackerel Flats Mercantile.

**Until next year ~ Russ Green**

---

## **Many "thanks" to the April Run Week End Volunteers.**

Alex Acuña\*, John Andrade, Chris Anten, Dave Bowen, Betty\* & Terry\* Cummings, Marilyn Donnelly\*, Rowena Asuncion-Duong, Eric Engle\*, Bob & Marge Fackiner, Jim\* & Hunter Ferguson, Michael Getscher, Paul Hammond\*, Joe & Carolyn Hayes, Hank Hornsveld, Jim Kontur, Vincent Marozzo, Derek & Claire Marsden, Todd Marsden, Kathy Marsden, Ken Matassa\*, Juanita Matassa\*, Bill Pemberton, Bob Platfoot\*, Gary Sharp\*, Allen Stephens, Glenn Swain, Lois Taube\*, Kevin\*, Lori\* & Jeff\* Tolan, Steve Trom\*, Chuck Trom, Dick Zeleznikar.

“\*” signifies working both Saturday and Sunday..

---

## **Many "thanks" to the April Birthday Party Volunteers.**

Russ Green, Gary Kimble, Justin Jackson, Norm Jobse, Raymond Hill,, Adrian Schadee, Dick Zeleznikar, Alex Acuña, Paul Hammond, Carol Hunneyman, Bob Brooks.

---

## **GENERAL RULE OF THE MONTH**

(E). Members should render every assistance in carrying out the rules and special instructions, and should report any violation thereof to the proper officer.

---

## **SAFETY RULE OF THE MONTH**

810. Members of the crew must watch their train closely for any condition that would affect the safe operation of that train. If a problem is noted a signal to stop must be given and the problem corrected.

---

## **PLAN AHEAD FOR OCME's 17TH ANNUAL FALL MEET**

**The dates will be Thursday September 18th thru Sunday September 21st, 2008**

---



**Fun at our 2008 Spring Meet**



Russ Green, Meet Chair

