



ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS WEBSITE: www.ocmetrains.org

New Improved OCME Web Site



OCME Club member Alex Acuña is not only a certified engineer and a certified conductor but also is the Club's web master. He has taken the Orange County Model Engineers Web Site (www.ocmetrains.org) to new heights with his technical ability. The above picture is on the "welcome page" of our web site. The "home page" is very easy to navigate with tabs that will lead the user to videos, pictures, an events calendar for 2010, Way Freights going back to January 2009, a short history of OCME and a membership application form for anyone who wants to join our Club.

I for all the OCME members in saying "THANK YOU" to Alex for his professionalism.

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; 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741. Our railroad is located in Fairview Park, 2480 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA.



A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD

BY

President Jim Ferguson

The Mask

I hope you saw this movie starring Jim Carrey! He was a normal boring guy working in a bank and one day he found this mask that turned him into an animal. There is more to the story than this but the point I would like to make is "OCME has found the Mask". We have so much happening in a positive way that I could fill up page after page telling you about all of the great stuff.

We are trying to become user friendly! The Board has approved the purchase of a Plum Cove locomotive. This will be used for members so they have a way to familiarize themselves with the hobby. Up until now all we have are Club engines which we don't like to use for general running because they need to be in great shape for Run Weekends and Birthday Parties.

We also have two Eagle Scout Troops looking for projects. In the past Eagle Scout projects have been a great help in maintaining the layout. One troop completely rebuilt the bridge and another rebuilt the shelter connected to the station. Mike Getscher will coordinate the new projects with these Eagle Scout troops so stay tuned for more improvements.

Aside from the new siding on the Switch Back we are creating a new Master Plan to take to the City. Terry Cummings and Bob Brooks are helping with this committee. The first order of business is renewing our lease for another 25 years. Our current lease will expire in about 3 years so we have a new master plan that we are confident will take in all of the options. Some of the projects on our new master plan submittal are: (1) Tunnel, we will be sure the Department of Fish and Game support this addition; (2) A new station and club house, more on this in coming months. We will have renderings and a plot plan; (3) Along with the new station additional containers for storage and new transfer table and (4) A river bed lower loop.

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

President.....Jim Ferguson (714) 598-9248
VP-Facilities.....Myron Peterson (949)494-9655
VP-Operations.....Mike Getscher (714) 903-9349
Treasurer.....Paul Hammond (818)620-3480
Secretary.....Larry Ogle (714) 539-9382

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 5th Sat.: General Meeting 8:00 a.m. - Club house followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon. Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
June 13th Sun: Special ACS/Choc Hosp. Train Ride.
June 19th & 20th Sat. & Sun. : Public Run Weekend 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
July 10th Sat.: General Meeting 8:00 a.m. - Club house followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon. Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.



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.

{President, From Page 2}

The station is the most aggressive future plan of all. It will house the store, an O Gauge layout that is being donated to the club. Estimated value is 1 million dollars and would create a museum designation for our Club. Also the facility will contain a public meeting area with commercial kitchen and the lower level will house the club facilities and shop. These additions should pull in plenty of new members which is a great thing.

Thanks for all you are doing. If you are not that involved I invite you to come down on a work day or run weekend. We look forward to sharing our passion with you.



**“I’ve been workin’ on the railroad”
in May**



Alex Acuña*, Tim & Cher Bartlett, Dave Bowen*, Mel Bresee, Bob Brooks*, Terry* & Betty* Cummings, Shaun & Connor Dahl, Marilyn Donnelly, Eric Engle, Jim* Hunter* Ferguson, Mike Getscher*, Paul Hammond*, Joe & Carolyn Hayes, Raymond Hill, Hank Hornsveld*, Ian Johnston, Gary Kimble, Kevin Lieber*, Ken Matassa*, Juanita Matassa*, Dan O’Brien, Larry Ogle*, Phil Parker, Bill Pemberton*, Bob Platfoot*, Max Shack, Gary Sharp*, Dixon Sheldon, Glenn Swain*, Lois Taube*, Lori Tolan, Steve* & Janet Trom*, Chuck Trom, Charles & Collin Westphal, Dick Zeleznikar.

“*” signifies working both Saturday and Sunday..



**Many “thanks” to the
May
Birthday Party
Volunteers.**

Tim Bartlett, Cher Bartlett, Larry Ogle, Russ Green, Glenn Swain, Phil Parker.

**Kudos about OCME’s
Spring Meet**

The following letter was received from Gene Allen of Goleta, California.

Dear OCME:

Thought I would write and say how much Ed. and I enjoyed the Spring Meet this year. The track was in great shape and the organization was the best. The weather was perfect, not too hot or too cold. We both got in a lot of good runs hauling some of the Club’s cars. Six of them made a good load for the American. The morning breakfast and Saturday evening pot luck made this meet most pleasant. Met some old friends and had a great time. The Club really put on a good show.

Yours Truly,
Gene Allen

SNAIL MAIL

For a period of 18 months beginning in April 1860 the Pony Express carried mail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California and sometimes the trip extended as far as San Francisco.

A daytime Commemorative Ride will begin on June 6, 2010 in San Francisco crossing the Bay and on to Sacramento. There will be a exchange of horse and rider there and the journey will continue. This relay will end in St. Joseph twenty days later.

Now, that is Snail Mail!, so don’t complain if your letters (or Way Freight) arrive late. Think how long they waited for the postman 150 years ago.

{Ed. Note} This article has been reprinted with the permission of the Costa Mesa Historical Society.

SPECIAL CALL FOR HELP

On Sunday, June 13th OCME is hosting a special train run for the American Cancer Society and the Children’s Hospital of Orange County. **We will need at least as many crews as we do for a normal public run day.** Please be there to help!!



Eric Engle



My name is Eric Engle and I have been a member since the beginning of 2005. One of my earliest memories of OCME is when my dad realized that on the first Saturday of every month the members got together and worked on their trains. At the time I was only 6 or 7 years old and was getting interested in trains. On that particular day two men were replacing track on what I now know as Platfoot Yard.

As I got older, I continued to hold on to that interest for trains. Once I reached the age of 12, my dad and I joined at the Santa Ana zoo train ride for some first hand experience toward the hobby. That didn't last long because of too many rules and regulations.

On my 14th birthday my parents surprised me with a membership to OCME. I came often including every Saturday, and met many people, some of whom are sadly no longer with us.

So far I've clocked upwards of 800 hours of service by conducting, digging ditches, replacing rail, and most recently engineering. I am studying renewable energy at both Golden West and Orange Coast Colleges with some history as well. I even incorporated my learning into building and powering my electric train (see pictures below). The batteries

used in my train are completely 100% solar powered and currently only take 8-12 days for full recharge after pulling the public all day on one of our run days. I even purchased a solar panel for the top my train that is made with purely recyclables (another renewable source) with plans to buy another solar panel sometime in the future.

I personally love the public's reaction when they are standing in the MF & GH Junction station and they see how many options there are for train riding. They can ride every locomotive type possible; from the iconic steam era of the past, the standard gas engine of today, and the solar powered electric train of the future all in one day.

I also believe that seeing renewable energy in action will inspire some of those passengers to make changes that would help make everyone's future better. As my grandfather says, "the dinosaurs are running out".

I have learned a lot here at OCME and plan to continue to do so. OCME and its members have helped me spread my wings.

