



ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS WEBSITE: www.ocmetrains.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2012

OCME Election Results

OCME's election took place this month and following are the results:

Joe Hayes elected to a one-year term.
Claire Marsden elected to a one-year term.
Dixon Sheldon elected to a two-year term.
Larry Ogle elected to a two-year term.
Ken Matassa elected to a two-year term.

All terms of office effective January 1, 2012.

2012 DUES ARE NOW DUE

The insert in this Way Freight is your 2012 Club dues invoice. Please complete all the necessary information and mail this invoice form and your check to the address on the bottom of this form.

Please note that this form and your check must be received by January 31, 2012 to be included in the Club's 2012 Membership Roster.

OCME Life Member Election Results

There was also a special election ballot with your regular Board member election ballot. This ballot entry was wether Erik Hansen should be elected to life membership. In accordance with the Club's By - L a w s , a majority of those voting said "yes." This recognition is for Erik's prolonged and outstanding contributions to OCME.



OCME's ANNUAL BANQUET

Our annual banquet will be held on January 28, 2012. You will be receiving an individual invitation later in the mail.

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 Joe Hayes

We are entering the wet part of our yearly schedule. Last year we lost eight days of scheduled events to the weather. So far Mother Nature has taken two with bad weather, or at least the threat of rain,

The Christmas run this year included a camp out which helped to enabled us to get all of the necessary things ready for the Santa run. We were busy through out the weekend, making sure the track was safe and doing all of the last minute preparations.

Terry Cummings volunteered to photograph Santa with the families who visited our Santa area. He has been performing this task for several years, and he and his helpers coordinated the many photo sessions very well. A professional Santa with a Mrs. Claus was available for pictures Saturday. Sunday was staffed by a volunteer from the membership. He was terrific, even if it was his first time ever as Santa, several people complimented his efforts.

All of the picnic tables outside the compound area now are locked down to prevent moving them to areas where they are not visible from the street. Almost every time they have been moved in the past, there have been problems, graffiti is only one. Please make sure the tables are locked down when you are at the Club, we want to keep the grounds in as nice a condition as we can.

Next year the track will need more attention than it has received for the last three years, mainly due to age and past neglect. The majority of the high priority maintenance is needed for the curved tracks on grades. Both of the Y's, Higgins, Matassa, and the Switchback are in immediate need of work. There are at least five switches that need replacement. I am hoping we can plan some special work parties to make a dent in the list. Just to make it interesting, how about adding at least one of our wish list projects to the mix? Either the trestle or the tunnel - I vote we get started on the tunnel as soon as possible.

We expect many visitors to our park in the next few weeks. Maintaining a clean and safe area by all of our members - it is one of our rules (707), but we need to use extra effort especially at this time.

2012 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

Joe Hayes	(310) 386-9662
Dixon Sheldon	(909)861-8810
Ken Matassa.....	(714)547-2093
Larry Ogle	(714) 539-9382
Claire Marsden.....	(714) 457-7160

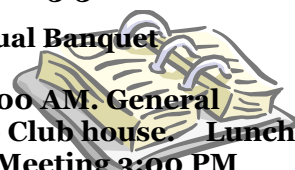
Appointed Officers:

Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs:

Betty Cummings.....	*82(714) 979-9390
Janet Trom.....	(714) 546-4721

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 7th. Sat.: Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house. Lunch at meeting. Board Meeting 3:00 PM**
- January 21st. - 22nd.: Sat. & Sun. : Public Run Weekend 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM**
- January 28th. - Sat.: OCME's Annual Banquet**
- February 4th.: Sat.: Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house. Lunch at meeting. Board Meeting 3:00 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.



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



Dave Bowen*, Mel Bresee, Bob Brooks*, Terry* & Betty* Cummings, Gary & Angela Dutra, Eric Engle, Grant Greiselman, Paul Hammond*, Joe* & Carolyn* Hayes, Raymond Hill, Norm Jobse*, Gary Kimble, Derek* & Claire Marsden, Jim & Kathy Marsden, Ken Matassa*, Juanita Matassa*, Doug Maywald, Bailey Maywald, Danny Mouawad, Kevin & Donna O'Connor, Larry Ogle, Bill Pemberton, Bob Platfoot*, Jerry Platfoot*, Alex Posa, Chuck Roillins, Andrew Romer, Carol Sequin, Gary Sharp*, Dixon* & Carroll* Sheldon, Mark Speer IV*, Mike* & Donna Springer, Allen Stephens, Glenn Swain*, Lois Taube*, Kevin Tolan, Lori Tolan*, Jeff Tolan, Mark Toser*, Chuck Trom, Nick Williams*, Jack Young.

“*” signifies working both Saturday and Sunday.

Here are some new ideas that any member who is qualified can do.

✓ Figure out 200 feet at the station, say on the fences, and paint or identify start to finish markings both ways. I have had several people not knowing how far it is.

✓ Weld half links on the base of each leg of the picnic tables...see Dixon or Joe.

✓ Weld a “Tee” on top of the rebar we use for our temp water faucet.

✓ Devise something to level the barbecue.

✓ Need to paint the bridges for the barns. Maybe a round circle on the backside to identify the color. also repaint the barn ends.

✓ Think of where to place a new container.

✓ Fix an engine or car that needs repair and cosmetic improvements, plow, railings, lights. This must be done one at a time.

✓ Make up a new passenger train. An experienced leader will help someone who has not built one. That newly trained person can train someone else the next time. Make it different than the rest of the fleet, say work train, vegetables, something fun and different. Give your ideas to the Board. Lets make it a contest for the most different passenger car fleet. Be sure to include an outhouse caboose.

✓ We need wheel chocks. Bob Platfoot has a good design. We need to place these in each train. If we need to stop on a grade, we can without using rocks.

Safety Tips from Chuckles:

When opening the gates such as the bridge, switches, or wherever there is a padlock make sure you leave it in a locked position. Chuckles is looking for the one missing on the bridge.

Chuckles thinks he is in charge. However, when you are in the yard there is a yardmaster and you need to follow their ideas: when on the road, the conductor and engineer are in charge. Keep an eye out for any situation like the dirt clods that Mark and Nick took care of. At the station, the station master is in charge. Everyone out here is doing a good job keeping the operations running safely for their areas of responsibilities. Any problems, all of the members have done the right thing by letting Dixon know and we as a group have taken the correct measures to keep the trains running safely and our passengers safe during their trips.

Remember the 200 foot rule this is 2/3rds of a football field. Only exceptions are a train coming up to another train needing assistance, and in the station.

Someone came to the track the other day without his radio he said Chuckles had it, maybe so. However someone else was trying to call with a situation and got no response. Be sure to bring your radio with fresh batteries.

When we have a derailment find out who is in charge of the situation if they need help they are in charge do not try your new idea without asking them. Kevin came to the rescue on Jim & Hunter’s new Prairie. It took a lot to get it back on the track but with proper actions nothing was hurt other than Jim’s pride.

Make sure your train clips are in place, thank you Terry.

Before leaving the yard make sure you have all your safety stuff, do a radio check.

Also before the beginning of the runs make sure to have a safety meeting with VP of Operations for last minute info.

Note: if you are doing a birthday party the store is not open. Take plenty of water with you.

Work on getting a member from the birthday party to join the Club. We will have applications in the conductor cars.

Have a safe trip at the railroad.



Orange County Model Engineer's December, 2011 Santa Run

Once again we made many children happy on our last run for 2011. On Saturday the weather did not want to cooperate. We

had several light showers and it was cold. Sunday was a better day. We had a visitor from the North Pole. Thank you Santa for taking the time to visit OCME.

Terry Cummings set up the North Pole with the help of his elves: Bob Brooks, Gary & Angela Dutra, Gary Sharp, Mike & Donna Springer, Chuck Rollins & Lori Tolan.

Carolyn Hayes and Carroll Sheldon set up a booth of crafts for the children, There was a snowball contest for the children. Several of the children were in their 50's-- you are never to old to have fun. We invited a face painter and there were several Rudolfs on the trains.

We had a fantastic Tri-tip dinner Saturday night. Hamburgers and hot dogs were eaten at every lunch. Pancake, bacon, omelets were for breakfast. No one went hungry. Beverly Brooks made sugar cookies and Ray Hill made cookies. Both were supposed to be for the children to decorate. Once opened they were consumed in less than an hour. Chuckles is still waiting for his rum balls. The barbecue that Jim Ferguson purchased got a workout this weekend. This was the last camp out for the year. We plan on more of these for next year. During the camp outs we have been able to do projects requiring more than a day to complete. Earlier this year while enjoying the camp outs, we were able to put in the deterrents, which lock the tables to the ground. This made it easier for the train crews to do their jobs without having to move the picnic bench from behind the station every time we wanted to run trains. We had the Pumpkin Run, Fall and Spring meets. We were able to see solar sun spots thank you Gary Dutra. At the camp outs we had Chili cook-offs, desert contests and many potlucks. So next year, I hope you will come to the camp outs and enjoy what we enjoyed this year. Maybe we will have a salsa contest who knows.

Thank you everyone who came out for this weekend. With all of your help we were able to make this a great event. We have several new members--younger ones whose moms helped Betty in the store. They helped with the cleanup in the campground. These ladies plan on helping with their sons Alex, and Mark. This adds much needed labor for the Club in the future. They also helped with Santa's Village. These boys are trying out a new program similar to what LALS has; a mentor program where they will be working with older members to learn how to be safe, and to be able to load passengers. When they are older they will be well trained conductors. Thank you Doug and Shelly Maywald for this idea.

