



# ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS

**WAY FREIGHT**  
 June 2014  
 Volume 31, Issue 6



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### Special Events

- ◆ Work Day
- ◆ Public Run Day's

### Riders This Month

**2538**

## What's Happening

[www.ocmetrains.org](http://www.ocmetrains.org)

We are planning on laying another 20 plus panels On June 7<sup>th</sup> work day. Plan on sunscreen, hats, gloves, kneepads, we will provide cold water and plenty of work. The last crew did a great job as we rode over the new track sections I was a conductor and explained to our riders what we do and what a great job on the track. Thank you all who worked on this project our young riders mentioned how smooth the ride was.

We are planning on having the people who have donated money or labor, parts, tools, refrigerators and Diane for her great efforts thru the Neighborhood Watch without her support the many things that are happening are thanks to her we are planning on thanking her either in June or July after the runs on Saturday we are planning on providing hot dogs, and hamburgers. We will be having a potluck starting 30 minutes at 4pm till who knows probably 7 pm with a special route for the trains, and other events. So check the website and Facebook for the latest info. I plan to have Betty send out invites to all who came to our rescue. Without their efforts we would be lost.

We will be camping for the Fish Fry and providing train rides last year we hauled 800 people. Plan on potlucks night runs and a fun time for all.

### CONTINUED ON WAY FREIGHT INSERT

## 2014 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Joe Hayes .....(310) 386-9662
- Dixon Sheldon.....(909)861-8810
- Ken Matassa..... (714)547-2093
- Russ Maguire
- Bob Brooks..... (562) 429-8325

### Appointed Officers: Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co- Mgrs:

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

**Way Freight**  
 Patrick Ledbetter ocmeneews@aol.com

- June 7**  
 Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house  
 Board Meeting 3:00
- June 21-22**  
 Sat. & Sun Public Run
- July 5**  
 Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house,  
 Lunch at meeting. Board Meeting 3:00
- July 19-20**  
 Sat. & Sun Public Run



## A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD BY JOE HAYES



We have a renewed interest in repairing the track that is going to require more activity in the track panel construction process. More people need to get involved in each of the steps build new replacement parts for the railroad. The proposed plan is to average twenty new track panels each work weekend. This may seem like an easy task to most people, we have averaged less than five panels per month for the last three years.

Check with Bob Brooks, Dixon Sheldon or Terry Cummings for directions and where you can help the most. Classes will be available for any special procedures or tools, if you need help just ask any other member at the club for assistance.

We had a problem during the Spring Meet with Mother Nature. The winds were too strong for any steam operations during most of the weekend. With the grass level higher than normal due to suspended mowing during the nesting season for our native birds, and the dryness caused by the lack of rain, operations made the correct decision to limit steam trains to propane steam engines or oil fired engines with spark arresters. Sunday, the winds finally subsided to reasonable levels for safe operation. I was not told of any other major problems during the Meet.

### SHELDON'S CORNER

Our Spring Meet is now over; we did have some issues with the high winds and made several of our guests upset. We try to please everyone but sometimes this does not work. I know firsthand how it feels when we have a decision not to run steam for fire or any other reason. Other than not being able to run steam Saturday once the wind died down we did run that night we had a good event. We had several good seminars during the meet, track info some of which I did not know Russ Green put on, Terry Cummings and Mike Springer showed us how to reraill an engine, and Dan Obrien showed his product I purchased one.

## Sheldon's Corner



Real Trains was out I was able to get some products that I need for Sweet Creek. I found out that some of our newer members the Cohen family have new ideas and are willing to share them with the club. We gave out a critique sheet so we can get feedback on what was good and bad during the meet, note please e-mail me or send them to me. Also we had great meals we invited several guests that brought something to share there are good cooks that are not in the club yet. Thank you to all that helped out and everyone that came to the event.

We have implemented many of the ideas members have given the board and please keep them coming. We had one suggestion to move the info board for our guests from the side to the front so they can see if they can ride safely before getting in line. We have had many ideas which have improved our operations reducing our stress and making our railroad better for it.

I want to thank Betty Cummings and her crews who come out every run day and support us without their dedication we would not have the special donut that Gary Kimble asks for or the cold water, snacks, and all of the other things they do. I needed a couple of batteries Sunday they supplied them as soon as they were in the radio I had a problem to solve. They provide a service to our guests and help support the railroad. Thank you for doing this. we are planning on purchasing a new engine, the signal bridges are being rebuilt, we have a riding lawnmower- this one has a key to start it, we have a new refrigerator thanks to the Coke Company for our store, a new engine #214 it is bright orange, there are 2 new cars coming for it, we are beefing up our security, we have replaced many of the broken lights with energy efficient lamps, we are planning on replacing lights at the station, bending rails, making track panels, laying track panels, new ballasting equipment, new toys for the store, the Scarecrow group is selling t-shirts to promote the Pumpkin Scarecrow Festival



## I've been working on the railroad

Allen Stephens\*, Anthony Steinmetz\*, Steve Trom\*, Chuck Trom\*, Jason Cohen, Russell Maguire\*, Dalton Johnson\*, Ken Matassa\*, Jerry Platfoot, Bob Platfoot\*, Betty Cummings\*, Christine Steinmets\*, Mel Mresee, Lori Johnson\*, Mark Johnson\*, Gary Kimble, Jack Young, Larry Ogle\*, Gary Sharp\*, Paul Hammond\*, Lori Tolan, Kevin Tolan, Bob Harrison, Stefanie Drake\*, Dixon Sheldon\*, Dave Bowen, Lois Taube, Mike Springer, Dan O'Brien, Bob Brooks, Ray Hill, Joe Hayes



## BIRTHDAY PARTY'S

Anyone who is a qualified engineer and or conductor please make yourself available for 1 Saturday every 6 months to help with these events. Please contact Hank Castignetti [hanksterc@aol.com](mailto:hanksterc@aol.com) or call Dixon Sheldon 909-861-8810

The parties are 2 hours long morning and afternoon and plan on an additional 2 hours to setup and put away equipment and yes put out the trash. We are a smile factory, kids of all ages come to us and we do our best to send them off with a smile.

**Thank you to our Birthday Party Crews**

Russ Maguire, Dean Zeeman, Russ Green, Dalton Johnson, Jack Young,  
Hank Castignetti



## Safety Tips from Chuckles



My dad has asked you the engineers and conductors to slow down the speed on the trains it seems to have reduced the situations on the track. This has increased the number of passengers we carry by allowing more running time and less waiting time. Thank you for doing this.

Each one of us needs to get more training on how to operate each engine my dad would like to find someone in our club to fine tune our

engineers so when they leave the station and return to the station the last person on each train has a smooth ride. I know you can blame some of this on each engine but if we try a bit harder and maybe take a little longer leaving and returning to the station we will not hear the crunching of the couplers. By doing this it will reduce the time needed to repair the couplers allowing whoever repairs the couplers to have more time to run his or her train.

Everyone who comes out to operate our trains are doing a great job and because of this I want to take all of the credit so if you can catch me you can thank me, my dad says I need to thank everyone in our membership and that I cannot take all of the credit for doing such a great job.





ORANGE COUNTY  
MODEL ENGINEERS

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Phone:  
(949) 54-TRAIN

We're on the Web!  
[www.ocmetrains.org](http://www.ocmetrains.org)

## Attention on the Railroad

AUGUST RUN DAY SWAP MEET

Were PLANNING ON CLEANING OUT YOUR GARAGE OF ALL OF THOES PARTS YOU ARE STORING FOR THE NEXT PROJECT. Stuff that you know you will never use but cannot give up this way someone else can store it for you. You will know where it went so if you need it 6 weeks from now you can barter for it back.

## Board Meeting Summary

### Summary of meetings on 3 May 2014 and other topics

The by-law changes proposed by the board were voted on and passed by a majority of the voters at the spring meet. The changes require club members to be 18 years of age to vote, and junior members must have a parent or guardian be a regular member.

As part of our security upgrade Glenn Swain has been upgrading the lights in the compound. The compound really looks good at night. More lighting will be added to the station in the future. Hank Castignette is obtaining estimates for upgrading our compound fences.

We are still trying to get rid of the old coke machine in the club house and replace it with a free one. If we cannot get one donated we will probably buy a refrigerator and put soft drinks and water in it. Of course there will be a charge for the soft drinks just as before.

**We still need to have a club member volunteer to look at the old donated locomotive to see what it will take to rebuild it or should we sell it as is. This is an urgent request as the engine is taking up needed space and we need to make a decision soon.**

The club bought a replacement mower for \$1050. The old mower could not be repaired because some parts were no longer available and the expense would not be reasonable.

Club received the signed license agreement from the City of Costa Mesa. It extends the agreement for five years from September 17, 2013. There were no changes to the document other than the termination date.

Vandals have been gaining access to power at the birthday siding and the bridge so the power to both has been turned off at the panel in the compound. It will be turned on as needed. So please remember to turn it off when not needed. This will make these areas less desirable for unauthorized people to hang out there.

A major effort was finished last work day. The switchback track was been replaced on 3 May 2014. Several track joints are wider than desired and need to be fixed. This is the first of an ongoing effort to upgrade all the clubs' mainline track. We plan to do a major project each work day. So please plan on helping by building track panels and taking up the old track and putting down the new track. The goal is to do preparation work before and lay, align, level, and ballast the track on work day. Hopefully we will have the panels built, old track up, and the road bed raked before work day.

CONTINUED ON WAY FREIGHT INSERT

O.C.M.E., P.O. Box 3216, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-3216, (949) 54-TRAIN.

Our railroad is located in Fairview Park, 2480 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA.

**If you have any for sale items please send the info to [ocmenews@aol.com](mailto:ocmenews@aol.com)**

**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**.

## Summary of meetings on 3 May 20014 and other topics Continued

The board is looking into removing the pit at the north end of the compound and moving the track and switch building jigs to this area. This makes sense because all the track panels and switches need to be moved to this end eventually for transporting to the replacement area. Also the pit is no longer used and valuable space is being wasted. Anyone with suggestions for this project including jack hammering out the bottom of the pit and filling it please speak to a board member.

## What's Happening Down At The Railroad Continued

I have a special project for the younger members. We need a one man car to be built for the #214 to pull. I have asked Mark Johnson to come up with a drawing of the car. If Gary Dutra has the time I plan on him making up wooden pieces to be assembled to make up this car. All of the kids will be assembling this caboose/riding car. Each member who works on the project will have a special mark on it to identify that they were involved with this car. So do a good job because it will reflect what we promote best we will put smiles on the kids as this car passes on the tracks.

We need workers and helpers to build track panels for our main line as well as Snoopy House. The plan is to pull #214 with small cars and the Caboose Special car at Snoopy House as well as run days at the club.

We need people who have no training to learn to make track repairs, build track panels, install switches, and many other important jobs that support our railroad.

Speaking of switches we have a stock pile of switches to be installed. See Bob Osborne or Myron as far as where these should go. We will need at least a 6 man and or women crews to install them. As we add switches and track sections our railroad will be better than ever.

We have Eagle Scout projects so if your son needs one let the club know. If you have an idea for a project you feel needs to be done let us know. DIXON SHELDON