



## Attention on the Railroad

### POLAR EXPRESS RETURNS TO GOAT HILL

Once again we have the opportunity to make a lot of people happy. Polar Express is again being sponsored by Weichman Realty of Costa Mesa. This year, the event will on Saturday, December 6 for a period of two hours starting at either 10:00 AM or 11:00 AM. Since the Costa Mesa Police Department is not booked, set up and take down will be a little less stressful.

This is a major event and we need all hands to meet our commitment. Private trains are requested. Steam power is especially important as a steam powered train was featured in the movie. And we need crews for all five of the club trains. **Terry Cummings**

### Board Meeting Summary

#### October 2014 Club Meeting Summary

The Scarecrow and Pumpkin Festival was a success. The city said it was a great event for the city and the community. Tess Bernstein reported that the scarecrow contest was conducted within budget and enjoyed by all. The club entered two scarecrows made by Dixon and DJ. The public enjoyed seeing all the scarecrows displayed along the track. We bought too many pumpkins this year so we need to estimate better next year. Hopefully we can sell some of those left over at the run weekend.

The club has purchased 4000ft. of aluminum rail and 2000 ft. of the approved 4000ft. of steel rail for replacing the old track. So be sure and support the track replacement on workdays. The bees have been controlled in the vault and tractor shed. Rail bending may now be performed in peace and quiet. As a bi-product of track replacement we are generating a large amount of used rail. Russ Maguire has agreed to head up the sorting of the old rail into recycle for use by the club and scrap. So be sure and see him if you can help. This would be a good project for our junior members.

Discussion was held on how to prioritize expenditures to maintain the 596, Santa Fe, and Chessie. Board agreed that the 596 should be fixed first, then the Chessie and then the Santa Fe. We need to keep our work horse locomotives in top shape.

We have not been consistent when screening children that are eligible to ride the train. A height measurement is used at most parks with rides. We will start using this technique. Ken Matassa will build a height measuring sign of 34 inches to use for screening children for eligibility to ride the train. We need two signs, one outside before the people wait in line and one at the entrance to the loading platform.

Fall Meet and Pumpkin Festival Dates discussion: In the past we have not got enough club member support for these two events. The city has expressed gratitude with how well the scarecrow and pumpkin festival went. They liked the community outreach. We have not had success in combining the fall meet with public run weekend. It turns out to be all work and no play. We need to have two committees to plan and run these two events. In this manner maybe we can get more members involved. We need to select dates that do not overburden our volunteers, have decent weather for the fall meet, are compatible with Halloween, and October public run weekend. **CONTINUED IN PRESIDENTS SECTION**

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**  
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.

ORANGE COUNTY  
MODEL ENGINEERS

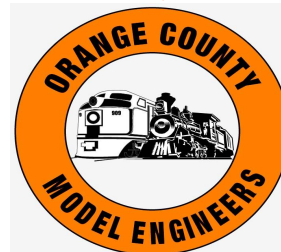
P.O. Box 3216  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Phone:  
(949) 54-TRAIN

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



WAY FREIGHT  
NOVEMBER 2014  
Volume 31, Issue 11



#### Contents

Track	1
OCME Board of Directors	1
Dates to remember	1
President's Message	2
Sheldon's Corner	2
I've been working	3
Birthday Party's	3
Tips from Chuckles	3
Attention on the Railroad	4
Meeting Summary	4

#### Special Events

- ◆ Work Day
- ◆ Public Run Day's

#### Riders This Month

2698

## Track

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

Track work on October work day consisted of readying the birthday siding track for the two Christmas events in December. Gravel was added to the portion near the benches and tamped to stabilize the track. The boards between the rails at the loading zone were stabilized. Ties were replaced and the track leveled at the north end of the siding toward the bridge. Andy Romer and Glen Swain with support from Christine and Anthony Steinmetz; Dalton Johnson; Craig Okun; Dixon Sheldon; and Bob Brooks removed and replaced the required ties and performed the other work. Myron Peterson and Bob Osborn are doing a great job building all steel switches that should last many, many years. The club needs to thank all these members as they have helped on all the track upgrades over the last summer and fall. As all of us know the railroad is only as good as the track; so please come out and help us replace the old track. We do this every work day. Next month we will start replacing track on the horseshoe by working back toward the bridge from the new track already on the horseshoe.

Ruby's Diner over the years has always supported the club's Spring and Fall Meets with donations of hot dogs and hamburgers. Again they have generously supported us by donating for the Fall Meet. Thanks to Doug, his family, and Ruby's Diner employees.  
BOB BOOKS

### 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 ocmenews@aol.com

**Nov 1**  
Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house  
Board Meeting 3:00  
**Nov 15-16**  
Sat. & Sun Public Run  
**Dec 6**  
Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house. Lunch at meeting. Board Meeting 3:00  
**Dec 6**  
Polar Express  
**Dec 20-21**  
Sat. & Sun Public Run

**A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD BY JOE HAYES**



**CONTINUED FROM BOARD MEETING SUMMERY**

There was a discussion about members using cell phones on the trains pulling the public. If they are used instead of a radio for communications pertinent to the train crew and its operation of the train this is ok. There are always exceptions such as

family emergencies or work and members need to use good judgment when responding to incoming calls. What members need to practice is good radio communication etiquette. After keying your radio always give yourself a moment before talking. Announce your name. Announce who you are calling. Then proceed with your message. The radios should not be used for casual conversation. Cell phone or camera picture taking is never allowed by the riding public while the trains are in motion. Often we have TV, news papers, and club staff taking pictures. These activities are coordinated with the club and are allowed. **BOB BROOKS**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS**

Anthony Steinmetz\*, Christine Steinmetz\*, Jerry Platfoot\*, Russell Maguire\*, Dean Zeeman\*, Bob Harrison\*, Mark Johnson\*, Lori Johnson\*, Leilani Vincent\*, Ken Matassa\*, Larry Ogle, Dixon Sheldon\*, Gary Sharp\*, Gary Kimble\*, Lori Tolan, Bob Platfoot\*, Dalton Johnson\*, Eric Engle, Jason Cohen, Robert Cohen, Carolyn Hayes\*, Joe Hayes\*, and the Dutras. We had 1718 riders for this year's Pumpkin Festival.

**Sheldon's Corner**

All of our members care about our equipment and try our best to maintain it. We have a great conductor/engineer test to qualify our members. Gary Sharp had a second phase where he mentored the engineers and conductors. CONTINUED BELOW

**Sheldon's Corner**



We need to be able to switch engines and be assured that each engine operates correctly. The term "Slapping Couplers" needs to stop. This action is doing damage to our couplers, equipment and also this jerks the passengers. We have several engineers who have perfected a technique to operate a certain engine so when we leave the station, you as a passenger do not know we are moving and when we return you do not know when we have stopped. This needs to apply to all of our equipment and engineers. We have several young engineers who can tweak the engines and not spill a drop of coffee or anything else. I had a test several years ago trying to show the younger kids how to operate the engines

better, well they showed me, I need a better test. They were able to operate the engines without spilling a drop of water. This is the way all trains should operate.

If we take the time to train ourselves we should be able to hop on any train and perform our operation with a sense of certainty that when we move the stick forward we already know which way the engine will go. Note I placed green arrows on each engine to let the engineer know which way it will go forward and someone else thought it was graffiti and removed them. Please do not remove anything from our engines without asking first, this took quite a while to do. Also before lifting an engine cover check to see if there is any wiring to be removed or disconnected. Many of our engines have lights.

Elections are coming up if you would like to be on the board please let a board member know we have 2 slots open for the election. It is alot of work however It is nice to know you were a part of making this railroad a first class railroad.

**Dixon Sheldon**

**I've been working on the railroad**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME OUT FOR THIS MONTHS RUNDAY**



**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

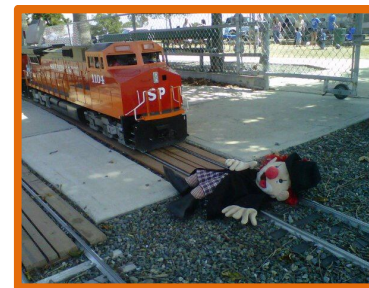
The parties are 2 hours long morning and afternoon and plan on an additional 2 hours to setup and put away equipment and yes put out the trash. We are a smile factory, kids of all ages come to us and we do our best to send them off with a smile.

**Bob Brooks, Bryan Lacy, Dean Zeeman, Russ, Maguire, Craig Okun, Anthony Steinmetz, Ray Hill, Russ Green, Dalton Johnson.**

**Thank you to our Birthday Party Crews**



**Tips from Chuckles**



Most everyone who works on the railroad uses the 2 – way radios. A few do not. This is for the few please get a radio. This is a safety item for you and your train. We spend many hours trying to make our personal engines and cars look nice, when coming down some of our sections of track you need to let others know you are coming. Like the song "shel be coming around the mountain" without 2 – way communication you could have an accident for the cost of about \$25.00 you can be safe.

**Scarecrow & Pumpkin Festival**

We had a great event for the City of Costa Mesa and all of Orange County We had scarecrows lining the railroad tracks thanks to Tess and the scarecrow group, pumpkins in the fields, an air strip Harbor Soaring, fire truck rides California Fire Museum, a zoo, many vendors, city, police, & fire departments. Several new food vendors. The students came to help us with this event; they were assisting many vendors as well as face painting, pumpkin haulers. Several of our new members were manning the gates and pumpkin junction Dave and his son. We had a contest for the scarecrows, ours did not win but we had 2 entries. Our store was open for ticket sales and toys for the kids. Our crews and support teams did their part. It takes alot of preparation to set this up and all who helped thank you very much. We had phrase from the city for our efforts. We were on the local channel, the Register, Daily Pilot, and others. So thank you all for supporting our Festival.