



WAY FREIGHT
Dec 2019
Volume 37, Issue 12



Track Talk

www.ocmetrains.org

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January 4th, 2020 the hard working track crew finished the inner loop mainline from the bridge by installing the track panels for the siding before the main crossing. The hard working gang included Adam and Chase Dupre, Jeff Garrett, Mark Johnson, Terry Koken, Lori Johnson, Luis Aguirre, Jayson and Kyler Stevenson, Ken Matassa, Gary Gorman, Dave Smith, Dennis and Josh Neal, George Shearer, and Bob Brooks. Besides laying track we had the crew of Terry Cummings, Steve and William Morris, and Andrew McCune cross leveling the mainline track from the yard all around the run day layout. For the future, there are switches and the Mountain Division to be completed before we address all the sidings and Platfoot Yard. Stay tuned for the future schedule.

Thanks for all the support, Bob Brooks

Special Events This Month

- ◆ Public Run Day's
- ◆ Work Day

Riders This Month

2515

2019 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

Gary Gorman.....(714) 317-0785
 Ken Matassa..... (714) 953-3067
 Bob Harrison.....(714) 504-0291
 Allen Stephens.....(714) 533-4774
 Hank Castignetti...(714) 742-2335

Appointed Officers:
Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store
Co-Mgrs:

Betty Cummings..*82(714) 979-9390
 Stefanie Drake(714) 315-6296

Way Freight
 Patrick Ledbetter ocmeneews@aol.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 4
 Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house
 Board Meeting 3:00

Jan 18-19
 Sat. & Sun Public Run

Feb 1
 Work Day 8:00 AM. General Meeting 12:00 PM - Club house.
 Lunch at meeting.

Feb 2
 Board Meeting

Feb 15-16
 Sat. & Sun Public Run

A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD BY PRESIDENT GARY GORMAN



Happy Holidays to all! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and will have a prosperous New Year.

I can hardly believe I have been your President for a year. As I reflect on our accomplishments for the past year, I am simply amazed! Here are some of the things **WE** accomplished:

- By-Laws amended to improve Board election process
- 2,100 feet of track replaced
- 14 new switches built and installed
- Purchased first new locomotive in 10 years
- First major remodel of club store
- Overhauled club trailer
- Major repairs to locomotives 1104, 509, 596, 214
- Replaced deteriorating deck between the compound and Skinner yard
- Overhauled the weed sprayer car
- Inspected wheels, trucks and couplers on 39 riding cars and replaced/repaired/maintained as necessary
- Performed truck maintenance on all club-owned rolling stock, including control cars
- Installed exhaust fan in storage room in clubhouse to protect electronics
- Acquired and installed TV and video equipment in the clubhouse for member use
- Replaced damaged fence posts between compound and the station
- Engaged in public outreach: Attended Great American Train Show, Imaginology, 4 Concerts In The Park. Organized new engine unveiling event attended by Mayor, City Council, City Management Staff, Press and Costa Mesa TV production crew. New 23 minute city-produced video currently playing on all city social media as well as city-wide on CMTV Channel 3
- Participated in 2 special OCME events at M&R Garden Railroad in Ramona thanks to Russ & Peggy Green

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High Iron By Bob Harrison



The **2019 December Run Weekend – December 21st – 22nd (The Annual Christmas and Santa Festival)** was the final large Operations event of the year. We had about 2,500 riders for the event. Everyone involved did an outstanding job. The highlight of the event was Larry Ogle who was our “Santa” at the North Pole. Zach Jones did a great job as our professional photographer who took pictures with Santa which were printed by Terry Cummings and available for a small donation. Many took their own pictures. This was a

large event and we had a large member turnout of train and North Pole crews. Additional activities were:

1. Crafts for Kids with Carolyn
2. Christmas special Kids Play Time with Kathy

We increased the number of working visits by the **Sunburst Youth Academy** to our facility during this past year from two (2) to four (4). They are interested in increasing the number of visits to six (6) during this next year which is a great compliment to us.

The City of Costa Mesa prepared official “**No Trespassing**” signage, which OCME installed, on the Hornsveld Trestle to prevent further trespassing and damage. This signage includes the City Ordinance number which can now be enforced by CM Police. We have had no trespassing or damage since installation.

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I've been working on the railroad

Craig Okun*, Gary Kimble*, Betty Cummings*, Hank Castignetti, Loui Aguirre*, Kathy Brokhausen*, Bob Brooks*, Jeff Garrett, Sue Garrett, Dennis Neil, Joshua Neil*, Andy Nelson, Ronan Schwartz, Michael Schwartz, Glenn Swain, Collin Westpal, Allen Stephens*, George Shearer, Seth Taylor*, Gary Gorman*, Gretchen Gorman, Dixon Sheldon, Mike Springer*, Joe Hayes*, Carolyn Hayes*, Terry Fugua, Ken Matassa*, Gary Reynolds*, Lori Johnson*, Mark Johnson*, Bob Harrison*, Williw Johnson, Rich Barnientos, Andy Romer*, Dave Bowen, Anthony Steinmetz, Christine Steinmetz, Steve Hanrahan, Nick Hanrahan, Alex Acuna, Dalton Johnson*, Kyler Stevenson*, Jayson Stevenson*, Paul Hammond, Terry Cummings*, Stefanie Drake*, Hailey Stevenson, Adam Dupre, and Zach Jones*



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 Larry Ogle at oglerail@gmail.com or 714-745-6845 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**

Thank You to all the Birthday Party Crews



"Where things get sorted out"

OCME Operations have three important top priorities during public train events (e.g. run days and birthday parties) which are:

1. The most important is operating a **Safe Railroad**.

The **Conductors** are responsible for the safety of our guests (passengers) on the train and the **Engineers** are responsible for the overall safe operation of the trains. The Conductors and Engineers work together as teams and our passengers are expected to follow their directions.

2. All **Guests** must be treated with respect

The **Conductors** are responsible for the safety of our passengers. If an unruly passenger will not abide by the rules, simply tell them that the train will not move until they do so or they exit the train. Always be courteous, respectful, and do not argue with our guests; however be firm in applying our safety rules. If there are problems, the Conductor may alert the Engineer to stop the train.

3. The **Station Master** has the following responsibilities:

- a. Hold a safety meeting prior to the start of railroad operations.
- b. Make a safety presentation to all passengers on each train prior to leaving the station.
- c. Alerting the train crews to changing conditions on the track during operations.
- d. To keep the trains running on schedule.

The train crews must alert the Station Master to new conditions they observe on the track.

Bob Harrison





ORANGE COUNTY
MODEL ENGINEERS

P.O. Box 3216
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Phone:
(949) 54-TRAIN

We're on the Web!
www.ocmetrains.org

Attention on the Railroad

The design of the **Engineers and Conductors Recertification Program** is underway. We will be showing some examples soon, and ask for your comments and suggestions. If you would like to participate, please let me know. **Bob Harrison**

Board Meeting Day Change

Board meetings will now be called to order on the first **Sunday** of the month at approximately 1:00 PM in the clubhouse. See page 7 for details.

Volunteer of the Month

Have you wondered who was on top of the containers in the compound repairing the roofs. Well, look no further. The **December Volunteer of the Month** award was presented to **Gary Reynolds** for this and other projects (e.g. repairing and painting the picnic tables) he has completed.



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Classification Yard “Where things get sorted out.”

By Hank Castignetti

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

75% of all 2019 members have renewed for 2020. This is a very encouraging rate of renewals and exceeds previous years. If you are part of the other 25% I ask you to please get your renewal in as soon as you can. Revenue from dues is an integral part of OCME's funding and with all the projects either currently ongoing, or those planned, we need everyone's help.

Thank you all who have renewed, we look forward to seeing you at the club throughout the coming year.

TREE TRIMMING

Many of you may not be aware that Sunday 12/22, in the evening after our Santa Run, a brush fire broke out near our “North Pole” under a large pine tree that has branches hanging low to the ground. Costa Mesa fire was alerted by two young ladies who were walking in the park and they CMFD responded immediately from the fire station near the park. Investigation by fire authorities showed evidence of illegal activity under the pine tree and possible habitation by unknown people. The fire captain onsite said we were lucky to avoid a major conflagration. Fairview Park management was contacted and a request was made for the city to trim the pine trees adjacent to our tracks. Hank met with the Costa Mesa City Arborist to discuss tree trimming at the railroad, both at the Birthday Party Siding as well as around the compound. The city has agreed to trim all the pines surrounding the compound, as well as the trees above our all our steaming bays. Trimming around the compound and at the Birthday Siding should be done in the next two weeks. The trees over the steaming bays will be included in the next city budget, which begins July 1st and is expected to be performed during the last half of 2020. Trimming the trees above the steaming bays will significantly improve the effectiveness of our security lighting and bring continue offering shade to that area. Our thanks to the City of Costa Mesa for all their attention and assistance with these projects.

COMPOUND LIGHTING

Dalton Johnson is our new VP Facilities and has been focusing on restoring lights throughout the compound. With Glenn’s advice and assistance he is addressing pole lights that have blown out bulbs. These are located around the compound perimeter and provide most of the clubs security lighting. In addition, DJ has installed photo cells on most of the flood lights throughout the compound to enhance both security as well as our ability to use the facility after dark. These flood lights now come on automatically at dusk and illuminate the lift/turntable area, the main gate to the compound, as well as the small gate that leads to the station. All the switches for these lights have been labeled “LEAVE ON” and care should be taken not to shut them off. Anyone who uses the club facilities after dark will surely appreciate Dalton’s efforts.



DJ
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the

to

on

area,

small
All

(Illumination of the lift and turntable area)

RESTROOM LIGHT TIMER

Glenn has installed a new electronic restroom lights at the station. Simply touch the large button on the bottom to set it for 2,4,8, or 12 hours. The lights will stay on for that length of time and automatically shut off.



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touch the large
2,4,8, or 12 hours.
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NEW BOARD MEETING DAY

The newly seated Board of Directors has voted unanimously to move their monthly meeting from the first **Saturday** of the month to the first **Sunday** of the month. This move was made to accommodate a new board member who has prior commitments on the first Saturday of the month which prevent him from attending our meeting before very late in the afternoon. That would force OCME board meetings to run into dinner time on Saturdays and also require members wishing to address the board to stay late as well. In addition, moving the meeting to Sunday will allow board members to participate in work day projects as well as crewing birthday party trains. In the past, board meetings were held in the evening on a weekday at the clubhouse, however this option was considered too inconvenient for most club members wishing to participate.

Work days, general members meetings and club-provided lunch will continue to be on the first Saturday of the month.

Board meetings will now be called to order on the first **Sunday** of the month at approximately 1:00 PM in the clubhouse. In keeping with the boards desire to encourage participation of all members, time continues to be provided at the beginning of each meeting for members to address the board with any issues they may have. If you are not able to attend the meeting you may also, as usual, email the Secretary with any issue you would like added to the agenda. It will be acted upon at the time allotted for member participation at the beginning of each meeting. Agendas will continue to be emailed to all members the week before the meeting in order for each member to review all club business to be discussed. Additionally, minutes of each meeting will continue to be emailed to all members following each board meeting.

OCME Members/Associates Who Are Suppliers To The Hobby And The Club

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**.

Please Support Our Member-Suppliers to the Hobby:

Patrick Ledbetter – California Locomotive Company 951-427-1798

www.californialocomotive.com

Dan O'Brien – Rail Rider Supply 714-765-1192

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Available*

*Unisex T-shirts \$13-\$15 (2XL to 4XL)/Unisex T-shirts with pocket \$14-\$16 (2XL to 4XL)
/Polo shirts with collars and pockets \$19-\$21 (2XL to 4XL)/Headwear \$7/ Tax is included
in price/Contact Glenn Swain for free delivery*

fomografik@gmail.com

BOILER INSPECTIONS

The boiler inspections will be Saturday March 14, 2020.

Anyone who has a Steam Locomotive boiler planning to operate on OCME track needs to do an annual inspection approved by the board There will be a follow-up inspection in April for those who cannot make the March date.

Dixon Sheldon

Boiler inspector

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

- Dedicated "Brooks Grade" to long-time member Bob Brooks in recognition of his commitment to replacing aging track in order to keep our trains running
- Elected first OCME Liaison to the Fairview Park Steering Committee and established a "seat at the table" in city government
- Established new standards of openness through regular sharing of Board of Directors Agendas and Minutes
- Initiated re-roofing of storage containers, beginning with containers A&B. In progress
- Welcomed 19 new members to the club
- Organized 2 club meets and entertained many campers, members, and guests
- Commissioned a "2019 In Review" video by Zach Jones, club photographer, for presentation at our annual Winter Banquet in February
- Began initial planning for the eventual replacement of Hornsveld Bridge as well as replacing all track and drainage culverts on the Mountain Division
- Coordinated with city staff to install new "Goat Hill Junction" sign at Placentia Ave entrance
- Negotiated with park management to budget funds for engineering study to upgrade entrance gate and road to station parking lot. Engineering consultant to begin evaluation early 2020. This is the first year in history that the City of Costa Mesa has established a separate budget for Fairview Park improvements
- Negotiated with city to provide new directional signage. Currently in production
- Acquired and installed new machine shop equipment in the compound for member use
- Welcomed new dedicated city maintenance staff, Paul Lopez, and coordinated multiple projects with his assistance

All this work illustrates the commitment of our membership which is what makes OCME a FIRST-CLASS RAILROAD.

Our Santa Train event was a resounding success! We carried over 2,500 passengers and sold 268 Santa Photos. This was less than last year, possibly due to printer problems and more people using their phones. I was very pleased to see **48** volunteers over the two-day event! **THANK YOU** one & all!

Happy Railroading
Gary Gorman