



Way Freight

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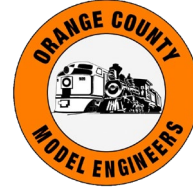


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2023 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

President:

Dennis Neil (714) 264-9160

V.P. Operations:

Josh Guesman (714) 858-8081

V.P. Facilities:

Dalton Johnson (949) 246-2805

Secretary:

Zach Jones (949) 434-4016

Treasurer:

Allen Stephens (714) 533-4774

DATES TO REMEMBER!

February 4th

Work Day & Members' Meeting

February 11th

Board Meeting

February 18th-19th

Public Run Weekend

March 4th

Work Day, Members' Meeting, Board Meeting

Appointed Positions

Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs:

Betty Cummings 714-293-7179

Stefanie Drake (714) 315-6296

Way Freight Editor

Patrick Ledbetter ocmenews@aol.com

Interim Way Freight Editor

Zach Jones ocmehistory@gmail.com

January Ridership

3,013

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.

Meet VP of Ops Josh Guesman



My arrival in the compound or around the layout will likely seem sudden to many of you. And while I've done my best to reach out and say hello to most of the members that make their way through the clubhouse, help out on run days, or lay track on work days, I've surely missed a large portion of so many of our wonderful members.

But the back story of how I found OCME started long ago. And some of you were there from the beginning.

Like so many young kids in Costa Mesa or the surrounding areas, my mom was always looking for fun activities for her young children to do. So she found these free train rides at Fairview Park. Perfect for a son obsessed with trains, planes, and almost anything that moved.

Now there was only a single loop of track, so I would hop aboard a blue and yellow Santa Fe F-Unit, and I'd travel around three times or so. It was fantastic to ride in the dusty Fairview Park and have a fantastic time atop this big but tiny train.

Fast-forward a couple of years, and there was a trestle, a station, and that strange track that went around the outside of the loops that you didn't get to ride on public run days. So many twists and curves of the railroad, and I always looked forward to the ride. I held my 14th birthday party at the club -- I shared it with my younger sister.

Then I did high school and college, got married, had two kids, and was suddenly looking for things to do with them.

So, I returned to the Mackerel Flats and Goathill Junction railroad and would ride the rails with my youngest. Until one of our outstanding members held me up at the front of the station and said, "why aren't you a member?"

And that was all the convincing I needed.

I've grown up with this railroad. I've seen it grow from a dirt field to a great entertainment center -- like so many of you. And as much fun as I had showing up once a month to ride our trains, I have even more fun maintaining, working, and planning for the future of our organization.

I'm the Vice President of a construction company in Tustin that builds industrial freezers and refrigerated warehouses. And I've been the project manager for construction projects since I was 16. Some of these projects topped 60 million dollars.

And the same planning I've used in my private sector life, I'm thrilled to bring to the club.

I've loved learning the history of our layout, the idiosyncrasies of each of our club engines, and I'm thrilled that I've joined an organization with this much fun associated with it. The smiles we provide to the general public and our members have me constantly looking forward to the following weekend.



The specifics are that I'm 41 years old, I have a wife (Michaela) and two kids (Grayson and Jake), and my other "fake job" is that I'm a sports reporter. I've covered the LA Galaxy since 2009 and host a very successful podcast where I've recorded over 1,000 episodes and interviewed players, coaches, front-office executives, and many others.



I was there covering David Beckham and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. I also got to know Landon Donovan very well as well as many former Galaxy players. I love watching live soccer almost as much as coming out to run trains.

I also have, what I claim to be, the smallest Garden Railroad in Costa Mesa. But apparently, g-scale just wasn't big enough for me.

My goal in becoming a board member was to learn as much as possible, offer expertise where possible, and put this club in a solid financial and community position for years to come.

After all, we have to be around so that my kids can bring their kids.

I hope that you'll find me approachable. I love to talk about the railroad and what we could do better or what would make your life easier. So always feel free to reach out.

And thank you. You probably don't hear it enough. But thank you for creating this wonderful playground where we play trains, operate and maintain a massive, tiny railroad, and keep turning out those smiles by the car full.

You are all magic, and I'm honored to be here.

-Josh Guesman

Thank You Hank!



At the end of December Hank termed out of the Secretary position. During his time on the board Hank kept us all informed with his detailed and timely agendas and minutes. He strengthened our club's working relationships with the City of Costa Mesa and many other organizations. He oversaw the repainting of the station into its beautiful new colors and in his time the club purchased two new locomotives to strengthen our fleet. Let's all take a moment to say *THANK YOU HANK!* Hank has been an incredible ambassador for our club wherever he goes, and we are very lucky that he will continue to serve as our City Liaison. His successor certainly has big shoes to fill.

-Zach Jones (Hank's successor)

New Year's Run

The club's fun run and meet schedule for 2023 began with an exciting run on New Year's Day. Our Meet Chairman Dalton Johnson made sure everyone had a fun day even with the spotty weather. The park was a beautiful green which remained a constant throughout the month. Below are some captioned photos from the day's activities.



Above: Alex O'Donnell's steeple cab electric went for its first runs at Goathill



The future of steam is in good hands as Chase Dupre runs Glenn Swain's Fitchburg Northern.



Seth Taylor and Dalton Johnson's SP locomotives double head on their way back to The Compound.



Club electric #214 and Patrick Ledbetter's electric *The Beast* pause next to each other just north of the station.



Declan Henry's 0-6-0 carves its way through the wyes while sporting its new pilot beam.



January Run Weekend Volunteers

Betty Cummings*, Ken Matassa*, Mike August, Andersen Ward, Sue Garrett, Jeff Garrett, Seth Taylor*, Dennis Neil*, Joshua Neil*, Glenn Swain*, Ben Viola*, Larry Ogle*, Lori Johnson*, Terry Koken, Nelida Platfoot*, Allen Stephens*, Steve Reynolds, Nick Reynolds, Paul Hammond*, Stefanie Drake*, Dalton Johnson*, Joe Hayes*, Carolyn Hayes*, Adam Dupre, Mark Johnson, Lori Tolan, Willie Johnson, Robert Platfoot.

An asterisk signifies working both Saturday and Sunday. Don't see your name listed? Make sure to sign in at the gift shop window during the next run weekend! Thank you for volunteering your time!

DUES ARE DUE!

Please send in your dues to the club's mailbox (listed on the last page of the newsletter) or drop them off in the Clubhouse mailbox.

January Work Day



January's Work Day was very well attended! Track work was focused on Platfoot Yard where several yard switches were rebuilt on site. Platfoot Yard's water boxes for steam locomotives #596 and #1104 received work to keep them in tip top shape. Thank you to everyone who helped! Here is what to expect for the next work day on February 4th from Jeff Garrett.

Members,

This Saturday, Feb 4th, will be our monthly work day.

Our plan is to continue rebuilding switches in the Platfoot yard. Since the work tables are already in place and Bob Brooks has kindly built a bunch of switch boxes, we should be able to get two switches done before noon.

It has been suggested that we also inspect the main line track for any settling and to fill in any holes left by our local critters.

Lunch will be provided, and the general meeting will follow. Hope to see you there.

Regards,

Jeff Garrett



Mackerel Flats & Goathill Junction Railroad



There's Always Something to Do!

Work at the club isn't just limited to work days and run days. This month Zach Jones, Declan Henry and Dalton Johnson replaced the seats on two C Barn bench cars. The cars have more padding than they had before and are much more comfortable. The past few months of rain have certainly made the park beautiful, but that did mean that the grass was encroaching on our right of way. Luckily Alex Acuña and Kevin Tolan came out to the club during the week to mow and clear the ROW ahead of run weekend. Thank you guys!



Boiler Test Dates

Attention steam locomotive owners! Here are the dates for the club's boiler test days this year.

APRIL 8, 2023 (SATURDAY) – 8 AM TO 12 PM

MAY 13, 2023 (SATURDAY) – 8 AM TO 12 PM

Make sure to pass your boiler test for another fun year of steaming! If you have any questions please contact Dixon Sheldon at dix4449@msn.com.



Our Very Cool Visitor



The subject of this *Way Freight's* cover photo is a beautiful Pacific Electric Redcar which visited us from the Southern California Live Steamers in Torrance. The model is battery-electric and incredibly detailed. SCLS has their own full size redcar, #4601, on display at the beginning of their Crenshaw Branch. We hope to see this beautiful redcar again soon!





Our Beautiful Railroad



Orange County Model Engineers

P.O. Box 3216, Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Phone: (949) 54-TRAIN

Website: www.ocmetrains.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrangeCountyModelEngineers>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ocme_trains/