

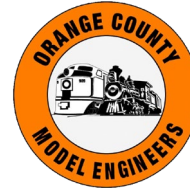
Way Freight

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2024 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

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Dennis Neil (714) 264-9160

V.P. Operations:

Josh Guesman (714) 858-8081

V.P. Facilities:

Mike August (714) 420-1456

Secretary:

Zach Jones (949) 434-4016

Treasurer:

Allen Stephens (714) 533-4774

Appointed Positions

Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs:

Betty Cummings (714) 293-7179

Stefanie Drake (714) 315-6296

City Liaison:

Hank Castignetti (714) 742-2335

Way Freight Editor

Zach Jones ocmehistory@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER!

January 20th & 21st

Public Run Weekend

February 3rd

Work Day, Annual Members' Meeting, & Board Meeting

February 17th & 18th

Public Run Weekend

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@gmail.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.

In Review



2023 was an incredibly successful year for our club. We finished the year with over 40,000 public rides, a record for our organization. We also saw a great turnout of live steamers from other clubs for our meets. All these events, plus our work days and birthday parties, were an incredible success due to everyone who stepped up and volunteered. In this Way Freight we'll recap the club's activities from the latter half of the year. We also have an article from Willie Johnson about Irvine Park Railroad's new train. I hope everyone enjoys this Way Freight, and is ready for more railroad fun in 2024!

Sincerely,
Zach Jones
OCME Secretary

Happenings at Goathill



The track crew has been a busy group over the past few months. They replaced several tracks within Platfoot Yard, as well as rebuilt many of the switches in the yard. Elsewhere on the railroad the crew tamped and levelled turntable lead #3 in Skinner Yard, and the work engine's control car also received servicing. Thank you to Andy Romer for sending in many of the photos. Jeff Garrett also led a team which installed metal plates with threaded holes inside the bodies of several club locomotives. These threaded holes allow for eyebolts to be installed so the gantry crane can lift the locomotive bodies off the frames. This new feature makes it easier for someone to access the locomotive's internals if several people aren't around to assist in lifting the body.



In the compound the tall transfer table received a fresh coat of paint, and Chris Cuthill repainted the storage containers. Josh Guesman and his team also installed new roofs on barns C, H, and I. The new roofs went up just in time as rain storms came not long after.

Another welcome addition was the instillation of Starlink internet for the club security system. On December 31st the club received a stack of steel rail from RMI. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in 2023, there is so much involved to keeping our railroad running and without volunteers none of it would be possible.



Run Weekend Recaps



2023 marked our busiest year ever. We finished the year with an astonishing **40,478** free train rides given! Thank you everyone who volunteered to drive trains, man the station, staff the store, and fill all the other positions that needed to be filled. We had three special events to end the year. Our Halloween, Toy Drive, and Christmas run weekends. Thank you to George for letting us use his Sweet Creek as Santa's backdrop. A big shout out goes to Kathy and Louie for putting together the club's decorations, and to Mike and Heather for braving the crowds as Santa and Mrs. Claus in December. We also had two steam locomotives visit us from our friends at Riverside Live Steamers. Wesley Peterson brought his Daylight Atlantic in August and Sean Hagen brought his Western Maryland 2-8-0 in November. It was great to host both locomotives and we'd love to have them back again soon!

Ridership Totals

August (Rain)	September	October	November	December
1,742	3,804	4,042	3,470	4,116

Mackerel Flats & Goathill Junction Railroad



Run Weekend Volunteers

August: (Rain Impacted, only ran Saturday)

Betty Cummings, Ken Matassa, Chris Johns, Sue Garrett, Jeff Garrett, Dennis Neil, Joshua Neil, Mike August, Anderson Ward, Seth Taylor, Andrew McCune, Alex Gigliotti, Gianni Gigliotti, Joshua Guesman, Louie Aguirre, Kathy Brokhausen, Dennis Packer, Allen Stephens, Ben Viola, Lori Johnson, Steve Hanrahan, Nick Hanrahan, Joe Hayes, Carolyn Hayes, Derek Marsden, Paul Hammond, Declan Henry, Armen Bagdasarian, Julie Huynh, Steven Wong, Lori Tolan, Mark Johnson, Eric Engle, Stefanie Drake

September:

Betty Cummings*, Sue Garrett, Jeff Garrett, Dennis Neil*, Joshua Neil*, Anderson Ward, Seth Taylor, Mike August*, Chris Johns, Alex Gigliotti, Gianni Gigliotti, Gary Reynolds*, Josh Guesman*, Mark Johnson, Ben Viola*, Andrew McCune, Arun Rangarajan, Pranav Rangarajan, George Shearer*, Eric Engle*, Ken Matassa*, Lori Johnson*, Declan Henry*, Zach Jones*, Paul Hammond*, Andy Romer, Gary Gorman*, Glenn Swain*, Steve Hanrahan, Nick Hanrahan, Allen Stephens*, Stefanie Drake*, Larry Ogle*, Steven Wong, Julie Huynh, Parker Wong, Terri Fuqua*, Armen Bagdasarian, Nelida Rojas, Robert Platfoot, Savannah Hopper*

October:

Chris Johns*, Jeff Garrett, Sue Garrett, Ben Viola*, Derek Marsden, Mike August*, Seth Taylor, Hank Castignetti*, Anderson Ward, Ken Matassa*, Josh Guesman*, Alex Gigliotti, Gianni Gigliotti, Louie Aguirre*, Kathy Brokhausen*, Betty Cummings*, Lori Johnson*, George Shearer*, Allen Stephens, Glenn Swain*, Arun Rangarajan*, Pranav Rangarajan*, Savannah Hopper, Eric Engle, Dalton Johnson*, Mark Johnson, Terry Koken*, Zach Jones*, Dixon Sheldon, Declan Henry, Paul Hammond*, Stefanie Drake*, Steve Hanrahan, Nick Hanrahan, Lori Tolan, Jeff Tolan, Kevin Engle

November:

Ken Matassa*, Dennis Neil*, Joshua Neil*, Jeff Garrett, Sue Garrett, Seth Taylor*, Glenn Swain*, Betty Cummings*, Josh Guesman*, George Shearer*, Dalton Johnson*, Andrew McCune, Kathy Brokhausen, Louie Aguirre, Terry Koken*, Pranav Rangarajan*, Lori Johnson*, Ben Viola*, Allen Stephens*, Mark Johnson, Zach Jones*, Carolyn Hayes, Paul Hammond*, Arun Rangarajan*, Stefanie Drake*, Alex Gigliotti, Gianni Gigliotti, Chris Johns, Rich Barrientos, Mike August, Jordan Rivera, Eric Engle, Kevin Tolan, Jeff Tolan, Lori Tolan, Andy Romer, Dixon Sheldon, Robert Platfoot, Nelida Rojas, Hank Castignetti, Kevin Engle

December:

Betty Cummings*, Larry Ogle*, Dennis Neil*, Joshua Neil*, Zach Jones*, Rich Barrientos, Eric Engle*, George Shearer*, Steve Collier*, Ben Viola*, Derek Marsden, Louie Aguirre*, Lori Johnson*, Anderson Ward, Glenn Swain*, Seth Taylor*, Allen Stephens*, Kathy Brokhausen*, Mark Johnson, Ken Matassa*, Chris Johns, Andrew McCune, David Smith, Terry Koken*, Terri Fuqua*, Dixon Sheldon*, Willie Johnson, Paul Hammond*, Dalton Johnson, Lori Tolan*, Kevin Tolan*, Stefanie Drake*, Hank Castignetti, Jeff Garrett, Sue Garrett, Adam Dupre, Andy Romer, Josh Guesman*, Anthony Steinmetz, Christine Steinmetz, Collin Westphal, Craig Okun, Nelida Rojas, Robert Platfoot, David Smith, Savannah Hopper

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!

Fall Meet



Our Fall Meet was very well attended with guests coming from many different local clubs. The Fall Meet Committee consisted of DJ, Josh, Rich, Declan, and Zach. Ben Viola also assisted by putting together our raffle, and Larry Ogle helped guests at the hoist. Our thanks goes out to The Train Crossing, Milepost 38, and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum for donating prizes to the raffle. Our thanks also goes out to everyone who volunteered with cooking food and helping our visitors around the railroad.

Mackerel Flats & Goathill Junction Railroad



Model Engineering Spotlight



There are a few new pieces of equipment at OCME to see. Willie Johnson and his grandfather completed B&CH #314, a half-gondola/half-lumber car to be used behind Willie's Little Engines mogul. The gondola portion of the car can hold a propane tank while the lumber portion holds the air compressor and tank for brakes inside. The car has been used behind Declan Henry's o-6-o on a few public run weekends and has worked well.



Ben Viola and Seth Taylor finished work on Ben's pair of Santa Fe F-units. The diesel pair have been a part of OCME since the very beginning and were present at Goathill Junction's Golden Spike ceremony in 1991. The locomotives hadn't run in several years, but Ben and Seth worked on them for several months to get them going again. They came back to the club in November and even pulled passengers in December.



Josh Guesman picked up a bobber caboose made by Patrick Ledbetter. Josh and Pat worked together to design and build the car. It made its first trip around the club on December 30th. Josh will next be painting the handrails and applying lettering.

Irvine Park's New Locomotive



By Willie Johnson

Hello all,

In August, Irvine Park received delivery of an all-new electric train. In case you didn't know, I began working at IPRR in July of 2013 and began managing the train operation in November of '17.

The new CP Huntington style locomotive (#420) and five coaches were delivered on a truck bed from Chance Rides based in Wichita, KS. The old train (#285) is nearly 30 years old now and was getting tired hence the replacement. 285 ran with a 4 cylinder Continental engine powered by propane. Chance has strictly been building electric

locomotives the last couple of years for a few reasons. The two major reasons being to "go green" and they can also do more in-house and don't have to out source parts from third parties.

So far 420 has performed well. I found it much easier to operate and therefore easier to train our staff on safely operating it. On board is a 96v system which powers the electric motors. One motor per truck. The batteries begin to charge when they hit 50% capacity and can charge up to 70%. The engineer is supposed to park the train in the exact same spot each time to line up with a charging pad that is placed onto grooved out wooden ties. A charging shoe then automatically deploys from under the loco and attaches itself to the pad. Now despite the batteries not charging above 50% it is still critical to have the shoe and pad make contact after each trip in order to charge the 12v battery on board (PA and SFX systems) as well as to operate the air compressor. The tank on board has max capacity of 115psi and the compressor will pump at around 95psi.

IPRR has a 4% grade and 285 had a sander on board to assist us to climb that grade. 420 and the other eCPHs are all built without sanders. The trucks are so powerful that they climb the grade gracefully.

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Slippage is still possible but careful adjustment on the throttle and the on board PLC will tell the trucks to spin at certain RPM in order to catch up and gain traction. Going down hill the engineer still remains on the throttle and regenerative braking will occur allowing amps back into the batteries. Each trip we use about 2.5% of the battery. Once the 96v system is charging then 1% charge is gained approximately every minute. I'm sure that rate will change as the batteries age.

At the end of the day the train is stored in the tunnel (two long shipping containers) and then lined up on a different charging pad. With a reboot of the PLC, the train can then go into a full charge mode which will take the batteries up to 100%.

It was a neat experience working with Rick, the technician from Chance Rides, who helped us with the install. He was a good trainer and told lots of stories of rides and parks he helped install equipment in. Rick's family owns Silverwood Theme Park in Idaho which has a 3 foot gauge steam locomotive and railroad. His grandfather won the locomotive in late 80s at auction and had actually outbid Disney.

If you see me at club please feel free to ask me any questions you may. Other OCME members that work at IPRR are: Rich Barrientos, Tim Bump, and Josh Levering. I'm sure they would all have cool things to share as well. In November of 2023 I left IPRR to enter

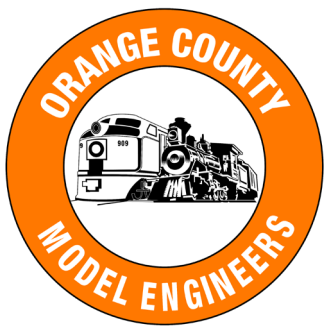
the fire extinguisher business. I thank IPRR for a wonderful 10 years, but look forward to my next adventure. I'm also looking forward to more time at Goathill Junction, and with my Little Engines mogul which is currently under construction.

Willie Johnson





Photo by Alec Harley



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