



**ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS WEBSITE: [www.ocmetrains.org](http://www.ocmetrains.org)**

## Look At Us Now



Higgins Loop circa 2001  
Picture courtesy Gary Dutra



Birthday Siding circa 2001  
Picture courtesy Gary Dutra



Higgins Loop 2009



Birthday Siding 2009

O.C.M.E., P.O. Box 3216, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-3216, (949) 54-TRAIN. Editor and Publisher: Bill Pemberton. [bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com](mailto:bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com); 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741. Our railroad is located in Fairview Park, 2480 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA.



# A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD

BY

## President Bob Brooks

At long last there may be light at the end of the tunnel!!!! Myron Peterson visited the manufacturer of our new engine and saw significant progress. We are hoping that it will be shipped and we will receive it before the end of June 2009. It has been a long wait but now it seems to be coming to an end. We will be putting it into service as soon as we can. If memory serves me right we will need to modify the control arm like we did on the 1104. If we house it in container "B" we will need to move the work engine or another club engine to container "C". Though it is convenient to have the work engine in container "B". Need to give it some thought.

While we are talking about engines, have any of you noticed the Chessie motoring around the track sans body? Mike Getscher has completely rebuilt the Chessie. It took a dive a couple of years ago and was not serviceable. Mike has done a great job of rebuilding the Chessie chassis. It is stronger and straight. He has rewired it so that we no longer have a spaghetti mess. He is, also, doing some work on the body. It should look great and be able to pull the public in grand style.

Speaking of grand style, Juanita Matassa has been staffing our information table with dedication, conviction and style. She answers many questions about our Club and our run day operations for our many visitors as well as giving out flyers. Juanita has been observed giving out flyers around town. She never quits being a source of information to the public for our Club. As she approaches 85 years of age in September she has asked for support in staffing the information table. Maybe some one would like to undertake this activity and serve our Club. If you do want to take this on, be reminded that the bar has been set very high by Juanita. Stop by and talk with Juanita or notify a board member. It's a job that our Club really appreciates and needs to be performed.

Let me bring you up to date on the gravel crib that is being built by our Club. Kevin Tolan's skill with the back hoe and several others wielding picks and shovels have excavated the foundation and it is now in the process of being built. Mike Springer headed up the design and layout with his usual expertise and civil engineering tools.

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<b>2009 O.C.M.E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>
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<b>Appointed Officers:</b>
<b>Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs.:</b>
Betty Cummings.....(714) 979-9390
Janet Trom.....(714) 546-4721

<b><u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u></b>
<b>June 6th Sat.: Board Meeting 8:00 a.m. General Meeting 9:00 a.m. - Clubhouse followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon</b>
<b>June 20th &amp; 21st Sat. &amp; Sun. : Public Run Weekend 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>July 11th Sat.: Board Meeting 8:00 a.m. General Meeting 9:00 a.m. - Clubhouse followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at meeting -- Lunch at noon</b>
<b>July 25th Sat.: Mexican Fiesta/Poker Fun Run</b>

**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**. Material for **THE WAY FREIGHT** may be submitted to Bill Pemberton, 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741 or bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com.

{President, from page 2}

His laser level is really neat and saved us a lot of time. He can also wield a pretty mean pick and shovel. The work should be done before next run day. On work day June 6<sup>th</sup> be prepared to help add the finishing touches(wheel barrows and shovels) to the gravel crib. As part of this effort we had to cut off the water to the Mehren water tower. The water line must be rerouted around the gravel crib. So to all steamers this is your notice that water is not available at the waterless tower.

Speaking of water, one of the toilets at the station needs some attention. Is anyone familiar with commercial public toilets. We need some plumber skills. Give me a call.

Memorial Day was beautiful at our Club. Doug Maywald and his family were seen running their train. Ken and Juanita Matassa came by for lunch and to commiserate with others. Bev and I brought our lunch and put up a new message board on the clubhouse door. Please remember that this is a dry marker message board and only those special markers can be used. The marker is on a string attached to the board. To wipe off the board use the special fluid and a rag/towel. The fluid is on the shelf inside the clubhouse door.

Thanks for your support to our Club this past month. Run weekend was a success. We pulled approximately 2900 riders. See you at our First Class Railroad.

**Many “thanks” to the  
May  
Birthday Party  
Volunteers.**



Jim Kontur, Russ Green, Gary Kimble, Alex Acuña, Bill Pemberton.

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**PLAN AHEAD FOR OCME’s  
18TH ANNUAL FALL MEET**

**The dates will be Thursday, September 17th  
thru Sunday, September 20th, 2009.**

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**Save This Summer Date**

On Saturday, July 25th OCME will host its 3rd annual Fiesta fun run. Bring your family and friends for some summer night fun at the Club. The Mexican food this year will be catered by Supermex. Please bring a side dish/dessert and enjoy an evening of food, music, piñata and finally an after dinner poker run. Save this date...more details next month. Ole! Any poker dealers out there--call Lori Tolan 1-714-969-9834.



**“I’ve been workin’ on the railroad”  
in May**



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Alex Acuña\*, Dave Bowen\*, Mel Bresee, Bob Brooks\*, Terry\* & Betty\* Cummings, Marilyn Donnelly\* Jim Ferguson, Paul Hammond, Erik Hansen\*, Joe\* & Carolyn Hayes, Hank Hornsveld\*, Norm Jobse\*, Gary Kimble, Patrick Ledbetter, Derek & Claire Marsden, Ken Matassa\*, Juanita Matassa\*, Kevin & Donna O’Connor, Larry Ogle, Phil Parker, Bill Pemberton\*, Myron Peterson, Bob Platfoot\*, Gary Sharp\*, Mike Springer, Allen Stephens, Lois Taube\*, Kevin, Lori & Jeff Tolan, Steve\* & Janet Trom\*, Dick Zeleznikar.

“\*” signifies working both Saturday and Sunday..

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## Paul Hammond

As the newest member of the OCME board and your treasurer, let me introduce myself. My name is Paul Hammond. I'm one of the farther flung regular members who lives up in Woodland Hills, which is in the San Fernando Valley.

My love for trains began as a child playing with my older brother's HO train set. He wouldn't let me run the engine, so the best I could do was to pretend the caboose was an engine and pull the train around the track. I was all of 5 or 6 at the time. As time progressed I took over that train set and built layouts with scenery and buildings and wired the houses with lights, and added streetlights, and signals. At a very early age I was determined to be a locomotive engineer.

When I was 10 or 11, I learned of the Los Angeles Live Steamers and became enamored. I acquired catalogs from Little Engines, and tried to convince my father that we should buy a lathe and build a kit. He was not convinced and the opportunity to join the live steam hobby at an early age passed.

When I went off to college in the Midwest my high school buddies insured my love for trains would continue by giving me a starter n-scale train set. It was very popular in the dorm. Between the engineering students and the architecture students and some significant track investment by myself... this starter train set expanded to travel above our heads across the room suspended by two by fours. Then the bright idea came along to add a multi-level helix. Unfortunately due to the less than adequate couplers on n-scale cars of that day, several cars met their untimely demise as they uncoupled and did high speed descents around the helix eventually losing to inertia and centripetal force shooting the cars across the room.

After college my love for trains still persisted. Not long after the Northridge earthquake in 1994, I applied with 1500 other people for a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad to be a locomotive engineer. After a battery of tests and interviews I found myself as one of the top 12 candidates for the job. I didn't pass the final interview with the yardmaster because of my fear of what the adverse impact of being on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year would have on my future family.

Ironically not long after missing out on that opportunity, I started a long and prosperous career in Information Technology which also had me on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year. And also ironically the family I was so worried about impacting has yet to materialize.

In 2006, it was out of the desire to gain more balance in my life instead of being a workaholic that my interest in 7.5 inch gauge railroading was renewed. I started visiting clubs such as LALS, Bitter Creek, and Maricopa. It was during a Fall Meet in Phoenix where I met Terry Cummings & Mike Springer & Myron Peterson. Until I met them I didn't even know there was a club in Orange County. After some friendly shepherding by those three that weekend, I was invited to visit OCME during their next work day. That day I found friendly welcoming members who enjoyed sharing their knowledge of their hobby with a novice. I acquired an application and joined the following month.

Now I find myself two years later a board member of an active group of members who love trains, who enjoy serving the public, and who can always find camaraderie among its members.