

# CTTOM DISPATCH

March 2014

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CARQUINEZ TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM



*Building a Premier O-gauge layout in Crockett, California*

CTTOM is a Tax-exempt  
non-profit 501(c)(3)



**Construction continues on the layout. Most of the track is in place Jeff Williams, shown here, has worked on the layout almost every day. (3-14-14).**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By Will Taylor**

The past couple of weeks have again emphasized to all CTTOM members how fortunate we are for the support that members and non-members have given to CTTOM over the last nineteen months. The Premier issue of the "The CTTOM Dispatch", under the editorship of Richard White, will soon to be in your hands. Also with the completion and installation of the beautiful bridge by Roy Yared, we cannot help but be thankful and pleased by the accomplishments that have taken place at CTTOM.

It was my intent in this first "President's Message" to give a brief statement showing what members have done for CTTOM. I soon realized after going through the Roster this would be impossible. For every member I could write something and I would soon run out of space. What this has shown me is that all CTTOM members have a vision and passion for the success of CTTOM. This is not an ordinary "mission" that we have

set out for ourselves. It is a project that we all feel is important enough to spend large amount of time, effort and money. It is a project not just to benefit ourselves, but an asset to the community.

It came to me that CTTOM members can be divided into three major groups; "live ins", special interest and  
(Continued on page 2)

### MEMBERS MEETING TIMES

**The second Saturday of each month, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM is Members Meeting time. There will be guest speakers or a special program, and time to run trains. Guest are welcome.**

### OPEN HOUSE DATES

**April 26, June 28, October 25**

**These dates are important as on these dates CTTOM will get matching funds from the Crockett Community Foundation— up to \$1,000 per day for each dollar raised by CTTOM.**

**(Continued from page 1)**

financial assistance. Let me explain. A special group of members have given financial help well above their yearly dues. This extra financial help has been extremely helpful to the success in meeting the goals of CTTOM and in keeping the next group of members (live ins) working. These members seem to never leave the Museum. They always seem to be there when I show up.

First it was room restoration-- painting, and electrical; then table construction that brought about track laying and the beginning of bridges and landscaping. The special interest group are members who have helped in other ways that do not directly involve the running trains, but the wellbeing of members, Two examples come to mind. Michael Andrews giving and installing the beautiful stainless sink and cabinet for the kitchen/conference room. And John Parker for the nice conference table and chairs also for the kitchen/conference room. I can think of others but space does not allow for this. As it can be seen, it has been the selfless effort of each member that has made all the "small" pieces come together.

What I am saying is, that after going through the CTTOM Roster, I could honesty list every member and tell you something that he or she has contributed to

CTTOM. This is truly amazing and the reason why CTTOM has been so successful in such a short period of time. The vision we have for CTTOM is not an ordinary project. I believe we are working on a project that will be unique to the Greater Bay Area (Northern California?) for its operation and educational potential in the community. We should not forget the "fun value" that it will give to each member.

I think that it is important to remember that this is a joint venture where every individual is important and has equal input into the project. Please do not be afraid to speak up. The Museum is larger then any one person.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you, who sent emails and through personal contact, to thank me for my leadership in this project. It has meant a lot to me. I will be the first to say that this has been a real learning curve. I guess we can really call this endeavor a "start up." Also, I want to thank John April who has helped me in so many ways. He has been a real "personal secretary" ----- keeping me "on track."

Cheers --  
Will Taylor

**CURRENT NEEDS**

- (1) **An exterior steel door (32x80) in a steel frame-** to replace the 6-panel interior door we currently have at our kitchen entrance. It is a basic security issue.
- (2) **3 or 4 switch motors**
- (3) **Any signals**, crossing gates, lighting towers, street lamps, etc.
- (4) **Accessories** and buildings
- (5) We are particularly in need of a large **Grand Central Station**, as Lionel offered in very limited supply a few years ago.

This is the time to step forward with donations. Remember that these are donations to your own 501 (c)(3). Why store them out of sight in your closet any longer-- take the tax deduction and enjoy seeing the items every time you operate at CTTOM! Now that's a real WIN-WIN!

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS PLANNED**

We are planning the following:

- Crockett Railroad Days—June 28 and 29
- Halloween Trains (with costumes, etc.)—October 25
- Christmas Holidays —(Santa, kids' gifts, holiday trains) the afternoon of December 13 and 14.



# BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE SUPER-COOL ARCH BRIDGE



Roy Yared is carrying the new arch bridge. Michael Rekasis is in the background. (3-14-14)



Ray is installing a shim prior to installing the arch bridge. (3-14-14)



Roy Yared is installing the beautiful bi-level arch bridge that he designed and constructed. (3-14-14)



Roy Yared and David Krueztzinger (blue shirt). David is a relatively new member, but he is very able in his accomplishments at CTTOM. He is one of our most valuable layout workers, stepping in when Ricky Renfro left. (3-14-14)

## FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO COUNTIES

CTTOM is a branch of this charity. There is a barrel for donations conveniently located by the door in the kitchen. On or before our April open house, please clear out your cabinets of unwanted canned food and other foodstuffs. Make room in your kitchen and be a hero for the poor and needy...and for your spouse!

## CTTOM Board of Directors

Willard (Will) Taylor -----President (925-334-0034)  
 David Pfeifer ----- First Vice-President  
 John April ----- Second Vice-President  
 (Membership)  
 James Livingstone ----- Treasurer  
 Cliff Jarrard ----- Secretary  
 John O'mara  
 Erik Pfeifer





**A BIG thank you to Michael and Nona Rekakis (front) and brother-in-law Roy Yared (the designer and builder of the bi-level arch bridge) and his wife Sandy. What a sight this will be at night, with a train of lighted passenger cars passing through the bridge!**  
**(3-14-14)**



**The lift bridge issue was also solved thanks to an article in the most recent *O Gauge Railroader* magazine.**

**I guess we can call this “Bridge Day” at CTTOM.**

**John April and John O’Mara are checking out the new lift bridge.**  
**(3-14-14)**

## CTTOM MEMBER BIOGRAPHY—DAVID KREUTZINGER

David, 66. lives in Concord with his wife, Janet. They have 3 sons: Chad, Evan (Mayumi ), and Lance (Jenn) and four grandchildren

He attended grammar school at Chase Street Elementary in Panorama City, Ca.

He attended high school at Northridge High, Northridge Ca., and Thomas Jefferson High, Denver Colorado. He is a graduate of Denver University, Denver Colorado.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army, and spent four years serving as an Army Air Defense launch officer and an instructor at Fort Gordon Georgia,

Later, he spent two years as an instructor in electronics.

He has spent 43 years working in an automotive dealership, in operations.

His other hobbies and interests are:

- Corvette Club

- Study Group

- Nike Missile Site lectures

- Weapons Intern Program Instructor, Sandia Labs

- History seminars

- Raising a Reader

## CTTOM MEMBER BIOGRAPHY—WILL TAYLOR

As my Mom said, "It all started on the hottest day of the year, Sept.12,1939. I will never forget it!" All my childhood was spent in the East Bay, Martinez to be exact. Like all kids growing up through the WWII and post war era, there were not many frills, going to school and doing chores were the norm. I was not a great student. My fifth grade was a low point, a very low point indeed! My Dad made a proposal, if I would straighten up my "act" and get decent grades he would give me an electric train for Christmas. That did it. The Christmas of 1951 was a Christmas I will never forget; I was given the most beautiful thing on Earth, a Lionel Santa Fe freight set. I still have it and all the original boxes. As they say, "The rest is history." My love for electric trains has never wavered.

In 1962 I graduated from college with a BA in theology and minors in Industrial Arts, History and Education. I married the same year (first time) and over the years had three children (two daughters and a son). We now enjoy watching the grandkids grow up.

My professional life was not complex, two job interviews, and 37 years of class room teaching in grades six through eight. (Middle School) For two years I taught in a private school. That did not work out; they did not like my way of teaching religion, so I transferred to public school in the City of Alameda. It was about this time that I started my MA program at Hayward State. I graduated with my Masters in School Administration in 1975 and following year did a teacher exchange to New Jersey. It was a great experience to spend the Bi-Centennial years on the East Coast with the family. For several years I represented the Middle School teachers (Alameda Educational Association) on the negotiating team working on salaries, benefits etc. In 1998 I was honored with the Teacher of the year Award. One of the benefits of teaching in one District for so many years is to be able to teach second generation kids. I always loved the teaching experience. I retired in 2001. I "bump" into past students all over the Bay Area. Just a couple of weeks ago I saw two students in the same day!!

Since retirement my wife Kate and I have been very fortunate to be able to pursue the hobbies that we share together. We have been able to do many birding trips in Europe, South and Central America and North America. Ten years ago my good friend Don Fillman and I (but not with Kate) did an around the world trip, which included riding the Trans Siberia Railroad across Russia. We also went down into Mongolia.

Kate and I also enjoy the Arts, including the Fiber Arts. We both spin (spinning wheel) and weave (loom). It is always a thrill to be able to make something that you can wear. We have also been asked to demonstrate in local school and other organizations.

It goes without saying that my passion for toy trains still remains. It was this passion, also shared by other friends, that lead to the concept of CTTOM. This in itself has been an exciting "trip."

Cheers- Will