



CCW teacher Mike Redman with his Parade Car, a two-person, four-wheel pedal car made from bicycle parts.

## Longtime workshop, college teacher grew up in Del Mar

By C.S. Larson

Ask Mike Redman what he liked best about growing up in Del Mar, and his eyes brighten immediately.

"There were lots of things," he says with a huge smile, "like racing my homemade 'death-defying' go carts down Amphitheater Drive with my friends. And hiking into Crest Canyon with my sleeping bag and camping under the stars. Sometimes I'd bring my dog with me to make sure the coyotes and foxes left me alone."

Redman still remembers the day it snowed when he was in first grade at Del Mar Heights School. Back in 1966, there was enough snow for a few hours to make some pretty decent snowballs. "We didn't even get a snow day off from school," he says, laughing.

But it was his experience as a high school tutor at Del Mar Elementary School - now Del Mar Shores - that got him interested in teaching.

"I was a student at Torrey Pines High, and I volunteered to tutor students in math at Del Mar Elementary," Redman explains. "Back then, Del Mar students went there for kindergarten and grades four through six. They went to Del Mar Heights for grades one through three. I really liked tutoring, and that's when I knew I was going to be a teacher."

These days, Redman has two very different teaching positions. During the school year, he is a special education teacher at San Marcos High School and Palomar College.

During the summer, he teaches elementary school students at Children's Creative Workshops. CCW was founded in the 1960s by local parents, and began offering summer classes to Del Mar area children in 1981.

"I like teaching at CCW for a couple of reasons," Redman says. "From a teacher's perspective it's great because I get to pick the type of class I teach. And it's great for the kids, because they get the chance to take some really neat classes."

Redman has been teaching model airplane design and homemade instruments at CCW since 1989.

"I teach Build and Fly Airplanes as a tribute to my dad, because I want to share the joy of making model airplanes that he gave me." In the early 1970s, Redman's dad, Ben, ran a model airplane store in downtown Del Mar called The Crafty Fox. Redman spent quite a few hours around balsa wood and rocket fuel. "I got a lot of self-confidence from building my own model rockets and airplanes," he says. "I hope my students do, too."

The other CCW class he teaches is music and instrument making. The first-graders he teaches make a guitar out of a cereal box. They also make a xylophone out of 1 x 2s, rope and glue.

Redman has been making and playing musical instruments out of unusual materials for years. His instrument menagerie includes a gas can electric guitar, a safflower oil can acoustic guitar, and a musical podium.

But perhaps his proudest creation, and certainly his largest, is his Parade Car.

This concatenation of cut up and rewelded Schwinn Varsity bicycles looks like a four-wheel buggy, canopy and all. It's a pedal car for two, and will eventually make music as you pedal.

"The Parade Car is a really fun way for me to consolidate all the instruments I play," Redman muses. "I see it almost like a moving one man band." The Parade Car should be on display this year at the Del Mar Fair.

After the fair, he gears up for another summer of model airplane building and instrument making at Children's Creative Workshops from July 8 through Aug. 2 at Ashley Falls School.

He says he feels lucky to be able to teach where he does. He believes that anyone thinking about becoming a teacher should "definitely go for it. It's the greatest thing you can do."

For details about CCW classes, call 858-755-8177 or visit [www.ccwsd.com](http://www.ccwsd.com).