

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for August 31, 2014. A bit of a different week for the Team as we got to spend Labor Day weekend demonstrating and interpreting the MOW Fire Truck in Old Sacramento as part of the Americana Festival. Of course, a good time was had by all. So, before the fire goes out, let's get this update burning.

The Nuisance Weed Team, also known as the Vegetation Vigilantes, were out in full force on Tuesday for a full-out assault on the enemy at Hood. Joining Mike Taylor were Michael Sechrist, Heather Kearns, Jeff Allen, and Dave Megeath. With field-and-brush mowers at full throttle, the Weedies taught those pesky invasive weeds a lesson they won't soon forget. It was a very successful day for the Weed Team, to whom we owe thanks for keeping the Hood dream alive. After all, every day is one day closer to Hood.

Activities on Tuesday evening included more work on the tug and installation of the rebuilt starter motor for the man-lift. On hand were Alan Hardy, Pat Scholzen, Matt Blackburn, Gene Peck, Frank Werry, Mike Harris, Frederick Carr, and Harry Voss. Work on the Kalamazoo tug is progressing at an excellent pace. Mike H., Frank, and Alan finished re-plumbing the hydraulic systems and the mounting of the Power Take-off hose reel. Also, the chain was replaced on the drive motor for the set off wheels. Heather, Gene, Pat, and Matt got the started re-installed on the man-lift. All of this good work is getting ever closer to our goal of full mechanization.

Thursday, Mike H., Frank, Alan, Chris Carlson, and Harry made-up the evening crew. Mike H. and Frank began work on the wiring of the Kalamazoo tug. They removed the dashboard, de-greased the back of it, and started wiring the gauges to a wire strip to bring some order to chaos. Chris made some connections and fired-up the tug's engine. They were able to test the hydraulic tool on the Power Take-off and it worked! Meanwhile, Harry, Alan, and Frank headed over to the Museum where they started up the fire to make sure it ready to run for the weekend's events.

Friday, Frank and Alan were on hand early to stage the fire truck for a media event. With Frank behind the wheel – or, at the controls – our fire truck was featured live on *Good Day Sacramento*!

Saturday began a three-day adventure for the MOW Team operating and interpreting the San Diego and Arizona Eastern 1931 Ford Model AA rail-mounted fire truck out on the line as part of the Americana Festival that replaced Gold Rush Days this year. Frank was EIC for the event and, of course, fulfilled the most important EIC duty: supplying ample doughnuts. Michael Florentine, Pam Tatro, Heather, Matt, Jon Wiltshire, and Alan were his crew. The fire truck is maintained by the MOW Team and therefore, we get the privilege of demonstrating it at such events. As always, the fire truck proved to be very popular with the crowd. At times, we had lines of folks at times waiting to sit in it and take pictures. It's a very interesting artifact. Each afternoon, the Team would take it out for a spin around Old Sacramento and through the Central Pacific Freight Depot track (while the train was out of town, of course) with horn tooting and siren whirling. It is a unique machine and causes quite the spectacle when out and about. On both Saturday and Sunday, the MOW Team also assisted with firing-up the *Sonoma*, the 15-inch gauge steam locomotive that is a replica of the North Pacific Coast No. 12 *Sonoma*, a prominent artifact inside the Museum. Restoration Shop folks were firing it for display and operation inside the Central Pacific Passenger Station on a "tread-mill" track and they needed our mighty rail-mounted air-compressor to get it started. It was nice to hear a steam whistle sounding through Old Sacramento again. All in all, it was a great weekend and a good time for all the folks – both MOW Team volunteers and attendees of the Americana festival.

This coming week, the Mighty Weed Team will be gathering for an assault on the SSRR Mainline. Man-lift and chipper will be deployed. Join the team at the Old Shops at 8:30 a.m. A good time is promised. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, it business and usual with the north door springing open promptly at 5 o'clock. Saturday, the Team will gather to accomplish more great things for our railroad starting at 8 o'clock a.m. in the Erecting Shop. Many thanks to all our fantastic volunteers and supporters – especially those who gave so much time over the Labor Day weekend to help with the fire truck.

We'll see you out on the line,

Alan, Chris, and Richard.

P.S. Lots of pictures of all the festivities are in the attachment. Check 'em out!



The Weed Team at Hood: now that's what I call "right of way"...



Michael Sechrist, Jeff Alan, and Dave Megeath deploy their weapons



Gene and Pat providing supervision and guidance to Matt with the installation of the starter motor on the man-lift



Frank, Mike H., and Chris with the Kalamazoo which is running again!



Pam, Mike F., Heather, and Frank discuss the finer points of fire truck interpretation



Mike F. setting up the air-compressor to help fire-up the *Sonoma*



Andrew Benton and Dusty Galland get the Sonoma running (backwards and getting nowhere pretty darn fast...)



Heather interpreting the fire truck for our most important guests...



Mike F. taking the fire truck out for a spin – literally...



Your MOW Team with our charge: EIC Frank, Pam, Heather, Mike F., Alan, Richard, and Jon