

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for May 28, 2017. It was a short week for the MOW Team as we took Memorial Weekend off. Despite that, the Team still got lots of good stuff done. So, let's keep the good going and get this update underway.

It was a hot time in the ol' Erecting Shop on Tuesday night. Pat Scholzen, Gene Peck, Kyle Blackburn, Joe Margucci, Harry Voss, Heather Kearns, and Weston Snyder endured the near 100 degree temps and persevered. Joe is working on the Jackson 125's electrical system. It has no fuses. So, Joe's modifying the electrical system to correct that problem. Weston finished hooking up and wiring the 125's new horns. Heather went on a fuel run and filled all the empty jerry-cans with fresh gas. Harry organized the tool-boxes (which had become a jumbled mess). Frank dismantled the pull-start on the track-gauger which pulled-apart last Saturday. He and Harry found the broken pieces and Heather did research to find replacement parts. It appears, however, that the gauger's Wisconsin engine is so old that replacement parts will be a challenge to find. Kyle drilled mounting holes in the new switch targets that we've acquired. With the Boiler Shop air compressor now repaired, the MOW Team's tire-mounted compressor was no longer needed to provide Shop-air. So, Weston climbed on the forklift and towed it back to parking spot at the south end of the building. Finally, Heather and Frank changed the fuel filter on the A-6 motorcar. This was a productive evening, indeed.

Thursday, the mighty Weed Team headed down the Sutterville Line towards the Zoo to take on tree limbs and other things of the green persuasion menacing our right-of-way. Mike Taylor, Dave Megeath, Heather, and Ed Kottal took the man-lift, chipper, Kalamazoo tug, and two flatcars with them into battle against our green foe. Heather single handedly loaded the Honda Generator, two electric pole-saws, the Stihl chainsaw on-a-stick, both Huskavarna chain saws, both green chaps, both chainsaw helmets, two loppers, the steel rack, weed crew tool box, (with a couple extra Remington chains, air filters for the chainsaws), bar oil, mixed gas, regular gas, motor oil, coolant, and a battery jumper into the MOW truck. On the Sutterville Line, Heather piloted the man-lift while Dave, with his chainsaw-on-a-stick, flew overhead in the man-lift bucket taking on the enemy. Mike and Ed went after bushes and saplings on the ground. They sliced and diced and cut their way through the untamed forest until the green army had retreated. Casualties were many and required all the Weedies to feed green debris into the gaping maw of the chipper. It was a very successful day to say the least. Many thanks to the wonderful and dedicated volunteers of the mighty Weed Team!

Meanwhile, back at the Shops, Heather, Joe, and Alan assembled for the evening's activities. While Alan kept an eye on the Shops, Heather and Joe headed to Baths where they installed the new switch targets that we acquired. The new targets are fully reflective and are designed to be graffiti resistant. After install four new targets at Baths, Joe and Heather returned to Old Sacramento where they installed two more – one at the south depot-track switch (Switch 10) and the other where the Old Main and South Turntable Lead converge (Switch 7). We are hopeful that the railroad operating crews likes these new targets. They certainly look better than the old metal ones with that ugly reflective tape crossing them. And, they should be much easier to maintain. Excellent job, Heather and Joe!

Memorial Weekend and the Music Festival in Old Sacramento commenced on Saturday. Old Sacramento was impacted with tents, kiosks, and pavilions, as well as a second "shuttle train" to the Auto Museum. There was just too much going on for us to deploy our equipment. Also, several of our "regulars" indicated they had plans for the long weekend. As such, the decision was made to take the weekend off. It's not often we take a Saturday off but, it seemed the right decision under the circumstances and believe me, the fantastic MOW Team volunteers deserved it!

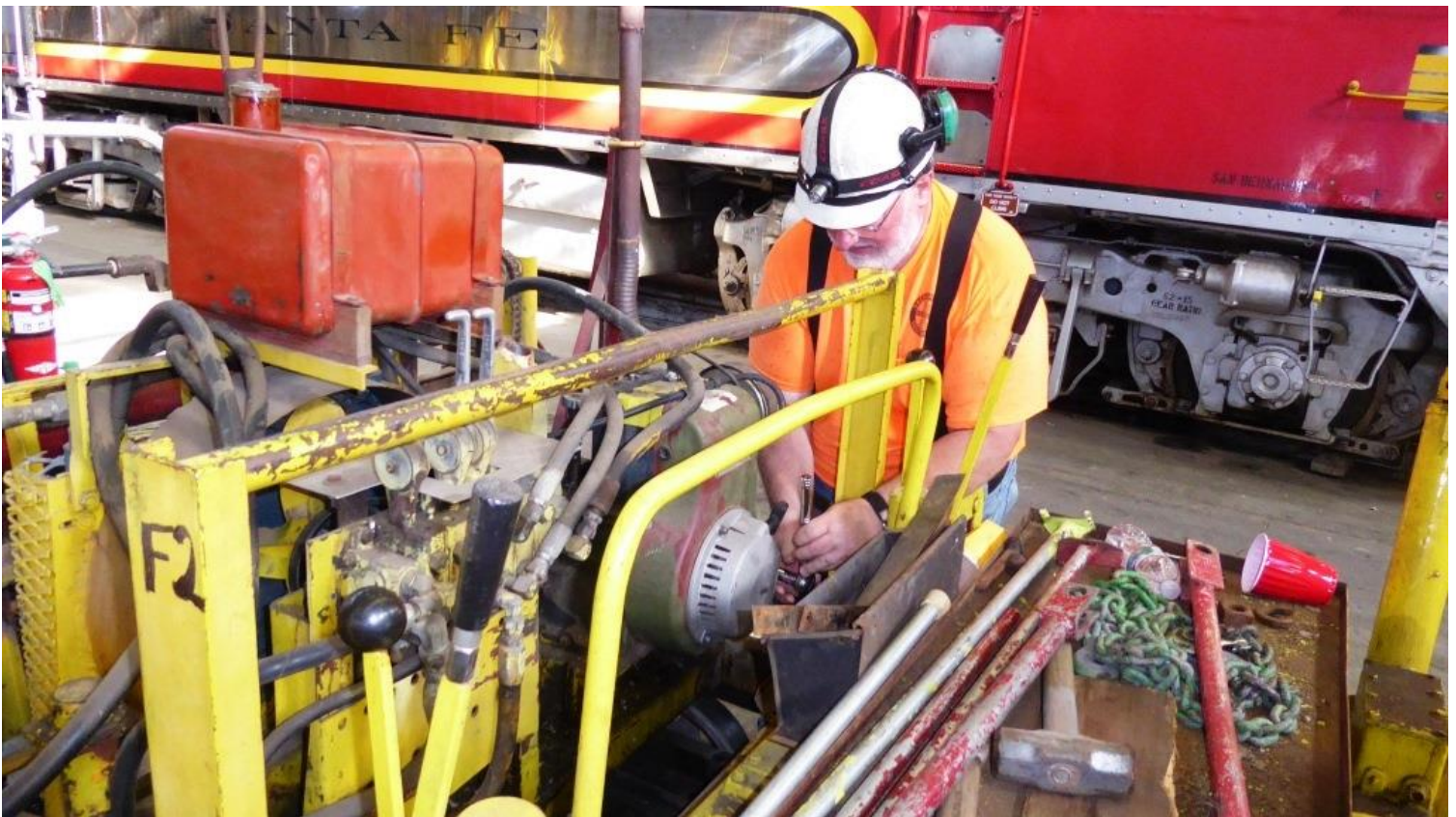
But, don't worry. Regular MOW activities will resume on Tuesday, May 30th at or before 5 o'clock p.m. in the Erecting Shop. The mighty Weed Team will conduct a follow-up weed spray at Hood on Thursday. Meet at the Shops at 8 o'clock a.m. Thursday evening's crew will gather at or before 5 o'clock. Saturday, 8 o'clock a.m. is the call time for more MOW adventures. A bright pink box filled with lovely fried-dough sugary goodness will greet everyone who shows up. Thanks to everyone for your support and dedication!

See you out on the line,

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



Joe re-works the electrics and Weston installs a horn on the Jackson 125 tie-exchanger



Frank takes apart the gauger's broken pull-start



Kyle after having drilled the mounting holes on a new switch-target



Weston on the forklift moves the tire-mounted air-compressor back to it's special place



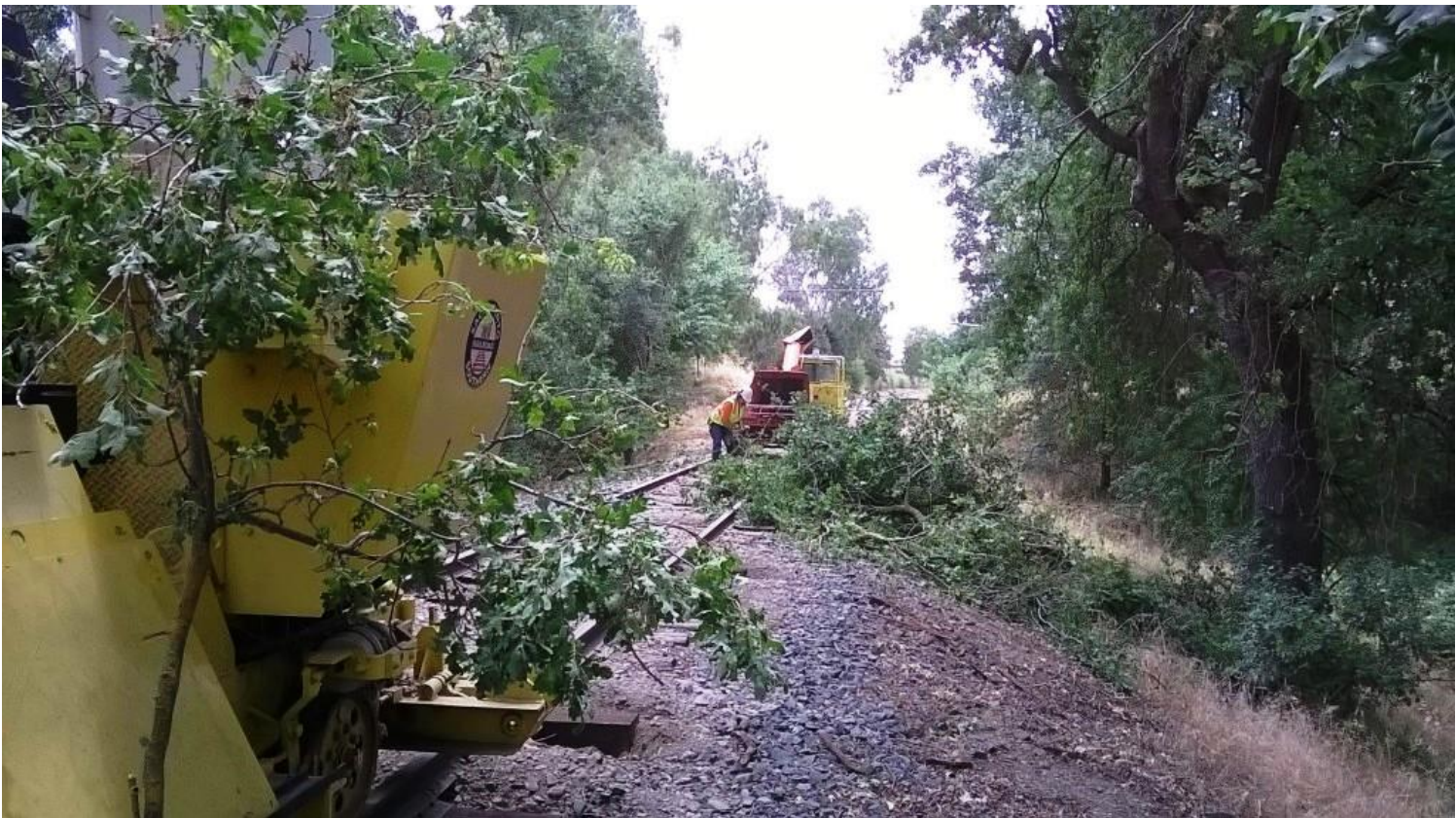
Frank and Heather replace the fuel-filter on the A-6 motorcar



Dave, flying overhead in the man-lift's bucket, taking on the enemy



Mike removing green casualties from the right-of-way



Ed stuffing green debris into the great churning maw of the chipper



Mike clearing away trimmed limbs from the track adjacent to the Zoo



Dave and Mike reducing the green debris to a manageable size to fit into the chipper



Mike with the pole-saw, taking out one more branch



Joe removing an old switch target from the stand at Switch 19



Joe admires the new fully reflective, graffiti-resistant switch target at Switch 19



Heather replaces the switch target at Switch 18