

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for June 16, 2013. How time flies. Another week has passed and another beckons. Your MOW Team volunteers have, again, exceeded expectations. So, let's get right to it.

Tuesday's activities commenced with Mike Taylor and the Weed Team (Heather Kearns, Jeff Allen, and Dave Megeath) launching sorties against the green infestation of our line. They took-down tree branches that dared challenge Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 213.37. Thanks to Mike and the Weedies, your trusty track inspectors will not be logging any vegetation defects on our line any time soon!

Meanwhile, back at the Shops, Pat and Gene continued with their outstanding efforts on the refit of the scarifer – which is ahead of schedule and will be back out on the line sooner than expected. Cliff worked on the anti-vandalism shields while DJ Chapman and Heather work on painting it. Also on Tuesday, we were pleased to welcome new MOW Team volunteer Garrick Worrell. Pat and Gene threatened to “mentor” Garrick so, we took him out on the line with us instead. Frank Werry, Alan Hardy, Mike Harris (on the Green Machine), and Garrick headed to the east side of the Rail Yards to collect several bundles of ties that remained from the track realignment project last year. The MOW-Team rarely gets to work on the east side of the Yards which made the evening's experience all the more interesting.

Thursday, Gene installed the new engine belts on the Scarifer. Cliff managed more welding magic to fend off the Vandals and Goths. The evening crew consisted of Chris, Frank, Garrick, DJ, Mike H., and Alan. We continued the great east-west tie move and collected a barrel's worth of spikes and anchors – and some lovely 136 lb. joint bars.

The sun was up early on Saturday and so was your MOW-Team. First off, we welcomed new volunteer Mike Sechrist to the MOW-Team. Welcome aboard, Mike! Then, a great surprise: the triumphant return of our most vital machine, the SSRMW 001 Steve Mathias, fully repaired and functioning according to factory specs! Welcome back, Steve!

With that, the Team devoured two pink boxes of doughnuts (thanks to Harry Voss and Chris) before heading out on the line. Mike S., Mike Florentine (on the Green Machine), Heather, Frank, Chris, Garrick, Steve, and Harry collected equipment and track components stored behind the Museum before returning to the Yards and sorting ties salvaged from the realignment project. In the afternoon, the mission was bringing order to chaos inside the Boiler Shop. Chris directed the reorganizational efforts while Heather and Harry finished some maintenance work on the tamper. Garrick and Steve cleaned out the Tie Shear's hydraulic tank. What an amazing difference the Team made in the south end of the building. There's actually room to move about now! Job well done, everybody!

OK, the past is the past and the future beacons. So, here's the agenda for the week ahead. Tuesday, Mike and the Weedies are heading to Hood to engage in chemical warfare against the evil star-thistle empire. As you know, everyday is “one day closer to Hood” and the Weed Team offers a great opportunity for anyone interested in checking out our Railroad's future. Come on out and join the Weed Team. Meet up with Mike at 8:30 at the Shops.

In the evenings on Tuesday and Thursday, the crew will meet at 5 o'clock p.m. at the Shops for more MOW Fun. Saturday we start at 8 a.m. Doughnuts anyone?

Don't forget to check out the photos in the attached document. Oh, and one more thing. The lovely and talented Hallie Crawford at the All Aboard Desk reports that several MOW-Team members have earned upgraded hour bars: Steve Biggs – 250 hours; Pam Tatro – 500 hours; Cliff Hayes – 1,000 hours; and, drum roll please, Mike Taylor with 10,000 hours! Congratulations one and all! You've earned it! I know that everyone on our Railroad crew appreciates the work we all do to keep the trains on the tracks. Keep up the good work, everyone. We're making a real difference for our Railroad, our Museum, and our State Park!

See ya out on the line...

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



Dave Megeath picking on something his own size...



The Green Machine under the expert charge of Mike Harris.



DJ painting the scarifer.



Alan and Garrick collecting some really beautiful 136 lb. joint bars.



The Weedies weeding...



Harvesting spikes...