

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for June 23, 2013. Week in and week out, your MOW Team keeps moving forward accomplishing great things for our railroad. This last week was no exception.

Tuesday started with Mike Taylor and the Weed Team gathering for a full-frontal attack on the evil star-thistle that has invaded our Hood Line. Mike, along with Heather got out the powerful green-killing equipment to chop it down to size. Star-thistle is stuff is nasty, folks, and is the nemesis of track-workers everywhere. Luckily for us, we have Mike and Weedies who do remarkable work keeping it at bay!

Meanwhile, back at the Shops, Pat and Gene continued working on the refit on the scarifer-inserter. Not only are they loveable personalities but, also, highly skilled mechanical engineers who have managed to bring this machine back from the brink of death. In the evening, we welcomed a new team member from the new docent class, Brian Cameron, who is excited about doing *real* railroad work with us out on the line. He spent 12 years in the US Army as a combat engineer so he'll be a great help – especially in the Setzer Tunnel. Welcome aboard, Brian! The evening team, consisting of Frank Werry, Heather, Garrick Worrell, Brian, Alan, and Mike Harris on Big Green, headed down to Broadway with the A-4 and two flat-cars to pick up six sticks of 110 lb. rail which will be cut in to the old 150 Track for the new storage spur. Moving a stick of rail (that weighs three-quarters of a ton) hanging from a chain across bumpy ground is always a bit tricky. Fortunately, we had Mike operating Big Green. His expert command made it look almost simple. Plus, he was given plenty of hand-signals from which to choose. Job well done, everybody!

On Thursday, Alan, Chris, I attended a summit of various departments of the railroad. At the meeting, Alan announced that he is stepping down as Director of Railroad Operations effective July 1st. Don Shapiro has been appointed as his successor. Alan is staying on as Manager of Track Programs. Congratulations to Don! We look forward to working with him and many thanks to Alan for his years of outstanding leadership as DRO!

Over at the Shops, Garrick and Brian “got some learnin’” on roadway worker safety. They took the rigorous Part 214 class and exam, which they passed with flying colors. Kevin Hecteman joined the crew along with Frank and Heather for some work over in the Erecting Shop. Cliff installed the anti-vandalism shields that he fabricated for the scarifer. As a special treat, the AT&SF 1010 “Death Valley Scotty” was out in sunlight at the south-end of the Boiler Shop on the Transfer Table lead being given a wash and brush-up for its role in a mini-movie which was filmed on Friday. What a beautiful locomotive. It was great to see it outside for a change.

Saturday was a big day. The crew met early at the Shops for the obligatory doughnuts (thanks to Chris and Harry) then headed over to Old Sac. Steve Nemeth, Steve Mathias, Chris, Frank, Mike Miller, Heather, Clem Mirer, John Rexroth, and Harry Voss were determined to finish the turntable project by getting the narrow-gauge track in place and installing the remaining deck planks. Also, Frank led a team that took the tamper down the line to deal with some issues brought to light by your trusty track inspectors. In the afternoon, the crew placed the narrow-gauge track while Chris, Harry, and Heather made some repairs to the tamper. All that remains for the MOW Team to do on the turntable project is to plate and spike the narrow-gauge rails. “Success!” best describes Saturday’s activities.

For the upcoming week, we’ve got some exciting times ahead. Tuesday and Thursday, we’ll meet in the Shops at 5 o’clock p.m. Saturday, we’ll gather at 8 o’clock a.m., as usual, for more MOW fun. It’s what we do and how we roll.

See ya out on the line!

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



Mike on Big Green while Brian and Frank guide a stick of rail onto the flat cars.



Brian and Mike unloading rail along the old Track 150.



Steve M. and Harry on Big Green place the west narrow gauge rail on the turntable.



The MOW Drill-Team (Steve N., Mike M., Frank, and Steve M.) installing the final deck-plank.



Cliff's artisanship on anti-vandalism shields for the scarifer-inserter.



The AT&SF 1010 "Death Valley Scotty" basking in the sunshine for the first time in many years spotted on the Transfer Table Lead at the south end of the Boiler Shop.