

Greetings!

With apologies for the delay, this is your Maintenance of Way Team Update for September 8, 2013. There was no absence of MOW fun this last week. So, let's review all the fun right now!

Tuesday, Weed Team commander in chief, Mike Taylor, undertook an expedition down the Hood Line to investigate the effectiveness of the vegetation mitigation efforts implemented earlier this year. Mike continued the effort and managed to bring order to chaos – to some degree. Meanwhile over in the Shops, Heather Kearns changed the oil in the tire mounted air-compressor. Frank Werry and DJ Chapman changed the differential oil in the Big Green Machine. Harry Voss, Pat Scholzen, and Gene Peck worked on getting the fire truck up and running smoothly for deployment in Old Sacramento on Saturday. Cliff Hayes, Mike Harris, and Brian Cameron continued working on the “new-old” tamper. Cliff welded several cracks in slide mounts. Alan Hardy rebuilt the sickle bar on the rail-mounted weed-mower which has needed fixing for a long time. Our Shops crew keeps your MOW Team moving. Many thanks for all their efforts.

Thursday, Chris Carlson led an afternoon crew out on the line to complete our efforts between Mile Post 1.0 and 1.4. Joining Chris were Heather, Matt Blackburn, Mike H., Harry, and Frank. Also, we were pleased to welcome Michael Matsumura to the MOW Team for plating and spiking fun. Chris and the crew managed to get the rest of the area plated, nipped, and spiked. Thanks to Chris and the crew for taking time off in the afternoon on Thursday to get this critical work done. In the evening the Team returned to the Shops and was joined by Cliff, Brian, Michael Sechrist, Bart Pruett, and Steve Biggs. They headed over to our “corporation yard” to the north of the Boiler Shop to gather, plug, and bundle ties. They managed to assemble three bundles which they moved them to the west side of the building. Folks, the accomplishments made by the MOW crew on Thursday will prove a great benefit to the entire railroad.

Saturday your MOW Team took the SD&AE MW 1003 1931 Ford Model AA Fire Truck over to Old Sacramento to participate in the Caboose Club Ice Cream Social. Harry, Chris, DJ, Steve Nemeth, Frank, Alan, Heather, Pam, Tatro, and Michael Florentine (in sign-in order), arrived bright and early to engage in the proper handling and dissemination of two pink boxes. With doughnuts consumed, Chris, Steve, and Mike F. headed out on the line with the tamper and ballast shifting tools. They were successful in shifting ballast and tamping the entire area between MP 1.1 and 1.3. This has really stabilized and smoothed the track out. Once completed, Chris lifted Train Order 109, the slow order between MP 1.2 and 1.3. There was great rejoicing by all and sundry as train was able to run at full speed through this previously restricted area.

The fire truck, on the other hand, decided that it didn't want to start on Saturday morning. After much frustration, we were about to give up. Luckily, Leonard Jones was on hand. Within minutes, he had diagnosed the problem and began directing the repairs. Just like Mr. Scott on Star Trek, Leonard was able work engineering miracles and had the fire truck running in no time. For the second week in a row, Leonard saved the day. With the fire truck now running smoothly, we headed up Track 560 and the approach circuit. Our own Conductor Frank contacted the UP Dispatchers in Omaha to seek clearance to cross the UP Main. After making us wait for four trains to pass, the dispatcher gave us the green light headed into town where the kids of the Caboose Club delighted in climbing into the cab and getting their pictures taken. We delighted in a scoop of ice cream thanks to our Foundation friends and honorary MOW Team members, Delta Pick-Mello and Jenn Rabbon! Additionally, we managed to deal with a few track issues over in Old Sac, as well. By around 4 o'clock and 100 degrees, we decided to call it a day. Frank contacted Omaha again and we were back over in the Rail Yards soon thereafter. It was a good day and many thanks to all who joined us.

This week, the Team will be meeting at the shops at the regular times: Tuesday afternoon and evening for Shops fun; Thursday evening starting around 5 o'clock; and Saturday morning starting at 8 o'clock a.m. More pink boxes will be disseminated. We've got a great crew and really appreciate the time and effort that everyone gives to making our railroad, Museum, and State Park a better place for all to enjoy.

We'll see you out on the line!

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



Frank and DJ replace the differential oil in the Green Machine



Cliff welds cracks in the slide mounts



Chris, Matt, Mike H., Frank, and Harry get the track back in shape



Brian on Big Green bundling ties



DJ behind the “wheel” and miracle worker Leonard Jones after getting the fire truck started



The fire truck's maiden crossing of the UP Main



Steve demonstrating the spray-action with Frank and the fire truck on the Platform Track at the CFPD



Steve, Frank, Pam, Alan, Heather, Richard, Chris, and Harry: your MOW "fire-fightin'" Team!