

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for July 7, 2013. It was Independence Day last week and your MOW Team commemorated American Independence quite fittingly. We took the day off. Despite the short week, progress was made. So, like a firecracker on the Fourth, let's get right too it.

Tuesday, Mike Taylor and the Weed Team, Heather Kearns and Dave Megeath, scoffed at the extreme heat of the day and headed out on the line to combat our most formidable enemy – green things that attempt to invade our right of way. While the Weedies were at work, a truck struck a crossing arm of the signaling system at Broadway. Luckily, Signal Engineer Dave was on the Weed Team and able to respond immediately. The damage was significant but fortunately, Jim Bays of the SSRR Mechanical Department was able to fabricate the new parts necessary to restore the Broadway crossing system to full operation by Friday. Kudos to Jim and our mighty Weed Team for their dedicated service!

Meanwhile, back at the Shops, the crew gathered for the evening's activities. Garrick Worrell, Chris Carlson, Heather, and Frank Werry headed over to Old Sacramento to remove the concrete crossing panels on the new 560 Interchange Track to the west of the Museum building. These panels allow access by road vehicles over the track to the area between the old 150 Track and the new Interchange. Because of the upcoming realignment, the concrete crossover panels needed to be removed so that the surveyors could determine the new center-line. The Big Green Machine was deployed to do the heavy lifting in a rather limited space, once again proving its extreme value to us – a powerful machine, yet able to engage in the most delicate of maneuvers. We would be lost without it. Chris, Frank, Garrick, and Heather guided the multi-ton panels as they were relocated to an area between the old Interchange and the new. The Team worked incredibly well together in this rather challenging effort. It was a job well done!

Fireworks and family were most important on Independence Day. So, the Team did not meet. No crew was called out on Saturday either because of the long Independence Day weekend. But, that doesn't mean all work ceased. Big Green and the Front-end loader were given a steam-bath to remove caked-on dirt as well as pigeon "bombardment." Lots of other clean-up work occurred around the building. In the afternoon, the new Docent Class was introduced to all the departments of the Railroad at the "Job Fair" where the various programs demonstrate the opportunities available. Your MOW Team and Signals Department were well represented and managed to recruit several prospective new volunteers.

In addition, our track was inspected twice last week – as it is every week – pursuant to federal law. Ed Moriarty and Frank Werry are our qualified trusty track inspectors who, holiday week or not, head out on the line to make sure our track meets or exceed all federal and state safety standards. Without their inspections, trains can't run. Their dedicated efforts are essential to our operation.

So much for last week. Now for a look ahead. Tuesday, the Weed Team will be active pruning trees. The Team will spend the morning in Old Sacramento and along the Embassy Suites. Afterwards, the Team will head for Oleander Alley (Miller Park area). [This is a call to action, folks.](#) **The Weed Team needs your help!** Please, if you can spare a couple hours on Tuesday morning, your help will be greatly appreciated. Meet at the Shops at 8 o'clock or Old Sacramento by the MOW Container on the House Track at 8:30 a.m. It may be rather toasty so bring a hat, large lunch, and plenty of water. Come on out and join the Weedies! They are a fun group who accomplish great things for our railroad.

**Tuesday and Thursday** evenings, the crew will meet for more MOW fun at the Shops. If everyone wishes hard enough and says "pretty-please," we may get the grease bucket out for servicing and adjusting switches. **Saturday**, the MOW Team will meet at the Shops at 8 a.m. The (tentative) plan is to continue our work mitigating Train Order 106 – the slow order between Mile Posts 1.0 and 1.2. With a little bit of luck, we may be able to lift the T/O 106 by day's end.

Many thanks to everyone for your support of our noble Team! We'll see ya out on the line!

Alan, Chris, and Richard.

P.S. Don't forget to check out the photos, courtesy of Heather, in the attachment!



Mike and Dave weeding



Oops!



Chris directing operations on the 560 Track



Frank and Garrick guide the concrete panels into neat piles.



Big Green and the Loader get a wash and brush up!