

MOW WEEKLY UPDATE!

12/16/2009

Twass the night before Polar Express and all through the land, every creature was stirring, to carry out the plan. The passenger depot was filled with, such a clatter, that visitors would ask, “what is the matter?” We all knew that Polar Express was finally here, when children and parents in pajamas appeared.

Well folks, that is about all of that little story you are going to get this week. As you can tell the Museum is in full Polar Express swing. Your dedicated MOW folks are still working around the organized chaos that is Polar Express and doing there work around the holiday activities.



Bart and Kevin feed brush into the chipper on Tuesday night.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Tuesday: We were busy on two fronts. First, there was a crew working in the shops on a number of projects. First, Pat continued to prepare the Jamestown switch stand for return to Jamestown. Mike and Gene worked on the front of the old Green Machine removing tires to access the newly installed brakes that have begun to leak. Cliff continued work on building a guard for the electrical box on our ballast shaker. And Bert was making progress on the ever present motor car roof.



Steve, Chris, and Frank work on switch 19 preparing to move the head block to ease the action of the switch.

The second crew went down to Setzer with chipper and motor car to haul down all the cut brush still along setzer spur and begin chipping it. After a short while chipping and

hauling the chipper decided to stop working so we focused on hauling down all the brush and piling it up for chipping at a later date.

Thursday: First Day of Polar Express, and despite the cold a dedicated team of volunteers were busy in the shops. Under the instruction of Sandy they continued to tackle a number of projects. As I was off working Polar and forgot to ask Sandy exactly what happened Thursday or if he told me I have forgotten, so we will just say that they did some really awesome stuff, and everyone that was not there really missed out.



(l-r) Mike, Brenton, Steve, Chris, and Frank all feeding brush to the chipper on Saturday. Notice the pile in the background

Saturday: Chris lead the team of about 6 MOW folks down to Bath or currently the North Pole to address a couple of switches that were reported as very difficult to throw. First, we addressed switch number 19 which required two people to throw. After much adjustment and moving the head block we were able to make the switch much more user friendly. Further we moved the head block on switch 18 and inspected switch 20.



(l-r) Frank, Mike, and Brenton stop the chipping briefly for a quick photo.

In the afternoon the crew went down to setzer with the repaired chipper and proceeded to chip the mountain of cut brush in the setzer yard. In clouds of dust and mounds of sawdust latter the mountain was reduced to scraps and the weekend crew was reduced to a crew of tired people with a sense of accomplishment or some variation there of.

Later that evening, Chris was down at the Polar Express and seeing that half of the light on the outside edge of the freight depot were not on started to investigate. After a few

minute and new fuses from Jon Wiltshire was able to get the Christmas lights illuminated along the entire edge of the freight depot.

Finally, Leonard Cassieri was able to dig up and provide a number of 60 lb joint bars and bolts for MOW projects in the Old Sacramento Area.

WEEK AHEAD:

Tuesday: We plan on being active in the shops **IF THERE IS NO RAIN.** We will begin working at 3:00 p.m. for those with a strong desire and life freedom to be there, and 5:00 p.m. for those with a strong desire but no freedom of movement due to the demands of supporting and contributing to the world economy, or what is left of it.

Thursday: Again we plan on meeting at the shops, **IF THERE IS NO RAIN.** Start time is 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: We plan on meeting at the shops at 8:00 a.m. to do that voodoo that we do so well.

See you out on the line,

John, Sandy, and Chris



Chris, on a ladder, fixing the lights on the Polar Express freight depot on Saturday.