

MOW WEEKLY UPDATE!

2/20/2010

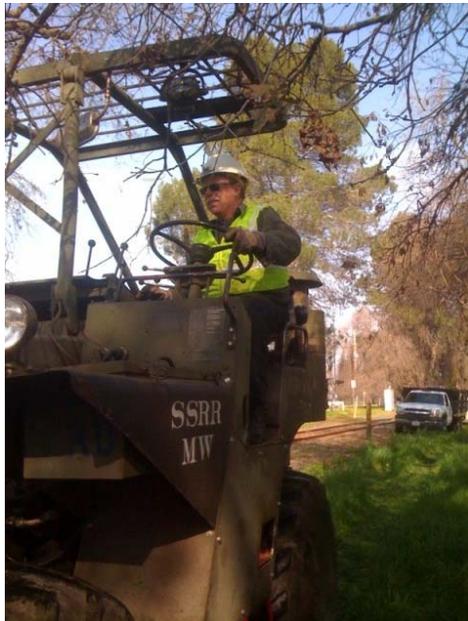
Time again for the weekly installment of the MOW Weekly Update. With all the news and reviews from the mainline that you want to know. Some of you may be spending time watching the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, but the true athletes are those folks pounding spikes and lifting ties in the Sacramento Winter, I sense a new Olympic sport in the making, do you? Well let's get on with the update so we can hurry back to our otherwise dull and uninteresting lives for the rest of the week between updates.



Chris and Ed adjust switch #14 while Harry looks on.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Tuesday: MOW worked in the shops again on Tuesday; we had a number of projects moving forward. First Cliff finished the guards on the shaker or Grizzly as Sandy calls it.



Ed driving the Green Machine.

Gene worked on installing the repaired radiator on the inspector motorcar and Pat worked on the bent axle on the Cliff's motorcar and other projects. John and Bart worked on painting the engine housing for the tie shear. Mike put the wheel bearings back on the trailer after a full servicing and cleaning. Now we are ready to return to our normal practice of overloading our equipment.

Thursday: Another large crew for a weeknight was present at MOW. Gene put the engine cover back on the inspector motorcar and installed the transmission cover. Richard and John worked on tightening a few lingering loose bolts on the tie shear while Cliff manufactured a new cover for one of the pins on the shear arm. Hallie, Frank, Sandy, and Brenton all made a heroic attempt to

load the shaker/Grizzly on the trailer for transport down to Setzer on Saturday. This proved a task in

frustration and even when the machine was loaded it was found to be too tall for transport. Being that MOW is a highly skilled team of safety conscious people we opted not to transport to machine if it is sitting too tall. It was removed and other transportation options are being looked into for the future.



Harry on the backhoe inserting ties.

Saturday: A crew of 7 people worked with MOW on Saturday, plus Sandy. We started by breaking into teams, the first group took the green machine and the loader down to setzer to prepare a space for the Shaker/Grizzly and move some extra dirt and materials around. The second group went to switch #14 and began to change some rotted out ties in that switch and nearby joint areas. We used the section gang machine and backhoe. The section gang machine worked great to pull the ties out but then broke down before we could insert the new ties. The back hoe was able to insert the ties but then the brakes began to act up so it was taken out of service. (Are you seeing a trend here?) Finally we took the motor cars out of Clunie container and reordered them in preparation for the spray crew on Tuesday. The day was finished and we were all getting ready to head back to the shops from Setzer area when a

hose on the green machine exploded in a spectacular fountain of hydraulic fluid. The machine was disabled with no steering. So the dedicated MOW crew whipped into action, first finding the problem, sending back to the shops for the needed parts, and cleanup material. Began to clean up the spill with absorbent and repair the machine. After a few hours we were able to limp the machine back to the shop in the dark of early evening. So our few hours of work are combined with many hours of repair to make for a long day but much was done.

WEEK AHEAD:

Tuesday: We will be busy in the shops on Tuesday; we start at 3:00p.m. for those with a dreamy schedule that allows for flexible hours during the week, and 5:00 p.m. for those still living in reality slaving away at a pay job.

Thursday: Again we will be working in the shops starting only at 5:00 p.m. with a continuation of all the projects

worked on from Tuesday and a few new ones added in just for good measure.



Ed bringing in more ties with the Green Machine.

Saturday: MOW is meeting on Saturday for more fun in the sun. We will meet at the shops at 8:00 a.m. and be all over the map doing great things to further the future of the Sacramento Southern Railroad and the California State Railroad Museum.

See you out on the line,

John, Sandy, and Chris