

MOW WEEKLY UPDATE!

9/27/2009

Hello MOW folks. Strap yourselves in and get ready for your weekly MOW update. We have had a fun filled week and hope to have another fun filled week again. Now I know that some of you are just skimming the update for what you think is important. Well skimming only works during high school and college but not for MOW weekly update. So without further delay we will get right to the important information.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Tuesday: Busy in the shops again. First Mike

Taylor and the Weed Patrol was busy out in the shops yard cutting down the weed growth around the shop tracks. This was great work as the weeds were getting out of hand and a

potential fire hazard. Good Work. The rest of the crew worked in the shop, welding, greasing, finishing the engine covers for the Tie Shear and a tool rack for the new truck. Who did what I can't remember so don't bother asking, I have the memory of a goldfish.



Mike loading the ballast cart on Thursday night.
Chris looks on from the motor car

needed for our equipment and helping Sandy shuttling supplies to the second group working out on the line. The second crew was out working to spread ballast on the track. As is normal with most MOW projects the start is worse than the work. After jump starting the ballast regulator and shuttling it out of the way of our ballast carts we were finally able to make one run before running out of light.

Saturday: We again had two groups. Sandy and Cliff at the shops working on the ballast screen and the second crew continued spreading ballast. We were able to make three loads with the ballast train; the last two were under train traffic. It was a dusty job but someone had to do it. Chris took the ballast regulator out and was working on smoothing out the ballast but this was cut short by equipment failure. One of the hydraulic cylinders broke loose



Ballast Regulator moving onto the mainline

Thursday: We had two crews working on Thursday. First Sandy, Cliff, Richard, and Leonard worked in the shop. Cliff began welding the legs firmly on the ballast screen while Richard continued servicing equipment. Leonard was supplying some warning lights



Chris and Steve dumping ballast on Saturday

pulled apart its hose and finished in a glorious fountain of hydraulic oil. The machine was limped back to its resting area and patiently waits for some attention and repair.

WEEK AHEAD:



Frank on the Green Machine

Tuesday: We will be working in the shop and also working on repair to the ballast regulator out on the mainline. Meet at the shops at 3:00 p.m. for those who were able to live the life of retirement or just don't care about their work right now, and 5:00 p.m. for those still dedicated to their jobs or who just have a boss that stops them from leaving early.

Thursday: Again we will be working with MOW.

We meet at the shops starting at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: CREW NEEDED! We will be doing a track raise on the portion of the track that we spread ballast. We will need plenty of people to do this track raise. Mostly because we don't have a jack system on our tamper and thus have to use many track jacks and labor to efficiently perform the raise. We can use your help. We start at 8:00 a.m. meeting at the shops.



Green Machine and Loader filling the ballast carts

MOW PICNIC: Don't forget to mark your Calendar for the MOW Picnic on October 17. More details will continue to trickle out as we get closer. But I can tell you now that there will be good food and good fellowship. Please be sure to let us know if you plan on attending if you have not already so we can have enough food for you all.

See you out on the line,

John, Sandy, and Chris