

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for June 30, 2013. It was a bit of an odd week for your MOW Team – from extreme weather to a burning boat on our track. But, as they say, “Variety’s the very spice of life, That gives it all its flavour [sic].” Or something like that. So, come along with me and we’ll re-live a memorable week for the MOW Team.

A rare summer storm dropped nearly a third of an inch of rain outside (about six-inches inside the Boiler Shop) on Tuesday. Unfortunately, this forced the postponement of the Weed Team’s planned activities. Power tools and chemical defoliants don’t mix all that well with rain.

Meanwhile, inside the Shops, the deluge didn’t drown-out Pat and Gene’s dedicated efforts. They responded to an emergency priority repair on the A-4 motorcar by machining new brake rigging components. By evening, the rain had let up so Heather led the crew of Frank Werry, DJ Chapman, Mike Harris, and Brian Cameron to effect repairs on the brakes of both the A-4 and tamper. Brian and Mike replaced an air-line to a brake cylinder on the Tamper while DJ and Frank installed Pat and Gene’s new brake rigging components on the A-4. Many thanks to our great Tuesday crews!

Thursday was an interesting day for your MOW Team. The Museum’s Collections Department requested our assistance in retrieving a significant compilation of historic railroad fittings and fixtures. Alan led the crew consisting of Clem Meirer, Frank, Chris, Heather, Mike H., and Brian on an all-day field trip to bring these artifacts back to the Museum. It was a long but rewarding day for the crew, demonstrating yet again the versatility of our Team. In the evening, we prepped for Saturday by loading the section-gang machine into our trusty Chevy Truck and gathering a bundle of ties with Big Green.

From rain to extreme heat... Saturday’s plan was to start working on mitigating Train Order 106 by changing out ties between Mile Posts 1.0 and 1.2. Considering the predicted high temperatures, several folks from around the railroad urged us to reconsider. However, when the question was posed at our morning briefing, the Team voted to persevere. Of course, we ARE Maintenance of Way. It’s how we roll! So, after the obligatory doughnuts (thanks Chris!), Pam Tatro, Garrick Worrell, Chris, Frank, Mike Miller, Heather, and Steve Nemeth headed out onto the line to build a better railroad. With Chris on the backhoe, Mike M. on Big Green, and Steve running the MOW work-train, we managed to change out nearly half the rotten ties under joints necessary to lift TO 106. So, we’re getting there, folks. It was an incredible effort under challenging conditions by an indefatigable Team of dedicated volunteers.

In the afternoon, we responded to a fire – well, the remnants thereof. A fiberglass boat on a trailer caught fire in route to the Miller Park Marina (talk about thick, black smoke) and stopped at Front Street on top of our tracks. The burned out hulk was removed and the track thoroughly inspected. Fortunately, there was no damage to our line. The boat, however, was total loss (and quite a mess). Back at the Shops, Harry Voss (sans doughnuts) joined us to undertake some necessary maintenance on the section-gang machine. Chris brought another generator on line with an electric starter and battery mount. Steve and Mike M. took a crew out on the line to tamp-up the ties we changed out earlier in the day.

That trip down memory lane was fun but, now for the week ahead. Tuesday, the Weed Team is starting early in order to beat the heat. Meet Mike Taylor and the Weedies at 7:30 a.m. at the MOW Container on the House Track in Old Sac. The MOW Team will meet, as usual, in the afternoon and evening to continue our noble work. Thursday marks our Republic’s 237th birthday and, in recognition, respect, and honor of Independence Day, the MOW Team will **NOT** be gathering. Also, please note, there will be **NO Maintenance of Way on Saturday (7/6)**, either. So, enjoy your long weekend, rest up, and get ready for more MOW fun next week. Believe me, we have exciting times ahead!

Make sure and check out the photos (courtesy of Heather and Pam) in the attachment.

We’ll see you out on the line,

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



DJ and Frank rebuild the A-4's brakes.



Yeah, that tie has seen better days...



Pam, Steve, and Garrick dig out the remains of an old tie.



Frank, Garrick, Chris and Pam place a new tie at MP 1.10.



Your MOW Team at work...



Steve and Mike assessing blame...