

Mechanical Department Report

Board of Directors Meeting: March 9, 2023

DS ELEMS

It's been quite a while since I've published a report. Part of that is the lack of pertinent work going on to report on in a lengthy written document. The majority of the last three and a half months has been spent clearing snow and dealing with facilities duties. Some work was performed on the SP rotary plow set (SPMW 208 & 8221) ahead of the February 25 operation.

Our operation of the rotary set allowed for training of some of our volunteers, and was planned to clear the tracks to allow us to move equipment in and out of the shop. Unfortunately the weather promptly covered everything back up a day and a half later, so the shop is still set up in the Santa Trains arrangement. The conditions outside the shop are not conducive to trying to take on the required work and inspections, and I don't expect that to change for at least another month. Time spent prepping the rotary set worked out to about one hour for every ten or twelve hours spent clearing snow.

I expect locomotive readiness to suffer significantly this spring as the ability to perform the requisite work continues to be pushed back due to the weather. In addition to waiting to get equipment in the shop, time will continue to be spent clearing snow instead of performing mechanical work and with this warm rainy storm blowing through this weekend and through into next week I expect significant flooding in many parts of the shop so time will need to be spent cleaning up after that. The shop will need to be cleaned and organized prior to any major mechanical work or inspections.

Once the weather looks like it is on the mend this spring I'll be renewing my efforts to acquire the parts for SP2873 that never got shipped last season. So far we've been relying almost exclusively on WP1503, which thankfully hasn't disappointed.