

## Roadmaster's Report – Sept 2017

–Greg Elems, Director/Roadmaster

August 15th I opened the balloon for regular use with RAL's and the caboose train. Again I want to thank all of my help from our volunteers in getting the track open.

We used the balloon to turn the two locomotives that UP loaned to us for Railroad days. They went around the balloon without any problems. Steve, who was running them said they behaved very well. Caboose train riders who were repeat customers even noticed the improvement. With the balloon open I have cut back on the work days to Wednesday's at 9 am for work on the rest of the museum track. Track from the sewer crossing to Milward switch was tamped, about 30' worth with 8 to 10 ties replaced west of Milward switch along with some tamping. Wednesday's work was concentrated on the frog of the 3/4 switch and ties on each side of it. Now the plan is for tie replacement next spring on the switches west of the diesel shop. So far I have identified 12 ties

that will get replaced along with one frog. The rest of this year will be a matter of tamping up ties and solidifying the roadbed and leveling the track.

Paul Finnegan has done a great job with our track work pictures and notes on work being done, take a look at it if you get a chance.

At this time I have not talked to either contractor about costs and track work. I may have an addendum to my report before Saturday.



*Bil Jackson and Roger Stabler discuss tamping needs on 9 August 2017 as Ethan Doty and Jason Peterich prepare the next tie insert location. Roger has repaired the tamper and has 6 of the 8 tamper motors working and two motors to install at a later date.*

–Greg Elems Photo.