

SUMMER STEAM REPORT

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

A great deal has been accomplished on the WP 165 in the past year, including the completion of the ultrasonic thickness mapping on the first two boiler courses and the steam dome. This work was done almost exclusively by Nathan Osborn and James Cowdery. No significant sheet wastage has been found to date. They will continue on the wrapper sheet, backhead, tubesheets, firebox, and other stayed areas later this summer and into the fall, with the goal to have all readings done before the season is up.

I am very grateful to the UP steam crew, Scott Turley especially, for inspecting the boiler while the 844 was in town. We were able to confer over the phone and compare notes. Scott recommended, and I agreed that the lower portion of the front tube sheet should be replaced due to many the bridge cracks that have been welded, and the bulging of that portion of the sheet from over rolling of the tubes. I have priced out a replacement plate that, as of this writing, is \$365.00. I am also working with Gary Smith, owner of Mission Tool Works in Hayward for a donation of time on his water-jet cutting machine. This will speed up the work of cutting out the replacement plate substantially. Another patch on the outer wrapper at the location of the rear sandbox is also necessary. This piece is not as large as the tube sheet plate and should be comparable in cost.

Thanks to the following for their recent generous donations for steam projects: Roger Stabler - \$1000, Nathan Osborn - \$1000, and James Cowdery - \$500.

Hopefully as you read this some of the spring rigging has been removed for repair and renewal. Most of this work can be done off site. The repair of the springs themselves will have to be farmed out. Roger is going to get quotes from the company they used for the SP 1233 spring repair.

Charlie Spikes has coordinated pumping out the oil from the tender bunker, thank you to him for getting that done. We can now work on getting the tanks off the frame for sandblasting and deck renewal.

We welcome new steam department member David Wallace, who is also the new owner of the ATSF 999197 caboose. David is an accomplished machinist and mechanic and another former member of the storied Rio Vista steam crew. Movement of our steam department DRGW boxcar

from Rio Vista is still on hold pending the removal of its contents by BAERA. They have secured a shipping container for this purpose; with any luck we will be able to move the car before the snow flies in Portola. The WP stringboard and the Oakland Commissary sign will move with the car, as well as surplus parts from the SN caboose not deemed necessary to their restoration of the car to the period they have chosen.



- Mike Mucklin photo

SAYING GOODBYE TO DANA

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

WPRM steam team member and good friend Dana Greeley passed away suddenly Sunday, July 26th, 2009. He was 49 years old. Cause is yet to be determined. His only surviving family is his brother, Doug. I spoke with Dana that Saturday before, and he was feeling poorly. I urged him to get to a clinic but he was determined to put his doctor visit off until Monday. I could be angry at him for being so stubborn, but that would be fruitless. Dana's stubbornness was actually one of his more endearing qualities. His being argumentative and opinionated led me to more thoughtful decisions, or just shook me out of my supposed "Tree of Knowledge" at which point I would land on my butt, which would in turn cause me to rethink whatever I thought I was doing.

Dana and I met in the late 1970's at the then California Railway Museum, now the Western Railway Museum near Rio Vista, California. I was involved in the steam program there, and he was primarily involved in