

Happenings

By Tom Twigge-Molecey



TP-11 outside during testing

TTC TP-11

A major milestone was reached on April 22 when the car operated for the first time since its major rebuild started in 2002. After a few wiring glitches were ironed out and all the motors turned the right direction, the car gingerly operated back and forth on track 22 to a round of applause from the crew. Shortly thereafter, the plow blade was reinstalled and work continued on auxiliary circuits and bodywork. A new rear door is being fabricated and the project is most definitely in the home stretch. Special mention must go to Paul Sweeney who dismantled, overhauled, reinstalled and connected all four resistor grid boxes in just two days. A number of high resistance joints in the grids hindered earlier attempts to get the car to move. Congratulations to the entire TP-11 crew and especially Dave Barrett and Rick Deschamps for their hard work and dedication to the project.

TTC 416

Work on the trucks resumed with the milder weather and the springs, hangers and rigging were reinstalled. The Ottawa 696 crew welded up the worn brake heads and the brake beams, hangers and levers were all reinstalled. New pedestal liners were fabricated through a contact in the 696 crew and they are in the process of being installed. Once the liners are in, the axles can be reinstalled and all that will remain is dealing with the traction motors. It is planned to begin disassembling, cleaning and testing the motors in the coming months.

L&PS 8

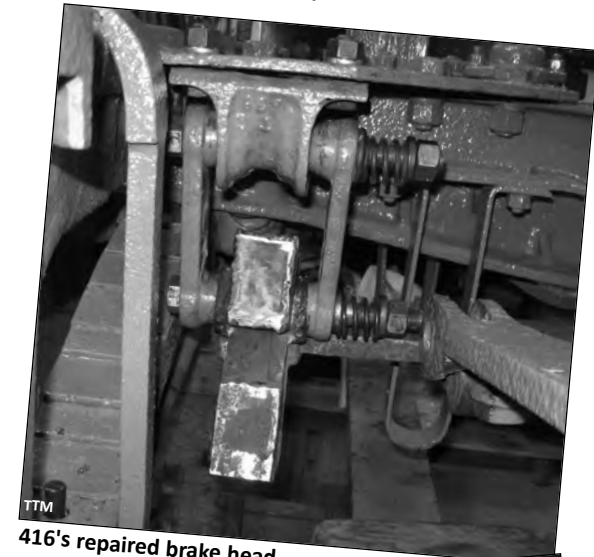
Work on the south side of the car is now complete. All sixteen new lower sash were completed and installed, as well as the trim and mouldings around the windows. The blinds were repaired where required and the washroom wall dismantled and rebuilt while the window was removed. The corner posts in the east vestibule were reinforced and minor bodywork is being done where required. The roof was completely cleaned, several holes patched and it completely repainted. As noted previously, work on building the north windows will continue and they will be replaced as time permits.

TTC 2424

The car's centre doors were repaired and interior wood refinishing continues. The car had its annual inspection and is back in service for the season.

TTC 2894

The last of the car's brake hangers and levers were disassembled, cleaned and worn parts were replaced. Work on the brakes is now complete for the foreseeable future. The car had its annual inspection and it is back in regular service.



416's repaired brake head



2894 on the pit

Happenings

CP 437123

Our new caboose is nearing completion. New windows have been fabricated and are ready for installation. The cupola rebuild is complete and final touches are being applied to the interior paint. The bodywork is substantially complete and the car is in the process of being detailed and painted. New steps and risers were installed along with a new letter board and tack moulding. The balance of the roof was repaired and a number of new boards were installed. Installation of the new fibreglass roof should be complete by press time and the car will then move into the final stages of painting and lettering. New centre bearings were fabricated and will be installed on the 77E1 trucks, which will be used under the car until its own Bettendorf trucks are regauged. The trucks previously had their motors and surplus subway equipment removed and recently all the brakes disassembled, overhauled and reinstalled. New upper brake beams are being fabricated and new brake rods will be fabricated once the trucks are installed. The car should be available for service in June.

March Break Madness got off to a slow start due to very unpleasant weather, but by mid-week attendance was excellent. The weather for most of the week was fantastic and we had over 600 visitors. A decision has yet to be made whether we will run this event again next year.

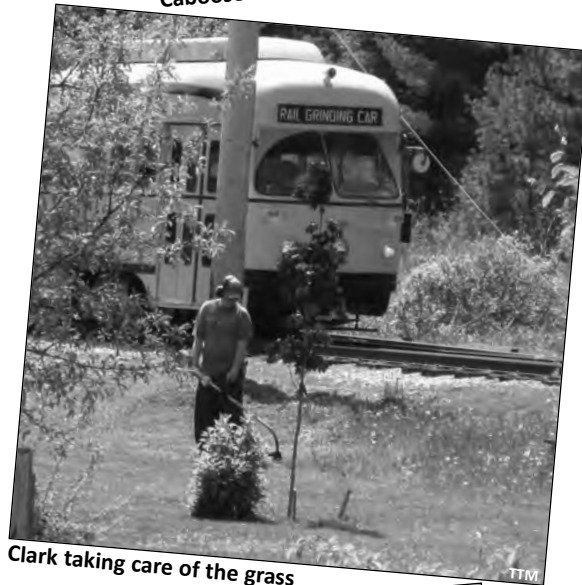
With the fundamental lack of "winter" this winter, grounds clean-up got underway months earlier than usual, which resulted in a refreshingly painless beginning to the operating season. We are very fortunate to have Clark Sinclair back with us for another season of looking after the grounds.

Among other projects undertaken by the 696 crew, a new wooden walkway was constructed across the west end of Barn 4. This new walkway will enable visitors to safely walk in a full circle around the perimeter of the building and bridges the gap between the concrete walkways we poured last year. Preparations to open the building to the public are underway and the grand opening is scheduled for later this summer. We are indebted to the 696 crew for their continued support and hard work.

2010 is off to an unbelievable start and I'd like to encourage all of our members to come out and have a look. Whether it's to help out, or just take a tour, it's worth the trip. As we move forward through the summer, it is planned to complete TP-11, 4600, 437123 and continue to make progress on 416.



Caboose in the final stages of re-assembly



Clark taking care of the grass



New Barn 4 walkway