Mechanical shops win Dick Webb Excellence Award

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Manager Editor

Receiving the Dick Webb Excellence Award is something that any of Watco's 16 mechanical shops would be proud to achieve. The award was created last year to honor Webb, Watco's founder and is given to mechanical shops who maintained a record of zero recordable injuries for 2011. Two shops, Cornell, Kan., and East Peoria, Ill., have received the Dick Webb Excellence Award both years.

Additional shops receiving the Excellence Award were Zwolle, La., Omaha, Neb., and Hockley, Texas. The Fitzgerald, Ga., and Hollidaysburg, Pa., mechanical shops received the Dick Webb Award, which is presented to those shops who meet or exceed their annual goal in reducing recordable injuries.

Webb began his career in the rail business in 1958 at the Kansas City Southern Railway mechanical shop in Pittsburg, Kan. Two years after the successful 1983 start up of his first contract switching location in DeRidder, La., he purchased the old Darby railcar repair shop in Coffeyville, Kan. The mechanical shop in Jacksonville, Fla., was purchased in 1998. The mechanical team began making repairs at the Cornell location the same year. The operation started out as a RIP (repair in place) track before a building was put on site in 2000. Eight shops were added in 2007 with the acquisition of Millennium Rail and two more with the addition of the Fitzgerald Railcar shops in 2008. Most recently the Cudahy, Wisc., location was added in 2010.

To me, this is the most significant award anyone could ever achieve while working at Watco. Dick cared so much about everyone that worked here and their families. The last thing he would ever have wanted was to see is someone get injured on the job. I know he would be very proud of this award and he would hope that each and every shop in the Watco family becomes injury free as was done by the winners of this year’s Dick Webb Excellence Award.

Team members are listed below for each location. Congratulations to all seven shops for their achievements, keep up the SAFE work!

Cornell, Kansas: Adam Tadlock, Car Repairman; Austin Lepoglow, Car Repairman; Charley Dohle, Car Repairman; David Castagno, Welder; Dennis Dohle, Car Repairman; Frankie Carpino, Welder; James C. Fearmonti, Office Administrator; James Herman, Manager; Jeremiah Herman, Clerk; Johnathan Garrison, Car Repairman; Kevin Duncan, Foreman; Kevin Redman, Car Repairman; Kyle Mayfield, Car Repairman; Marvin Ayers, Car Repairman; Mathew Wahl, Car Repairman; Randel Thomas, Car Repairman; Randy Bole, Car Repairman; Robert Castellani, Car Repairman; Rocky Ramage, Car Repairman; Sage Nelson, Car Repairman; Steven Coleman, Supervisor; Tim Herman, Car Repairman; Trenton Doyle, Car Repairman; William Mays, Car Repairman; William Patterson, Inspector.

Fitzgerald, Georgia: Alexander Valles, Painter; Allen Lyles, Car Repairman; Alvin Dorn, Car Repairman; Anthony Jones, Supervisor; Arthur Clark, Blaster; Benjamin Izell, Car Repairman; Billy Goodman, Supervisor; Bobby Mathis, Car Repairman; Brian Clark, Manager; Bryant Hodge, Painter; Calvin Everson, Supervisor; Carl Reese, Car Repairman; Carlton Echols, Blaster; Charlie Everson, Supervisor; Clint Allen, Leadman; Curtis Terry, Painter; Dale Kennedy, Manager; Dano Brown, Car Repairman; Danny Simonds, Inspector; Darryon Devine, Car Cleaner; Earl Evans, Car Repairman; Earl Holt, Purchasing; Earl Sims, Car Repairman; Eddie Davis, Car Repairman; Erick Davis, Switchover; Erin Livingston, Car Repairman; Francisco Rivera, Car Repairman; Gary Ford, Car Repairman; Gary Griffin, Inspector; Gary Nelms, Maintenance; Gene Hargrove, Car Repairman; George Mincey, Car Repairman; Gregory Duffie, Blaster; Gregory Lewis, Switchman; Gregory Sweat, Car Repairman; Jackie Brady, Clerk; James Bass, Billing Clerk; James Clements, Inspector; James Scott McDuffie, Inspector; James Young, Painter; Jamie Swaynos, Car Repairman; Jharmark Hodge, Painter; Jimmie Miller, Painter; Jimmie Miller, Painter; Joe Towles, Car Repairman; John Dolan, Maintenance; John Everson, Inspector; John Gaines, Manager; John Harrell, Car Repairman; John Newham, Inspector; John Walker, Car Repairman; Jonathan Whitman, Car Repairman; Jordan Merritt, Car Repairman; Jordan Wells, Inspector; Joseph Keys, Manager; Joseph Keys, Painter; Joshua Walker, Car Cleaner; Justin Mullis, Blaster; Keith Cadwell, Car Repairman; Kevin Dillard, Car Repairman; Lovon Simmons, Car Repairman; Luis Rivera, Car Repairman; Luis Soto, Car Repairman; Marcus Hodges, Maintenance; Marsha Sellers, Clerk; Marvin Minet, Laborer; Mary McDuffie, Clerk; Matthew Parker, Car Repairman; Matthew Reus, Laborer; Matthew Tucker, Car Repairman; Melvin McAdoo, Car Repairman; Michael Hancock, Car Repairman; Michael Rodgers, Car

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Watco’s Western Australia Rail is hopping along

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Things are literally hopping along with Watco’s Western Australia Rail (WW AR) Team. Not only are they busy with moving grain, testing locomotives and preparing their training center, several team members also had the unique privilege of seeing a rare albino Boomer, a male kangaroo.

The track gang just south of Mt. Barker in the Albany Zone (southern Australia) was able to catch a picture of the albino kangaroo which is about 5 or 6 feet tall.

Darrell Thompson, Albany operations zone manager, said, “I have 20 drivers and none of them have ever seen one and most of them are over 40 years old. The kangaroo has been seen several times in the same location but this was the first picture they got of him.”

Spotting rare wildlife wasn’t the only thing accomplished by the WW AR Team. The team accomplished many firsts in their inaugural month. As of last Friday, using two SG trains, the team moved more than 9,000 tonnes of grain to Kwinanna Port, which is about 2,000 tonnes more than most start-up consists.

When any new product enters into Australia a litany of tests are to be performed by the Operator (in this case WWAR) to ensure safety compliance with the rail (track) provider, which is Brookfield in our situation. The NG high-speed testing last week on the Southwest Main was a success. Greentrains leased ZB loco #2125 rose to the occasion and with a married pair of new NG wagons achieved a speed of 104 kph. The married pair test and results proved that the married pair of wagons could operate and stay in the clearance con-

Watco Team Members can win a trip Down Under

If you’ve ever dreamed about heading to the Australian outback on a walk-about like Crocodile Dundee, now’s your chance. Our #1 Customer in Australia, CBH Group, is celebrating its unprecedented investment in the future of Western Australia Rail with a Grand Opening event in Perth, Australia on August 24, 2012. CBH Group has graciously offered to host two Watco Team Members in an all-expense paid trip to join in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. This includes round trip airfare to Australia, hotel stay and meals. Watco will assist with Passport and Visa needs for travel. The anticipated travel dates will be August 20 to August 26. The travel time from the U.S. to Australia is approximately 33 hours one way. Wouldn’t you like to represent Watco’s North American Team during this momentous event? A random drawing will be held June 20th and the two lucky winners will be announced. To participate in this generous offer by our very important Customer, CBH, you must meet the criteria listed and submit your entry to Corporate HR via email at HumanResources@watcocompanies.com or fax it to 620-231-5192. Entry deadline is 5:00 p.m. CST June 18th. Entries can be found using the following link: http://www.watcocompanies.com/hr/WesternAustraliaDrawing.pdf

Criteria for participation in drawing:
• Full time Team Member for one full year
• Must be in active status at the time of drawing and trip
• No personal injuries over the last year
• No discipline over the last two years
• Must be passport eligible
• Must submit a Safety Slogan with entry form

All Team Members who meet criteria are eligible to enter. Please direct any questions regarding the drawing to Sofrona Howard at HumanResources@watcocompanies.com or Tracie VanBecelaere at tvan@watcocompanies.com or you can call them at 620-231-2230.
PECOS TERMINAL FACILITY BEGINS OPERATIONS

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Pecos Bill was famous for his extreme cowboy adventures such as lassoing a tornado and riding a mountain lion. The Pecos, Texas Terminal Team hopes to have some extreme adventures of their own but plan to lasso energy opportunities instead of twisters.

The Pecos terminal was developed by a joint venture between Martin Midstream Partners and Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline and constructed by Watco Companies. The new multi-commodity terminal will serve the rapidly growing needs of the oil and gas industry in and around Pecos, Texas. The Joint Venture was formed utilizing the strengths of each company, by offering a wide variety of services to producers within the basin. Services offered at the facility include crude oil hauling from leases provided by Martin Transport, Inc., as well as, storage, transloading, and marketing services.

The terminal will allow producers access to Light Louisiana Sweet (LLS) crude oil markets and other markets throughout North America. Kinder Morgan and MMLP will offer NGL storage, take-away, and fractionation services and seek to develop natural gas and crude gathering and processing systems within the area. The joint venture is also entering into agreements to develop a frac sand unit train terminal to service Reeves and surrounding counties.

The first stage of the terminal was completed and operational on May 1, 2012. Crude oil, natural gas liquids, frac sand, pipe, tube, structural steel, rig mats, and other commodities will be railed in and out and transloaded to truck for delivery to surrounding area. This also includes truck and rail access to end users and refineries throughout the United States. The terminal has 85 and 35 acre sites that can be developed to support unit trains. Total railcar capacity is anticipated to be 300-600 based on demand. The strategically located terminal is located directly adjacent to the Union Pacific mainline in the city of Pecos and will offer scalability and convenience for local area producers. This terminal facility will create up to 45 new jobs once the facility is fully developed and operational.

Allan Roach, Watco’s senior vice president of business development, said “Watco is excited about opening our eighth Crude by Rail terminal to serve the burgeoning shale oil industry. We have great partners that each have over 20 years experience in serving this industry and know how to efficiently and economically design individual service plans for each of our Customers.”

Team members at the facility are Jeremy Judd, Supervisor, Harwood, Texas; Cody McCullen, Pumper/Operator, Harwood, Texas; Russell Hamm, WTPS Mobile Operations Supervisor, and Craig Long, Supervisor, Stroud, Okla.

“Jeff Ecret, WTPS director of operations, South, was instrumental in the startup of Pecos. Although our schedule is five days per week Jeff and his team worked seven day weeks to ensure we proved ourselves to our customers. Jeff understood that we were being tested to see how we would perform. Jeff called late one Sunday to say ‘we ran ’em out of trucks!’ It is this type of dedication from our team members and commitment to our customers that keeps them coming back.”

Summer Spike program gets off to a hot start

by Gary Vaughn
Watco Senior Vice President of Safety and Environmental Health

The Summer Spike Safety Program got off to a hot start on May 26 with temperatures already reaching the above the 90’s in some locations. The start of Summer Spike marks the beginning of the “101 Days of Summer” which traditionally marks the one of the highest increases for work related and recreational related injuries. During this time, we would like all of you, the Watco family, to make a commitment to place safety first in all your activities.

This can be a dangerous time for us all. The kids are out of school, it’s light outside for longer periods of time, we have camping activities, vacations, holidays and more of our attention is pulled toward our families and the time we spend away from work. Many times our attention while on the job is not where it should be; instead we tend to think about the ball game after work, the picnic coming up this weekend, packing the car for vacation and the like. Our minds sometimes wander from the job we are doing at the time because of all the distractions around us. It’s easy to get caught up in the whirlwind events that surround our families and the events that summer brings to us all.

As we all head into the summer of 2012, I would like to remind all of our family members that each of you are a vital member of our company, our family. As we enter into summer, my concern turns to your safety. Due to the changes associated with summer, injuries tend to increase much faster than any other time. This trend is completely avoidable if we all work together as a team to put safety first.

Watco’s Safety Vision is simple; we believe that our team members are the most important part of our company and that every accident or injury is preventable. We envision all of our properties operating free of accidents and injuries. As a team, we need to broaden our safety efforts to include all departments, not only during the summer but throughout the year. During this summer, we ask that all our team members make a special effort to stay focused on Summer Safety from May 26th to September 3rd.

Watco launched its Summer Spike Prevention Program to focus on the root causes of personal injuries and accidents with the goal of having an injury free “101 Days of Summer”.

Our families are the most important thing in our lives. We all must stay safe for our families as they depend on each of us to come home every day in the same condition we were in when we went to work. Any injury to us as the bread-winners would harm our families.

Watco is committed to the prevention of all injuries so as to keep you, a member of our family, safe for your family. Be watching for our upcoming Summer Spike Program – be a part of our winning team and help us prevent all injuries and accidents, not just during the summer, but all year. Help us protect our families.
West Region Track Services Team races to safety anniversary

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The West Region Track Services Team recently celebrated going four years without a reportable injury. They took time out to celebrate the milestone with a lunch and then the team headed to Nazzcart in Twin Falls, Idaho, to have some fun on the go-carts.

Although the Indy 500 drivers don’t have to worry about the competition, everyone had a good time with some challenging and bumpy going on (no black flags). The celebration was a great team building experience.

Scott Adams, chief engineer, West Region Track Services, said, “This was an outstanding job by the team in achieving a timeline of four years considering the type of work they do, the different locations and conditions they work in daily. I’m very proud of this group and the way they work as a team in performing their work safely around the West Region. It is a great feeling as a supervisor every time I am able to visit with this team and go over their safety and remind them of their achievements.”

Team members in the picture are Mike Balls, Tye Gray, Jose Martinez, Francis Benally, Alex May, Josh Fletcher, Bo Fox and Scott Adams. Other team members that contributed to this accomplishment are Jared May, now track supervisor on the Boise Valley Railroad (BVRR), Sean Crowe, section Foreman on the Eastern Idaho Railroad (EIRR), Ben May, assistant track supervisor on the BVRR, and Pete Pappas, EIRR mechanic.

This team is made up of two gangs, the 167 Surface and Lining Crew and the 168 Maintenance Crew. They cover the West Region railroads working on capital projects, track maintenance, new track construction, road crossings, switch relays etc.

The team works on the different railroads sometimes for a few weeks or more depending on the scope of work, and then move on to the other railroads for scheduled projects. The team travels to the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana and provides service to the Eastern Idaho, Great Northwest, Palouse River & Coulee, Yellowstone Valley, Boise Valley and Mission Mountain Railroads.

The team has had to deal with extreme conditions that range from hot and dry to cold and wet. Winters in the northwest are harsh with temperatures dropping well below the freezing mark. The team is constantly dealing with new issues and works hard to develop solutions to keep the tracks in good condition and ready for the railroads so they can continue serving Customers. Despite all the hardships the team still keeps safety as their number one priority.

Rob Thrall, regional vice president of operations, West Region, said, “This is a huge accomplishment - going four years injury-free, we are very proud of the Track Services Team in their everyday Safety efforts. We look forward to many more years injury-free.”

HR Coordinator artfully expresses belief in Watco

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Generally in the railroad business when you catch someone with a can of spray paint they’re up to no good. However, in the case of Amanda Brisbin, the opposite is true. Brisbin, HR coordinator in Pittsburg, Kan., has been working on a painting technique called reverse spray painting. She has painted on several different surfaces and recently completed the piece below on a glass surface from an old hutch door.

Although Brisbin took art classes in college, the new technique is one that is self-taught.

Brisbin said, “I had decided I wanted to learn a new technique when it came to painting. My best friend had taught me how to paint with Paint Pens on drinking glasses. So, one day while browsing YouTube I typed in ‘paint on glass.’ That is how I was introduced to spray painting. I had never worked with that medium before. I saw a guy do a technique called ‘reverse spray paint,’ and I thought ‘I can do that.’ So I went to the store bought a bunch of spray paint, masks and gloves. Actually, I forgot the gloves so I spent days getting the paint off my hands.

“I had old window frames from a remodel of a house and started teaching myself how to do a reverse spray painting. The whole idea of reverse spray painting is to paint on the back of the glass, starting with the lightest color and working darker. So, with this particular painting, the writing was done first in acrylic paint, then the white parts of the spray paint and black was the last thing spray painted. The texture is done with old newspaper print. So, when you hang it up it will never get scratched, because it is protected by the glass. Oh, and you have to do everything backwards, so for example the letters were painted backwards on the back side.

“How did I come up with the idea of this picture? Actually, it came from a dream I had about eight years ago. It was about a train riding throughout the night. I had doodled this image probably a million times but never found the right medium to create it. So, when I learned to do reverse spray painting, which was less than a year ago, it literally took me about two hours from start to finish. I wanted to put Watco Customer First on it because I believe in this company. I just wanted to show my support and I know that I could do that through art.”

Amanda Brisbin, HR coordinator, Pittsburg, Kan., painted this reverse spray paint piece.
Switching Team begins operations in Thunder Basin

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor


If you hear loud rumblings in what’s called Wyoming’s Thunder Basin, it’s most likely not thunder but the Black Thunder Switching Team taking care of business. Watco recently signed a three year switching contract with Thunder Basin Coal Company, L.C.C. The Thunder Basin Coal Company consists of the Black Thunder and Coal Creek Mines. Black Thunder Switching will be responsible for loading the coal trains within the Thunder Basin coal facility. The facility is located 40 miles south of Gillette, Wyo., near the small town of Wright and is the largest surface coal mine in North America.

Due to well-trained operators and sophisticated computer systems at each of the mine’s four load outs, an entire train can be loaded in just over an hour.

More than 20 unit trains consisting of 120 to 150 cars are loaded each day and on average each train will carry 15,500 tons of low-sulfur coal which is shipped to 25 U.S. states.

There are 28 members on the Black Thunder Team who began operations at the facility on May 7. Wendy Vrana, crew leader for the A crew, said she enjoys working with the Watco Team and likes how family oriented they are.

“They listen and take what you have to say and do something with it, that’s what really sold me on the company,” said Vrana.

Vrana has been working at the facility for two years, and her start there was an interesting one.

“My sister was looking for something part-time while attending college, they didn’t have any part-time positions but I had just graduated from high school and so I was hired instead,” Vrana said.

Vrana’s dad, Joe, started working at East Thunder when she was two or three years old and when she was a sophomore in high school her mom, Bev, started driving the buses that take the crews out to the mine.

“You could say I was destined to have something to do with the coal mine,” said Vrana. “Living so close to the tracks in Upton, Wyoming, I never thought that I would be working with locomotives today.”

Vrana is managing a busy rail yard that has both UP and BNSF trains on a constant basis. She is responsible for the operation of getting these large trains in and out safely and as well as the movement of the trains, she also determines the status of one of the four mines they service.

The first coal train loaded by the Black Thunder Switching Team near Wright, Wyoming.

St. Louis terminal facility celebrates five years injury-free

by Al Pope
Managing Editor

When we mention St. Louis the state name Missouri doesn’t have to follow: everyone knows about their famous Gateway Arch, the Rams football team and of course, Cardinals baseball. What many people don’t know about is the Watco Terminal and Port Services (WTPS) Team that recently celebrated their five year injury-free anniversary.

The team in St. Louis is busy during the week unloading primarily steel and lumber from the railcars that arrive at their facility. The location has been in operations since 1986.

Ed Diemert, general manager, said he has a great group of people that work well together to get the job done in a safe manner.

“They are very conscientious about safety and being proactive to prevent injuries. If they see a potential threat they make sure it is addressed,” said Diemert. “They’re obviously doing something right.”

Milburn Stewart is the terminal veteran with 19 years of experience at the facility and has never had a single injury in his time there. Team members like Stewart are shining examples of what to do in order to stay safe each and every day.

The first coal train loaded by the Black Thunder Switching Team near Wright, Wyoming.
Mechanical shops win Dick Webb Excellence Award

(Continued from page 1)

Cleaner: Miguel Osorio, Car Repairman; Morrise Bussey, Welder; Octavious Billups, Welder; Otis Jackson, Leadman; Ozell Campbell, Welder; Reginald Dunnom, Painter; Reginald Portvent, Car Repairman; Ricky Wilcox, Painter; Robert Manley, Supervisor; Roberto Nunez, Maintenance; Roy Wallace, Painter; Russ Jones, Welder; Sammy Belmer, Blaster; Samuel Immon, Car Repairman; Scott Sears, Car Repairman; Shawn Daniels, Blaster; Sheldon McClain, Laborer; Spencer Batton, Blaster; Stacey Faison, Car Cleaner; Stephen Baker, Painter; Stephen Gordon, Leadman; Stephen Gordon, Car Cleaner; Steven Everett, Blaster; Theodore McClain, Car Repairman; Thomas Everson, Blaster; Thomas Scarborough, Painter; Tony Harper, Supervisor; Trenton Jones, Welder; Ulysses Williams, Car Repairman; Venson Bell, Laborer; Wayne Stevens, Painter; William Gibbs, Maintenance; William Melton, Car Repairman; William Nash, Supervisor; William Nash, Switchman; William Rowell, Inspector; William Smith, Welder; Willie Gee, Car Repairman; Willy Ross, Painter; Zachary Luckie, Manager; Zachery Pittman, Car Repairman.

Hockley, Texas: Aaron Guerrero, Blaster; Angel Carrasco, Painter; Antonio Horacio, Car Repairman; Armando Jimenez, Car Repairman; Audencia Cocteco, Blaster; Benjamin Martinez, Car Repairman; Carlos Cruz, Car Repairman; Carlos Diaz, Linin; Carlos Ramirez, Car Repairman; Chris Librie, Manager; Cirilo Bueno, Painter; Clarence Collins, Supervisor; Cristian Alvarado, Car Repairman; Daniel Giles, Car Repairman; David Brown, Inspector; Eddie Bennett, Customer Service; Eduardo Camacho, Car Repairman; Efegion Tovar, Manager; Eleni Zuniga, Blaster; Elvy Alvarado, Blaster; Ernesto Elizondo, Blaster; Esteban Robles, Car Repairman; Federico Mendiesta, Blaster; Felix Escobar, Car Repairman; Fernando Avila, Car Repairman; Fernando Rosa, Blaster; Filiberto Barrientos, Car Repairman; Florentino Borjas, Car Repairman; Floyd Swnoke, Inspector; Francisco Pedraza, Car Repairman; Fredy Ramos, Car Repairman; Gabriel Carrizales, Painter; Gabriel Patron, Car Repairman; Gregory Andersen, Manager; Guamazo Castillo, Car Repairman; Hector Barrientos, Welder; Homero Aguilar, Car Repairman; Horacio Silva, Blaster; Ismael Guevara, Car Repairman; Israel Santos, Blaster; Ivan Gallegos, Blaster; James Lloyd, Manager; Jerrel Whiteside, Inspector; Jimmy Johnson, Maintenance; Joel Aguilar, Car Repairman; Jorge Delgado, Blaster; Jose Battista, Car Repairman; Jose Cerna, Car Repairman; Jose Ramirez, Blaster; Jose Saavedra, Supervisor; Jose Vidal, Car Repairman; Josue Zayas, Painter; Jovani Aguilar, Blaster; Juan Aguilar, Car Repairman; Juan Aguilar, Car Repairman; Juan Aratillas, Painter; Leandro Alvarado, Car Repairman; Leo Homan, Painter; Leonel Ruiz, Car Repairman; Lisa Palomo, Administrative; Magdaleno Monjaraz, Car Repairman; Melissa Parker, Clerk; Melvin Minnis, Inspector; Michael Dodd, Car Repairman; Miguel Garcia, Blaster; Misael Cervantes, Blaster; Misael Olguin, Painter; Oscar Ruelas, Car Repairman; Oscar Trevino, Car Repairman; Rafael Ramirez, Inspector; Ramon Castro, Inspector; Robert Washington, Car Repairman; Rogelio Bernal, Welder; Roger Kitzmiller, Maintenance; Ruben Rodriguez, Car Repairman; Salvador Camacho, Car Repairman; Sergio Arratia, Car Repairman; Teodoro Arellano, Foreman; Timothy Parker, Supervisor; Valerie Petocz, Clerk; Vincent Felton, Painter.

Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania: Adam Shaffer, Welder; Alan Light, Supervisor; Andrew Imler, Welder; Artrina Barber, Administrative Aast; Benjamin Savlan, Welder; Bonnie Brunbaugh, Billing Clerk; Brad Maier, Welder.

Fitzgerald, Georgia Mechanical Team

Christopher Gano, Welder; Christopher Smith, Maintenance; Corey Black, Welder; Daniel Fetzer, Welder; David Appleman, Car Repairman; David Clapper, Car Repairman; David Kline, Fabricator; David Noonan, Car Repairman; David Showalter, Car Repairman; David Williams, Welder; Donald Droboeek, Welder; Duncan Willie, Maintenance; Edward Hockenberry, Welder; Edward Hutsky, Car Repairman; Eugene Holobinko, Welder; Fredy Man; Florentino Borjas, Car Repairman; Jorge Delgado, Blaster; Jose Bautista, Car Inspector; Jimmy Johnson, Maintenance; Joel Aguilar, Car Repairman; James Seiler, Welder; James Shomo, Car Repairman; James Yon, Painter; Jason Ankeny, Manager; Jason Hughes, Car Repairman; Jeffery Yom, Supervisor; Jeffrey Yon, Welder; John Clemens, Welder; John Connor, Supervisor; John Garman, Welder; John Grassinger, Painter; Johnathan Franks, Supervisor; Jonathan Shuster, Car Repairman; Joseph Dziabo, Blaster; Joseph Lidwell, Car Repairman; Justin Trestle, Welder; Justin Ventry, Car Repairman; Kenneth Socie, Painter; Kenneth Socie, Welder; Larry Snyder, Operator; Larry Thomas, Welder; Marion Mingel, Supervisor; Michael Berkheimer, Welder; Michael Moyer, Welder; Michael Yon, Welder; Nicole Chamberlin, Purchasing; Paul Conner, Manager; Randy Heverly, Welder; Raymond Barroner, EHS Coordinator; Raymond Moore, Welder; Richard Berkheimer, Welder; Richard Heverly, Supervisor; Richard Shomo, Car Repairman; Robert Monahan, Welder; Ronald Crissman, Car Repairman; Ryan Everhart, Welder; Sarah Smithmyer, Clerk; Scott Harella, Welder; Scott Wible, Car Repairman; Shane Rickabbaugh, Blaster; Steven Bruce, Welder; Terry Dunklebarger, Welder; Thomas Brenner, Welder; Thomas Master, Laborer; Timothy Wombacher, Blaster; Todd Shomo, Car Repairman; Vincent Saylor, Blaster; William Hendricks, Welder; William Houck, Inspector; William Weichsel, Inspector; Willis Maruna, Car Repairman.

No job is so important, no service so urgent, that we cannot take time to perform it in a safe manner.

Omaha, Nebraska: Allen Kellar, Inspector; Anthony Gill, Inspector; Bennie Ellison, Laborer; Charles Boyd, Welder; Christopher Hamill, Supervisor; David Mathews, Maintenance; David Perault, Manager; Donn Duling, Painter; Douglas Williams, Material Handler; Efrain Ortiz, Car Repairman; Gerald Wiser, Car Repairman; Jesus Grano, Car Repairman; John Novacek, Supervisor; Jose Acosta, Welder; Joseph Olivo, Welder; Joshua Huskins, Blaster; Joshua Young, Welder; Lloyd Wilson, Laborer; Lydia Davilla, Laborer; Michael Kaufman, Supervisor; Nathan Degraff, Painter; Robert Stewart, Safety; Robert Wambold, Welder; Ronaldo Tercero, Welder; Rosalio Torres, Car Repairman; Shane Weifenbach, Welder; Teresa Gray, Clerk; Thomas Hall, Foreman; Timothy Quist, Foreman; Tomas Martinez, Welder; William Way, Painter.

Peoria, Illinois: Annette Lane, Clerk; Brian Steiger, Car Repairman; Carl Hauk, Intermediate Mobile Car Repair; Cliff Howard, Car Repairman; Clint Counterman, Car Repairman; Dale Reeser, Car Repairman; Gary Sutton, Leadman; James Meyer, Mechanical Supervisor; James Stapleton, Car Repairman; Jeffery Smith, Carman; Jennifer Meyer, Clerk; Joe Kauffman, Carman; Kenneth Ross, Car Repairman; Phillip Billingsley, Car Repairman; Ryan Rockhold, Car Repairman; Steven Mottaz, Car Repairman; Thomas Wolford, Car Repairman.

Zwolle, Texas: Aaron Henderson, Laborer; Alexander Nelson, Painter; Alfred Anderson, Maintenance; Allen Ebarb, General Labor; Anthony Ebarb, Car Repairman; Anthony Shepherd, Painter; Benjamin Ott, Car Repairman; Bernard Kezerle, Foreman; Billy Edington, Manager; Bobby Russell, Leadman; Brandy Etheridge, Clerk; Carl Leone, Operator; Casey Miller, Welder; Chad Byles, Inspector; Charles Jackson, Car Repairman; Clarence Parrie, Car Repairman; Curtis Joyce, Blaster; Daniel Ebarb, Car Repairman; Danny Sepulveda, Inspector; Danny Thomas, Painter; Darren McComic, Material Handler; Darryl Dyess, Laborer; David Carhee, Painter; David Garcia, Welder; David Garcia, Car Repairman; David Wilczewski, Manager; Derian Collier, Blaster; Derrick Sepulveda, Laborer; Dewayne Dockins, Inspector; Donald Brown, Car Repairman; Donyelle Newton, Blaster; Doyle Sepulveda, Car Repairman; Drexel Newton, Blaster; Erik Finnerty, Painter; Gary Perry, Car Repairman; Gerald Toopes, Supervisor; Gus Sepulveda, Inspector; Heather Sepulveda, Clerk; Jack Sepulveda, Foreman; James Calhoun, Painter; James Meshell, Painter; James Smith, Car Repairman; Jason Ebarb, Car Repairman; Jeffrey Levine, Laborer; Jeremy Sepulveda, Painter; Jesie Parrie, Car Repairman; Joe Howell, Car Repairman; John Henderson, Supervisor; Joseph Escott, Painter; Joseph Lee, Switchman; Justin Rivers, Manager; Kevin Matthews, Inspector; Kenneth Jordan, Maintenance; Kenneth Joyce, Blaster; Kevin Sepulveda, Painter; Kevin Sepulveda, Car Repairman; Kurt Kilgore, Car Repairman; Lacey Rivers, Clerk; Larry Richardsons, Painter; Leon Abercrumbia, Blaster; Lonnie Joyce, Foreman; Marvin Frazier, Painter; Michael Remedies, Inspector; Michael Sepulveda, Car Repairman; Norman Turner, Blaster; Pedro Balensia, Laborer; Perry Pegues, Blaster; Pete Wilczewski, Purchasing; Bobbie Meshell, Administrative; Robert Aldredge, Blaster; Robert Cockman, Car Repairman; Robert Taylor, Blaster; Rodney Campbell, Inspector; Roy Thomas, Switchman; Tarketrick Holden, Blaster; Timothy Sanchez, Car Repairman; Todd Meshell, Painter.
Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversaries!

2 Years: Richard Antill, William Ascanio, Norman Berg, Robert Betts, Eduardo Camacho, James Dalberg, Tyler Davis, Jeff Everitt, Gary Ford, Paul Goins, Julio Guzman, Dwight Johnson, Brian Kraus, Bobby Mathis, Darren McDadoo, Justin Mullis, Melissa Pennington, Michael Quigley, Jose Ramirez, Ryan Rockhold, Andrew Rouch, Tom Scheidemantel, Kenneth Slaughter, Kenneth Smith, Nathan Smith, Douglas Steed, Robert Treadway, Brady Whipple
3 Years: Sean Crowe, Justin Frasier, Daniel Garret, Carroll Humble, Brian Knisley, Brent Marsh, Bob McElwee, Bruce Neet, Eliah Nick, Cliff Seaton, Christopher Tigner, Richard Welsh, Larry West, Derek Witsman
4 Years: Darrious Colley, Douglas Cook, Aaron Crouse, Derrick DeFoor, Mark Dent, Casey Dye, Kenneth Gransbury, Adam Jones, Shaina Kennedy, William Nash, Jerry Palmer, Randy Payne, Christopher Slasinski, Richard Smith, Rendall Thompson, Matt Troth, Joshua Young
5 Years: Tony Cox, Tyler Harshfield, Michael Hogue, Delmon Horton, Michelle Hubbard, Jeffrey Leone, Casey Miller, Jerome Pryor, Gary Richardson, Justin Ring, Gregg Scoggins, Chuck Stephens, Keith Testerman
6 Years: Michel Canterbury, Randall Chaney, Ivan Etherton, Phillip Forrest, Armando Jimenez, Timothy Ragsdale, Carlos Ramirez, Pete Tavernaro
7 Years: Frankie Carpino, Rodger Gibson, David Gonzales, Nicolas Hanson, Jeremy Hollis, Robert Kuehnle, Bubba Lundy, Randall McIntyre, Misael Olguin, Martin Phillips, Angelina Pridemore, Gary Sutton
8 Years: Cheryl Correll, Nolan Dartard, Joseph Fowler, Steven Hebel, Otis Jackson, Billy Mott, Ruben Rodriguez, Larry Shavers, David Young
9 Years: Dann Brown, Clint Chestnut, Donnie Creed, Shawn Eller, Ron Isaacs, Wade Lunt, James Waite
10 Years: Jean Campfort, Matthew Diestler, Dan Martin, Carl Silcox, Mark St Aubin
11 Years: Laura Schmidt, Larry Van Houten
12 Years: Anthony Allender, Jennifer Baucum, Barbara Crawford, Jesse Gage, Jamie Huybers, Nancy Newbery
13 Years: Anthony Jones, Pamela Lyday Banks, Steven Pulvermacher, Lisa Radel
14 Years: Gabriel Carrizales, Robert Eimeke, Christopher Jacobson, Randy Jacobson, William Miller, Jason Rossman, Thomas Rutt, Richard Shomo, Daniel Tank, Charles Thomas
15 Years: Matt Meekma, Chad Wilson
16 Years: Ronald Beach, Vickie Craig
17 Years: Steven Bruce, Willis Iverson, Sally Kissell
20 Years: Teodoror Arrellano
21 Years: Gary Lundy, Jeffrey Osmers
22 Years: David Buechel Sr., Dean Oliver
23 Years: Jesse Green, Gary Harville, Michael Pollard, Shane Stalford, Richard Thayer
24 Years: Jerry Elliott, Barry Jack, Jerry Twichell
25 Years: Todd Mesnell, Jack Sepulveda
26 Years: Jason Ford
27 Years: Judge Smith
29 Years: Debbie Moody
31 Years: David Cherry
33 Years: Dennis Fournar
34 Years: William King
35 Years: Kenneth Socie
36 Years: Harold Fickes
37 Years: Thomas Brenner, Ronald Crissman
39 Years: Richard Bauman
42 Years: Joe Duncan

CALENDAR CONTEST
Introducing Watco’s 2013 Calendar Contest
Photographers get ready, Watco is announcing its first ever Calendar Contest. Winners will be selected by the Executive Team and awards are as follows:
First place (cover): $500, Second place: $250, Ten additional prizes to include photo for each month - $100 each. Submissions must be received no later than September 30, 2012.

Digital SLR cameras can save photos in the RAW format. This is the format we prefer for the calendar.

For digital photography, 4-color high quality printing requires 300dpi images at 100%. This works out to 12.75 megapixel (10.5” x 13.5” @300dpi), far beyond the native capabilities of standard point-and-shoot cameras.

Digital SLR cameras can save photos in the RAW format. This is the format we prefer for the calendar. Send submissions and questions to ivan@watcocom-pansies.com.

This section is dedicated to the Watco Team members to give you a chance to share what’s happening in your corner of the Watco World.

Births
David Matthew Anderson
David Matthew Anderson was born Monday, April 30, to Steven and Jennifer Anderson. He weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz., and was 20 inches long.

Steven is a conductor on the Northern Division of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad.

Julie Lynn Pennington
Julie Lynn Pennington was born on April 9 to Chauncey and Melissa Pennington. Julie weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz. and was 16 inches long.

Melissa is a senior accountant at Watco’s Pittsburg, Kan., office.

Gradsuation
Congratulations to the following team members and their families!

Douglas Lee Miorandi: Son of Jeri Morandi, Customer Service, Pittsburg, Kan.; graduated from Boston University, Boston, Mass., with a Master’s of Science Degree in Project Management.


Michael Penner: Son of Phil Penner, WTPS senior vice president of Business Development; graduated from Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Mo.

Trevor Penner: Son of Phil Penner, WTPS senior vice president of Business Development; graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Geology.
A sign of the times - Watco’s Alabama Port Services

by Logan Falletti
Communications Intern

The Team of the Port Birmingham Terminal Team stands proudly under their new sign. “It’s the first time we’ve ever had a sign that says ‘Watco Port Services,’” says Tim Holan, Vice President of Port Services.

Port Birmingham Terminal (PBT) joined the Watco Team in February as part of the Birmingham Southern acquisition. At that time the PBT was lucky enough to welcome aboard many of the members of the former location, including some team members with 30 years of experience.

The alliance with Watco will give the port access to new Customers who would like to take advantage of a barge shipments for transporting their products. The port is working on new moves as a result of the acquisition. One example is shipping aggregates from the Birmingham area to Florida, via an inland water passage. Other Customers are also looking at using barges as a more cost effective transportation mode.

The terminal has 24 team members at the site and are projected to handle seven million tons this year. It primarily handles coke, coal, and iron ore that comes in through a deep-water port. It also receives coal from the mines around Birmingham via the Birmingham Terminal Railway, where it is then shipped on the Black Warrior River.

The Black Warrior River is named after Chief Tushkalusa, also the namesake of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the home of Watco’s Alabama Southern Railroad. In Choctaw, “tushka” means “warrior” and “lusa” means “black.” The river was made into a series of locks and dams in the 1880’s to form a chain of narrow reservoirs, which aided in the development of the coal industries in central Alabama. Since then the former dams, which had been made of sandstone quarried from the banks of the river, have all been replaced and modernized. Not only do the locks and dams provide aid to navigation, but they are a source for hydropower and drinking water.

The 178-mile Black Warrior River flows into the Tombigbee River, a tributary of the Mobile River, before it empties into the Mobile Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. The Tombigbee River provides one of the principal routes of commercial navigation in the southern United States, navigable along much of its length through locks and connected in its upper reaches to the Tennessee River via the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. It is one of the largest channelized waterways in the U.S. Coal is barged via the channel to Mobile, Ala., making Mobile the largest coal port in the South.

A new factor in operating a port is the safety issues that are unique to a location centered around water. As part of the safety requirements, all team members are required to wear flotation devices. In addition, the team follows strict guidelines to ensure they comply with the environmental guidelines to prevent runoff of the commodities into the river.

Jason Fort, PBT general manager, said, “PBT has always operated utilizing a "team" concept and takes pride in safety and environmental compliance.”