Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s MOW Team Members repair damage caused by heavy rains in June.
Wisconsin & Southern MOW Team repairs flooded infrastructure

Prairie du Chien, a city in the southwestern part of Wisconsin, claims to be the oldest city on the upper Mississippi River. That claim comes with many positives as well as negatives. Our team at the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) recently experienced one of the negatives after the Prairie du Chien area was hammered with more than a foot of rain within one week and a series of flash floods caused washouts at many spots along the track.

The WSOR Maintenance of Way (MOW) Team was called into action to help restore service to Customers along the line. Roger Schaalam, assistant superintendent of MOW, Ben Meighan, superintendent of MOW, and their team went to work and repaired the washed out areas as quickly as possible.

“The team went in and assessed the damages, prioritized the needed work, and quickly restored service to our Customers,” said Scott Adams, chief engineer, West Region.

“They worked together to show what real teamwork was all about and were a prime example of what to do in order to take care of our Customers,” he added.

Over the course of nine working days, three WSOR crews, with the support of contractor equipment, installed nine culverts, cleared trees and debris and installed more than 150 ties.

Team members who worked hard on the lines to restore services were Becky Beaudry, Steve Fox, Bob Hurda, Darrin Hampton, Stacey Hurda, Brady Whipple, Cole Schulz, Nick Busshardt, Kevin Ciotti, Bryan Baker, Owen Schulz, Chad Sutier, Dave Bulion, Ed Ripp, Dave Bierman, Brent Marsh, Dave Muth, Evan Groth, Jerry LeBrac, Paul Swanson, Stephan Holcomb, Bert Clover, Ben Meighan, Chris Jacobson, and Roger Schaalam.

A special thanks to these team members for their hard work in following the Customer First Foundation Principles.

Marshall Mechanical Team provides Customer First! Service

The team at the Marshall (Texas) Mechanical Shop has been making great improvements this year and the proof is on the paper. According to company financial records the shop has exceeded their AOP and EBITDA for the year. Better than looking at company reports though, is seeing what the Customer has to say.

Customer GE said one of the improvements at the shop was the start of “In Process” inspections. This reduces rework and ensures repairs are being made correctly. Daily car status reviews are performed (with Production, Inspection, Quality, and Supervision) which resulted in a 50% reduction of problem cars. The inspection department was revitalized. This included reorganizing team members for improved productivity and holding daily meetings to prioritize inspection cars and resolve issues on cars waiting on inspections.

Improvements were made on the supplemental repair process and communication has improved between not only the shop and Customers but internally as well.


Dave Justiss, Regional Manager, Southern Region, said, “By just taking care of the Customer and doing the right thing all the other pieces of the Customer First Foundation Principles fell into place. They’re doing a great job!”
Great Expectations

Kris Sherry
Director of Watco University

“Teach what you expect, expect what you teach.”
Some of the greatest fears that managers face are managing conflict, performance management, low productivity and turnover. While there is no magic trick to solve these issues completely, there is a major component they all share. As a rule, people don’t come to work to perform poorly and be in constant conflict with others. These are the two catalysts that affect the other two areas; low productivity and high turnover. Where you find these issues, you will generally find people who have not been communicated in regards to their self development in the area of leadership and cultural change. We especially want to thank Nicole Stevenson for her great work in coordinating such a large event!

The photo on the bottom left shows the trust lift, an exercise that teaches team members the importance of coordinating such a large event! To thank Nicole Stevenson for her great work in coordinating such a large event! To thank Nicole Stevenson for her great work in coordinating such a large event!

The photo on the bottom left shows the trust lift, an exercise that teaches team members the importance of coordinating such a large event!

Joe Via, director of switching, stated, “I can tell you honestly that I have been through leadership training many times in my past and this was the best informative class hands down. You know how to keep the class interested at all times so again, thank you all very much and keep up the great job you do!”

Finally, we must remember…

The Culture

When people are hired from another organization they bring their past experience and habits with them. If those experiences and habits differ from “the way things are done around here”, there will be mismatched expectations. These mismatches can lead to a perception that people aren’t a good fit. This can be the initial source of poor performance (perceived or reality) and the root of conflict within the team as they try to understand each other’s roles on the team. Always remembering the three guiding principles at Watco and teaching and coaching them to every Team Member allows them to see how their efforts align with Improving Customer Satisfaction, Improving Profitability, and doing both over the Long Term.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPLETION

This month I would like to congratulate Alicia Stimpson and Lonny Nelson in their successful completion of the Watco 101 program, including the efforts they put in to the Capstone experience. Congratulations to you both!

I would also like to take this time to recognize Lisa Butts and Jim Fuchs for their successful completion of the Watco 201 program and their Capstone reports on cost and production efficiency in their respective areas. Great job!
Peoria Mechanical Team celebrates five years of injury-free service

Watco can only hope the saying “if it plays in Peoria, it will play anywhere” rings true and the safety message that has played in Peoria so well will meet with as much success throughout the Watco network. Our Peoria, Ill., Mechanical Team just distinguished themselves by reaching a five year injury-free milestone. The team reached their goal on Monday, July 22 and celebrated on Tuesday, July 23. The team celebrated with a lunch of hamburgers, brats, chicken breasts, baked beans, lettuce salad, potato chips, and cookies. Team members were also given t-shirts, flashlights, and a gift card.

“It was a great day for a cookout. Jim (Meyer, plant manager) fired up the grill mid-morning; we had plenty of sunshine and the light breeze blew the fabulous grill smoke right towards the office and shop,” said Annette Lane, office manager.

The team members who had a hand in reaching this great goal were Jim Meyer, plant manager, Ryan Rockhold, Steve Mottaz, Tom Wolford, Joe Kauffman, Gary Sutton, shop foreman, Brian Steiger, James Stapleton Carl Hauk, Annette Lane, Thomas Eaton, Jeni Meyer, Dale Reeser. Blake Ross was taking the picture. Not present at the celebration were Trent Hoover, Phil Billingsley, Jeff Smith, and Clint Counterman.

Jim Meyer, plant manager, said, “I said last year at our four years zero injuries celebration that I was looking forward to doing this again next year and here it is, five years with no injuries. The message here is pretty simple; think about everything you do before you do it, look out for each other and just plain be careful. I am proud to be a member of this team and I thank our Heavenly Father for all his blessings.”

Rail service is back at Nungarin

It has been many years since a train entered the town of Nungarin, so much to the delight of locals Watco’s Western Australia Railroad (WWAR) arrived recently with an empty CBH grain train.

Nungarin is a town located in the North Eastern Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, approximately 278 kilometres (173 mi) east of Perth and 39 kilometres (24 mi) north of Merredin. Nungarin has a population of approximately 142. Nungarin lies on Brookfield Rail owned rail line to the north of Merredin termed the the “Trayling line”. Many years back this line, like several others in the WA Grain Belt, connected towns with through narrow gauge service to Perth. Since that time, the line has been truncated and now is operational only between Trayling and Merredin.

This line is one of several narrow gauge rail lines that are rated for 16 tonne axle loadings that are classified as Tier III lines. The Tier III lines owe their existence only to the hauling of grain. There are ongoing discussions whether the Tier III lines should remain open or later this year go to care and maintenance. In the interim WWAR and CBH are moving grain on the Tier III lines from receival sites to Merredin for transloading to standard gauge trains.

AOP Process undergoes improvement project

Have you ever heard a team member grumble “Oh no...it’s AOP time again”?! We all know how important the AOP Process is at Watco, but I also don’t think it would be fair to deny how cumbersome and time consuming the process can be too. That’s where I come in. My name is Darci Spear and I work out of the Pittsburgh, Kan., office.

The upcoming 2014 AOP cycle will be the seventh cycle I have been involved with and I can say without a doubt that we have come a long way from where we were back in 2007-2008. However, the AOP process is designed around the concept of continuous improvement and as Watco continues to grow, the AOP process must continually improve as well.

For background, AOP means annual operating plan and it is used by all teams to prepare and ensure necessary resources are available for change and growth. In 2012 we realized that many times the Operations Teams were left searching for information that they weren’t experts on during AOP development. This often caused delays and resulted in missed deadlines which could push back the entire AOP schedule. After some brainstorming, we realized that we weren’t using some of the most accessible and knowledgeable assets we had available to us – our Support Services Teams – in the most effective manner. From here the AOP Process Improvement Project was born.

The AOP Process Improvement Project is focused on identifying information experts within our Support Services Teams. The project included: identifying and defining the information the Operations Teams need, assigning responsible Support Services Team Members, setting due dates, developing templates (Excel spreadsheet, PDF report, etc.), documenting the communication path or flow of information, establishing a Management of Change Process (assuming any submitted deliverables need to be revised) and lastly noted any special comments/circumstances. We were able to identify and develop “deliverable contracts” with approximately twenty Support Services Teams within Watco for the 2013 AOP Feedback Surveys were sent out at the end of the AOP cycle which allowed us to evaluate the effectiveness of the AOP Process Improvement Project, provide feedback to the team members and their managers on the quality of the deliverables provided to Operations and identify deliverables that could be improved or included in the following AOP cycle.

The first round focused primarily on the Transportation Division and this summer I’ve been working with the Mechanical Services and Terminal & Port Services Teams to extend the project to their divisions for the 2014 AOP cycle.

One of the most exciting pieces of the AOP Process Improvement Project is that it encouraged our Support Services Teams to look at their processes as well. Teams started asking themselves: How can we improve? What can we do to get this information faster, easier, in a better format? One Support Services Team identified a huge area for improvement and initiated a process improvement project of their own. The Accounting/Finance Team has been responsible for loading and reconciling the AOP financial values into Watco’s financial reporting system as the final step in each AOP cycle. The process of loading and reconciling all 180+ AOP files was a tremendous, daunting, seemingly never-ending task. It took team members Melissa Pennington, senior accountant and Tyler Davis, financial analyst, 100+ hours between them to accomplish this task every year. Each year Melissa made improvements to the loading process, but it was still very manual, very time consuming. After the 2013 AOP cycle ended, Joe King, VP of accounting, gathered a team together consisting of Melissa, Tyler, Carlita Gulles and myself. Using the skills of the different team members in the group, we have taken the AOP loading process from 100+ hours of intense, manual work for multiple team members to a primarily automated process that we estimate will take one team member eight hours – max! Amazing!

Many improvements to the AOP Process have been made, but we won’t stop here. We will continue communicating and listening to our Customer’s needs and continue to improve with every AOP cycle. I encourage all Watco Team Members that see any opportunity for improvement; whether it’s in an office setting or within operations, to communicate and share the information, share their thoughts and ideas for improvement. When we communicate, brainstorm and work together…only great things can happen!
The Grand Elk Railroad recently received its second consecutive Silver level short line achievement award from the Norfolk Southern. The Grand Elk was given the award because of the increased business on Norfolk Southern lines. To qualify for the Silver award, the Grand Elk had to meet a growth level of over 500 cars in a twelve month period. From May of 2012 to May of 2013 the Grand Elk had an increase of business on Norfolk Southern lines of more than 600 cars.

Shasta Duffey, Watco’s vice president of sales and marketing, GDLK and PSWR, has been the Grand Elk’s marketing manager since its start-up in March of 2009. Duffey accepted the award on behalf of the Grand Elk and said the Norfolk Southern holds the program as part of a growth initiative to increase traffic with its short line partners.

“Each year we (short lines) pledge to increase traffic on our NS lines by a certain number of cars and this year every one of our Watco short lines has pledged an increase in traffic,” said Duffey. “Our marketing team is always working to build new business and help our Customers grow, whether those Customers are our commercial Customers, or our railroad Customers. It’s a win-win situation either way.”

Tioga Team helps make wishes come true

The team at the Tioga, North Dakota location has more to be proud of than just being 456 days injury free. The team also recently made a large donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota. As a group they donated a total of $6,000 to the foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota was founded in 1985 as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America. Since its founding, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota has granted over 500 wishes thanks to the generosity of people like the team in Tioga.

“This is a true testament to the Teams commitment to the Customer First Foundation Principles and building relationships within the community,” said Gabriel Grad, Tioga terminal manager.

Team members at the Tioga location who helped make this happen are: Trevor Penner, Ryan Johnson, Daniel Harkness, Michael Yanish, Gabriel Grad, Peter Bercier, Joseph Abrahamson, Keith Schepp, McKenzie Green, Shane Gillett, Eric Turner, Jacob Welsch, Shane Bengson, William White, Brent Nettleton, Ronald Solander, Steven Peterson, Dexter Cahill, Dana Hartleib, Samuel Savelkoul, Christopher Corpe, Christopher Walther, Russell Koczur, Justin Haisch, Devin Sundsbak, Todd Peterson, Chris Wright, Noelyn Meckle, Dennis Jensen, Bradley Seideman, Brice Willis, Sean Benzimiller, Benjamin Lowin, Daniel Gorseth, Jason Callhoun, Kris Winkels, Anthony Plathe, Justin Phillips, Daniel Griffin, Timothy Wallace, Quentin Jones, Aaron Ripley, Ronda Rustad, Rhonda Weiss, Keith Bowman, Albert Johnson, David Novellino, Jay Anderson, Cheryl Kurtz, Taylor Flory, and Guy Serg.

WSOR offers response training

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) recently teamed up with the City of Horicon and Town of Burnett Fire Departments to hold a Railroad Emergency Response training program.

“This was part two of a two part training program that began last year,” stated Mathew Koser, WSOR system trainmaster.

Members of the departments received information on Operation Lifesaver – an international non-profit organization dedicated to spreading a rail safety message to the public. Trainmaster Koser then presented a unique WSOR Emergency Response course, including site safety concerns, basic hazardous materials response, locomotive and freight car construction, and proper communications with the railroad. The training concluded with a field portion in which first responders were given the opportunity to examine and learn about actual railroad equipment.

Jim Bandsma, Horicon Fire Chief said, “This information is very beneficial if we ever have to respond to a railroad emergency.”

For more information on Operation Lifesaver please see www.OLI.org or contact Matthew Koser – System Trainmaster at mkoser@watcocompanies.com.

Members of the Horicon and Burnett Fire Departments take a break for a photo while learning about Railroad Emergency Response. Photo by Matthew Koser.
The Watco Training and Development department conducted its second on-site Watco 101 class in Refugio, Texas July 16-18. Normally this class is taught at the corporate headquarters in Pittsburg, Kan., which has the advantage of allowing team members to see the company’s headquarters and to meet and learn from members of Watco’s Executive Team.

In some instances, however, circumstances demand that this import instruction be taken into the field to more efficiently reach and train team members in the Leadership and Management principles that characterize our company. Watco’s remarkable growth demands that all team members be guided by the leadership and management principles that flow from and support the Customer First Foundation Principles. The continuing success of Watco requires that the expectations and values embedded in these principles be part of the thinking of every Watco Team Member no matter how long he or she has been part of our company.

Bob McElwee, Watco U training and development specialist said, “This class of 12 team members; Brian Castellano, David Gallien, Bryan Houser, Michael McKenzie, Albert Merritt, Eddie Rebolloso, Glenn Shearer, Mitch Smith, Blake Smith, Ray Tucker, and Shane Williams responded to the class in a positive and enthusiastic manner. In our short time together people who had never met each other learned about each other’s work and, more importantly, learned to work as a team.”

“The learning and teamwork that took place in this class will benefit the class participants and the company for years to come. The time we spent together will be fruitful over the long term as our company continues to grow and we the amazing impact that Watco has on our counties, countries and individual team members,” added McElwee. “We’d all like to thank John Wiebelhaus, Hilda Morin, and Eva Salinas for their hospitality, efforts and courtesy.”

Watco U - on the road

Glendale Team provides water to area homeless community

The WTPS team members in Glendale, Ariz., recently addressed a safety concern they recognized at work and in their community. As temperatures rise in the valley, some team members mentioned that staying hydrated was very important and other team members mentioned how hard it must be for the homeless when the temperature gets so high. The team members decided to visit an area with a large population of homeless people and provide them with bottled water.

Adel Barajas, Glendale WTPS TS&IC leader, said, “This was a great team building exercise because it took everyone out of their normal everyday duties into helping the less fortunate in the community. The work helped team members learn new ideas such as developing great attitudes, establishing communication, developing a plan, problem solving and how to work together as a team. We got 100% contribution from all team members and 100% satisfaction knowing that we did a great job!”

The team passed out more than 350 bottles of water to a number of people, from older men to young children.

Barajas added, “We were saddened to see families living in those conditions and we got to thinking, realizing and really appreciating what we do have. It brought tears to our eyes and was a huge learning and awesome experience for the whole team.”

Ray Tucker, WTPS director of operations, South Region, said, “The Glendale Team has represented our Glendale facility, our region, and our company extraordinarily well on such a meaningful and philanthropic endeavor.”

Kansas engineer retires after forty-one years

After 41 years of railroading Steve Sams is hanging up his engineer’s hat. Steve has been with the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad since its start-up in 2001 and has worked for several railroads including; the Rock Island, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, Sante Fe Southern Pacific, Kansas Southwestern, and the Central Kansas railroads.

Steve started his railroad career on April 25 with the Rock Island which ran from Herring, Kan., south through Wichita, Kan., and El Reno, Texas to Fort Worth Texas. He has held the positions of switchman, conductor and engineer.

Steve said he enjoyed switching and working with different types of people.

“I liked getting to know them and build friendships,” said Steve.

Steve said he’ll miss his teammates the most but will be kept busy during his retirement with honey-do’s, fishing and spending time with his new grandson.

Joe Patalano, trainmaster, who Steve trained, said, “Steve taught me how to railroad, how to be patient and how to do things the right way. I owe my career to him and will miss him.”

Steve Sams with his wife Diane opening a replica of the WAMX 1525, the locomotive he spent the last eight years on. Also pictured in the back are KO trainmen Sterling Tucker, Kraig Blackwelder and Chadd Thimesh.
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
Xander Levi Jeschke
Kyle and Jenny Jeschke are proud to announce the birth of a son, Xander Levi. Xander was born on July 20 and weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz., and was 19 3/4 inches long. Xander was welcomed home by two-year-old Zoey, who shares his birthday, and big brother Corbin who is six. Kyle serves as the general manager for the Mission Mountain Railroad in northwest Montana.

Weddings
Peloquin - Langford
Jake Langford and Bobbie-Sue Peloquin were united in marriage on June 29, 2013. The ceremony was held at the Northwoods Chapel in Nevada, Missouri.

Announcements
If you have a birth or a wedding announcement that you would like to have placed in The Dispatch, e-mail your information and a jpg photo to tvan@watco-companies.com.

AUSTRU ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following team members celebrating their anniversaries!

1 Year: Corey Allen, Jonathan Alsobrook, Mark Bargeron, Jeffrey Beisy, Nicholas Bennett, Jeanine Bonnette, Brandon Carlisle, Scott Cassidy, Daniel Clark, Kevin Cook, Derrick Crandall, Kersee Currier, Cindy Davied, Zachary Dement, Thomas Eaton, Robert Eccles, Kenneth Flanders, Francis Frear, Thad Fruge, Daniel Garner, Tanya Gath, Willie Gaut, Thomas Holland, Donald Janda, David Jurczyk, Kelly Kennedy, Jason Kidd, Matthew Kolhof, Eric LaBrec, James Lambert, Benjamin Lovin, Reggie Lozano, Chase Manley, Robert Miller, Dennis Narvaez, Ian Nedimyer, Romero Nelson, Jebidiah Osborn, Mikayla Paulson, Wayne Roig, Clarence Rutherford, Dayton Smith, Scott Staszak, Travis Stelljes, Sterling Tucker, Justin Vratil, Travis Weddle, Dustin Wible, Harmonic Zdanek
2 Years: Tyler Adkison, Jimmy Bruno, David Carhee, Kyler Cross, Zachery Dietz, Jeff Ecret, Anne Elrod, Erik Finnerty, Anthony Garner, Nicole Garretson, Ryan Griffin, Kevin Hixson, Keith Johnson, Craig Leach, Joseph Lee, Paul Leonards, Christopher McCready, Jenifer Meyer, Paul Miller, Roberto Nunez, Carl Petersen,ansen Pigott, Jastin Rainwater, Eduardo Rebolloso, Jody Reiswig, Travis Sailsbury, Roman Salazar, Eric Schmidt, Brit Sonnier, Terry Sullins, Cindy Van Becelaere, Jared Voumard, Ryan Williams
3 Years: William Bollinger, Travis Combs, Michael Darlington, Martin De Leon, Ryan Dziedzic, Skip Gunning, Ichirmark Hodge, William Jones, Nathan Keizer, Gaby Koehler, Alvin Maney, Seth Peterson, Carl Reece, Joshua Rivers, Clifford Rose, Willis Ross, Derrick Sepulvedo, Terry Smallwood, Dyllan Vincent, Damien Williams, Justin Yakes
4 Years: Chad Arneson, Florentino Borjas, Brian Boutwell, Carl Legg
5 Years: Angelo Barrera, Raymond Barrera, Thomas Bonar, Michael Brown, Justin Dempsey, Jason Goodson, Robert Hale, Ray Howard, Brian Jarrett, Philip Legerski, Kithi Lunday, Robert McMullan, George Mincey, Dennis Sawyer, Lloyd South, Chad Thomas, Anthony Vail, Andre Williams
6 Years: Phyllis Angermeier, Marvin Ayers, Andrew Brown, Keith Cadwell, Ronald Jackson, Kyle Mansfield, Dwight Sayles, Joshua Seefeld, Lawrence Spierer, Robert Sua, Nathan Tuzicka, Ulysses Williams
7 Years: Donald Brown, Robin Conerby, Maurice Davis, Jimmy Dodd, Julie Fields, John Harrell, Antonio Law, Juan Lozano, Jeff Mayfield, Kyle Moody, Matthew Sodergren, Alicia Stimpson, Terrell Westbrook
8 Years: Arturo Camarena, Adam Hanson, Tim Herman, Leo Hogan, Paul Schiefelbein
9 Years: Thomas Erbe, Jose Estrada, Kyle Finn, Sofronia Howard, Ted Kadau, Joe Keys, Jimmy Patterson, Kenny Rowell, Delta Wood
10 Years: Bob Devillier, Johnny Gary, Jason Hislop, Charles Mullens, Kendice Talty
11 Years: Dave Gromer, Jason Jeanes, Garrett Kourtney, Joshua Mitchell, Albert Olvera, Tricia Underwood, Joseph Wagner
12 Years: Mark Bray, Timothy Dyer, Carl Jones, Donald Ryan
13 Years: Michael Kauffman, Mark Lynn
14 Years: James Brooks, Jay Setser
15 Years: Mary McDuffie
16 Years: Brian Collier, Chad Davis, James Lloyd, Randel Thomas
17 Years: Doug Kerley, Kevin Krueger
18 Years: Gregory Duffie, Susan Lewis, Charlie Sigley
19 Years: Donald Pingle
21 Years: Kenneth Dozier, Juan Ramirez, Bobby Reeves
22 Years: Maurice McGinnis
23 Years: Vincent Felton, Michael Sackett
24 Years: Jose Hernandez, John Lyon, Kevin Sepulvedo
25 Years: Mark Abbott, Rodger Isbell, Jerry Wilson
26 Years: David Kline, Thomas Master, William Welch
27 Years: Robert Green, Sam Ricci, Gus Sepulvedo
28 Years: Randy Garretson, Terry Johnston, Herbert Pollard, Darrell Webb
29 Years: Michael Remedies
32 Years: Gerald Toopes, Gzy Zabel
33 Years: David Brown, Allen Ebarb
35 Years: Randy Glaze, Lawrence Hamilton
36 Years: Stanley Behiter, Steve Prokopich
37 Years: Ray Barroner
38 Years: Harold Winkles
39 Years: John Clemens, George Kociola

GO GREEN - If you would like to conserve paper, e-mail chuskey@watco-companies.com and let her know that you wish to receive the newsletter in electronic format only. Thanks for doing your part to preserve our environment.
A shotgun start at 6:00 a.m. began the first bass fishing tournament hosted by Watco’s Port Birmingham Terminal. Thirty team members gathered at Howton’s Fish Camp in Bessemer, Ala., on July 6th despite heavy rains.

The weigh-in at noon decided the winner: Brandon Freeman, of the BHRR car shop, won the tournament with a total weight of 10 lbs., 7 oz., of fish. His biggest bass weighed in at 4 lbs, 1 oz, beating BPT’s own Rustin Rollins by a slim 6 oz.

“I’ve been fishing on that river all my life; I know the good spots to go,” said Freeman.

Based on the success of the tournament, PBT is looking forward to hosting another next year.

KO Railroad holds CPR training class

The Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad offices often host different training courses but it’s rare when it’s beneficial to have dummies involved as a major part of the instruction. Dummies were the highlight of the courses held there as part of a CPR training course offered early this summer.

“There are so many rural areas on our rail line that could be 30 minutes from the nearest emergency responders. We felt it would be very beneficial to incorporate this class with our Summer Spike program to ensure our team members had training to assist in the case of an emergency,” said Jimmy Patterson, KO assistant general manager.

The training was provided by Lieutenant Linda Esther with Sedgwick County 911. The course covered adult CPR (mouth to mouth, compressions, mouth to mask), choking, and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). Those who attended were shown a 40 minute training video and received hands on training with the dummies.

Patterson said, “According to the American Heart Association 383,000 cardiac arrests occur every year in the United States. Of those, 88 percent will happen at home and approximately 10,000 will occur while at the workplace. If CPR is started within four minutes of collapse and defibrillation provided within 10 minutes, a person has a 40% chance of survival.”

There were about 20 team members from the KO that took advantage of the opportunity to attend the class. Following the lessons, the class was treated to a pizza luncheon.

“This is training that we can not only use at work, but we can take with us wherever we are,” said Angelina Pridemore, WTS chief dispatcher. “Having this knowledge I can apply at home is a real security to me.”

PBT hosts tournament

The Little River (Kan.) Disc Golf Club recently held a Disc Golf tournament to raise funds to help fellow Disc Golf enthusiasts who had lost their homes when a tornado hit Moore, Okla., in May. The tournament was held at the Konen Creek Disc Golf Course in Little River, Kan.

Travis Schnelle, McPherson trainmaster for the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, said, “There were 43 participants signed up for the tournament and about a dozen volunteers. In total, the fundraiser brought in $1,500.”

The funds came from the entry fees, money made from the lunch that was offered, and raffle tickets. The money raised by the event will go directly to a couple of families that were directly impacted by the Moore tornado.

“I volunteered and ran the registration and assisted in tallying up the scorecards,” said Schnelle. “It was a great way to help these people who belong to the Disc Golf community.”