Major Track Work Underway

To maintain the track requires extensive projects at great cost for a safe operation. Above: The hi-rail dump truck is spreading ballast between Country Road and Monticello, which will be followed up by a tie tamper which will tamp the rock under the ties and will raise and cross-level the track for a smooth ride. Below: A hi-rail brush cutter, which is a gigantic saw on wheels, has traveled the line cutting back brush and trees which would brush the side of the train or “bush-whack” an unsuspecting passenger.

Illinois State Military Museum on Display

On July 20-21, 2019, The Illinois State Military Museum, Springfield, set up an encampment to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D Day. Vehicles, tents, rifles, mess kits and other apparatus used by soldiers in World War were on display in the pine grove across the tracks from the Monticello Railway Museum's Nelson Crossing depot. Soldiers rode the museum's steam train and talks with visitors about their interesting encampment displays. This is the third time that the military museum has participated in one of our steam weekends. The first two were based on WWI events, and the one on July 20 on WWII.
Computer Aids Projects In Wood Shop

Above: A computer has been set up in wood shop for documenting and providing information for the restoration of equipment. John Sciutto is documenting the snow plow restoration. Below: Paul Jones is cutting boards for curbing around Nelson Depot curbing.

MRM Salute to the Golden Spike

In recognition of the Golden Spike Ceremonial which originally held at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory on May 10, 1869, the 150th anniversary was replicated at the Museum on May 19, 2019.

Ticket Booth Being Rebuilt

A mainstay of events on the property has always included this stalwart: the ticket booth. It is now at the wood shop undergoing a rehabilitation for use on Railroad Days.

No 9 Track Being laid in Place

This is part of no. 9 yard track that will hold the spare "trucks" that were taking up space in the museum's shop and yard tracks. The track was spiked together to hold more "stuff". Using the Stanley power pack and hydraulic hammer, Syl Keller and Paul Jones were able to "nail" the track together in about a 1 1/2 hour.

2019 SCHEDULED EVENTS

STEAM SCHEDULE

401 in Steam: Ride behind our restored 1907-vintage steam locomotive!
September Saturday 21 - Sunday 22
October Saturday 5 – Sunday 6
Fall Throttle Time Saturday October 12

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Railroad Days – Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, 22: Come enjoy UNLIMITED rides on our vintage passenger and freight trains and motor cars running on our former Illinois Central and Illinois Terminal trackage, enjoy kids’ games and more!

The Polar Express™ TBA 2019: Read along with the story as the train makes its round-trip journey to the North Pole.

Lunch with Santa on the Train – TBA: Enjoy a visit with Santa Claus while eating a kid-friendly sack lunch. This event is hosted by the Monticello Chamber of Commerce.