



## Staff Meetings Benefit Employees, Customers

From left, Steve Waits, Craig Johnston, Mike Argo, Bob Miller, Dave Moser, Paul Pino, Sam Morris, Brian McCall, Tim Neumaier, Darren Walker, Mike Shallow, Joe McIntyre, Don Tobias, Phil Stevenson, Tom McGovern, Mike Wallman, Michael Heald, Ashok Fichadia, Gary Voogd, Bill Wright, Clarence Styvar and Jeff Osthus

Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT) employees gathered March 24-27 in Omaha to enhance safety, communication and team cohesiveness. Employees interacted and built relationships with colleagues who work across the system.

The SAFT group participated in staff meetings and training sessions that included senior management overview, CPR and basic first aid training, telematic devices for company vehicles and an Emergenetics assessment.

The start of the week's sessions was dedicated to CPR and first aid training.

"Our employees are now certified in CPR and basic first aid and able to help others

when unexpected situations arise along the right of way or in our personal lives," said Craig Johnston, director-fiber optics and asset utilization.

Carolyn Wilson, senior systems consultant, provided detailed insight for the GEOTAB telematics device installed on company vehicles that the SAFT group has used for the past year. This device monitors driving habits and provides weekly scorecards showing key indicators: speeding, seatbelt usage, harsh braking, sharp corner turns and over-acceleration. The GEOTAB device and related tracking software, alerts the driver to any unsafe driving habits.

Participants explored emergentics, a con-

cept that who a person is today is the emergence of his or her behavior, genetic makeup and life experience. SAFT members completed an assessment questionnaire and discussed how thinking and behavioral attributes affect communication, creativity, productivity and ability to work together.

Emergenetics provides a clear way to understand how to communicate and work effectively with co-workers, built on four thinking attributes and three behavioral attributes.

The week of training concluded with the March 26 Customer Appreciation Dinner and a March 27 tour of Union Pacific's Harriman Dispatching Center.

## SAFT Shows Customer Appreciation with Dinner Reception

Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT) hosted a Customer Appreciation Dinner March 26 at Lucile's Old Market in Omaha.

The event — intended to honor our spirit of cooperation and introduce customers to SAFT group employees — was attended by current and former SAFT members, customers and UP Response Management Communication Center (RMCC) employees.

Customers, represented by various communications companies, discussed their partnership.

"Union Pacific is by far the most proactive damage prevention company in the industry," said Brian Tooley, Lone Star 811 damage prevention manager. "These employees are committed to safety and protection of

customer assets on railroad rights of way."

Attendees shared memories of Union Pacific's Fiber Optic and Asset Utilization program and of Senior Manager-Fiber Optics and Asset Utilization Mike Shallow's pending retirement.

"I've enjoyed working with Mike," said Danett Kennedy, Level 3 Communications contract manager. "He was a great mentor. I didn't know anything about the SAFT group program process at first."

"I've never worked with a more dedicated and conscientious man," said Bill Barr, former Law department employee.

Shallow was presented gifts and spoke about his time with SAFT.

"This group has been the best thing to happen to me in the railroad

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# SAFT Shows Customer Appreciation with Dinner Reception

SAFT group's customers and guests tour Union Pacific's Harriman Dispatching Center March 27. The attendees, from left, include Mark Shallow; Marilyn and Ron Christensen; Gary and Jan Wright; Brian McCall; Terry Slater; Dave Ostrowski; David Elliot-Meisel, SBA Communications; Tom McGovern; Charlene White, Sprint; Connie and Phil Stevenson; Craig Johnston; George McElvain, CenturyLink; Howard Kauk, Nebraska Colocation Centers; Darren and Keisha Walker; Larry Forst; Steve Gordon, Level 3 Communications; Susan Lynch, Nebraska 811; Brian Tooley, Lone Star 811; Danett Kennedy, Level 3 Communications; Rita Thomas; and Mike and Vicky Shallow.

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industry," he said. "It's been a wonderful experience."

The following day, customers, employees and spouses toured the Harriman Dispatching Center (HDC). Attendees learned how SAFT employees coordinate with dispatchers to work near the track without impacting train operations. The HDC coordinates movement of more than 800 trains over more than 32,000 route miles daily. When it opened in 1989, it was the nation's first centralized dispatching center.



Paul Pino, project engineer, and his wife, Sheila



From left, George McElvain, CenturyLink; Nancy Heald; Mike Heald, senior systems engineer; Bob Giery, former SAFT, and wife, Celeste; Jamie McGovern; Tom McGovern, project engineer; and Cheri Morris



Mike Shallow, senior manager-Fiber Optics and Asset Utilization, accepts a retirement gift from his friends, Dave Ostrowski and Terry Salter. Shallow retired March 31.



From left, Clarence Styvar, construction coordinator, and Mike Lewzader, former SAFT employee and current Association of American Railroads (AAR) common ground alliance representative



From left, Gina and Steve Waits, construction coordinator; Connie Stevenson; and Ron Christensen, former SAFT, and his wife, Marilyn



From left, Ron Christensen, former SAFT; Bill Wright, construction coordinator, and his wife, Lisa; Jim Farrell, former SAFT director; and Jeff Osthus, construction coordinator



From left, Dave Ostrowski, Terry Salter and Jeff Osthus, construction coordinator

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# Shallow Awarded NTDPCC Jim Farrell Award of Excellence

Mike Shallow, former Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT) director, was presented the North American Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council (NTDPC) Jim Farrell Award of Excellence March 26 by Brian Tooley, Lone Star 811 damage prevention manager.

“Mike is a leader in all industries in damage prevention,” Tooley said. “He is a leader within the NTDPC and Common Ground Alliance (CGA).”

The award recognizes individuals with more than 10 years of NTDPC service whose actions have demonstrated leadership and cooperation among the telecommunications and railroad industries.

“Damage prevention has been a lifeblood for me,” Shallow said.

The NTDPC created the Jim Farrell Award of Excellence to honor its longtime associate member and chairperson of the Council’s Railroad Committee upon his retirement from Union Pacific in 2006.

Farrell was a pioneer in the industry, bringing together telecommunications and railroads with common interests in providing



Mike Shallow, right, accepts the NTDPCC Jim Farrell Award of Excellence from Brian Tooley, Lone Star 811.



The NTDPCC Jim Farrell Award of Excellence winners, from left, Mike Lewzader, Mike Shallow, Jim Farrell and Brian Tooley

service to customers via fiber optic cables and systems installed along railroad rights of way.

The award has been presented four times; all of its recipients were present at the 2015 SAFT Customer Appreciation Dinner. They include Jim Farrell, retired SAFT director; Mike Lewzader, former SAFT employee and current Association of American Railroads (AAR) Common Ground Alliance representative; and Brian Tooley, Lone Star 811, previously with Verizon/MCI.

## Wright’s Turn

For me, it all began in the last weeks of 1979 with a move home from Colorado and a new job in Decatur, Texas, with Fort Worth and Denver Railway as a trackman.

At that time, my aunt was a Missouri Pacific Railroad administrative assistant. When the opportunity arose in 1981, she offered me a job as a brakeman working from Fort Worth to Houston.

Needless to say, the recession of 1982 had a negative effect on a young trainman, and I found myself back in Engineering working in the B&B Department. I remained there until 1995 when I accepted a job in Omaha with the Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT) group as one of the operators for the Precision Measurement Vehicle. I arrived in Omaha in time to participate in the earliest phases of the Southern Pacific merger and spent a good deal of time on the West Coast mapping the routes of the newest soon-to-be member of the Union Pacific family.

In 1998, I returned to Texas, rejoining the Bridge Department as a B&B Supervisor in Spring, Texas. I worked for the director of structures with the Southern Region Bridge program’s day-to-day management. One

day early in 2000, Mike Lewzader, now retired, appeared in my office and offered me a construction coordinator role in the Fiber Group, headquartered in Spring, covering the Gulf Coast area and west to Del Rio, Texas. Relocating to San Antonio in 2006, my area of responsibility had changed with the arrival of Mike Argo in Houston.

Along the way, I have had the pleasure of getting to know our customers in the Telecommunications industry, many of which have become friends. Through them, I have come to understand — at least to an extent — how the industry works. I have to admit, I am still utterly amazed with what they can do with small strands of glass and beams of light. Telecommunications is a visible portal to the future.

Looking back at my tenure with Union Pacific, I can honestly say that I don’t regret a single day. These 34-plus years have passed by in the blink of an eye. I am immensely proud that I have been able to participate in a small portion of the history and traditions of this grand old company and great group of people



Bill Wright, regional construction coordinator, retires May 31.

called The Fiber Optic Group.

And now it seems it is my turn. Time to retire. Time to hand off my orders to a younger man or woman who will help take the railroad into the future and enjoy the opportunities I have had. So with that said, “Omaha, this is Wright-Show my Track and Time released 1700 hours, May 31, 2015 — off the rail and clear of the main — tied up in the house track at Ruidoso, New Mexico.” HIGHBALL UNION PACIFIC! Wright out.

— Bill Wright, regional construction coordinator



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# McIntyre Steps in as Manager

Though Joe McIntyre stepped into his new role as Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT) manager March 1, his industry experience is extensive.

McIntyre was introduced to Union Pacific while working for Sprint Long Distance Fiber from 1998 to 2000 and 360 Networks from 2000 to 2005, when he helped build the long-haul fiber optic infrastructure from Denver to Chicago.

He joined UP in 2005 as a Telecommunications installation technician at the UP Center in Omaha. Five years later, he moved into the Telecom Planning and Design Department as a systems coordinator. In this role, McIntyre collaborated with other departments to plan, design and estimate projects and communications for new buildings and renovations, focusing on ISP and OSP infrastructure



*Joe McIntyre, manager-fiber optics and asset utilization*

to and inside of the building.

“In that role I coordinated with field supervisors to find the best way to get communications to the location and obtain the equipment they needed for the new and upgraded systems,” he said.

McIntyre will finish fiber optic cabling installation to enhance communication at UP’s Selma Farm in Missouri while transitioning into his new role.

“My favorite part is learning something new,” he said. “My last job always was a challenge, but I enjoy getting back into fiber, which is where I always wanted to be.”

McIntyre knows he has big shoes to fill in following Mike Shallow, former SAFT senior manager.

“The dedication from employees to Mike and from him to employees was cool to see,” he said.

McIntyre will manage construction coordinators and collaborate with fiber optic companies in the field. Once situated in his new role, he plans to get involved with the North American Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council and Common Ground Alliance.

A self-proclaimed muscle car guru, he appreciates 1967-1973 Chevrolet Camaros. He has restored and sold about a dozen cars.

McIntyre and his wife of two years, Macayla, have five children. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and updating his home. He attends school part time working toward a bachelor’s degree in business.

# Ready for Retirement

After 40 years of service, Don Tobias will retire during June.

Based out of Madison, Wisconsin, the regional construction coordinator’s territory includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.



*Don Tobias, regional construction coordinator, retires June 10.*

A second-generation railroader, Tobias joined the Chicago & North Western Signal Department June 10, 1975, after hearing good things from his father, a trainman, and friends.

After the 1995 merger, Mike Shallow, now former senior manager-fiber optics and asset utilization, encouraged him to apply for regional construction coordinator. Tobias joined the Fiber Optics Group, now Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT), in 1997.

Though he is ready for retirement, he will miss co-workers. He spent the past several years working on the Illinois High Speed Rail project.

Tobias and his wife, Karen, have been married 13 years. His son, Jeff, is married to Jaime and has sons, Anthony, Austin and Alexander. Their daughter, Tammy, has children Alanna and Jackson.

“My wife is making me a list to do around the house,” he said. “I figured I can play golf a couple days a week, too.”

Tobias enjoys traveling to his grandson’s football games and other local sporting events. He is a Wisconsin Badger fan.