Alabama Southern Railroad loses team member in accident

There are no words to express the sorrow felt by both the Alabama Southern Railroad Team and the entire Watco Team after losing a fellow team member to a tragic accident on October 30th. Christopher Ross Hubbard, 36, died while he was serving a Customer on the job in Artesia, Mississippi. Christopher had been a conductor on the railroad since January of 2016.

Christopher, or Ross, as he was known to his family, friends, and teammates, loved the outdoors, mud riding, fishing, and watching his children grow. He will truly be missed by all and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved him.

Ross was one of the most kind hearted and hardworking family men there ever was. Everyone that knew Ross will always cherish the memories of his bright smile, laughter shared, and caring heart.

Ross was preceded in death by his grandfather, Earl Wilder; sister, Stacy Sexton; uncle, Danny St. John; and brother, Jeremy Youngblood.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Sexton Hubbard of Cottondale, Alabama; daughters, Alexa Michelle Hubbard and Arabella Rein Hubbard of Cottondale; son, Cody Wayne Smith of Cottondale; sister, Victoria Smith Acton; brothers, James "Jimbo" Martin of Northport, Alabama, and Ronnie Lee Hubbard of Coaling, Alabama; parents, Ronnie Hubbard and Kathy Martin of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; grandmother, Betty Wilder; grandparents, Sherry St. John and George Klenk and E.W. and Debbie St. John; mother-in-law, Rachelle Smith; and father-in-law, Richard Sexton.

Services for Ross were held on November 3rd at the Tuscaloosa Memorial Chapel and he was buried at Tuscaloosa Memorial Park.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Michelle, who is a fellow team member, and his family, friends and teammates.

Greens Port opens fourth dock

Customers have been asking for it and now, they have it: A fourth dock at Greens Port Industrial Park in Houston, Texas, that enables Watco to serve them without being limited by length restrictions.

"They kept asking ‘When will it open?’" said Ernie Farrand, vice president of operations at the Houston Division. "They were very eager."

Greens Port, located on 655 acres on the Houston Ship Channel in Harris County, Texas, is the largest private multi-tenanted industrial park in the Gulf Coast market. In addition to deep water and barge docks along the Houston ship channel, Greens Port also provides approximately 3 million square feet of indoor warehousing, as well as direct rail service and storage yards. Its location in the heart of Houston's heavy industrial east side means easy access to the interstate highway system.

Farrand said Dock 4 "really opens us up to Customers we could rarely touch before. Now we can see them any time."

"All our partners in the maritime community were very happy — tug boats, pilots, boatmen. They were all very pleased with it," he said.

The dock has a 40-foot draft, which allows Watco to bring in 750-ft-long ships.

Farrand said that the combination of Docks 3 and 4 now gives Watco 1,600 feet of deep water dock space. "For Customers, this does a number of things," he said. "With bigger docks, they can turn vessels faster, and they have better utilization of the berth."

The dock opened September 15th with little fanfare, but with a ship immediately. In an interesting twist, it held 30,000 tons of rail from China.

Farrand said that Watco primarily is handling all steel product and a number of bulk products at the docks.

"What the new docks are doing is attracting some additional bulk; one is fertilizer, and there are other deals underway," Farrand said. "This could take us from 400,000 tons up to more than 1 million tons, easily."

The expansion of Greens Port will generate more positions for other Watco teams off the dock, Farrand said, including material handling teams.

"No other docks in Houston are like it and can do what we do."

Nate Henderson, senior vice president of operations at the Houston Division, praised Farrand’s work in seeing the project to fruition.

"He played an absolutely instrumental role on this project," Henderson said.

Andra Bryan Stefanoni, Contributing Writer

A historic milestone was met on October 28th at Greens Port Industrial Park when they had four vessels in berth.
Kansas City Southern Railway’s (KCS) naming of Watco last month as the operator of a multi-commodity transload terminal in Dallas, Texas, marks the 54th terminal opening within the Watco Terminal and Port Services network.

The terminal offers 9,523 feet of track space in the terminal, and 80 acres of storage for Customers outside, with room for expansion.

Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, the KCS now has railroad investments in the U.S., Mexico and Panama, primarily serving the central and south central U.S., while Watco is one of the largest short line railroad holding companies in the nation, with 36 short line railroads operating on more than 5,000 miles of track, as well as 32 industrial contract switching locations.

It was a great partnership, noted officials with both entities.

KCS Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Brian Hancock said KCS is focused on growth through key business relationships and a strategically-positioned network.

"Providing customers with supply chain solutions through our TLC network and partnerships with companies like Watco are important components of that growth," Hancock said.

Rob Thrall, Watco’s vice president for business development, said it was a “very positive experience, working with KCS.”

“So far everything has been going along very smoothly,” he said.

Watco has a temporary agreement good for 45 days, and is working toward locking down a five-year agreement with options beyond that, according to Thrall.

“This gives us an opportunity to build a stronger relationship with KCS, and puts us in a very strong area of continual growth to market. It also should add value to Customers in Dallas and Ft. Worth," he said.

Watco will be leasing four tracks of the five-track terminal.

“We hope to grow that to a pretty big transload down there, with a diverse range of commodities," Thrall said.

Jake Gandy will be heading up the team at Zacha as terminal manager. He joined Watco in 2016 after 10 years in the lumber and steel industry as a facility manager. Gandy was born and raised in Rockwall, Texas. He currently resides in Caddo Mills, Texas, with his wife Ashley and 2-year-old son, Case. In his free time, Gandy likes to deer hunt, enjoy the outdoors with his family, and cook out while watching the Dallas Cowboys.

To keep the peace, Gandy won’t be watching football with Zacha Supervisor David Callan, a big Denver Broncos fan. Callan comes to Zacha from Watco’s terminal in Tampa, Colorado.

He joined the Watco Team in 2013 at the Tampa facility and worked his way up from operator to supervisor. Before Watco, he spent about 20 years in construction, first as a drywall finisher, then as an electrician, and most recently as a field foreman with up to 25 apprentices running four job sites for different builders. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, gardening, and spending time with family and his wife of 24 years.

“I look forward to the challenges at Zacha to make it a successful and profitable facility for Watco,” he said.

Thrall, who has been with Watco for 22 years, said when he began, the company included the South Kansas and Oklahoma, Palouse River and Coulee City, and Eastern Idaho railroads, as well as some switching sites like DeRidder, Louisiana.

“It's really a proud moment when you look back and see the growth — that we went to 18 start-ups and helped them get going," he said. "It's been pretty special to me, because as you continue to grow, it means we're doing the right thing for the Customer — and that's what feeds families.”

- Andra Bryan Stefanoni, Contributing Writer

Watco Customer Oldcastle launches new operations served by San Antonio Central Railroad

Texas is home to five of the eight American cities that added the most people from July 2014 to July 2015, the Census Bureau reported in May: Houston, San Antonio, Ft. Worth, Dallas, and Georgetown.

That steady growth — to the tune of some 150,000 new residents each year — means opportunity for both Oldcastle and Watco Companies, noted Chuck Car, Watco marketing and sales manager, who lives in the Dallas region.

Oldcastle is one of the leading producers of construction materials such as aggregate used for base work for road construction and new builds, from commercial to residential pads, and is the largest asphalt producer and paver in the U.S. Its 18,500 employees work in 1,200 locations in 43 states.

Watco oversees movement of railcars at Port San Antonio’s 350-acre East Kelly Railport, where Oldcastle announced in October that it will launch its newest Texas operation in an effort to accommodate a projected 1 million new residents by 2040. The East Kelly Railport is served by Watco’s San Antonio Central Railroad.

In 2012, Watco announced it would invest in significant additional infrastructure there to meet the growing demand of the rail business by building 15,500 feet of new track on the land. Watco now maintains all other rail infrastructure within East Kelly Railport and provides interchange of Customers’ railcars into the Railport from Union Pacific and BNSF Railway connections adjacent to the property.

Oldcastle will establish a nine-acre site at the railport, not more than 10 minutes from San Antonio’s downtown. Doing so will help the company efficiently receive raw materials, prepare them, and deliver them to projects throughout the region.

Oldcastle Vice President and General Manager David Young said the company was excited to partner with the Port and its team. Carr said that it’s a great opportunity for the Port of San Antonio and San Antonio Central Railroad, and in turn, Watco.

“This allows the railroad to stay in business and will give us an opportunity down the road to potentially expand the workforce,” Carr said.

Carr said Watco already has provided some funding for a new unit train switch, which is in the design phase.

“We will look at somewhere in the second quarter of 2017 to start shipments of aggregates off the Austin Western,” Carr said.

- Andra Bryan Stefanoni, Contributing Writer
Watco’s Woodland Acres Golf Tournament grows each year

On Thursday, October 13th, Watco’s Fourth Annual Woodland Acres Elementary School (WAES) Golf Tournament was held at the Battleground at Deer Park Golf Course. The event was a tremendous success, as turnout and sponsorships were at their highest. There were 16 teams of foursomes who participated in a great cause for the WAES. There were also a good many volunteers including Greens Port crude by rail (GCBR) operators Diego Muniz, Sean Stone, and Nahum Hernandez; Mike McAllister, vice president operations switching and liquids terminals, and Alishia Mitchell, finance manager. Watco golfers included Gautam Agrawala, environmental manager; Kerys Johnson, GCBR shift supervisor; Curtis Olson, measurement technician; Keith Johnson, mechanical manager; and Nathan Holmes, director of operations-Houston Liquids Terminals.

Forty-seven fourth and fifth grade students from the WAES Honor Choir performed songs for the group, and a silent auction was held. A raffle was held with items donated from our sponsors and gift certificates were given to golfers who had the closest to the pin, the longest drive, and straight drive. Gift certificates were awarded to the teams who placed first, second, and third overall, in the tournament.

Ernie Farrand, vice president operations-Houston Division, stated “I always look forward to this event because every year we are given the privilege to help a great school with great kids and teachers.” The golf tournament’s proceeds help to purchase equipment and supplies that may not otherwise be available to the school, so far it looks like approximately $14,000 was raised this year.

Skip Hastings, marketing manager said “It is because of the willingness of our participants and sponsors to contribute in making a difference, that we can increase in our giving to the school like this each year.”

The Houston Division considers it an absolute honor to be a part of the success and advancement in education for these great kids. Special thanks go to our team members who worked tirelessly to spread the word, and garner as much support for this event as possible. This is one of the aspects, this year, which made a remarkable difference. Thank you to all! We are excited to see what the next year will bring, and look forward to seeing you on the green next year!

- Jennifer Sévère, Operations Admin. Analyst

Senator Crapo visits Eastern Idaho Railroad

U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), local officials in Burley, Idaho, and Watco team members gathered last week to announce a major expansion of rail shipment and storage facilities.

Watco purchased the former Keystone RV manufacturing plant and will use the 156,000-square-foot facility to establish a new warehouse and distribution facility, which will be served by the Eastern Idaho Railroad.

The project, dubbed Project Perishable, entails plans to increase turnaround on rolling stock up to 2.0 to 2.5 times per month through efficient use of climate-controlled facilities and faster rail-loading facilities. Another 100 acres around the project may house future businesses related to rail shipping.

“This new facility will be Idaho’s agriculture gateway to U.S. markets,” said Winston Inouye, strategy and customer development manager for Watco. “The Burley rail center will get products across the country in five to six days via dedicated rail cars rather than four to five weeks via traditional rail service. This will allow local truck drivers to handle short hauls taking a few days rather than being on the road weeks at a time running coast-to-coast. This will be an amazing asset to Southern Idaho and to our many neighboring states,” he said.

The project is being established among Watco, Union Pacific Railroad, other Class I operations and Idaho producers and commodity distributors.

Senator Crapo helped pass federal tax incentive legislation that is credited in part for the rail expansion project and he is now working with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and others to make the 45G short-line tax credit permanent under federal tax law. The proposed Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy (BRACE) Act is one of the most co-sponsored bills in the Senate.

“Investments in rail infrastructure allow us to connect Idaho farmers to east coast consumers of Idaho products and the 45G Tax Credit certainty helps with those investments,” said Ed McKechnie, Watco’s executive vice president for global strategy. “Sen. Crapo has been a terrific leader for Idaho agriculture and transportation needs and we appreciate his leadership.”

Watco team members in Overland Park got in the Halloween Spirit early and held a Halloween costume contest on Oct. 28th. A panel of GBW employees kindly volunteered to judge the event. Seven team members competed in the festivities and first place was claimed by Jason Abbott dressed as an “old man.” Second place was awarded to the very American costume, Rosie the Riveter, worn by Mikayla Widick.

After the winners were crowned, team members partnered up for some Halloween trivia. And then to wrap up the fun, team members sang “Happy Birthday” to Jason Abbott and enjoyed some chocolate cake.

The Dispatch • November 2016 • 3
If the producers of the talent show "The Voice" were smart they would save a lot of time by attending the karaoke that goes on Wednesday evening of Watco’s Customer Appreciation Days. Each year team members are pleasantly surprised by Customers, Sponsors, and fellow team members who are vocally gifted.

"See, I told you," was what Watco’s Casey Harbour told fellow team member PJ Forbes when General Manager Jimmy Patterson began singing, "I told you he could sing."

Others who impressed the crowd were Brody Oakley with ACG Materials who did a great rendition of Dobie Gray’s Drift Away, and if you’re into classic country you'll have to head to the Opry in Georgia to listen to Envirisave’s Gary Sumpter, as he did a great job singing for our guests both Wednesday and Thursday nights. Of course, it helps cut the ice when Watco CEO and AAF President Brad Snow start the evening off with a karaoke duet of “Watco Be Good” sung to the tune of “Johnny Be Goode.”

For those who can’t sing there were plenty of other activities to partake in during the three-day event which was held during the last week of October.

What originally started off as a chance for Rick Webb to play hooky from work so he could hunt has turned into a fun way to thank all of our Customers for allowing us to serve them and grow our business with them. This year, more than 300 Watco Customers gathered in Pittsburg, Kansas, to hunt, golf, shoot clay, sing karaoke, and build new friendships. The events were held in larger venues this year to give the growing crowd more room to mingle. Another new addition to the CA Days event was a silent auction which was held Wednesday night. Several sponsors and donors provided some unique items for the auction with the proceeds going to the All Aboard Foundation. The All Aboard Foundation was created with the purpose of improving the quality of life in the communities that Watco operates in through the accumulation, management and disbursement of charitable donations of programs or projects. A Michigan helmet autographed by Coach Jim Harbaugh was the item that brought in the highest bid with a seven day trip to Costa Rica close behind. More than $12,000 was raised for the foundation from the auction.

"In our first year we really had no idea how the silent auction was going to be received," said Snow. "One we got the word out, it was amazing the items we received from our bankers, vendors, and sponsors. The $12,000 we raised was much more than we anticipated and we think next year will be even bigger."

With Chicago being the rail hub of the United States it would only make sense that Watco had several guests from that area. To accommodate their special needs, the evening events had the mandatory televisions set up so our Chicago guests could watch their Cubbies play the Indians. Tuesday night didn’t go their way but they left the venue happy Wednesday following a Cubs 5-1 win.

“CA Days was a great event again this year and we enjoy the friendships that we have with our Customers and the time we get to spend with them,” said Snow.
Michael Blodgett, who started high school this fall, has been struggling with the change. “Starting high school is always difficult for any child,” said his mom, Laura Blodgett, “but it was especially so for him.”

Michael, 14, has autism and suffers from a high level of anxiety. “It’s hard because he struggles with social skills and has a hard time making friends,” his mom said. “There was some bullying going on.”

But his fall semester got a bit brighter in October when members of the Watco team in Twin Falls, Idaho, went out of their way to fulfill Michael’s dream.

“I just mentioned to a co-worker that he really loves trains,” said Blodgett, who joined Watco a year ago in the purchasing department of Eastern Idaho Railroad at Twin Falls.

Michael has always been a train buff, she explained. “When he was young, it was always ‘Thomas the Train.’ He played with the toys, watched the show. As he got older, it continued,” she said. “If we have to stop and wait for a train, he actually gets excited. He wants them to last longer!”

Her co-worker passed that information along, and it made it up the chain of command to Trainmaster Rocky Mancias, who took it upon himself to coordinate a train ride for Michael.

“I was very surprised and excited,” Blodgett said. “I didn’t know if it was something that would interrupt their work — it is a business — and that they were going to the effort to do something that it is special to him means a lot.”

“It came at a really good time,” she added. “It gives him something to think about and look back on.”

Mancias said the experience was awesome for the team involved, too. “Michael was super excited when we told him he would be going on the train for a ride,” Mancias said. “The moment when he turned to his mother and gave her the biggest hug was priceless.”

The engineer was Shawn Coates, and the conductor was Jessica Nelson, both of whom volunteered to stay after their shift, Mancias said, to make Michael’s dream a reality. They gave him stickers, a t-shirt, whistle, baseball hat, reflective gloves, and a reflective vest — a vest his mom says he was still wearing hours later.

Said Blodgett, “When I got home from work that day, he came out and met me outside and said ‘Mom, see I’m still wearing my gear. That’s how special this was to me.’

“I know it’s hard to tell, but he was giving thumbs up in all the pictures,” she said. “He had an amazing time.”

“The team at the EIRR was so awesome and really went out of their way to make him feel special,” she said. “As a parent, I can’t tell you just how much that meant to me. Michael was grinning from ear to ear the whole time.”

His favorite part, he said, was when he got to blow the horn.

WSOR celebrates a successful Summer Spike Safety Program

In order to celebrate the end of the Summer Spike Safety Program, all Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) teams held a cookout, with team members in different locations getting together from September 13th through the 15th.

The cookouts took place in Horicon, Janesville, and Madison, with team members starting at 11 a.m. and celebrating into the evening. Served at the cookouts were steaks, smoked pork, salads, and dessert. Department managers at each facility planned the events, working together to make it a success.

“We want to tell everyone how much we appreciate what they do each and every day to stay safe, make WSOR a success, and be professional and positive,” stated General Manager Joe Via.

The WSOR usually holds two cookouts and two town halls every year for team members.

“By doing events like this, I feel it shows who we are as a team,” continued Via. “We can see everyone because on the WSOR we have around 200 team members, and you don’t always get to see everyone all the time and thank them for what they do!”

Via concluded by citing how much all the team members make the WSOR and Watco Companies successful as a whole, always striving to improve upon each day’s work.

- Michaela Kinyon, Contributing Writer
KO celebrates Summer Spike

Bill Strickland, Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (KO) conductor/engineer, was excited to hear he’d won the grand prize, a Yeti cooler, at the team’s Summer Spike celebration. He even asked if his trainmaster would deliver it, which was a big no since Bill was on a fishing trip in Colorado at the time (he really could’ve used that cooler).

Bill has been with the KO since September of 2015, working primarily in McPherson and Salina. While being excited about winning, Bill also said he appreciated the T&I and the KO for taking time and effort to focus on team members and their safety.

Arkansas Southern Railroad celebrates 11 years injury-free

The Arkansas Southern Railroad (ARS) recently hit their 11 year injury-free mark. The team will be celebrating this tremendous milestone with a dinner at a local steakhouse and awarded with gift cards.

The team prides itself with a safety oriented filled history that has carried over from the start-up of the line. The team members always make sure to look out for each other and their Customers.

Additionally, the ARS Team has always had a good relationship with the communities its lines run through.

Manager Jeff Buck states, “The ARS lines go through small towns and the team has close contact with the locals. The mayor of Nashville pops in on occasion just to sit and talk. It’s kind of like a modern day Mayberry.”

Long term team members at the facility include Steve Westfall who is the conductor of the Nashville Sub. Steve started his career thirty some odd years ago and views the railroad as home.

Buck remarked, “I think it’s amazing that a team member has spent his entire railroad career in one location and has endured the changes that have taken place over the years.”

“I’d also like to give special thanks to Michael Corbell, who is a trainmaster at the facility. Michael has been an amazing asset to ARS and Watco. He is not only a trainmaster, but he is also the relief engineer, conductor, and does an amazing job as CMO,” said Buck. “All the other team members deserve credit for everything they have done to help reach this eleven-year milestone.”

Team members on the ARS that have helped meet this goal are Thomas Williams, Steve Westfall, Billy Barton, Rendall Thompson, Michael Corbell, Justin Morrison, Rasheda Combs, and Jeffrey Buck.

Congratulations to the entire team for keeping safety first in all you do!

- Molly Henneke, Contributing Writer

Senator visits Kanawha River Railroad

The Kanawha River Railroad (KNWA) Team was pleased to have West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito visit their property last month. The railroad benefits from the 45G tax credits that are earmarked for maintaining and improving short line railroad infrastructure. Senator Capito visited the KNWA to see first-hand how the investments are helping the communities she represents. While on her visit, Senator Capito talked with Customers and KNWA team members about the short line and the impact it has on their business and the community.

The group met at the KNWA Depot in Belle, West Virginia, for a safety briefing and were given a brief history on the railroad. The Senator then boarded a KNWA locomotive and rode it to The Chemours Company, a KNWA Customer.

Senator Capito said, “When they (KNWA) located here it saved a lot of jobs and hopefully in the future will create a lot of jobs. It gets us back to who we are as West Virginians, we’ve had a great history of rail and a great history of coal, that’s what this railroad is about and we’re so happy that Watco has come to West Virginia.”

Senator Capito said, "When they (KNWA) located here it saved a lot of jobs and hopefully in the future will create a lot of jobs. It gets us back to who we are as West Virginians, we’ve had a great history of rail and a great history of coal, that’s what this railroad is about and we’re so happy that Watco has come to West Virginia.”

Pictured are (l-r): Brigid Rich, Kanawha River Railroad (KNWA) Sales and Marketing Manager; Jeff Smith, Green Materials; Ken Lucht, Watco Director of Government Relations; Senator Shelley Moore Capito; Derrick Jackson, KNWA General Manager; Laura McNichol, RJ Corman; Tim Bird, The Chemours Company; Jeff Fritz, The Chemours Company, and Terry Caldwell, CDL.

Steely Welcome

Barth West, WSCS branch manager, (front row) was welcomed by a group of Steelers fans when he visited the Fleet Services Team in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Thankfully, he found a fellow Cowboys fan in the group to keep him company in the sea of gold and black.

BMO Harris Bank Director Bill Thomson (l) and Watco’s Ed McGuire (l) at the World Series Game 5 in Chicago.

Welcome to the Dispatch

The Dispatch is a weekly newspaper serving the communities of West Virginia. It is produced by students at West Virginia University and is distributed throughout the state. The Dispatch covers local news, events, sports, and other topics of interest to the community.

- The Dispatch • November 2016

Welcome to our online edition of The Dispatch, where you can access the latest news and features from our print edition, as well as exclusive content and multimedia. Feel free to explore and enjoy the site. We hope you find it informative and engaging.

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- The Dispatch on Twitter
Congratulations to the following team members celebrating anniversaries this month.

1 Year: Anthony Abenoja, Laura Blodgett, Dustin Bratcher, Kathleen Bunting, Donny Campos, Alfonso Castillo, Anthony Childers, Joshua Cochran, Grayson Creer, NaTasha Cross, Chad Crosswhite, Renita Edwards, Shalae Elliott, Justin Foshee, Michael Fouts, Erik Gath, Jacob Goodrich, Kathryn Grider, Billy Hams, Ashley Harris, Manuel Jaramillo, Timothy Keegan, Paul Kotzman, Blake Lay, Ryan Luettz, Daniel Mavers, Michael McDuffie, Cody Monsue, Enrico Morales, Andy Nielsen, Curtis Olson, Angel Oquendo, Robert Perry, Jose Ramos, Timothy Rautenberg, Kaitlyn Redd, Jerry Reeves, Mario Reyna, Jon Riple, Micah Somerville, Cooper Strolberg, Jose Valdez, Alfredo Vazquez, Zachary White, Justin Young

2 Years: Andrew Beard, David Boissenin, Nicholas Bowers, Nicholas Bremer, Jesse Bucholz, Kacey Krueger, Steven Mancillas, Michael Smith, Cody Tracy, Michael Trull

3 Years: Jeremiah Allen Rhodes, Dustin and Marris-sa Rhodes are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jeremiah Allen. Jeremiah was born August 24, 2016, and weighed 7 lbs. 7oz. Jeremiah was welcomed home by his big sisters Stella and Cora. Dustin is a carman for the Kaw River Railroad.

William Burns, Brian Butler, Clayton Causey, Brandon Christopher, Troy Consentino, Gabriel Creado, Daniel Duron, Ryan Esser, Brian Gehlsen, Terry Gosney, David Grace, Marcus Graham, Tonya Hearrell, Andrew Johnston, Thomas Lundy, Geraldine Mansch, Edward May, Marty McClendon, James Miller, James Miller, Anthony Oliva, Brady Sansom, Jeremy Spates, Matthew Tillery, Devin Tucker, Bradley Williams

3 Years: Earon Berotte, John Boehm, Brandon Burdick, Vance Coyle, James DeGraaf, Taylor Denman, Andrew Driscoll, Nick Goli-an, Terry Gooch, Dustyn Haman, Parker Helland, Kevin Hoffman, Grace Koehler, Katarina Lawrence, Justin Mead, Brock Oakland, James Roberts, Gregory Robertson, Rory Sampson, David Scott, Dylan Skee-en, Diane Steffen, Aaron Voss, Hadyn Weeks

4 Years: Matthew Adams, Dennis Burt, Kenynia Canada, Amber Gardner, Mickaela Gerler, Azarel Guzman, Timothy Humphrey, Aaron Jensen, Leann Kennedy, Kacey Krueger, Steven Mancillas, Michael Smith, Cody Tracy, Michael Trull

5 Years: Greg Borilla, Dustin Bratcher, Kathleen Bunting, Donny Campos, Alfonso Castillo, Anthony Childers, Joshua Cochran, Grayson Creer, NaTasha Cross, Chad Crosswhite, Renita Edwards, Shalae Elliott, Justin Foshee, Michael Fouts, Erik Gath, Jacob Goodrich, Kathryn Grider, Billy Hams, Ashley Harris, Manuel Jaramillo, Timothy Keegan, Paul Kotzman, Blake Lay, Ryan Luettz, Daniel Mavers, Michael McDuffie, Cody Monsue, Enrico Morales, Andy Nielsen, Curtis Olson, Angel Oquendo, Robert Perry, Jose Ramos, Timothy Rautenberg, Kaitlyn Redd, Jerry Reeves, Mario Reyna, Jon Riple, Micah Somerville, Cooper Strolberg, Jose Valdez, Alfredo Vazquez, Zachary White, Justin Young

6 Years: Andrew Beard, David Boissenin, Nicholas Bowers, Nicholas Bremer, Jesse Bucholz, Kacey Krueger, Steven Mancillas, Michael Smith, Cody Tracy, Michael Trull

7 Years: Chad Davis, Kevin Hampton, Brian Kemp, Joseph Knight, Jacob Link, James Mprints, Jason Moore, Bradley Scott

8 Years: Earnest Austin, Derek Brau, Darwin Garcia, Andrea Harville, Travis Hodge, Joseph Magruder, Donald Mixon, Jeffrey Pierce, Kathleen Sackett, Ali Wade

9 Years: Charles Chipman, Shawn Coates, David Roz, Jesus Sanchez

10 Years: Robert Hampton, Joshua Jewell, Russell Knight, Afton Lundy, Ron Spencer

11 Years: Brian Bourdina, Gregg Burholz, Dale Bright, Robert Bruner, Betsy Foster, Robert Godfrey, Charles McCall, Leon Nott, Dave Ruggles

12 Years: Rick Baden, Joshua Braden, Zachary Henwood, Scott Holmes, Michael Marino, Michael Mosser

13 Years: Robert Powell, Eric Slimp

15 Years: Randall Martineau

17 Years: Steven Ayala, Cyril Bangari, Joseph Haase, Kelley Searrow

18 Years: Robert De Luna, Timothy Hoffman

19 Years: Lloyd Huston

20 Years: Lloyd Henderson

23 Years: John Brown, John Ostrander, Terry Showalter

24 Years: Thomas Murray

25 Years: James Belsha, Bennie Hill

28 Years: Charlie Estes, Bruce Ferreeby, Howard Green

29 Years: Mary Mauch

31 Years: Vic McClure

33 Years: Charles Faraone, Rolan Herma

36 Years: Louis Sage

November Anniversaries

Congratulation to the following team members celebrating anniversaries this month.

1 Year: Anthony Abenoja, Laura Blodgett, Dustin Bratcher, Kathleen Bunting, Donny Campos, Alfonso Castillo, Anthony Childers, Joshua Cochran, Grayson Creer, NaTasha Cross, Chad Crosswhite, Renita Edwards, Shalae Elliott, Justin Foshee, Michael Fouts, Erik Gath, Jacob Goodrich, Kathryn Grider, Billy Hams, Ashley Harris, Manuel Jaramillo, Timothy Keegan, Paul Kotzman, Blake Lay, Ryan Luettz, Daniel Mavers, Michael McDuffie, Cody Monsue, Enrico Morales, Andy Nielsen, Curtis Olson, Angel Oquendo, Robert Perry, Jose Ramos, Timothy Rautenberg, Kaitlyn Redd, Jerry Reeves, Mario Reyna, Jon Riple, Micah Somerville, Cooper Strolberg, Jose Valdez, Alfredo Vazquez, Zachary White, Justin Young

2 Years: Andrew Beard, David Boissenin, Nicholas Bowers, Nicholas Bremer, Jesse Bucholz, Kacey Krueger, Steven Mancillas, Michael Smith, Cody Tracy, Michael Trull

5 Years: Gregory Bartholomew, Everts Batista, Brooke Beasley, Shane Bengal, James Chinowith, Justin Gaurapp, Brent Henson, Robert Hill, Geoffrey Holder, Cole Holter, Melissa Jasper, Jonathon Key, Hilda Morin, Zachary Parker, Jayden Sjol, Aaron Tombsky, Eric Turner, Jacob Welsch, William White, John Wiebelhaus, Gregory Wooldridge

6 Years: Courtney Burks, Alan Cheek, Michele Howard, Karzaer Jackson, Cymantha Ledford, Timothy Lewis, Keeland Scales, Keith Singleton, Kevin St Aubin, James Tyler

7 Years: Chad Davis, Kevin Hampton, Brian Kemp, Joseph Knight, Jacob Link, Jacob McClesney, Jason Moore, Bradley Scott

8 Years: Earnest Austin, Derek Brau, Darwin Garcia, Andrea Harville, Travis Hodge, Joseph Magruder, Donald Mixon, Jeffrey Pierce, Kathleen Sackett, Ali Wade

9 Years: Charles Chipman, Shawn Coates, David Roz, Jesus Sanchez

10 Years: Robert Hampton, Joshua Jewell, Russell Knight, Afton Lundy, Ron Spencer

11 Years: Brian Bourdina, Gregg Burholz, Dale Bright, Robert Bruner, Betsy Foster, Robert Godfrey, Charles McCall, Leon Nott, Dave Ruggles

12 Years: Rick Baden, Joshua Braden, Zachary Henwood, Scott Holmes, Michael Marino, Michael Mosser

13 Years: Robert Powell, Eric Slimp

15 Years: Randall Martineau

17 Years: Steven Ayala, Cyril Bangari, Joseph Haase, Kelley Searrow

18 Years: Robert De Luna, Timothy Hoffman

19 Years: Lloyd Huston

20 Years: Lloyd Henderson

23 Years: John Brown, John Ostrander, Terry Showalter

24 Years: Thomas Murray

25 Years: James Belsha, Bennie Hill

28 Years: Charlie Estes, Bruce Ferreeby, Howard Green

29 Years: Mary Mauch

31 Years: Vic McClure

33 Years: Charles Faraone, Rolan Herman

36 Years: Louis Sage

Watco's WA Rail - Geraldton Zone breaks grain records

Not one to sit on their laurels, the Watco Western Australia Rail Team at Geraldton has beaten their own all-time record set in August with another record performance. September 2016 became the highest ever September and the second highest month in history with 133,632 tonnes of grain moved by rail in the zone.

With four monthly records broken in 2015-2016, Geraldton’s 2016 season has also become the highest rail season in history. The 2016 season ran from October 2015 to September 2016. In that time period, the team moved 1,099,693 tonnes, soundly beating the previous record of 1,062,769 tonnes in 2004.

The record calendar year was also 2004, when 1,150,549 tonnes was moved to Geraldton Port. Currently the team is sitting on 949,517 and with three months left to go, they have a good chance of topping that record as well.

Grain from Geraldton Zone is received at the port.
Not far from the south end of Lake Erie sits the Euclid, Ohio, Terminal. The team members at this busy facility recently celebrated their six year safety anniversary. The team observed the occasion with a fried chicken dinner and all the extras that go with it, which was provided by Giant Eagle. In addition to the dinner, each team member will be receiving a Watco hooded sweatshirt.

The Euclid Team transloads a variety of commodities such as liquid, dry bulk, food grade, and hazardous materials which are transloaded and transported by rail and truck. Norfolk Southern is the rail provider at the Euclid Terminal.

In regards to his team, Location Manager Bryan Trexler stated, “I’m very proud of the team members and their dedication to provide safe service to our Customers in Euclid. Six years is a great achievement and the team works hard to maintain their injury-free status. They continue to do the right thing all the time.”

The Euclid Team consists of the following four team members:
- Johnnie Lawrence (1.5 years)
- Mike Stofko (5 years)
- Chris Salary (3 years)
- Bryan Texter (6 years)

-Pictured are (l-r): Johnnie Lawrence, Bryan Trexler, Chris Salary, and Mike Stofko.

The newsletter for Watco Companies, LLC and Watco Transportation Services, LLC

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Watco expanding services in Australia

Beginning November 1, Watco Companies is expanding services offered in Western Australia. Since 2012, Watco has been moving grain for Western Australia’s CBH Group and based on the service provided to CBH, Watco Western Australia Rail (WWAR) won a contract from Brookfield Rail Western Australia to provide train services for their ballast and rail work.

“This contract strategically builds on the back of the CBH business that has been operating since 2012,” said Grant Thompson, chief operating officer. “We look forward to providing service to our new Customer.”

One of two new locomotives that will be serving Brookfield Rail Western Australia for ballast and rail work.