

## Beaver Creek and Fishtrap Bridges: Two Years Ahead of Schedule

The Hamilton crew at the Beaver Creek and Fishtrap bridges project on the coast at Myrtle Creek have really outdone themselves this time! Hamilton frequently finds ways to finish projects more efficiently and ahead of schedule--but this time, ODOT, Coos County, and the project team has collaborated to shave two full years off the project schedule.

“The current schedule actually has us completing the new structure before we were originally supposed to come back after winter to begin construction,” explained Joe Hampton,

Project Manager. “Originally scheduled to take place over a three year period, we were able to work with ODOT and Coos County to eliminate the need for the winter shutdown and continue with construction of the new structure.”

During construction at the Beaver Creek bridge location, traffic will be detoured onto a 250-ft. long detour structure. All foundation work for this new 250-ft. bridge will take place outside of the creek, thereby reducing impact to the resident trout and salmon population during and after construction. The Fishtrap

Creek Bridge is a 55’ slab bridge which will be demolished and replaced utilizing Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques during a 90-day bridge closure in the summer of 2012.

### Beaver Creek and Fishtrap Bridges Highlights:

- 1) Three year project reduced to one year
- 2) Elimination of two big cofferdams (which helped to accelerate the schedule)
- 3) Excellent Safety Record: Currently at 7,119 man hours into the job with no injuries! ■



From left: Dave Kirkpatrick, Keith Ross, and Bryan Copley pouring the Bent 3 footing.

## Hamilton Rail Division Says: Please Pat These Guys on the Back

By Dave Weddle



**Bob Orem**  
Get-R-Done Style

**Kevin Humphrys**  
Mastered Dreaded  
Creek Span!

**Mike Sheeley**  
God of Trestle Repairs

During December 2011, Hamilton Rail Division embarked on its “maiden” high rail trestle repair project for P&W Railroad. After removing the first

existing timber, and due to some other issues, we were concerned about the time frame allotted for the project and the completion date of Dec. 30th 2011.

But due to our typical Hamilton “We Will Prevail” attitude, the job will be completed ahead of schedule. Thanks go out to all involved:

- The support from the guys at the Yard.
- Our Safety Team
- The other jobs that supported us with, equipment, materials, and crew.

(As HCo, does so well, when one of our family is needing, “We Help Out!”)

The biggest Pat on the Back/ At-A-Boy though, needs to go to the crews involved with this project. All gave 110% plus. They gave up their weekends, trekked

endlessly through wet and mud—and had to deal with angry wives or hotel lobby clerks due to tracking in mud from their boots!

All the crew thought about what they were up against, worked together, watched out for each other, and helped to develop solutions to the many setbacks and problems we encountered.

I can’t say enough good about each and every one of them! When they return to your jobs, or you see them next...Please: Pat them on the back and say “GOOD JOB”.

See more about the Hamilton Rail Division on page 3.

# Hamilton's Masons: More than What's on the Surface

If you ask Hamilton mason, Greg Kent what masons do on Hamilton bridge jobs, he'll tell you this, "We're the ones that make it look good so we can sell it!" and that is true in many ways: the final finish on concrete surfaces is many times the most visible element of what our clients and the traveling public see as they pass the bridges, retaining walls, and foundation structures Hamilton is known for building.

Bridge masonry is a specialized art in and of itself, but Greg and his counterpart at the Coast, Rich Duble are currently working on Hamilton projects pushing special expertise even one step further. At the McCullough Bridge near North Bend, Rich has the double challenge of recreating concrete railing that is safe and durable but also looks indistinguishable from circa 1930 railing.

Greg Kent's work on the I-84 Sandy River Bridge in Troutdale has to meet special standards as well. The Sandy River bridge is on the edge of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and because of that, the aging bridge has to be replaced with a design that fits the historic gorge style. At both the Coast and Gorge, the winds will rattle your bones through most of the winter. So taken in total, both jobs have their challenges.

Special jobs require special people and in both cases these masons are just like the concrete they finish: there is much more to them than what you see on the surface. So let's get up close and personal to see what makes them tick:

## Rich Duble

**Construction background:** 10 years in construction/three years with Hamilton

**Home/Family:** Rich has lived in Grants Pass for the past five years with wife of seven years-Sissy. "Sissy comes and visits me sometimes during the week and I like that," Rich adds.

**Where he grew up:** Chicago, Illinois – the Pacific Northwest's milder weather attracted him here.

**What he remembers most about coming to the Northwest:** "Just after I arrived, Mt. St. Helens blew up!" giving Rich a memorable way of remembering he made his home here in 1980.

**Hobbies:** Rich likes to fish (bass, steelhead, salmon), enjoys playing around in the dunes in his Jeep, and likes to ski – with Mt. Hood being his most frequent destination – most years anyway. "It's been a dry winter-bad for skiing-but good for finishing work," he adds.

**What he likes best about construction:** "The money! – and also that it is outside and always something different. I like the variety of the work."

**What's different about working at Hamilton:** "I like Hamilton's safety support. I've never seen an employer who puts as much emphasis on safety. The Tool Box safety talks? That's the first time I'd ever seen anything like that. They always check the grinders for guards and make sure we have safety glasses—really good quality respirators—and gloves so our hands don't get chapped or concrete burns. Anything we need they supply it! Hamilton is really good about that."

**How much longer will the team be working at McCullough?** "They say the second part of this contract is supposed to last two years, but knowing these guys they'll knock it out in a year – they're fast!"



## Greg Kent

**Greg's job before going into construction:** Grave digger (seriously). Greg made a career move when his boss at the cemetery told Greg he'd make more money in construction and helped him snag his first job with a commercial excavation company.

**Construction Background:** About ten years commercial/residential finishing work in Hood River and then came to Hamilton seven years ago.

**Where he grew up:** Greg is a California boy, raised in Covina. His parents moved to Hood River to fulfill a lifelong dream of opening a bed and breakfast and the first time he came to visit them he was hooked. "I came out on their front porch, it was snowing-beautiful, and I thought, wow, this is the life for me!" and he moved to Hood River. The year was 1989 and he was about 28 years old. Now he calls Vancouver, WA home.

**Hobbies:** "I like to BBQ with friends and I fish some-but what I *really* like," he says with his eyes lighting up, "is going yard sale-ing with my 15-year old daughter Chloë. We have a lot of fun doing that together!" Sometimes they save up their purchases and then have their own yard sales to make a few dollars.

**What he likes best about Hamilton:** "These guys have your back! Working at Hamilton is the first time I've felt like we're all part of a family that cares about your well-being. That's a pretty nice feeling when every guy and gal has your back – so you do the same for them in return!"

**Favorite project so far in his career:** "Willamette River Bridge—this was one of the first jobs I've had a chance to see start to finish. Five of us were working on finishing those arches so I got a chance to meet and make some new friends. We had some great BBQ's up at Dexter."

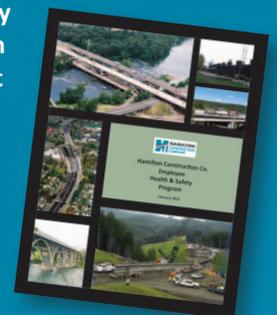
**Advice to those still working on WRB:** Best cheap Chinese food in Eugene: The Jail. Second best bargain for good food and lots of it: Prime rib on Thursday nights at the Good Times.

**What is one thing no one at Hamilton knows about you?:** (After a VERRRY long pause) I love musicals. I've seen *Phantom of the Opera* five times, *Evita*, *Cats*, and a number of other Broadway plays. My daughter Chloë and I are pumped because we are going to see *Wicked* this spring. ■



## New Safety Program Featured at 2012 Tool Box Talks

Hamilton field leaders have received orientation on Hamilton's comprehensive new safety program and a new safety manual has been distributed to all the job sites and work areas. In 2012, every other week for 34 weeks, a section of the new manual will be covered at the weekly Tool Box Talks. The new program and manual that lays it all out was developed in a joint effort including Ward Insurance, AGC Safety and Loss Control representatives, and Hamilton employees.



## Hamilton Rail Division *(Continued from page 1.)*

And certainly not to take away from all the guys' performance on this project, but I need to give out a few special At-A-Boy's:

1. **Bob Orem:** He took the job by the nap of its neck....He organized all the material moves as well as staging of materials. With his cheerful attitude, and Get-R-Done style, he helped keep the guys motivated, as well as having fun, in their daily adventures. Helps somewhat that he actually kind of looks like Santa!
2. **Kevin Humphrys:** Young, strong, "Thinker", "Doer"... daily impressed me with his ability to accomplish tasks; so much so that, I put him "in charge" of "The Dreaded" Creek Span: No access, had to construct it--basically by hand... Very limited help from bridge trucks or man lifts. 100% tie offs--over water. All demo had to be packed out. Most new material packed in. He worked well with Bo-Bo making sure materials were in front of his guys. Basically finished Creek Span in about half the time we all thought it would take. Lots of climbing, packing, scaffolds. NO Incidents!!!!
3. **Mike Sheeley:** God of Trestle Repairs... His previous experience from our TriMet job was very much relied upon by me as well as all. ■



Dave Weddle



P&W Railroad Trestle Repair Project

Thanks Again to ALL!

### Jan/Feb/Mar Anniversaries

Brad Sullivan	34
Wendy Cobarrubia	26
Dave Weddle	21
Bryan Cloe	17
Ron Woods	17
Eric Hill	16
Frank Alvis	13
Bruce Ellingsen	10
Kate Brownell	10
Cleve Clark	9
Mike Fisk	8
Rich Dugan	8
Joe Hampton	7
Pete Flockoi	6
Steve Brown	5
Rich Carden	5
Andres Juarez	5
Pat Sharp	3
Aaron Leone	3
Steve Luke	3
Randy Reynolds	3
Kati Smith	1

## DMWESB Companies Benefiting from Hamilton/NWCC Scholarships

Hamilton has teamed up with the Northwest College of Construction (NWCC) to offer education and training scholarships for owners and/or employees of companies registered in Oregon as disadvantaged,

minority- or woman-owned, and emerging small businesses (DMWESB firms).

Eleven companies have already taken advantage of the scholarship that pays for half of NWCC program costs up

to \$2500 per firm. Programs covered range from craft, technical and safety courses to supervisory, project management and more.

### These companies have elected to take advantage of scholarships:

- PMG, Inc.
- Elle Comm Construction
- Pacificmark Construction
- Chick of all Trades
- Viking Engineering & Construction
- Star Construction Services
- A2 Fabrication Inc.
- Catworks, LLC
- Belco Power & Light
- West Hills Electrical Construction
- Nielsen Construction, LLC ■



Judy Betts, Hamilton DMWESB Coordinator works with Juli Parish, President, Parrish Excavating and Tayna Wilder, Owner, Star Construction Services – scholarship recipients and Hamilton subcontractors.

## PARTNER'S MESSAGE

Returning from a week of family vacation in our Nation's Capital gives me time to reflect on much, including history both nationally as well as locally; but history is really only important because it is the foundation of the future.

Three things struck me while in Washington D.C. They were:

- 1) Even with limited resources, America will continue to invest in our infrastructure; this will be good for each of us in our chosen careers as builders.
- 2) Today and throughout our history a great number of people have sacrificed greatly and given up much to put the United States before themselves for the betterment of all.
- 3) These sacrifices are what made America what it is--and it is all about our Freedom. This freedom provides us all choices. What we do with our choices each and every day is up to us.

If you have not had a chance to visit Washington D.C., I highly recommend you put it on your list of family trips.

We at Hamilton have spent time during 2011 to review some of Hamilton's 70 year history and had some great conversations about many people from Harry and Jack Hamilton to Jack Holwedge to name a few. You all are part of the Hamilton history and 20 years from now new folks will be talking about you. The years of hard work have created a strong foundation and provided us with a great place to work, but more importantly it has provided us with choices.

We have chosen to continue to build and grow and to provide opportunities for senior people to join together with more junior ones for years to come and build on the Hamilton tradition. We have a good backlog of work for 2012 that will keep our crews and equipment busy. A number of

new jobs will start up this season including: Seward Highway in Alaska, Burnt River in eastern Oregon and Westmoreland in Portland. In addition, Sandy is getting steel so Troutdale will have a busy summer and fall; Willamette River Bridge will complete shafts soon, so work will really open up for the WRB crews.

We are building and expanding in a number of areas that include both new areas of work as well as new owners/agencies to work with. Seward and Westmoreland are some of the positive results of these new markets, but just a start. In addition we are refocusing on existing markets to capitalize on what we already know best. This will all take some time, but will provide expanding opportunities in 2012 and beyond. We understand that this direction will require new thinking and much hard work but it will provide a lasting and proud Hamilton History in future years.



When you put on your hard hat, safety glasses, boots... Think about your choices--what you are going to do today to keep yourself safe, do something for your family, friends, and coworkers. Remember: what you do today will shape the future for many tomorrows.

Thanks for everything you all do. ■

*Best Regards,  
Bob*



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