
HIGH BALL

A Publication for the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club
August 2022



Signals

Last month Tim Childs wrote about the grade crossing signals south of the depot. With Tim's work designing the track circuitry we can look at expanding crossing protection and signals on the railroad. You may have seen the concrete blocks popping up along the track.



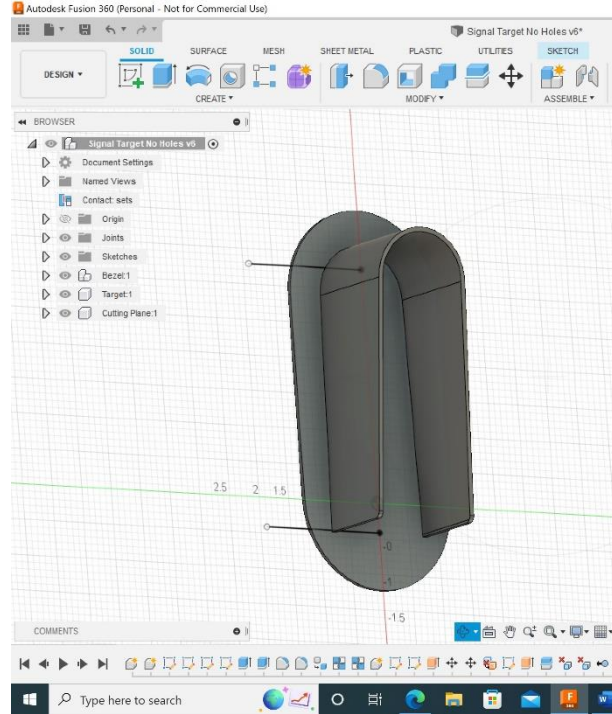
At the south road crossing work is underway to add a set of grade crossing signals. The lights and signs were dropped of Sunday. The pole and bell will follow.



Approaching Soo Junction bases are in place for signals. The triangular aluminum frames behind the barn will make nice cantilever arms.



On one of the hottest days of the Summer Tom Stuck helped me dig through the rocks to put up bases north of the tunnel.



To top the signals I modeled a Darth Vader target and bezel. If these 3D print well they go onto conduit boxes to form a signal head.

Track Expansion

A tireless Dan Bockheim working on sidings. Sidings will give us space to do card order operations.



Maintenance of Way

Rail replacement has been underway in the curves. The outside rail guides the locomotive and cars through the curves. In sharper curves and at sharp transitions the wheel taper pushes the flanges to the outside. This rail has seen perhaps 20 years service.



NMRA Visit by Mike Schmitzer

On October 28 (a Friday this year) and 29, Division 9 of the National Model Railroad Association (they cover all of Southwest Michigan) will be holding a 2 day convention in the Battle Creek-Kalamazoo area.

On Friday at noon the group plans to have lunch at Cornwell's and they have asked to get a tour of the Mid-Michigan Railroad right after that from approx. 1 p.m. to about 4 p.m. there will be anywhere from 20-30 people at the track.

We are hoping that a few of the club members will offer to do the same and to offer to give rides that afternoon as well. Of course everything will be "weather permitting" since it is late in October.

Project List

- Mainline tie replacement. This is a vital but unsung task. Ties, screws and gauge bars are in the barn. Check the gauge as you go.
- Bury a cable from the depot to the grade crossing signals south of the caboose so they can be operated without brining batteries out. Give Tim Childs a call and he will show you where to route the cable.
- Install outlets at the picnic pavilion. At the moment outlets are on a post south of the pavilion which can be inconvenient. This could be trenched when the grade crossing cable is laid.
- The track panel jigs need some repair and TLC.
- Tunnel south portal has a rotted 2x4 at the roof edge. The roof drips rain water across the stringer. The 2x4 is water logged and in bad shape. There is a new treated 2x4 in the tunnel to replace it. A drip edge to carry water past the wood roof structure should also be installed.
- Rod and Tom do most of the mowing and trimming. They can always use a hand.
- Seal the wood bridge decks with boiled Linseed oil. Check with Rod for materials.

Want to help but you are not sure what to do? Contact one of the officers.

2022 Schedule

September 3-4, 17-18

October 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30

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