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# ***HIGH BALL***

A Publication for the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club  
January 2023



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## New Picnic Shelter

Why a new picnic shelter? We start by traveling back to 1993. In the early days of the club we had the shed in the back ground in the picture below for storage. That was it. The club riding cars were man handled onto a rack on the wall. Gas grills, coolers, push lawn mowers and anything else were moved in and out of the shed.

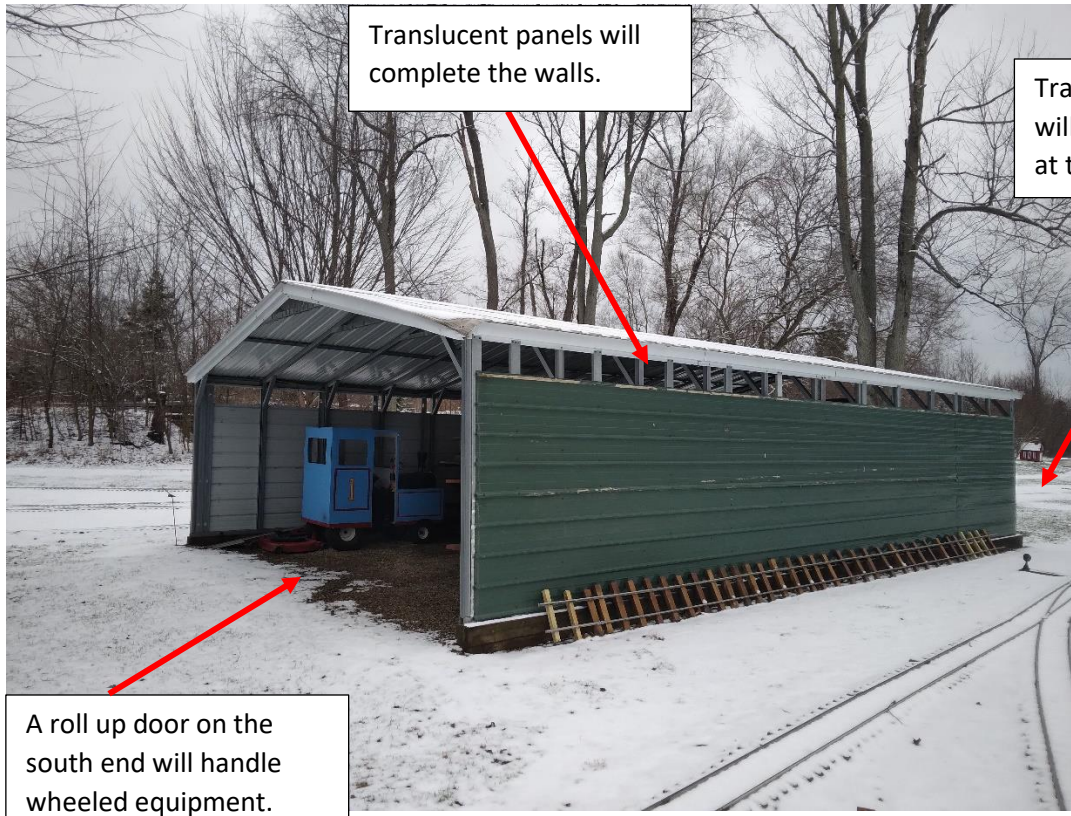


As time past Mike Schmitzer and Tom Briggs donated money and materials toward our current car barn. This allowed our collection of equipment slowly expand. Tom Briggs and Mike Perigo built a very handy service truck. A power wheel barrow and compactor joined the fleet. A locomotives and cars were added. Push mowers gave way to riding mower. Once again it seemed it seemed the equipment you wanted was at the back of the building.

In the winter we've used space at Bob Cowdry's, Jeff Steele's and Del Kilbourne's to build track panels and switched. Materials, tool and fixtures were hauled back and forth. For several years we talked about setting up the car barn to build panels saving us the trouble of finding space and moving materials. In 2021 the east half of the barn was insulated and a small heater brings it to a comfortable work temperature. This gives us a nice space to meet and work in the winter.



To make this a permanent space the current picnic shelter is being enclosed. A combination of track and clear space will allow rolling stock and maintenance equipment to be moved leaving a year round work space in the car barn.



## **Key Projects for 2023**

Projects that for sure need to be done this year:

- Set up the ballast hopper and stone storage area as well as the interconnecting track and switches. The cost and benefit of a concrete pad for the stone pile is being considered. The pad would let us scoop stone without digging into the dirt. Walls we are considering plastic Jersey barriers filled with sand.
- Finish siding the old pavilion and install the doors and track and switches leading into the building.
- Erect the new pavilion and install the roof.
- Tie replacement. The perpetual task.
- Install the signal bridges.
- Inspect the bridges for any deficiencies and repair as needed.

## **Winter Business Meeting**

February 25, 2023. 10:00AM at the restaurant. The Offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Communications/Membership are expiring this year. Consider running one of these Offices

## **Dues are Due**

2023 dues are due. \$25.00 Please give them to Chris Morris.



John Pugh about 1980 at Harry Herder's Rock Valley Line. The locomotive was recently in Live Steam Magazine running at the Berkshire Reunion.

## **2023 Run Day Schedule**

May 6-7, 20-21, 27-28

June 3, 10-11

July 1-2, 29-30

August 19-20

September 2-3, 16-17

October 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29

## **Officers**

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