
HIGH BALL

A Publication for the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club
May 2023



First Run

May 6th and 7th opened the 2023 season with a mix of sun and cloud. We saw some nice equipment both on the rails and rubber tired.



Tom Stuck with Rod's GP40 brings a train load of passengers past a couple nice heavy weight passenger cars.



The Military Vehicle Preservation Association visited with a variety of trucks and jeeps. Here a group is gathering up to take a convoy through the woods south of the track. I'm sure they found a patch of mud to drive through.



Mean while back at the ranch Jim Trimstra and Bret Pitchard were making up rail joints on the new ballast hopper siding.



The ballast hopper has been relocated outside the loop to allow the dump truck to deliver without crossing the track. The pull through siding will allow us to head either direction with the ballast car.

Train Warrant Control

Pat Kinney has suggested at the next Fun Run we operate bi-directional using Track Warrant Control. Track Warrant Control (**TWC**) is a verbal authorization system used to authorize trains to occupy Main Tracks outside of Yard Limits.

We would need to finish the passing sidings, put up some mile posts and control point names. Pat would school us on TWC.

Boiler Inspections

Adam Wright sends the following.

I have scheduled a visit with our state boiler inspector Dave Yeager to visit the Mid Michigan Railroad Club for anyone wanting to get their locomotives inspection done. No money is due the day of the inspection, the bill will be mailed to you. Please read through the attached documents so you are aware of what is planned for the testing. These are neither difficult nor complicated. I plan to bring my own hydrostatic pump and anyone is welcome to use it on the test day. There may be other pumps available too.

The date of our boiler inspection is set for June 30, 2023, rain or shine (dress appropriately). The inspector is planning to be at the club for the whole [business] day. I plan to bring my locomotive to the railroad the night before and have it setup for the test so I can take only a half day off from work and plan to arrive in the early afternoon. Some others may be there earlier in the morning. Anyone wanting to take additional time to enjoy their locomotives following the testing is welcome to join in the fun. This will have everyone well positioned for participating in the club's run days over the next two days.

Electric Locomotives and Batteries

Richard Wineland was recently helping with a battery powered locomotive. He sent an article on battery basics. A copy is included with the newsletter. Richard offers to help club members who have battery power locomotives.

Tina Pitchard New Membership Secretary

At the winter business meeting Tina Pitchard volunteered to become the Membership Secretary. She has gone to work updating the membership list. Thanks Tina.

As they say, like us on Facebook

Tina also takes care of our Facebook page. Check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/MMRCMichigan/>

Key Projects for 2023

Projects that for sure need to be done this year:

- Finish siding the old pavilion and install the doors and track and switches leading into the building. The top course on the walls will be translucent panels for lighting. End walls need to be framed for doors. Give Rod Pitman a call if you would like to help.
- Erect the new pavilion and install the roof. Materials are at the track. The location needs to get staked out so work can start,
- Tie replacement. The perpetual task. Ted Hentchel has been working on the south curve replacing ties and I am sure would welcome some help there. Work has started on the outer loop going north past the yard need some attention too.

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

Dues are due

2023 dues are due by May. If you have not paid your dues you can send them to Chris Morris 421 N Sheldon St, Charlotte, MI, 48813

Officers

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