
HIGH BALL

A Publication for the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club
September 2022



Welcome to the belated September edition. There are some interesting things going on around the railroad.



The general clean up around the property is continuing. The oversized firewood pile has cleaned up. The oversized and rotten pieces along with brush were hauled away.



The existing barn gets quite crowded with equipment. Once the club locomotive and cars are parked it is difficult to get around and there is no where to work when the weather is bad. The existing picnic shelter will be converted to an additional barn to store the club trains and lawn equipment. This will open up space to work on track panels and switches without rearranging equipment everyday. A new picnic shelter will be erected about where the ballast hopper is. This will give a nice view of the track and be easier to unload picnic supplies.

NMRA Visit

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.

I recently ran at Bill Pepper's Loon Creek Line for the Muncie and Western Railroad Club who are an O Scale club in Muncie IN. They were a good bunch of guys and the club posted some nice pictures on the Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MuncieandwesternRR/> Hosting similar groups could give us some exposure to potential members interested in railroads. Pat.

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. If you have question drop me a line or give me a call. Pat Patton
- Bury a cable from the depot to the grade crossing signals south of the caboose so they can be operated without brining batteries out. Tim Childs and Mike Schmitzer are working on this.
- 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. Give Rod Pitman a call.
- 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.

Member Projects

While running on the Loon Creek Line my locomotive became quite slippery. This reduced the weight on the driven axles by about 25%. At one spot double track ends on a grade and starting the train was a challenge. I discovered the booster sprocket on trailing truck had cracked and was slipping on the axle. Once home I had to drop the trailing axle and go to work putting a new sprocket in.



2022 Schedule

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

Officers

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For Sale

A home made steam tractor with a small vertical boiler and what looks like a Stuart 1A engine. Give Pat Patton a call.

