

Road Foreman Report

Over the summer of 2021 I constructed three driver boards to power the turnouts on Three Bridges so they can be operated remotely through JMRI. The boards have been installed and tested at my home and appear to be functioning properly. At the September Setup the turnouts were working but JMRI needed some files created for Operators to control the turnouts. At the next Setup there was electrical problems with two Reversers fighting each other and I think this may have damaged the control circuits or corrupted the software. I have been unable to investigate this problem as it would mean taking the wye out of service, project on hold.

Last summer I also started a project to build a new Wye to replace Hawthorne which has been taken out of service and found a new home. The new wye will have Tortoise switch machines to control the turnouts. All the major construction is done the only things left to do is build the controllers for the Tortoise Switch machines and complete the LocoNet. The name of the module and scenicing will be left to the Club Members to decide. The plan is to have the module ready for basic use in September.

I have developed a Layout Panel in JMRI for Castor River that will show a track diagram and people will be able control the turnouts by touching levers similar to what would be found on a CTC Panel. The Panel is an operation.

There has been a problem crop up with the new Power Pole wiring. The wire used is corroding and breaking at the solder joints. The flux used in soldering is suspect but it appears to be happening on many different joints done by different people using different fluxes and solders so maybe it is the wire itself and the high humidity conditions that occur in the storage area. Problem still under investigation and repairs are being done as needed.

The Laser Level failed at the December 2021 Setup (broken teeth on a gear). The Laser has been replaced with a new self leveling Laser with a more powerful continuous beam.

More 2" x 2" lumber has been purchased and 45 new legs have been manufactured by myself and Mark M. I have also made new Gussets that Mark has been installing on older modules in the Standard position and he has been lengthening the associated legs to Standard length.

I have also been looking into reinforcing the bottom of the legs with a fiberglass band around the leg to strengthen the area where the adjuster is especially on the legs made with smaller wood.