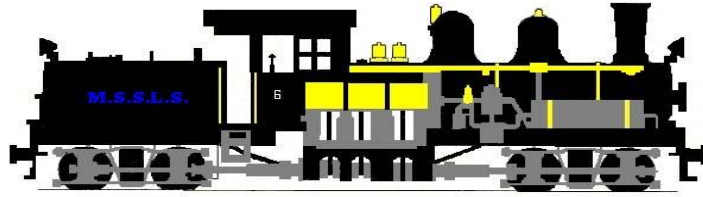


Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS at Canterbury Village June 11 & 12, 2011 by Bob Winkel

The 2011 GLLS run weekend at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion, Michigan turned out to be a very fun two days with lots of steaming action. The founding fathers expressed their gratitude for such a good turnout of members at this run, which is a very important event on the club calendar.

The event was preceded by the track setup on Friday afternoon. Jim Bowers and company assembled the track while it rained but were under the protection of the "big top" tent. Saturday morning we were able to get the trains on the track right away.

Bob Weltyk was happy to be attending this run and brought his "Thomas" locomotive and theme song recording. There were a surprising number of little railroad fans throughout the weekend and they all had smiles on their faces watching the trains. John Wessels put his Shay on the track for an early run and Tom Meyers ran his Southern #90 with five coaches in tow.

The temperature was about 10 degrees below normal in the morning and it was a bit overcast. But things brightened up when Jim Bowers put his Forney on the rails with coaches #18 and #20. Paul Kiss came to enjoy the activities for the day. Dan Samuels also attended and brought his mogul and pulled a WP&Y baggage car and passenger coach.

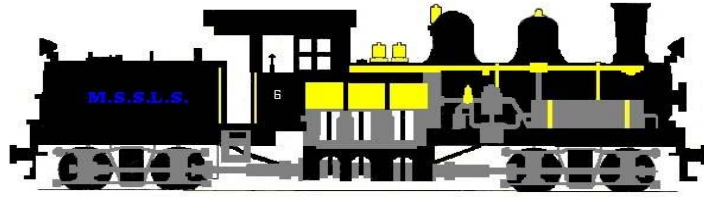
Your reporter steamed up his 2-6-0 #1 and pulled a mixed freight, including an outside braced box car and reefer. It was a pretty quiet morning but we saw a number of young rail fans and their families stop by to check out the action. Luckily, the ice cream store was open and had a good selection of flavors!

Saturday afternoon Tom Meyers got his 0-4-0 Katie, with a short train of 4 wheel freight cars, on the track and it was darting around the loop happily popping off, even up hill! About then Alex Azary and Ted Ramsey arrived. Alex showed off his new toy, a "Basset Lowke LMS Stanier spirit fired mogul in O gauge scale". It had three maroon colored coaches and was a cute little setup.

We did not see any rabid raccoons at the track this year, but we did see Chuck VanFleteren breeze in for a visit with club members. We also met Bob Weltyk's son and grandchildren. Around this time John Wessels ran his Climax and Tom steamed his coal fired Jack for the crowd. Before the end of the afternoon Alex ran his Aster Grasshopper, pulling three old-time coaches.

Sunday morning we experienced cool temperatures and a bit of wind, but the tent was pretty comfortable (once you get used to the yellow lighting). Adam Bar drove up for the afternoon and brought his Roundhouse Bertie and his C11. Leroy Patterson came to the run as well, and we saw his King George V. Later he ran his Maine #1455 alcohol-fired 2-6-0 with a freight train behind it.

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Dan Samuels steamed his new Roundhouse #24 and three Delton-style RGS coaches. The engine ran very smoothly for the afternoon. Bob Paternoster brought his Nevada County #2 and pulled several freight trains including the “Billboard Reefer Special”.

We met new member Larry Fafford and his wife. Larry brought a number of pieces of good looking equipment. We got to see his Aristocraft Shay pull a wooden ore car, a hopper car, a tip coal car and custom copper-roofed caboose (with blinking marker lights). All three sets of rails were getting a lot of action and, even though the guys worked to clean the tracks, we did see some wheel slippage. John Erhmin ran his 0-4-0 and his 2-8-2 for the crowd. He said “We’re going to need sanders”. Well, we didn’t have sanders but we did have Sanders, as in ice cream...

It was fun to see Fred Gandolfi, too, who came down from Roscommon. He fired up his Shay and also his B&O #4588, an Aster Mikado 2-8-2 pulling a nine car coal drag. It had no problem on the hills and the whistle sounded good too! Tom Meyers ran a number of locomotives including his GWR (God’s Wonderful Railroad) #3738 pulling an express passenger train.

Will Lindley test-fired his new Saber coal-fired Annabelle. He also steamed his cool looking Southern “Spitfire”. But it was spitting a little too much for Will’s comfort at one point. A little later we saw Tom’s Flying Scotsman being pulled by LNER #4742. At the end of the day he put out his wooden snow plow and pushed it with his Shay.

Taylor and Trevor Moon came to join in the fun. They brought their Forney and had a passenger coach marked “Mich. Oxford, Orion, and Northern” (MOON). Your reporter steamed up his red American, SPC #9, and pulled a red Frisco boxcar and a Southern Pacific caboose.

There was steam action right to the end of the afternoon on Sunday. Although the little princesses parading through the grounds did not pay too much attention to us, the youngsters that *did* stop by to see the steamers all seemed to go home happy. Thanks to all the members who helped make it a fun weekend of G scale steam railroading.