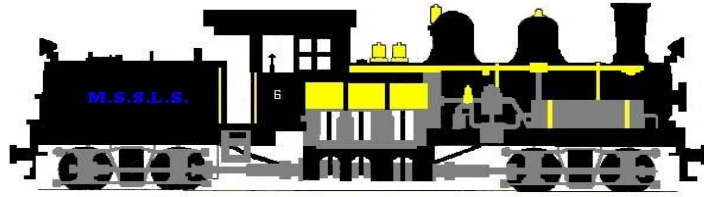


Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS at Durand, May 2011 Part II by Jim Bowers

Sunday May 15th at Durand was WINDY, COLD, and WET. We hid around the corner of the Depot to keep out of the wind, but it was next to impossible to run. John Wessels put a caboose on the track and it got blown off. He ran his Shay for a few laps under full blown burner firing just to have enough steam for a few laps. We joked that with the headwind, John's Shay was running half as fast upwind!

Eric Barr drove up from Cleveland where it was warm and cloudy to find Durand cold and wet. He even changed jackets before leaving home not knowing he'd need a winter parka. He ran his Roundhouse Sammie about three times but only for a few laps each time. The wind kept blowing out the burner.

John Erhmin came up from Toledo and tried to fire up his Weltyk-modified Artisto Mikado, but he could not even get his lighter to 'flick'. Bob Weltyk had repainted and relettered it to the C&O and did some repairs. It LOOKED good!

We looked for a spot to move the track to, but decided to just pack it in for the day about 11:30. There was NO outside activity at the Depot with these weather conditions. A few members went over to the train show at the Middle School. We saw Parker Moon at the train show and he said Taylor was busy re-lettering his newly acquired combine for their railroad.

After that, it was time to head out. Pulling the trailer home, it rained the entire way.

Jim B.