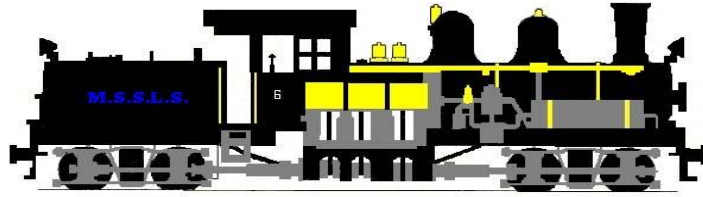


Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS Durand Run by Bob Winkel

Durand, MI May, 2011 The Michigan Small Scale Live Steamers met at the Durand RR depot on Saturday May 14th for a run at the Durand Railroad Days. The weather was questionable but members put it out of their minds and got to work setting up the portable track at the East end of the building, under the comfort of the large depot overhang. We had a short visit with Rob DeVries, who had an appointment in Flint but stopped by to help out with setup and say hello to everyone.

By 10:30 the track was up, the rain had stopped and members had found the donut & coffee concession. An hour later we saw John Wessels' 1902 Climax #4 cranking up with a log train in tow. Will Lindley said he had a new (to him) loco to run and hinted "it's slow". Sure enough, a few minutes later, he brought out the BAGR vertical boiler logging engine that was formerly run by Bill Kay.

Bob Paternoster set out his colorful reefers and towed his hot-shot perishable train, which we refer to as the "burnt-flag" express. By 11:30 the number of visitors was picking up, the sidewalk was dry and some pretty good aromas were coming out of the "Freight Room Café" next door. Tom Meyers got out his 0-4-0 OGWEN and pulled a train of 4-wheel cars. We enjoyed watching this speedy little guy puff around the track.

Tom Toth steamed up his German 0-6-0 by Marklin. He also had a nice looking train of 4-wheel cars. Later we saw him run his Doncaster. The wind seemed to pick up all morning and the temperature was stuck in the low 50's. But, luckily, the café next door (with their misspelled sign "Fright Room Café") began dishing out bowls of tasty, warm beef stew. Members took short tours of the depot and warmed up a bit throughout the afternoon.

Dan Samuels got out his Ruby and pulled four colorful cars. Bob Winkel's mogul pulled BP's bill-board reefers at a steady pace but things bogged down a bit when six more freight cars were added to the consist. After lunch, Meyers fired his green livery Southern train with his locomotive, the Winchester. Meanwhile, we were getting quite a show of full size CN trains passing by the Depot. Will said "I'd love to see a train come through here at 60 miles per hour". Not two minutes later a double headed west-bound freight came booking past the depot at about 40mph and, just as it passed us, the engineer boosted the throttles, which really picked up the pace. It was a nice RR show.

Meanwhile, the carnival was cranking up just across the tracks from us. It was colorful but just thinking about the wind chill for the amusement riders would make you shiver. Fritz Braun ran his 0-4-0 tank engine several times throughout the day, pulling six Pennsy freight cars. Trevor and Taylor Moon joined us in the afternoon and steamed up their Forney. Will got out his Porter, with all its shiny brass, and later ran his coal fired Annette. The coal, with its intense heat, seemed to provide a lot of steam in the cooler, windy environment.

We did not get to see Jim Bowers' new Gordon Watson Forney. However, we did appreciate Tom Toth's Duchess of Sutherland and its eleven maroon passenger cars. Toward the end of the afternoon, we were getting a little tired of the cool temperatures. But, although the weather was not ideal, we still had a good time at the club's latest run. Many thanks to all who made it happen.