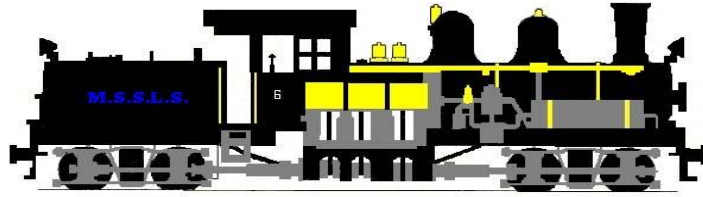


# Michigan



## Small Scale Live Steamers

**MSSLS Gratiot Valley Steamup** by Bob Winkel

November 7, 2010

Members met early Sunday morning to get the trailer unloaded amongst the hustle and bustle of the train show setup. The venue, same as last year, was the Gibraltar Trade Center but our track location was not as ideal as last year. Sunday was the day of the time change so the actual time as always in question but not long after the track was leveled the noise in the room went way up so we were pretty sure it was 10 o'clock the doors were open.

John Ehrmin got on the track early with his RC Aristocraft and later ran his Aristo 0-4-0 switcher. Tom Meyer steamed up his Aster German 0-6-0 "Frank" and train of short passenger cars.

Bob Paternoster was showing off his latest billboard reefer as part of a long consist. Later he and your reporter doubled up their moguls and put on a nice demonstration of motive power for the kids. Don Reilly brought his Leeds RR #85 "Merlin" to get some track time.

Speaking of the time change, Will Lindley had just returned from Europe and he said his internal clock was totally out of whack. But he managed to get his coal fired Annette on the track for a nice display of pyrotechnics. Harold Maxwell was in his normal good spirits and he had his mogul with him, although we can't remember if it was ever on the track or not.

We saw a number of members and friends during the show. Tom Toth brought items to sell but did not run. Bob and Mary Weltyk stopped by to say hello as did Marc Gast. We saw Bud Gilbert and several of his PH&D members who stopped by to chat. We saw what seemed like half the members from the Great Lakes Live Steamers. It was the place to be for trains.

The dynamic duo, Alex Azary and Ted Ramsey, came for the afternoon. Alex ran his Aster Grasshopper and Ted steamed his Aster B1. Dan Samuels came with his new Michigan-California Shay, which seemed to run very well. Tom Meyer got out his coal fired "Jack" for a spin. Later we saw him running his Regner Willi and he finished up the day with his Roundhouse "Katie".

Jim Bowers got his SR&RL Forney on the track with two log cars and #18 coach car. "Presque Isle". Bob Winkel steamed up his #1 mogul with a 1:24 freight train. Also on tap was the new/old Accucraft 0-4-0 "Legend" but it still has some issues and is not ready for prime time.

The club thanks all the members in attendance!