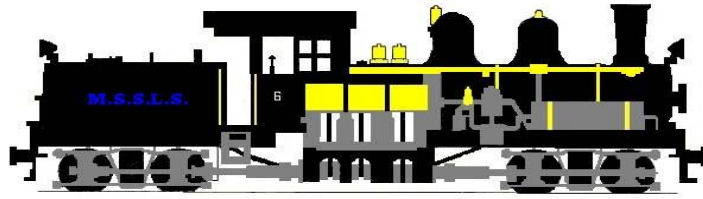


# Michigan



## Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS at Glitz Leukemia Fund Raiser by Bob Winkel

MSSLS members arrived at 7:30 Sunday morning on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Lake Orion to set up for this benefit run, hosted by Glitz. Our assigned location looked pretty level but it turned out to be on a pretty substantial slope and track leveling took a while. We were surrounded by those large, colorful, inflatable kiddie amusements and not far from the big stage for the main events.

Tom Toth was first on the track with his Doncaster and wood coaches. The big crowd had thinned out by then because most of the early arrivals were part of a 5K run and had been sent off into the hot sun with great fanfare. Tom Myers picked up the slack and got his green Pierce Countess #823 running, pulling two coaches.

The crowd started to pick up again but during the midmorning hours we were surrounded less by fans and more by lovely Glitz volunteers. The event staff were applying face tattoos and doing up the hair of the young patrons. But, mixed in the crowd, there was a small but steady stream of young fellas that gravitated to the live steam trains. Those youngsters especially appreciated Bob Weltyk's Thomas, pulling Clarabelle and Annie coaches.

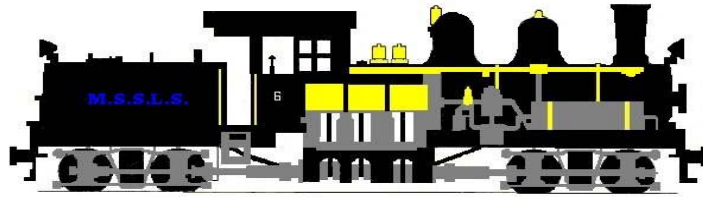
Will Lindley was showing off his new welding car with Pola details. It was pulled by a backwoods vertical boiler machine. About this time the sun was really starting to heat things up. The approximately 1 acre site was filled with tents from various vendors and there were people at most of them. There were a number of activities taking place on the stage too.

About midday we saw Dan Samuels, who related some of the activities at the recent run at his home track. He boiled some water in his NSL and pulled a string of coaches. Bob Winkel steamed his mogul and pulled a MOW train including a crane and some extra wheel sets. John Wessels got his 2 cylinder Shay running and hauled a log train. That's a nice sounding whistle in that locomotive.

Taylor and Parker Moon arrived about this time and put their Forney on the track, pulling some log cars also, loaded with some seriously large scale logs. The afternoon brought a bit of cloud cover which, combined with the tents, kept the sun off us but did not do much to keep the temperature down. The main stage act of the day seemed to be the hypnotist, who entertained the crowd by having his way with several volunteers.

Tom Myers kept the action going by running his Stanley steam tram. Will Lindley used his Shay to pull a mixed train of logs and wood chips, headed to the pulp mill. Tom Toth demonstrated his radio controlled

# Michigan



## Small Scale Live Steamers

Marklan 0-6-0 and was able to stop it in front of our “reviewing stand” so the kids could get a better look. It was a bit loud at this venue with all the loud speakers, music, generators and people. Did we mention it was hot? We couldn’t possibly have used much butane with the hot sun and the preheated water.

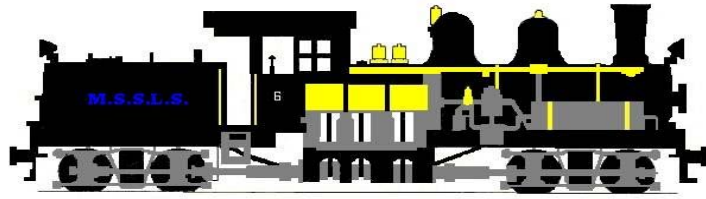
Bob Weltyk got a fire going in his Rio Grande mudhen, #464. It was pulling his Huckleberry cars including the HRR caboose. If we’re not mistaken, Taylor Moon was at the controls. Your reporter was proud to have his mogul on the track at the same time and got a nice shot of the two engines together.

Then IT happened. MSSLS is very comfortable with the idea that, with our unique toys, we are the premier group at most gatherings. But, we were upstaged. Yes, it’s hard to believe but all of a sudden all activities including ours came to a grinding halt as people turned to stare at the unfolding spectacle. We saw a white horse, leading a white open carriage, pull in and unload a bevy of beautiful women dressed as storybook heroines. The women proceeded to the stage and waved to the crowd. Then, with impeccable timing, a Troy fire truck pulled in, loaded with our favorite cartoon superheroes including Batman, Superman and Spiderman. I just shut my train down at that point – no one was looking at us.

Well, that’s not quite true. There were a couple of little guys in the viewing stand looking at the trains. So we ignored the superheroes and got the trains going again. John Wessels got his Climax steaming and Bob Weltyk finished running his #464 and we had a good time. And you know what, I saw Batman look over at us and he looked like he would rather have been with us and our trains than in that hot costume getting his picture taken with little Susie. How could you blame him?

Thanks to all the guys who came to help set up and tear down.

# Michigan



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