

Michigan Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS Ron Brown Memorial Steamup by Bob Winkel

October 7, 2010

The Ron Brown Memorial steamup at Bob Weltyk's track in Lake Orion, MI on Thursday October 7th, 2010, turned out to be a well attended and enjoyable event. With a sunny sky and temperatures in the high 60's, members could not have asked for nicer weather.

The run started with a pizza lunch and group photo before we got down to the business at hand. We saw Will Lindley's coal fired Annette blistering around the track and Dam Samuels had his Forney and a consist of 20' freight cars. We were pleased to see Leroy Patterson, for the first time this year, running his steam trolley "Stanley".

Alex Azary (holding the sign in the group picture) ran his Aster Grasshopper with three passenger cars. Tom Meyer attended the event but we forgot to note which of his many locomotives were on the track. Jim Bower brought one of his Forney's to run and we were happy that he got a chance to steam up without having to haul the club track, for a change.

This was the first chance for many MSSLS members to see and run on Bob Weltyk's new track setup. With it's 40 foot diameter on the west end, the trains were running quite easily. And speaking of new, Bob Winkel did the inaugural run of his new Denver, South Park and Pacific 2-8-0, on which Bob Weltyk had labored to adjust the timing. It looked great and ran well.

We also had visits from John Helmer, Fritz Braun and Harold Maxwell that afternoon.

Sadly, it was a bittersweet day for MSSLS members because that morning we lost one of our own, Bill Kay. Bill had been fighting the good fight for some time but passed away Thursday morning. He was a friend to railroaders of many gauges, having volunteered at the 3' gauge Huckleberry RR, the 7.5" gauge Great Lakes Live Steamers and the 45mm gauge Michigan Small Scale Live Steamers. We'll miss him.

