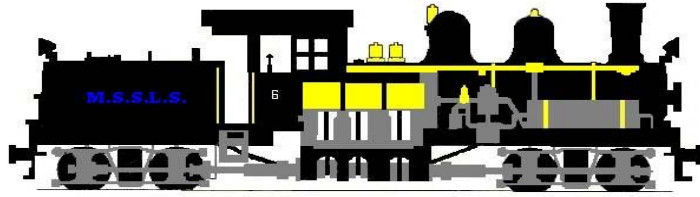


Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS at Huckleberry RR Railfans Day by Bob Winkel

The Michigan Small Scale Live Steamers had a strong contingent at the Huckleberry Railroad on August 6th, 2011. Once the track was laser leveled there was a bit of a lull but soon enough the trains began to roll and the park patrons began to stop by. Early on we saw Bill Hendricks with his Aster Frank and later his Wild Horse Mining Climax on the track. Dan Samuels was showing off his new Roundhouse Fowler in maroon livery, out for its first run. Chris Scott drove 600 miles to join us for the steamup this weekend!

Ted Ramsey and Alex Azary attended. Ted was running his Gordon Watson Shay and Alex brought an Aster Grasshopper and an O scale, alcohol-fired Basset Lowke 2-6-0. Jim (Mainely 2 Foot) Bowers invited fellow Maine narrow gauge enthusiast Jim Coplan (aka Dr. J.) to come from Philadelphia for steamup and both brought S.R.R.L. equipment (of course). Both Jims seemed to thoroughly enjoy the activities, especially when they got their Roundhouse 2-6-2 and Forneys on the track. Dr J. pulled a reefer, boxcar, Rumford Falls & Rangely Lakes coach and a custom-made caboose on both days.

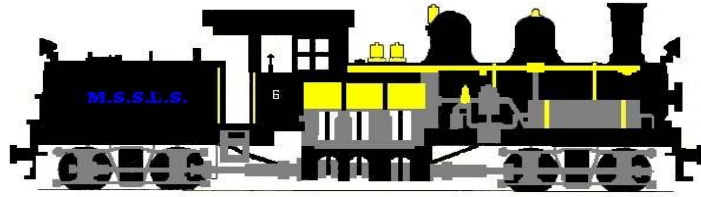
Parker and Taylor Moon ran their recently acquired Rio Grande K-27 #464 pulling a full consist of Huckleberry coaches. Fritz Braun ran his Accucraft 0-4-0 on Saturday; it happily chugged around the track. Chris Scott brought a Ruby #11 and Bob Weltyk had his Thomas on display. Fred Gandolfi drove down from Houghton Lake and steamed up his Aster NYC Hudson. Fred likes to highball this 4-6-4 around that track pulling a nine-car string of coal hoppers. Tom Myers lighted up his coal fired John Shaw converted Roundhouse. Tom also ran his green livery Southern #901 "Winchester" and later set out his Duchess of Sutherland LMS 6213 with a set of eleven coaches.

We had a visit from a prospective member on Saturday. He brought along his hand crafted brass 2-6-0 with its 6 wheel tender. Several members, including Fred Gandolfi, gave him advice concerning firing the locomotive. There was a fairly long rain delay late Saturday afternoon but, after it was done, we saw Jim Bowers' Roundhouse #6 Forney and Bob Winkel's red SPC #9 American doing a caboose hop. The Village personnel allowed us to stash a variety of club and private equipment overnight in the adjacent historic town hall building (now used as a railroad gift shop) and then it was on to the evening's activities.

Several members rode behind the special 5:30pm train, which was primarily a photographer's excursion. As such, there was a lot of slow back-and-forth and we got to see various parts of the railroad quite thoroughly, if you know what I mean. This must be what the Amtrak train to Chicago feels like. But there was a bit of a cooling breeze when the train was underway and we were out of the occasional rain shower and, all in all, it was enjoyable enough.

After the excursion arrived back at the depot we headed to the locomotive shop where there was a nice spread of food and quite a selection of pot luck desserts. We had a chance to catch up with several HRR people we haven't seen in a while and meet a few fellow steam enthusiasts besides.

Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

Sunday August 7th was a much nicer day with blue skies and lower humidity but fewer members. John Wessels got on the track very early and operated his log train, pulled by his Accucraft Climax #4. Bob Paternoster, also an early steamer, fired his good looking Nevada County mogul, pulling a colorful string of reefer cars. We also saw Leroy Patterson Sunday and he had his coal fired K-27 and gas fired C-21. These locomotives looked nice pulling a string of green Denver and Rio Grande coaches.

John Ehrmin brought his Aristocraft Mikado and pulled a freight train for the railfans. Later we saw him doing some impromptu RC switching with his 0-4-0 tank engine. Your reporter steamed his Accucraft #51 Denver, South Park and Pacific consolidation, pulling a consist of freight cars. A few members slipped away Sunday afternoon for various activities including a ride on the Genesee Bell paddle wheel boat (quite refreshing), visiting the ice cream shop (also refreshing) and touring the display hall with its various N, S and O gauge railways, set up for the Railfans weekend.

Jim Bowers fueled and fired his SRRL #24 Sunday afternoon and pulled a six car link-and-pin coupled train. Bob Paternoster put together a 10 car train about that time also. However, not long after that the skies began to darken and we endured a half hour period of very strong rains. But the trains were back on the track shortly after the rain quit and new groups of park patrons continued to stop by until closing time.

This was another interesting run and we thank all who made it possible. MSSLS wants to extend a special thanks to Jim Bowers for his efforts in getting the track to and from this event.

