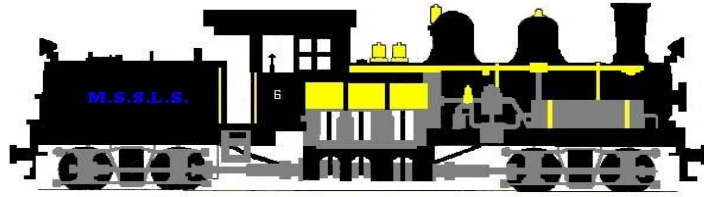


Michigan



Small Scale Live Steamers

MSSLS at Will and Claudia Lindley's Private Run, August 20,2011 by Bob Winkel

The Lindley's yard and flower-filled garden railroad looked perfectly beautiful as we arrived Saturday morning in anticipation of the annual invitational at their home in Livonia. The blue sky added to the allure and it wasn't long until the steam plumes were flying.

But first came the chores as the track was unloaded and hauled to the back yard. Jim Bowers had some thoughts about how to avoid the difficult leveling on Will's sloped back yard. We set up the tallest section in the back. Then, as we went along, Jim used a 4 foot carpenter's level to help us get a reasonably level first pass. After that the DeVries brothers, Rob and Jeff, went to work doing the final touchup.

Speaking of the DeVries, Jeff brought his Climax with him and we also got to see his home built Shay in action later in the day. Rob had a surprise – he had received the new Accucraft East Broad Top 2-8-2 only a few days previously and ran it for us first thing that morning. With only 65 of these made, it is a relatively rare beast. It ran well (and long), pulling a nice string of hopper cars on its second-ever run.

Earlier, your reporter was first on Will's garden track with the Hielscher Grasshopper (the term is used very loosely) and it was steaming happily around the upper loop to start off the day. Later #51, Denver South Park and Pacific 2-8-0 joined the fray and showed off for the crowd.

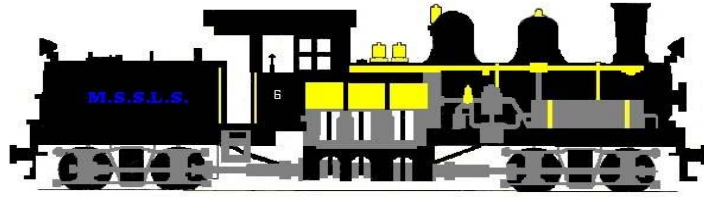
Adam (I love expensive trains) Barr got on the club track pretty early with (gasp) an electric model of a Japanese EF-58 pulling a nice looking blue and white set of passenger coaches. He was allowed because it was an Aster. Later he got out his Daylight Special with its colorful, orange and red passenger train. He and Bob Weltyk compared notes on the operation of their respective versions of the 4-8-4s.

Fritz Braun brought several locomotives including his 0-4-0 switcher. Later he fired his maroon Roundhouse Lady Ann on the large garden track. John Harris steamed his model German 2-6-4T. He put both his Regner Willi and Max on the garden track and they seemed perfectly suited to that railroad. Dan Samuels brought his mogul and four coaches but ran only the engine as he was having coupler problems.

More people arrived as the morning went on and there was quite a crowd for lunch. Will and Claudia served breakfast pastries, a nice lunch and ice cold beverages throughout the day. Early in the afternoon we began to smell coal smoke and we soon saw Will's Annette and its four-wheel consist speeding around the tracks with its ash pan glowing orange. Will's brother-in-law, Greg, brought an electric powered Forney and had it pulling a circus train on the big garden loop.

By 1:30pm the clouds were beginning to thicken but that didn't stop Tom Myers from running his O gauge Bassett Lowke 2-6-0 with its maroon and white passenger coaches. Later Tom steamed up his 2 cylinder Shay, which easily pulled a set of log cars. In contrast to his new EBT #12, Rob DeVries also ran his Mamod 0-4-0 on the big garden track.

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At approximately 3:00pm the clouds were getting pretty dark and the weather services were advising that a line of severe storms was fast approaching. We battened down the hatches and activities were suspended for the duration of the storm. We'll need to rely on Will for the "rest of the story".

The club offers it's thanks to Will and Claudia for their invite to this enjoyable afternoon of steaming activities!



Rob DeVries steams his new EBT 2-8-2. That's brother Jeff on the right and Tom Myers in the background.

Photo by Bob Weltyk
August 20, 2001