

EJ&K Railway Trip  
November 6, 2010

**Saturday, November 6, 2010**

This year, the Iowa State Railroad Club has a goal of doing one activity per month. This month, we attended the 2010 annual meet of the Kate Shelly Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). As it has the past several years, the meet was held at United Community School between Ames and Boone. The gymnasium was filled with over two dozen vendors with approximately 90 tables of HO and N-scale models and railroading. Additionally clinics were offered throughout the morning on various topics including Free Mo model railroading, trains in Poland, and scratch-built models. There was also merit judging and a silent auction. Only a couple members got lucky and won a door prize, but they had some very nice door prizes donated from vendors and manufacturers.

For lunch, the group stopped off at Jimmy's BBQ in Boone. Jimmy's has become a club favorite when we are in the Boone area. After lunch, the group headed out to Bob Bourne's farm, home of the Emily, Joan, and Katie (EJ&K) Railway. The farm is located in rural north-eastern Boone County, about four miles west of Gilbert, IA. The railroad is a 1/8th scale (1.5 on the model = 1 foot on the real thing). Track gauge is 7.5 inches. A faithful group of EJ&K volunteers had opened the railroad and prepared it for visitors. The Iowa State Railroad Club was responsible for operating two of the three trains running on the railroad: a mixed freight powered by a pair of NYC GP9s, and a short express powered by the trolley. All members had the opportunity to take both trains around the railroad several times. The third train operating on the railroad was a passenger train, powered by 2-8-0 CGW 319, the only steam locomotive operating that day. 319 hauled the passenger train and the visitors. About four hours of operating was enjoyed by all before it was time to gather up all of the cars, perform the necessary switching, and house everything in their appropriate place in the car barns. Following the last trip around the railroad, a group photo was taken with the two GP9s. All in all, it was a wonderful day of model railroading and all agreed it was a great trip!