

Fort Dodge
December 7th, 2003

The club left Ames at 9am for a day trip up to Fort Dodge. Proceeding north following the UP's Jewell Subdivision, we manage to see a southbound grain train running through Jewell which we caught in Randall, led by UP 7315. After it passed, we continued on north to Eagle Grove, where another grain train was waiting on the north side of town for a crew to take the train south, led by UP 2085, an ex-SP GP60. The semaphore was a nice touch as well. Running short on time, the club drove along to Fort Dodge where we would visit the Lizard Creek Model Railroad Club. Beforehand, a trip to the local Mickey D's was made as well as a quick stop at the CN yard, which had the following units: GTW 5812, WC 3014, IC 6032 (nose detail), and GTW (CN-paint) 5934. A BNSF-NS-BNSF consist was sitting at the sanding towers as well. Our final destination for the day was a visit to the Lizard Creek. A great deal of thanks goes out to Curtis, our club contact, and Tim, who gave an excellent overview of their operations. A few of our club members were even given a chance to break-in new engines, such as a fantasy lash-up of ARR 4001 and CNW 6544, both Kato products courtesy of Chad, and a more realistic consist of BNSF 547 - ATSF 563 - BN 2175. The Atlas B40-8W's from Justin and the Atlas BN GP38 from Lee. Lastly, a club picture behind the layout. A good time was had by all. All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better day. A big thank you to the club for capping off a nice day trip!