

Manly/Charles City, IA  
October 18, 2014

For our 2014 fall club trip, the club decided to take a trip to the Manly Junction Railroad Museum in Manly, IA. Currently, the museum is open by appointment only, so with assistance from club alumni member Ben Hucker, we got in contact with Brad Sabin, Project Manager and Director of Hazardous Materials for the Iowa Northern Railway. The Iowa Northern operates the museum. Through our correspondence with Brad, we were also able to arrange a tour of Iowa Northern's Manly facilities. After Manly, the plan was to stop by another club alumni member, Tony Lessin's house in Charles City to see his HO scale layout. Then, we would do some railfanning of the Iowa Traction in Mason City on the way back to Ames.

On Saturday morning, we left campus at 7:00 and headed towards I-35 on 13<sup>th</sup> street. As we approached the crossing for the Jewell Sub, the lights and gates activated. We stopped and watched as the southbound manifest train headed slowly through north Ames to go east on the Clinton Sub. After the train cleared, we continued to Manly. We arrived in Manly shortly after 8:30, where Brad met us and invited us to have donuts while he talked about the history of the Iowa Northern and what he does for the railroad. We then toured the museum, which is filled with many large historical photos of the Manly area and Iowa in general, along with railroad artifacts. A local group was working on an HO scale model layout in one room of the museum, which we got to look at. After touring the museum, Brad took us on a trip through the Iowa Northern Manly yard. Our first stop was to see a line of stored locomotives. We got a club photo on IANR 2003 and were able to look around at the others. We also got to stop at the now water-filled turntable in the yard. Brad then took us to the Manly Terminal area, where we came upon a crew switching. Along with Brad, the members of the club climbed into the cab and were able to ride along during some of the switching operations. We were also treated to an enjoyable conversation with the engineer, who had a long history working on various railroads. As we headed back towards the museum, we stopped to see a couple more locomotives parked in the yard. Once we returned to the museum, we thanked Brad for his hospitality and got back into the van for the next part of the trip.

We left Manly and headed to Charles City, where we stopped at McDonald's for lunch. After lunch, we went to alumni member Tony Lessin's house to see his layout. Tony's layout is a loop, with a staging yard and workspace in the middle, accessible through a duckunder. Tony also has a replica of ISU's Campanile, which plays recorded bells on schedule.

After a couple of hours at Tony's house, we left Charles City and headed towards our last stop on the trip, the Iowa Traction in Mason City. We entered Mason City from the east and followed the Iowa Traction along 19<sup>th</sup> Street towards Clear Lake. We found IATR 50 parked outside of AGP and stopped to take pictures. We continued west and saw the shops at Emery. We followed the tracks until they turned away from the road near Clear Lake and then we headed back to Ames on I-35.