



For the enjoyment and edification of model railroad operators

Dakota Southeastern Division layouts shine at the fairgrounds

12th Annual Trains at Christmas a hit during National Model Railroad Month

Clear, cold weather and great media coverage from KELO and the Argus Leader helped draw record numbers of model train fans to the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds last weekend. Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society treasurer and DSED member Wayne Hanson verified record attendance of 1,300 paid admissions plus another 700 children under age 13.

Dakotasoutheastern Division members and layouts played an active role in the show's success—a half dozen exhibits by members were on display and in action. The division's brand new eight track, 12' long HO staging yard accommodated over 150 cars. Joe Grimshaw's lengthy Norfolk and Western coal train anchored a wide variety of motive power and consists throughout the weekend.



Vendors and exhibitors await the show's 10:00 opening Saturday morning. New attendance marks were set both days as train fans from several Upper Midwestern states came to Sioux Falls to view, operate, and buy model railroad equipment and supplies. Richard Dahl photo



Joe Grimshaw and Mike Kaufman make a final check of the brand new DSED club layout staging yard which made its debut. Richard Dahl photo

DSED also featured its N gauge continuous loop club layout. Besides the club offerings, individual division members again shared their scale and modeling passion. Todd Marks' S and O gauge entertained fans of larger scales. Gary Johnson's scenery masterpiece N gauge layout helped anchor the show—he's been at TAC 10 of its 12 years. Finally, a new HO scale version of the west end of Progressive Rail's Airlake Industrial Park gave over 60 youngsters the opportunity to "drive the train." The engineers following realistic practices, like those performed on the prototype located in Lakeville, MN (see page two and four for more images).

More TAC highlights

During a record-setting weekend, many division members were busy—either helping with the expanded modular layout or on individual members' layouts. Plus there's the now-familiar TAC sight of the massive and highly detailed Free-mo layout.



S gauge layout owner Todd Marks appears in a prayerful mode prior to the doors opening—but more likely he was blowing on his hands for warmth Richard Dahl photo



Brothers Gary and Glenn Johnson ready Gary's N gauge scenery masterpiece. Glenn travels from his Illinois home each November to assist his brother with layout set-up, operations, and take-down. Richard Dahl photo



DSED's Nathan Harmer tests the O gauge layout he's created for a class project, constructed on plywood. Richard Dahl photo



Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society President and DSED member Jay Manning performs track cleaning on the DSED N gauge layout (generously donated earlier this year). The layout featured a Christmas theme this year. Many of the flatcars featured Hallmark Christmas and winter figures. One flatcar in the middle of the consist even included a "Think Snow" sign. Richard Dahl photo



HO scale members from Minnesota and Nebraska Free-mo group filled the entire east end of the Expo Center with their numerous modules, providing plenty of photo opportunities for attendees. Richard Dahl photo

Twin Cities and Western Railroad completes first year of operations

A heartfelt thank you to each of the 21 crew members and dispatchers on the TCWR. You helped make 2013 an enjoyable and memorable year. Below are a few of scenes captured during the action. Next year promises plenty of entertainment and operational challenges.



GP39-2s (custom by Tim Smith) bring their train into Glencoe

Richard Dahl photo



MPLI GP10 (likewise custom by Tim Smith) idles at Renville before going to work on the West End Turn

Richard Dahl photo



SD38-2 (custom by Eric Carlson) brings the North Star Intermodal train through Granite Falls

Eric



Dispatcher Smith monitors TCWR traffic



Busy taggers decorated this TCWR double plug door boxcar



The crew heads their train east on the return trip from Appleton to Renville

A glimpse of history past, the present, and future



Progressive Rail SW1500 #36 shoves a BN high sided gon on the yard main at Highview Avenue in Lakeville. Expect to learn and see more of the Airlake Industrial Park in 2014.



A trio of Dakota Minnesota and Eastern (owned by CPR) six axle units (owned by Richard Dahl) head west on the main passing through Lakeville. Richard Dahl photo