



The "Durango & Rio Grande Southern Railroad"

HON3 BY LAURIE MCLEAN MMR #417

How'dy folks & welcome to "**Fabulous Silverton**", the town where there's always something happening. The layout is called the **Durango & Rio Grande Southern Railroad** & it is set in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

This lil' ol narrow gauge RR was started mid 2007 to represent the tracks of the Denver & Rio Grande Western RR in southwestern Colorado. It is Hon3 scale/gauge & runs on Durango Wheat Beer & DCC.

This layout is a little different than most as there is a bunch of "**Little Folk**" who are becoming famous.

See, there was a "**Great Train Robbery**", the Outlaw & his gang of desperate desperado's stole the "Fourteener" gold nugget that was loaded on a train along with a whole'll stack of gold top DW's (Durango Wheat's - beer). The "Fourteener" gold nugget was dug up from a mine above the town & was to go to the Worlds Fair for exhibition.

The President of the railroad, Otto Beers, wanted to impress them "Easterners" at the fair so he got the Durango Brewery to put solid gold bottle tops on a stack of DW beer bottles that were also loaded onto the train in Silverton.

The Outlaw & Kid Durango stole the train & headed off the layout to try & find a smelter so they could be rich.

When the Mayor & townsfolk heard the train was stolen they got another train, formed a posse with the Sheriff, Brewer, Spike, Scoop (Reporter for the Silverton Sub-Standard Gazette), Snappy (the photographer), Madam Lash (runs the bordello), Inspector, Professor, RooDy (the kangaroo), Chief Suntraxx & his daughter Minidekoda, Barkeep, Pianoman, Sparky (radio K-HON3) & Toyman.

Ya'see, DW's are viewed as valuable consumption, some say more valuable than the gold ore mined near town. This train chase has left Silverton & gone on to "other layouts" where photos have been taken showing the posse chasin' thar Outlaw's stolen train. They left Australia in April 2008 & are tourin' through Callyfornya & Coloradie, goin to Alaska, Kansas, New York & on to England - so them's havin' a world tour see.

Back at home while the "Little Folk" posse is chasin' them bandits a whole'll lot more is hap'nin.

Silverton International Airport jest git it'z new second hand bi-plane, a new town called "Noname City" just sprung up where Laura Norda runds the saloon - sellin' DW's of coor's! The mexican's keep wanting to steal the DW's so Jason DeVillian the deputy sheriff is kept busy.

The girls at Madam Lash's pleasure parlor are always involved in the adventures & so is the Durango Wheat traveling truck with the "Singing Hobo's" onboard.

The Silverton Railroad Hotel has Anita Drink & her sister Diana Drink serving " you-no-wots" while Amanda Love, Alma Nightlong, Mona Lott & the other girls at Madam Lash's Bordello keepbusy.

Yes'siree, evey little figure on this layout has a name, a job & plays jest as important part as them trains.

The injun's are fitted with Tsunami's & their lights are beautiful lil' surface mount device LED's to make em look pretty. The other injun's in the tribe at Tomahawk run a casino & have their tee-pees alongside the tracks.

The layout is in a single car garage with a painted backdrop all the way around including the door being painted. Most of the structures are scratchbuilt or kit-bashed, all the trees are handmade & the scenery is plaster & super-detailed.

CVP Easy DCC with wireless throttles runs the trains with brass locomotives & mostly kit built rolling stock that represent the D&RGW narrow gauge that still runs in south-west Colorado today.

You can keep up with the adventures of this railroad & its "**Little Folk**" through the **Silverton Sub-Standard Gazette** which publishes regular updates on this website & has radio broadcasts also to be listened to - but we printed them out here for slow listeners!