

The Manifest^(C)2014
Railroad News and Musings from
Green Country Model Railroaders' Association SM

We had a great time at the Bixby train show this weekend. Considering the great weather following one of the coldest winters in history, I thought attendance was good. The pace was low-key, and we all seemed to have a good time in spite of the absence of several key members due to unfortunate circumstances.

There are so many safety items on the Internet this month that I may just guide you to them without the need for me to warn you myself.

How many times do we have to try to convince people to follow safety rules:

<http://www.newser.com/story/183904/train-pulls-into-station-with-body-pinned-to-it.html>

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/oddnews/man-barely-escapes-being-hit-by-train--with-video--195545011.html>

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/oddnews/woman-ducks-back-under-railroad-crossing-arm-and-barely-avoids-speeding-train--with-video--232307455.html>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/suv-gets-slammed-by-light-rail-caught-on-video/>

In a bitter-sweet safety story, a young man saved his girlfriend's life by sacrificing his own. But, they both might be enjoying life today if they had followed the most basic of train safety warnings: stay off the tracks:

http://www.newser.com/story/184202/teen-dies-saving-girlfriend-from-train.html?utm_source=part&utm_medium=united&utm_campaign=rss_topnews

But, sadly, sometimes the railroad equipment and/or employees are to blame:

<http://gma.yahoo.com/chicago-train-derailment-ohare-airport-injures-least-32-110546809--abc-news-topstories.html#>

http://www.newser.com/story/184378/chicago-train-driver-admits-dozing-off.html?utm_source=part&utm_medium=united&utm_campaign=rss_topnews

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/ntsb-probes-cta-training-blue-222940120.html>

Oddly to me, sleep research even from the 1980's showed the terrible effects of sleep problems caused by rotating shift work. The fairly simple recommendations resulted in a 40% reduction in police-owned vehicle collisions in a major city. I vividly remember a PBS show where researchers had a railroad engineer hooked up to equipment recording his brain waves. They weren't getting the signals they were expecting. But after checking and rechecking their connections, they had to admit the astounding reality: he was asleep! This, in spite of the fact that he was carrying on a coherent conversation with them, operating the controls and sounding the horn appropriately.

Many people have heard the first part of Hosea 4:6 - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;" but the verse continues: "because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you (from being a priest to me...)" (ESV) While this passage is addressing spiritual matters, it's a good reminder to regard the

things we DO know. Why don't the railroads regard the definitive sleep research starting 30 or so years ago? (This from the author munching on a oil-drenched sub sandwich, a white chocolate macadamia nut cookie and drinking a...non water beverage, with plans go to eat Mexican food tonight and still complain about not being able to lose weight. Sigh. I think I'll take a nap, er, ah...I mean, go exercise, or something.)

We'll close on a lighter note:

----- Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes -----

"What's the use of having a train schedule if the trains are always late?" complained an irate passenger to the railroad conductor.

The conductor replied, "How would we know the trains were late, if we didn't have a schedule?"
I guess it all depends on your viewpoint, huh?

Remember the membership meeting this Thursday at 7:00 at the layout. Enjoy life!

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