

The Manifest_(C)
Railroad News and Musings from
Green Country Model Railroaders' Association_{TM}
Sunday, December 8, 2013

We trust everyone had a great Thanksgiving and lots of good food, which brings us to the big event this Thursday evening: our annual holiday party and food festival at Furr's Cafeteria in the Farm Shopping Center at 51st and Sheridan here in Tulsa. Members, family, visitors are most welcome. Show up by 6:00 o'clock to buy your own food and try to be through by 7:00 for the meeting. They have almost anything you want to eat...well, almost: no escargot, caviar, beef tartare, and so on, but if you go away hungry, it's your own fault!

The business meeting will be extremely brief. Mainly we'll elect officers for 2014. Members, be sure to bring a USA Government-issued photo ID and a DNA sample to receive your ballot. [I put stuff like this in just to make sure members read this.] ;-) Then we'll play our (in)famous "Naughty Santa" Game. I'll send a list of guidelines to members. If visitors want to join in, just reply to this email and I'll send you a copy.

Members, this meeting would be a great time to pay at least your first-half 2014 dues, which are due January 1, 2014 You don't want to lose your discount January 2nd. Our treasurer's niblets would get all a-twiggly if everyone paid that night – a sight to see!

We had a great time at the American Train and Hobby Show last weekend. Having been criticized (not an unusual event), I will go on record as stating I don't think age prevents one from enjoying face-painting. Go to our facebook page to see the train-related items on the first day, and my Fender Stratocaster guitar on the second. (That's the reason for the front license plate on my car.) The artist did a marvelous job re-creating the 3-color sunburst finish, maple neck and "whammy bar" from only a verbal description and a generic photo. Too, by the second day I'd learned (with difficulty) not to scratch my face and to be careful putting eyeglasses on and off to avoid smearing a work of art.

As many of you know, I used to work on mainframe computers and taught digital electronics and avionic networks at an aeronautical college. As I see the reality of unmanned (Yeah, I know that's gender-insensitive, but that's what they're called in industry.) Aerial Vehicles (airplanes, helicopters and drones) I think, "Yeah, but I made my living for years fixing broken computers." Same thing about automobiles without drivers. But then I see a human holding a 'phone in one hand and gesturing emphatically with the other while entering the entrance ramp to I-244. Don't suppose it could be much worse... But when a train leaves the station without anyone at the controls:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/11/runaway-san-francisco-train-leaves-station-without-driver/>

Trains still seem to crash frequently:

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/train-crashes-into-mini-bus-in-egypt-1384815523-slideshow/>

The recent commuter train derailment had speed as a factor: 82 mph going into a curve with a 30 mph limit. (Yeah, that'll do it.) But one press release said the brakes went into emergency and the train fully stopped 5 seconds later. Bet me! However, it was pointed out to me that it's entirely possible since the train was on its side!

http://finance.yahoo.com/video/ntsb-train-going-82-mph-220636347.html?soc_src=mediacontentsharebuttons

We look forward to seeing you and yours Thursday. And we wish all a truly joyous and meaningful holiday and new year.

Vic B

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