

The Manifest, July 6, 2014<sub>(C)</sub>  
Railroad News and Musings from  
Green Country Model Railroaders' Association SM

We trust that all had a safe and sane Independence Day celebration. Many of us, if not our friends and relatives, have been directly affected by armed conflict. The fireworks in this companion holiday to Memorial Day remind us of the instruments of war sung in about in our national anthem. I was going to include a patriotic quote, but ran into so many, I decided to let you choose which resonates with you:

<http://freedomkeys.com/vigil.htm>

Thomas and Friends continue to be popular. I didn't realize so many companies made the licensed items until I went shopping for my granddaughter's second birthday. Shame she lives out of town...I was wanting to play with the dolphin jumping over the train. Watching her on video reminds me how tough these things have be. This is in direct opposition to the delicate details on our grown-up scale models. So...a compromise: I've ordered an H-O scale "Emily" loco and two passenger cars ("coaches"). We can run the unit train as is on the portable layout we'll be setting up at a local park next month. Shouldn't be too hard (for someone else) to install a decoder in the loco so we can run it on our Saturday morning open house sessions. No dolphin though...

There's always something in the news about trains. Let's start with a cancellation of development of one high-speed train:

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/State-Amtrak-cancel-joint-high-speed-train-bid-5567905.php>

But another country is trying a not-quite-so-high-speed but still 100 mph train:

[http://news.yahoo.com/indian-semi-bullet-train-sets-national-speed-record-112257653.html?soc\\_src=mediacontentstory](http://news.yahoo.com/indian-semi-bullet-train-sets-national-speed-record-112257653.html?soc_src=mediacontentstory)

Trains and planes may have a connection most people never think of. But many of you have probably seen the big airplane parts moving by rail near Pine and Memorial at the old "bomber plant." True, there's virtually never a grade crossing incident involving a train and a plane, but damage can occur another way: a train carrying fuselages can derail:

[http://finance.yahoo.com/news/boeing-737-fuselages-damaged-train-183402681.html?soc\\_src=mediacontentstory](http://finance.yahoo.com/news/boeing-737-fuselages-damaged-train-183402681.html?soc_src=mediacontentstory)

Remember we have our regular membership meeting this coming Thursday at 7:00 at the layout. Stay cool and enjoy trains!

Victor Banham

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