

The Manifest – Monday, October 7, 2013
News about railroading in the Tulsa area, from
Green Country Model Railroaders' Association SM

We survived the hectic schedule to date. The Bixby show set a record figure for both paid and total attendance. Since children get in free, they aren't counted directly, but estimates ranged between 1000 and 1200 total! Our aquarium fund raiser went so well we ran out of prizes. Thanks to the prez for a lightning run to buy more. We were operating short-handed as several long-timers ran into conflicts with both scheduling and health-related issues. Thanks to the organizational skills of Joe Schuler several first-time members were able to step up and use his notes and plans to transport, setup, operate and then reverse all this with minimal difficulties. This was a great example of teamwork and group effort. Good job, guys!

There was an interesting, beautifully executed (expensive?) N-scale portable layout at the show, one that would ideally fit our needs...well, except that N-scale is getting too small for many of us to work on. If we could at least operate it, our audiences could see it, even if we can't. We were also able to do informal planning with the Rheema show promoter. Afterward I was able to attend the RSU-TV fundraiser featuring Weird Al's anniversary of "UHF." As you recall, we set up the portable 5' x 9' layout at Al's signing session at the Circle Theater near downtown Tulsa. It had a sign that explained we really had to search our closets to find the same technology as the layout we built for the movie. There really wasn't room at the studio to set up the layout, but the station at least knows we are supporting them and the hobby. You may still find some Weird Al items on their auction site.

If you've read the various model railroading magazines through the years, you know that what you see in the published photos is much more than just great model trains. The photography itself is at least half the battle in conveying the illusion of realism. We get numbed to the technology available these days, but without exaggerating, the photos of model work in the next link are amazing. If people weren't included to show scale, there are no clues these photos of scale model automobiles are not real 1:1 scale. If we could but achieve this level of technical expertise in our railroads:

<http://blog.flickr.net/en/2013/10/04/crafting-scenes-of-iconic-america/>

Here's a link to a slide show of high-speed trains:

<http://travel.yahoo.com/photos/world-s-fastest-trains-1380739728-slideshow/>

There are many modelers out there who like prototypes other than trains, planes and military being particularly popular. Here's an article about how the Civil War changed your life today, including trains:

<http://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-04-2011/8-ways-civil-war-changed-lives.html#.UkogWNp1VPw.email>

"Trains" magazine is promoting its online version:

<http://links.mkt746.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MTc5Mzg4MzYS1&r=NjU3NDU4ODExMDUS1&j=MjMyMzU4Nzg2S0&mt=1&rt=0>

At the end of the month there will be many costumed kiddies running around dressed as ghosts and goblins. That would be an explanation for the driver-less train that crashed into another in Chicago. (This really is an event begging for a rational explanation,)

<http://news.yahoo.com/chicago-train-accident-injures-33-152224274.html>

That's about it for this month, but that's plenty! Stay tuned for latest developments, come to the business meeting Thursday, enjoy the beautiful fall weather, and Happy Tracks!

Vic B

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