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**“Project 31: The Rollercoasters of Worlds of Fun 1980”
Special Free Exhibit Union Station, Opens June 1st
*Working 1:48 scale models take visitors back in time!***

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 1, 2011 – A traveling exhibit makes its next stop at historic Union Station. Opening June 1st, the exhibit features scratch hand-built working models of all five coasters that were at Worlds of Fun in 1980 (31 years ago, hence the Project 31 title). The five coasters are: the Orient Express, Screamroller, Schussboomer, Zambezi Zinger and even the park’s kiddy coaster, the Silly Serpent. The scale models are 1:48 scale, which is the same scale as Lionel trains. In addition to the models, there are historic photographs of the coasters; an actual wheel from the Orient Express; an original 1980 park map and copies of the original blue prints for the Zambezi Zinger.

The exhibit was conceived by Randal Strong-Wallace, owner of www.modelcoasters.com. Strong-Wallace has been building model roller coasters for over 30 years. “We have YouTube and the internet to thank for the exhibit,” says Strong-Wallace. “A few years ago I decided to put a model coaster I had just finished, “The Flash” on YouTube. It became quite popular. Then the questions came: *How did you build your model?* and *What materials do you use?* In late 2010, I started www.modelcoasters.com, to provide info regarding my creations. The site also showcases my working models,” says Strong-Wallace.

Strong-Wallace builds the models strictly as a hobby. “My website is for fun and to showcase my models. I don’t build models for anyone else. I think it would take some of the fun out of my hobby. But I won’t say ‘never.’” The exhibit is free and will be displayed at Union Station from June 1st, until August 11th. It will be open during normal Union Station hours 9:30 - 5:00 p.m.

About Union Station Kansas City, Inc.

Union Station Kansas City is a historical landmark and civic asset renovated and reopened to the public in 1999. The organization, driven by its mission of science and history education and entertainment, features a science center, the popular Model Railroad Experience open year round, new planetarium, one of the region’s largest screen movie theaters, live theater, shops, restaurants and home to prominent area civic organizations and businesses. Visit unionstation.org for details.

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