

Milwaukee Trainfest: Something for Everyone

Every model railroad fan can find something of interest at this exciting fall event.

by Dennis McFarlane

Trainfest, described as “America’s largest operating model railroad show,” was held at the Wisconsin State Fair Park Exposition Center, November 14 and 15, 2009. The 200,000 square foot display was packed with manufacturers, dealers, and model railroad enthusiasts.

Trainfest isn’t just a business environment. The organizers made sure there were plenty of youth-oriented activities geared towards introducing an entire new generation to the hobby of model railroading. As stated by Executive Director John Tews, “Trainfest is a show where families can enjoy a fun-filled day together and feel a part of something very unique.”

More than 20,000 attendees were attracted to Milwaukee Trainfest. Products on display ran the gamut from Z to G scale. There was an exciting atmosphere inside the Trainfest display building. Children became hobby enthusiasts while adults, already hobbyists in their own right, turned the clock back and became kids again.

Every model railroad dealer should attend a Trainfest event. There are many good deals to be made at the show, but one of the real joys was to see the reaction of a new generation of customers enthralled by the 50 layouts in action. **HM**



Walther's Vice President of Sales Kevin Copsey points out a few of the features of the company's EMD E7 diesel locomotives, which are available in a number of different rail lines.



Some of the finest diecast replica fire engines available are produced by TWH Collectibles and were on display at the b2bReplicas booth, which was manned by David Cheek.



Horizon Hobby's Sales Manager Shane Wilson shows off the soon to be released Alaska Railroad Spirit of Seward to Cindy McFarlane.



Digitrax Sales Representative Dave Lotz demonstrates the details behind the Digitrax Sound FX Complete Train Control System.