

For Immediate Release



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**New Attendance Record Set and Exceptional Award Winners Named at
40th Anniversary of Trainfest**

Milwaukee, WI (November 17, 2011): Trainfest 2011 broke the all-time event attendance record with a total attendance of 23,764. Record setting attendance on both Sunday and during the pre-show Friday Product Showcase contributed to the overall record setting event attendance number. Sunday attendance broke the all-time high for Sunday attendance with 11,352 attendees. The fourth annual Friday Product Showcase preview show event had a record 210 attendees, in addition to the 47 hobby dealers and 14 historical groups who also attended.

Trainfest celebrated its 40th anniversary true to its mission of educating and promoting the model railroading hobby to future generations of Model Railroaders with train set giveaways on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, six winners of the new Station Stop game went home with a new train set. Then on Sunday, four lucky families received a new train set as they entered Trainfest in the sponsored “random acts of kindness” program.

As John H. Tews, MMR, Executive Director of Trainfest, so aptly stated, “Seeing the excitement on the faces of the kids as we handed them a new train set makes the volunteer planning of Trainfest all the more worthwhile, as these ‘future model railroaders’ looked at their new train sets with eager anticipation to set them up.”

Children’s interest in model railroading was evident at the on-site kid’s activities from Kalmbach’s Trains for Kids Storytime to making train crafts with Radio Disney, and throughout the entire Expo center where nearly 70 intricately detailed operating model railroads sprawled over four football fields of space.

The ever increasing level of skill and layout detail represented annually at Trainfest truly illustrates how far the hobby and the Show have come over the last 40 years. With a record number of model railroad layouts at Trainfest, competition is fierce. The 2011 Trainfest award winners well represent the best of the best of the hobby for their impeccable craftsmanship and creativity.

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Trainfest 2011 “40th Anniversary” Award Winners

<u>Layout - Best of Show</u>	S Scale Workshop of St. Catharine, Ontario, Canada
<u>Layout - 1st Place</u>	Colorado Narrow Gauge (On30) of Milwaukee, WI
<u>Module - Best of Show</u>	Crossing scene module of Northwest Traction Group from Skokie, IL
<u>Module - 1st Place</u>	Steel mill scene of the Milwaukee Operators Organization (MOO Crew) from Milwaukee, WI
<u>Display - Best of Show</u>	Collection of historic model trains presented by the Wisconsin Standard Gauge Operators of Mequon, WI
<u>Display - 1st Place</u>	Milwaukee Electric Traction Club of Muskego, WI
<u>Chairman’s Award - Trainfest</u>	Presented to Neville Meades for his scratch-built Canadian National Railroad Depot as part of the Craftsman Corner, Niagara Frontier Region of the NMRA of Severn Bridge, Ontario, Canada
<u>Chairman’s Award - HMA</u>	Interactive manufacturer display from NCE Corporation of Webster, NY
<u>Committee Award - Trainfest</u>	Fall scene constructed by Ed Varick on the Wisconsin Bits & Pieces Railroad layout from Milwaukee, WI
<u>Committee Award - HMA</u>	Interactive display of detailed model railroad equipment presented by Exact Rail LLC of Provo, UT
<u>Honorable Mention</u>	Historic OO gauge layout constructed by Mike Slater of the Lionel Club of Southeastern Wisconsin from Racine, WI
<u>Honorable Mention</u>	Presented to Jim Peterson in honor of his 40 th year of bringing circus train displays to Trainfest from Milwaukee, WI

Trainfest, a 40 year tradition, is America’s largest operating model railroad show under one roof. The annual two-day public event attracts more than 20,000 visitors (train hobbyists and families) who come to see and learn more about the hobby of model railroading. Visitors experience nearly 70 remarkable operating railroads from Z to G scale, over 100 manufacturers and hobby dealers, more than 10 historical groups, artists, photography displays, clinics, and on-site demonstrations. Trainfest, a non-profit organization, is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division, Inc. of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Trainfest 2012 will be November 10th and 11th, 2012. For more information, visit www.trainfest.com.

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