

Trainfest®

America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show.

For Immediate Release

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Huge NEW Activity Zone to Feature *Choo Choo Bob* Concert Series for Kids at Trainfest

Milwaukee, Wis. (October 4, 2012) – Trainfest® is pleased to announce *Choo Choo Bob and the Holy Smokestacks Revue*, from the popular TV show, will perform concerts for kids daily at Trainfest. The bands' performances are *sponsored by Walthers Model Trains*. Trainfest, America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show will be held November 10-11, 2012 at the Wisconsin Expo Center, State Fair Park. Trainfest occupies nearly 4 football fields of exhibit space showing off more than 60 operating railroads, 100 manufacturers / dealers, plus, a huge newly expanded Kids' Activity Zone for fun and learning.

Choo Choo Bob and his 9-piece band of characters will perform songs from their popular CD 'Choo Choo Dude' every hour at the half on Saturday and Sunday of Trainfest beginning at 9:30am with last performance at 3:30pm. The cast of characters will be available for "meet and greets" and autographs after each performance. For more on *Choo Choo Bob* and other family-friendly activities, visit www.trainfest.com.

New Kids Activity Zone at Trainfest

This year, Trainfest has created a designated Kids' Activity Zone that's free with admission to Trainfest.

NEW Kids Activities include:

- The *Choo Choo Bob* concert series,
- Train-themed story times with *Choo Choo Bob* Engineers,
- A giant Thomas the Tank Engine® inflatable bounce house,
- 8' long wooden train tables for kids to play with, and
- A beginners' clinic for kids and parents to learn how to put their first train set and track together, learn about different sizes of model trains and get tips for building their first layout.

Plus, Returning kid's favorites to Trainfest include face painting, make & take craft, and coloring throughout both days, and Radio Disney on Sunday from 12:30-2:00pm. Also returning for a second year is the "4 at 4" Station Stop game. Four lucky winners who submit completed game cards at the Trainfest show office by

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3:30pm on Saturday will be drawn at 4:00pm and will take home starter train sets *complements of Bachmann Trains*.

Behind-the-Scenes of *Choo Choo Bob*

Bob Medcraft, a train enthusiast, from Minnesota opened Choo Choo Bob's Train Store in 2005, offering a unique setup to engage children with trains. Bob then drew upon his Hollywood background to create his vision for a children's TV show focused on trains. Born was the *Choo Choo Bob* show, hosted by actor Sam Heyn as Choo Choo Bob, an educational program and multi-media experience for children and parents. The show features trains big and small, friends and fun, music, trips to real-life railroads and adventures taken by the cast of characters in and around their fictional hometown of Bobville. The show is filmed and produced in Minneapolis, MN and currently airs on broadcast stations in the Midwest. The *Choo Choo Bob* Show website is www.choochoobobs.com.

About Trainfest

Each year Trainfest, America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show, fills 200,000 sq. ft. of the WI Expo Center at State Fair Park in Milwaukee to introduce, inform and enlighten both modelers and young families about the model railroading hobby. Trainfest, a 41-year tradition, attracts over 22,000 visitors annually for its two-day public event. Trainfest 2012 show days are Nov. 10 & 11. Experienced modelers flock to Trainfest to connect with other modelers, gain knowledge through clinics and demos, and visit manufacturers to see what's new in the hobby before selecting which products to buy. Families also make Trainfest their destination to see detailed model railroads and have fun while learning about trains.

Visitors experience more than 60 remarkable operating railroads from Z to G scale, 100 manufacturers and hobby dealers, more than 10 historical groups, artists and displays, on-site clinics and demonstrations, and a dedicated activities area just for kids. Trainfest, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc. of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Adult admission \$12 (\$1 off online coupon), kids (4-12) \$2 at the door or FREE with online coupon, kids 3 & under always FREE. For specialty and advance ticket details, lodging, admission coupons and show info, visit www.trainfest.com. Trainfest is held at the Wisconsin Exposition Center, State Fair Park at 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI 53214.

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