



World's Greatest Hobby on Tour

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

41,036 People Attend World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Breaking Previously Held Record Attendance

On January 23 & 24, 2010 the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour returned to the Washington, DC market at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Virginia. Total attendance for the weekend was 41,036 people. [This is believed to be the largest number of people ever to attend a model railroad show in North America.](#) Despite the enormous crowd, operationally the show ran almost flawlessly.

The Chantilly show broke the previous attendance record set by the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour show in Philadelphia, PA in January of 2009 which had a record attendance of just over 40,000 people.

Show Chairman Randy Bachmann said "the Chantilly show did everything it set out to do - successfully introduce thousands of people to model railroading."

The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour has now sponsored 25 shows and has had over 600,000 people attend. For most of these people it was their first experience with model railroading. These shows broaden the exposure model railroading receives among the general public.

The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour is a model railroad show designed to introduce the general public to the hobby in an exciting, family-oriented atmosphere. Each show includes all the leading manufacturers, hobby shops, operating displays, interactive activities, a Thomas the Tank Engine riding train for kids, workshops and provides an in-person introduction to the World's Greatest Hobby: model railroading.



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Here are quotations about the January 23 & 24, 2010 Chantilly World's Greatest Hobby on Tour:

"I am new to the hobby and this was the first show I've attended, so I was totally not prepared for what to expect at this show. I was thinking that it would be a few old guys and that's about it. But all that went away when the traffic to get into the complex was backed up on the highway. But even then, I had figured that maybe all of the traffic was for the hunting and fishing show in the adjoining building. Nope. It was for the train show. Holy smokes was that crowded. Crowded to the point of not being able to see a whole lot until way late in the day.

"I was also surprised at the makeup of the people. All ages, all ethnicities. And I was amazed to see how many women were there and seemed to be enjoying themselves. They did not appear to be dragged there like man with his wife at Macys. Obviously this show was marketed towards families with a lot of things for kids to do, but even without that, there were a lot of people there I didn't expect to see at a train show.

"Many, many great layouts of all gauges. The O gauge layout from the Trackers was enormous.

"When I finally left, I was shocked that I had managed to spend 5.5 hours there.

"Based on the attendance I saw today, I don't think we need to worry about kids not getting into the hobby."

Posted online January 23, 2010

by attendee from Alexandria, VA

"I spent the day there. Wow, it was packed. Wow, I parked a half mile away. It was fun. The line outside lasted most of the day. The hotdog line was at least an hour long. I've been to countless shows and never saw a crowd like this..."

"I enjoyed seeing the manufacturers booths and as usual they were entertaining and the representatives there were friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful.

"There were so many operating layouts that I was getting dizzy watching all the trains and accessories. One layout had the train staying in one position while the circular platform and track moved clockwise underneath it. The coolest!"

"Money was changing hands and bags were bulging. Track, transformers, trees, engines, rolling stock, die cast vehicles, books, accessories, glue, tools, blister packs of little train layout people, and railroad flatware were all moving.

"It was a great show that really promoted the hobby. Hats off to the people who advertise and run it! Not a bad deal either, \$10 for 15 hours of entertainment. I will go again! Tomorrow, as a matter of fact."

Posted online January 23, 2010

by attendee from Northern Virginia