

Toy trains on track this weekend

By Kevin P. Thé

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Only once a year can you see more than 30,000 square feet of space filled with 10,000-plus toy trains in Tucson.

This weekend is that time.

The Great American Train Show — which makes about 85 stops per year all over the United States — will be in the Old Pueblo from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Pima County Fairgrounds, 11300 S. Houghton Road (Interstate 10, Exit 275).

The show will feature a vast array of model trains for sale and display, with plenty of expansive, intricately decorated track layouts.

Billed as “America’s Largest Traveling Train Show,” the two-day event promises to be a delight for all ages and levels of knowledge. Whether you’re a die-hard en-

thusiast or simply have a casual interest, the show will have something for you, said media liaison Kurt Jablonski.

“It’s kind of a way of bringing model trains to everyone,” he said. “There’s stuff for beginners and the hard-core collectors.”

Jablonski said a visitor to the show is just as likely to find a Lionel train more than 50 years old as a brand-new model of Harry Potter’s Hogwarts Express. Depending on the age, quality and rarity of a model, you might pay from \$5 to \$10 for a simple boxcar to more than \$400 for a vintage engine.

Kids with a little less dough in their wallets can still have a lot of fun checking out the working tracks and scenic displays, and they can even take turns operating a train set up specifically for them.

Adults, meanwhile, can enjoy one of several informational workshops — geared to both the beginner and advanced collector — sign up for a door prize or get their own train appraised.

There also will be representatives of local clubs giving out information, and perhaps looking to recruit new members.

“A lot of people don’t know, but there might be a (model train) club within 10 miles of their house,” Jablonski said.

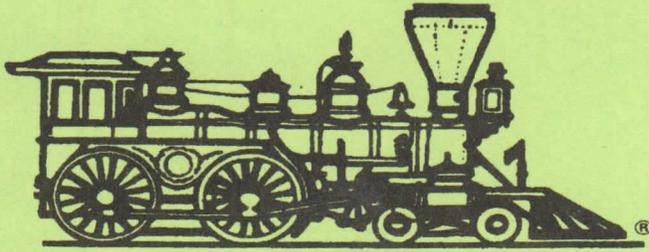
Cost to attend the show is \$7, and admission is good for both days. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult.

For more information, call (702) 252-0334 or go online at www.gats.com, where you can also get a coupon good for \$1 off admission to the show. ☺



January
25 + 26
2003

Kids Are FREE!



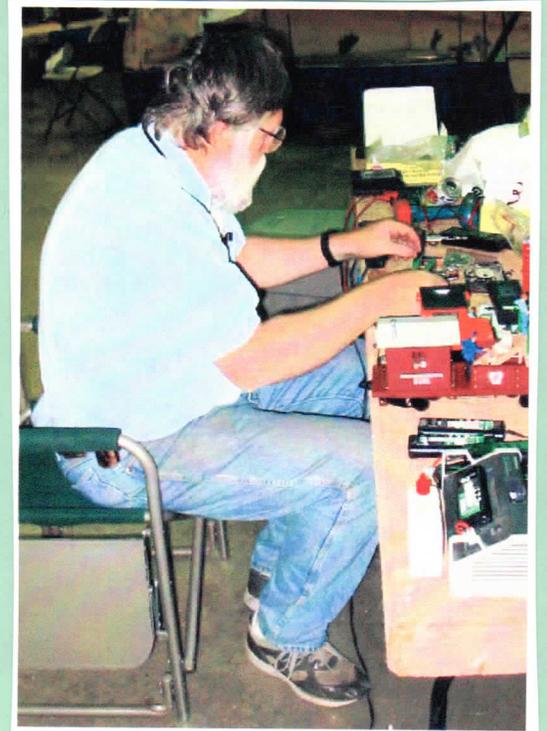
GREAT AMERICAN TRAIN SHOW

- * Hundreds of tables of national train dealers from across America!
- * A Fantasy play area where all kids can be Engineers!
- * 8 operating model train layouts!
- * 18 Free modeling workshops over the weekend!
- * Admission only \$7, good for BOTH days! Kids under 12 are FREE!

Saturday & Sunday, January 25 & 26, 2003
11:00am to 5:00pm, both days

Pima County Fairgrounds
11300 So Houghton Rd Tucson, AZ

Get a \$1 Off Coupon at www.gats.com!!



Checking out choo-choos



ABOVE: Logan Miller, 7, checks out a model steam engine at the Great American Train Show yesterday at the Pima County Fairgrounds. The two-day show, which ended yesterday, offered a chance for train enthusiasts to see, buy and sell the objects of their passion.

RIGHT: Collector Lee Willetts gets a good look at an N-scale model engine.



Photos by XAVIER GALLEGOS/Tucson Citizen



