

# RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



**Grand Scales**  
Quarterly

JULY 2009

*"The rumors of our demise have been greatly exaggerated"*

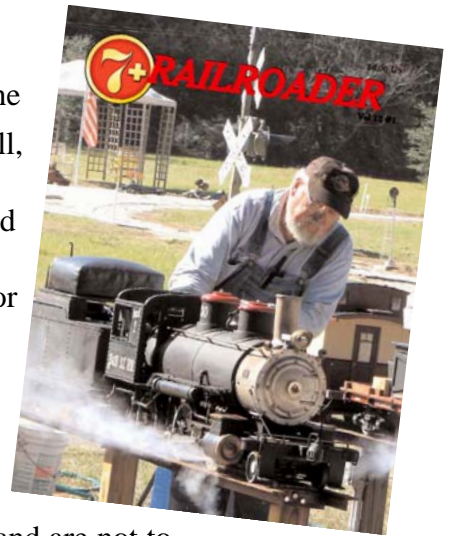
**G**reetings from warm and sunny California! As you are aware, *The Riding Railways Newsletter* has been on hiatus for a bit. As have the *7+RAILROADER* and the *Grand Scales Quarterly* magazines. Well, to paraphrase Mark Twain "The rumors of our demise have been greatly exaggerated". *The Riding Railways Newsletter* will once again be published monthly. The magazines will be published quarterly.

Plus, we've got great news! We've gone digital! No more waiting for the mail carrier to deliver. Paid subscribers can now download the new issue of the *7+RAILROADER*. (*GSQ* will be up shortly.) Letters to that effect will go out in the next week or so. In the mean time, send me an e-mail ([srobinson@theskybeam.com](mailto:srobinson@theskybeam.com)) and I will send you your password and information. We will need to verify your subscription status before providing the log-in password. Please note that the passwords are for individuals and are not to be shared with others. We appreciate your consideration in this regard.


Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan'.

PS- Please note that **we no longer use the old e-mail address (mainline@....)** The new e-mail address to reach Susan is [srobinson@theskybeam.com](mailto:srobinson@theskybeam.com) and to reach Greg, contact [editor@grandscales.com](mailto:editor@grandscales.com).



## TRAIN MOUNTAIN 2009

**T**he next issue of the *7+RAILROADER* will include coverage of the **Train Mountain 2009 Triennial**. We are also pleased to be invited to produce the event DVD again. Our goal is to have it available by the end of the year. More information on the DVD will be provided in future issues. 



# NEWS

## MONORAIL DEATH

According to the A.P. : Officials at **Walt Disney World Resort** were investigating what caused the first fatal accident in the 38-year history of the park's Monorail, a one-time symbol of founder Walt Disney's vision for future transportation.

One of the monorail trains crashed into another early Sunday in the park's Magic Kingdom section, killing one of the train's operators, emergency officials said.

At least five guests were treated at the scene for minor injuries, authorities said. The other train's operator was not injured, but was emotionally shaken and taken to a hospital.

## FANTASONICS CD SALE

Jim and Christie Wells, owners of **Fantasonics**, are offering a two-fer-one sale in honor of their big Anniversary year. You know that you've been wanting to add sound to your railroad, whether it's 7.25", G-scale, or other. Now's your chance to buy a great product, support a great company, and save money too! Learn more: <http://www.fantasonics.com/>

## 50 YEARS A RUNNING

The **Forest Park Miniature Railroad** has been giving a joyful public rides for fifty years now! The ride is an approximately five-mile, thirty-five to forty-minute round trip from the Forest Park Depot off Colonial Parkway in Forest Park to the Duck Pond in Trinity Park and back with one stop at the Trinity Park Depot in Trinity Park where passengers may board the train if seats are available. The train crosses six bridges on its route including a 350 foot girder bridge and 171 foot truss bridge, both of which cross the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The third longest bridge (sixty feet) along the route of the Forest Park Miniature Railroad spans

the Trinity River Creek before the train crosses under the Fort Worth and Western Railroad trestle on its way to the Duck Pond. Congratulations to the railroad and crew for 50 years of continuous operations. To learn the history of the railroad, visit: <http://www.fpmt.us/min1.htm>

## DAYLIGHT AT TRAINFESTIVAL 2009

Southern Pacific "Daylight" no. 4449, and other locomotives, will be attending TrainFestival 2009 from Portland, OR. The "Daylight" will lead an Amtrak Sponsored trip from Portland 2500 miles to Central Michigan. The no. 4449 will operate an all-day excursion from TrainFestival 2009 on Friday July 24. It will be on display during the event for photographs, cab tours and chats with the crew. The "Daylight" is often referred to as the "most famous steam locomotive in the world". TrainFestival 2009 is constructing a 4000 foot long miniature railroad that visitors to the festival will have the chance to ride on. <http://www.trainfestival2009.com/>



Forest Park Miniature RR Engine no. 105 in 1999 before it was rebuilt and refurbished in 2003-2004. The engineer is Walter Hazzlerigg, and the train is outbound to the Duck Pond. Yes, it is numbered 501 - a long story in itself. Photo by Kenneth B. Fitzgerald.

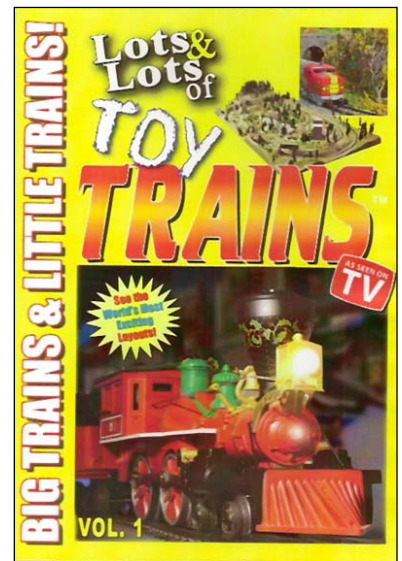
## DVD REVIEW

# LOTS & LOTS OF TOY TRAINS

We recently received a copy of **Lots & Lots of Toy Trains** to review. We had high hopes for this DVD as, well, there are lots and lots of trains! The program would be very entertaining for the under five set (the cover recommends it for folks ages 3-93). The two ten-year-olds who were viewing the show with me were mildly entertained. Their thoughts were that the shots were too short. Each train that went by seemed to be shown for only about four seconds - too quick to get a good look at the equipment. They felt confident that their younger friends who be entertained by the quick pace however. Another point that the 10-year-olds made was that there wasn't any narration to speak of. Lots of music. Lots of fast paced trains. But no information on the layouts, the locos or anything else.

The program website tells us: "It's full of the most colorful and enchanting model railroads you'll find anywhere! From Christmas trains and Halloween trains to Little Brick Lego Trains and Big Garden Trains you'll be thrilled to see all the award-winning toy train layouts in this exciting collection! We'll also show you trains from the world famous TOY TRAIN BARN in Argyle Wisconsin and TRAINFEST, the largest operating railroad show in America, plus trains from the CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN and THE MORTON ARBORETUM!" Unfortunately, with no narration, we didn't learn anything about these locations.

You can view a few moments of the program by visiting their website (<http://tinyurl.com/lz27b6>). \*\*\*

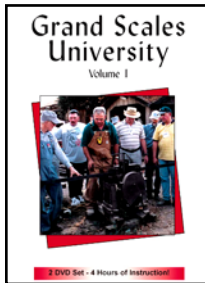


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LOTS AND LOTS OF TOY TRAINS DVD Vol. 1, Item# MPP-3101, Regular price: \$14.95

Approx: 75 minutes ISBN: 978-0-9814909-3-9



## GRAND SCALES UNIVERSITY DVDS

The **GRAND SCALES UNIVERSITY** features informative seminars that are beneficial for the hobbyist and highly profitable for those with

commercial operations. Much of the information found in these DVDs can not be found anywhere else. And rarely will you find a group of experienced railroaders in one place, at one time, willing to share their valuable and vast knowledge with anyone who will listen. This truly is an educational course in the building and running of Grand Scale railroads.

**Each two DVD set has 4 to 5 hours of valuable instruction.**

\$50 each plus shipping (Calif. residents please add 8.25% sales tax)

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Robert Frank

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**Swanton Pacific** -Ed Carnegie

**The Wabash Frisco & Pacific** -

Fred Kiesel

**Boilers** -Paul Boschan

**Sheet Metal Forming** -Jack

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**Switch Construction** -Sean

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**The Redwood Valley Railway** -

Ellen Thomsen

**Automatic Air Brakes** -Sean

Beautista

**The Basic 0-4-0** -Chris Allen

**The History of MTC** -L.

Andrew Jugle

**Destroying Trains** -Jack

Sessums

Most of these **GRAND SCALES UNIVERSITY** seminars deal with grand scale railroads but the information is valuable to all in the railroad hobby. Regardless if you build your own equipment, buy from vendors, operate a private or a public enterprise, or are just an armchair hobbyist, you will be well educated and entertained by these DVDs. Order your copies today by calling **530-527-0141** or visit [www.grandscales.com](http://www.grandscales.com).

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**COMING SOON:  
TRAIN MOUNTAIN 2009 DVD**

**SHIPPING AND HANDLING**

\$5 for one or two items

\$8.50 for 3 or more items

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