

Tip: playful running operations as a public relations exercise

MIST 72 is an inspiration with the long tracks

A special type of Long Train Event was an enormous success for MIST 72 from the Reutlingen/Tübingen region with its first "Day of the Long Tracks": a running day, open to the public.



Departure: the trains can be accompanied on their runs all the way down the hall. There were four lines set out for digital and analog models.

You'll find a list of all Märklin Insider round tables in the Club area under club.maerklin.de – naturally, the contacts are given too.

What a good thing the route to the MIST 72 clubrooms leads through a big hallway with a long corridor leading off it. "Here we set up 698 pieces of H0 track into a total length of 168.94 meters (554'3")", round table spokesman Horst Bossler tells us of the material war fed by the MIST-72 property box, which all went to plan thanks to a well-drawn-up track plan. After that, anyone could let his train really run for once. And they came – children, parents, grandparents, all brought their favorite Märklin models along. There were

block trains with up to 30 freight cars to be seen, and in charge were the V 200, the "Crocodile", double-headed class 101s or the "Big Boy". "And of course the ICE and the TGV were sent out too", adds round table member Ludger Flaig. "These high-speed trains soon run out of places to go on your conventional layout at home. By contrast, an ICE model on long tracks gives you a very much better idea of the original". The trains are often accompanied on the run by excited kids or committed model railroaders.

The Day of the Long Tracks involved all round table members. "The tracks for the analog and digital runs must be fixed without any malfunctions on carpet and tiles. And it's all hands on deck when we're railing all the cars", adds round table leader Horst Bossler. No surprise that members of the Märklin Kids Club too were playing with rolling stock and controllers.

MIST 72 always fans the sparks of enthusiasm cleverly at its public exhibitions with a range of technical demonstrations and information material. There is a display with details of all Märklin tracks since 1936, from the continuous center conductor to the current C track. The Faller Car system is demonstrated to amazed visitors, and this lowers the anxiety threshold to technology. At one table, a member explains the control functions of the Central Station, at the next, a demonstration Minitrix layout shows the advantages of smaller gauges, while a garden layout was set up in the entrance for the Dettingen LGB fans, on which even the phenomenal gauge 1 loco 38 1803 by Märklin was able to do the rounds. "Visitor feedback was unanimously positive, so the effort was well worth while", sums up Horst Bossler. MIST 72 draws its own conclusion: "It will of course be repeated". The successful event is shown in pictures and film on the homepage www.mist72.de.

Text: RR/photos: A. Grossmann



Spectacle: railring the block trains for their long journey, powered by the "Big Boy", the class 44 or the 216. The ICE and TGV too rush out of the through station.



Successors: a member of the Märklin Kids Club lends a skilful hand.

Robust: the model Märklin promotional loco 120 159-9 negotiates critical track joints – a stone floor makes laying tracks securely rather tricky.



Done it! MIST-72 team on the Day of the Long Tracks: front left (seated) leader Horst Bossler.

