

## **Trackmasters Report Manassas Railfest Saturday June 6, 2009**

Frank Hale Trackmaster

Setup began at 7:30 with an opening time of 10:00 AM scheduled. John Masiyowski procured the Maryland trailer from Dave Sealing on Friday. (Actually his wife Marylou got the trailer. John may have to perform some sort of penance for this). John returned the trailer on Sunday as the Maryland Division needed it for the Chickenfest on the Eastern shore June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks John and Marylou. Participating in the show were Bear Bailey, Gil Baldwin, Carl Condon, Frank Hale, Regis Harkins, Steve and Matthew Kehn, Don Roberts, John and Nik Masiyowski Thom McKinney, Glenn McKinnon and Mike Smith. No problems were encountered with setup but we juggled the position of the layout several time as there was no specific designations as to exactly what space was ours and there were other layouts on three sides of us and the support poles on the fourth side. We started seeing visitors as early as 9:30 as there are no barriers or gate keepers in such a public place and we had some trains running at that time. The weather was delightful sunny warm and pleasant. Carl Condon punctured a tire on a steel rod sticking up from the ground where he drove in with an immediate flat and no spare. After unloading and setting up his modules the car was jacked up, Bear took him to a shop for a replacement. The car was supposed to be out of the area at startup time but jacked up and no tire prevented this. Manassas police were considerate of problem and placed several cones around the car until he could get back with a new tire. DCS seemed to operate satisfactorily. Steve Kehn kept busy making filters to put on the modules to try to further smooth out the DCS irregularities. He is hoping these filters will allow us to dispense with the fiber pins in the center rails of each module. Matthew Ken had another junior member in Nik Masiyowski to run trains with. These boys had smiles on their faces most of the day. As a trackmaster I need to be more conscious of making a running time opportunity available for all and are considering a running time sign up schedule for next year. We had no major glitches and had good crowds around all day, mostly families with well behaved children. The show closed and teardown began at 4 PM. We had anticipated a 5 PM closing so took our time and ran some trains well past 4 leaving the Pavilion around 5:30