

## Manassas Railfest Saturday June 7, 2008 Trackmasters Report

Set up started at 7:30 am. Contributing members of the show were Bear, Gil & Ben, Bill C., Frank H., Regis, Laura, Steve and Matthew, Watson, Glenn, Thom, Don R. It was **HOT**. Most of us were down to tee shirts and did not put on the "Uniform Shirts" until startup. We completed setup with no problems and had trains running at 9:00 AM, the show opened at 10 AM. There were visitors almost as soon as we were running trying to beat the heat. Manassas was using Krash Wagon 2 (Maryland) as there were two shows this weekend and Fairfax Fair was using Krash 1. There were no major problems running but the DCS caused some issues. The signal strength to the engines was almost non existent at the point it was connected to the track but at the ends away from the connection it was sufficient to operate. This caused the engine to loose contact with the DCS at several locations on the layout, no manipulations would fix it. Thom, as many of you know, has a summer night sounds module featuring Crickets, Katydid and other noisy insects. Someone who shall remain anonymous (his initials are DR) made up an exterminators van labeled "**NAIL EM DEAD Cricket Specialist**" with a huge cricket that covered the entire top of the van and hung over some with a large nail protruding at an angle from the middle of the body and into the van roof. When Thom was not looking the above van appeared on his layout in a prominent location. Unfortunately no one had a camera. It was getting hotter all the time. We had two fans at opposite ends of the layout that helped and our layout was in a covered outdoor pavilion with a double overhanging roof that let the rising hot air out at the top. Attendance at the show declined sharply after the lunch hour and during some parts of the afternoon no one was around our layout. The last performer on the street near our layout did not have anybody sitting on the adjacent hay-bails or standing in the shade of the building on the street, he performed to an "empty house" It had gotten **HOTTER** in the high 90's as the day wore on. The fish car was again a show hit. We were not in direct sun light but the water in the tank would get warm the fish lethargic. After placing several ice cubes which melted almost instantly the fish would become active again. We iced them down many times during the afternoon. We had water and drinks on ice that were mostly consumed by close down at 5pm. We were out of the Pavilion before 6 pm, something of a record for teardown.

Frank H., Trackmaster