

Trackmaster's Report
WB&A/VTC "North Meets South" Show
May 9, 2015
Fredericksburg, VA

It was a dark and stormy er, sort of drizzly, morning when the Trackers convened at 6:00 AM to set up for the jointly sponsored one day show at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie in Fredericksburg. The trackmaster arrived at 6:02 to find all but one of the scheduled attendees already on-site and in process of loading into the show venue. The final attendee arrived shortly thereafter, and set-up proceeded smoothly.

At 8:00 AM, the show opened to members of the Virginia Train Collectors and the TCA Washington Baltimore and Annapolis Chapter. The trackers layout was in operation by that time, with only minor scenery details to complete. This layout was a three track conventional operation encompassing a rectangle covering 24 by 20 feet, kind of a nostalgia trip back to Tracker exhibits of bygone years. Glenn MacKinnon provided a little modern day technology, running two Lionel locomotives simultaneously on the same track using the "LionChief" remote control system. Participating Trackers included Gil Baldwin, with his Mustang Ranch, er, Corral, display of Die-Cast Ford Mustangs (This was the Trackmaster's favorite module for some reason). Others in attendance were John Russell, with his breathtaking mountain scenery; Frank Hale, with his always popular candy factory and T scale trains; Jack Frost, with scratch-built nostalgic village scenery, Glenn MacKinnon with his detailed card-stock village, and Tim Minor, who featured a Harley-Davidson Dealership. The show ran until 5 PM, and with 27 hours of track time available, each member had an average of 4 hours and 45 minutes on the rails.

The day's operations proceeded without any difficulties, and the transformer hook-up harness fabricated by Justin Krause and/or Steven Kehn greatly simplified electrical hook-up. Several members brought older trains to operate, and tinsplate trains provided by John Russell, Frank Hale, and Gil Baldwin were greatly appreciated by the TCA and VTC members. The day was so relaxing that our club President even availed himself of the opportunity to take a nap in the parking lot. He returned to the layout thoroughly refreshed and rejuvenated from the strain of the early morning trek to the show.

Break down and load out activity was handled very efficiently, and all Trackers were on the road before 5:50 PM. Traffic reports had indicated that there was significant congestion on I-95 north, so I traveled north on US-1 until I passed the Marine Corps Museum, encountering no heavy traffic, and arriving in Alexandria shortly before 7 PM. Hopefully, everyone else had an equally smooth return trip.

Many thanks go to each member who participated, especially Tim Minor, who provided 2 modules, even though he was unable to stay for track time due to family commitments. As a one day show outside of our normal area, I appreciate the time commitment, as well as the timely arrival of all participants. You all made the Trackmaster's job an easy one. My wife, Valerie, provided chocolate chip cookies. Also, the host organizations, represented by Colleen Hall from WB&A and Russell Youens from VTC, were most helpful, and even provided an honorarium to the Trackers for participating.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Eudy,
Trackmaster
May 11, 2015