

2019 Winter Wonderland Train Show

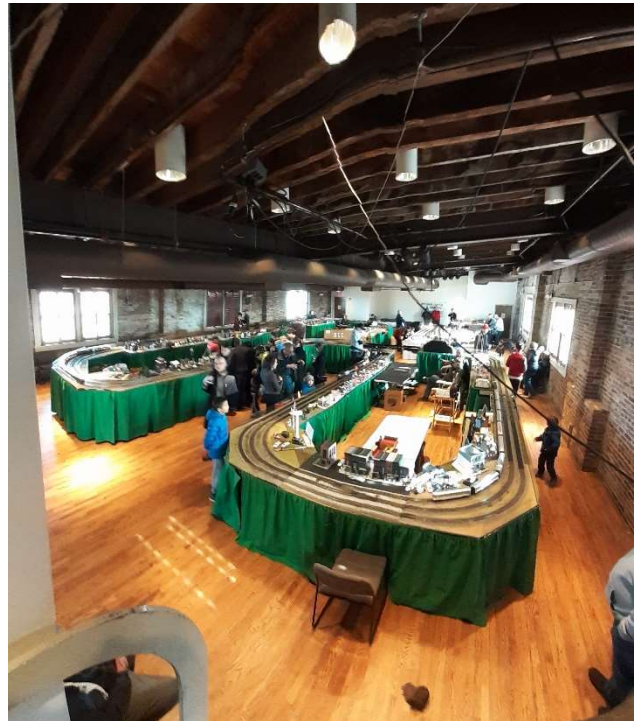
The Candy Factory

Center for the Arts

Manassas, VA.

The Candy Factory once again hosted this year's Winter Wonderland train show. The show dates were December 18-22nd with the setup on Monday the 16th. Featured were a 28 X 46 foot over and under O gauge layout with 25 modules and eight corners plus 2 45-degree corners. As usual we also featured a 20 X 11 ft Standard gauge 3 loop layout that was literally topped off with a 4 X 8 trolley layout.

The trailer arrived on the 16th per the schedule thanks to Bill C. and was duly unloaded and moved, via the elevator, to the 3rd floor. The actual setup started about 1:30 PM and basically was finished minus most of the scenery and skirts by 7 PM. A few of us completed everything on Tuesday the 17th. The STG layout decorations were handled by the Manassas Museum on Tuesday and we were ready for business Wednesday afternoon.



True to form the majority of modules were Winter scenes. The detail was outstanding. To see if folks were really paying attention, we also had Santa and his reindeer and sleigh in an encounter with a



wind turbine. Flying at a low altitude can be dangerous for anyone!

Special Events: The Manassas Museum (City) requested a private showing on Thursday afternoon for a special needs group. We of course said yes and Jackson, Bill, Bear, Gil, Dave and myself manned the layouts

and made our guests welcome. Our visitors were young adults along with adult supervision. Our guests seemed to relate very well with Jackson. Bear had them all laughing. A very rewarding experience.



Technical: All systems worked but DCS WIFI was once again fickle, very similar to York. Before a replacement TIU was available it was suggested we split the layout track with fiber pins and connect the power cabinet on either side of the split. Magically intermittent problems disappeared. DCS WIFI seemed to function fairly well. WIFI

lash-ups did not work. In retrospect the fickle situation may be related to the over and under configs where loops change from the outer to inner and vice versa. More discussion and experimentation is needed



Standard Gauge: Thanks to Norm B. for providing enough track for three loops plus the trolley level layout not to mention an assortment of fascinating trains that everyone enjoyed. Craig S. and Dave E. rounded out the STG operations also with their collection of STG trains.

Food: Amazing as usual. Chicken Tacos, Sausage and Egg Casserole. Pasta with Meat sauce, Meatballs and Potato Casserole and of course Waffles and Fried Chicken.

Desserts: A separate category is needed. Sheet cake, cookies, muffins, Carrot cake, cupcakes and an assortment of baked goodies. We even had a cake shaped like a steam engine courtesy of Frank H. the baker.



Specialties: Hot Corn and Cheese dip, Kielbasa and sauce, and pepper strips with pimento cheese.

A special thanks to all the contributors for our daily feasts.

Wednesday attendance was impressive and they started early, actually a few hours before we were officially opened. Of-course we never say no and welcomed everyone at any time. Our Tracker hospitality was appreciated. Saturday was very busy with a steady stream of spectators. Great conversations with folks from Florida, Texas, and all points South. Everyone was in town for the holidays and needed some diversion it seems. Several visitors told us we made their day! Late afternoon on Saturday the elevator stopped working. A real crisis if not repaired by Sunday evening. Alternatives for Tear Down Sunday were being discussed. Fortunately, the elevator was fully restored by Sunday morning.

We had several helping hands for both setup and tear down. Thanks Bill, Dennis and Ben. Your help was appreciated.

Once again, the success of the Winter Wonderland show always reflects the tremendous support from all participants especially assistant Track-masters Bill and Bear. Plenty of track time for everyone. As things were winding down Sunday we finally shut down at 4 PM. (*Elevator fully operational*) After everyone loaded their modules and scenery we loaded the trailer about 6 PM. True to form we had to re-educate ourselves as far as the loading sequence but finally at 6:30 or so everything was packed up and the trailer was locked and ready for the road.

A great time for us and for everyone who experienced the Winter Wonderland Train Show. Total attendance, as counted by the Candy Factory security personnel, was approximately 2300.

Regis Harkins

2019 Trackmaster