

Trackmasters report Manassas Winter Wonderland at the Candy Factory.

Set up on Sunday the 19th went well; it was cold and sprinkling as we moved our equipment into the building and up the elevator to the 3rd floor. Set up was smooth with no recurring problems worth recording. The displays were mostly of a snow or Christmas theme. Several were of exceptional quality. We left around 5 pm with the City Staff to decorate the Standard Gauge layout provided by Clem Clements. We operated the layout on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 5:00 to 8:30. Thursday the building closed early because of snow so all evening events were cancelled. Saturday we operated from 10:00 to 4:00 then disassembling and being out of the building by 5:30 pm. The crowds were as expected, light on Tuesday the first evening and picking up each evening after. Saturday had about 350 people attend the show. We saw many happy adults and children. Bear Bailey did an excellent job of Santa the children loved him. The totals donated to SERVE: Non-perishable food: 450 lbs, Toys/Blankets/Clothing: \$200.00, Cash: \$424.00. SERVE is a local non profit organization that provides food and temporary shelter to people and families in need. No admission is charged but donations of the above items were encouraged. A tracker cook provided a dish of food for each of the days we operated. We surely ate well, hats off to them. We also operated a schedule for train operation with the changing of operators each hour on the hour for the outside loop and each hour on the half/hour for the inside loop. The outside yard was operated as a staging and running area. We ran 2 or more trains on each loop if run with DCS or TMCC/Legacy and one train conventional. This schedule seemed to work well. We had both Partners and Passengers assisting with set up, running and take down. Trackers participating at the show were Wannis Bailey, David Bonner, Clem Clement, John Peggy & Jake Evans, Bernie Gross, Frank Hale, Regis Harkins, Joe & Mona Helsing, Shannon & Cadence Hinnant, Steve & Matthew Kehn, Joe LoCasccio, John & Nik Masiyowski, Thom McKinney, Rob Pataky, Don Roberts, Martha & Jacob VanNess. The city indicated they would like to do this again next year.

Frank Hale Trackmaster

