

## Manassas Candy Factory 2021 Winter Wonderland Show Report

With the impact of Covid-19 being a prime consideration this past year we were fortunate being able to schedule and actually have the Candy Factory show. When everything opened up this past summer scheduling took place and we started the design and planning effort. Matthew K and I worked on the O gauge design and with the help of Ed B a different STG layout was also designed. We were ready to go!

As November and Thanksgiving approached I had to limit my exposure due to medical reasons, so I enlisted Matthew as an additional assistant trackmaster to assure a smooth setup, but within days the other two assistants, Bill C and Bear B had to cancel due to unexpected medical reasons. Fortunately, Tim M and Steve K stepped up and the setup and the ensuing show was successful. Mask mandates were in effect in the building when attendees were present and everyone complied. Attendance was a

bit lower than past years at 1600 per the building guard tally.

### O Gauge:

Winter Wonderland scenes were exceptional, Don R, Rick E, Steve K, Matthew K, John Z, Tim M, Justin K, and Jackson outdid themselves. Bernie G with the help of Bill S. presented the Battle of Manassas in miniature. It is spectacular and of course attracted a lot of attention as expected. The Cross-Over module was in use and as usual provided eye-catching



trains running in multiple directions. The outer and middle loops followed the outline of the layout while the inner loop was a figure eight crossing over itself. Minimal



accidents I am happy to report. Train operations were a challenge due to the lack of members as stated above. Many thanks to Robert E, Dennis G, Gary L, Ben S, Peter and Michael G, and

Russell W for filling in with their special trains. They kept the tracks full. The mainstay for keeping things running was Matthew K. I think he almost wore out an engine, at least it was getting very warm!



### Standard Gauge:

The dog-bone tabletop went together extremely well under the auspices of Ed and Norm B. with Dave E. A second level was added at one end with Norm's trolley setup. The tables and the custom-made table covers are provided by the City of Manassas. The covers are actually dry-cleaned and on hangers. Tuesday is reserved for decorating the layout by Manassas City folks along with providing all the buildings etc. Well done by everyone. Ed, B, Norm B, Craig S, Dave E, Kevin M, George T, Dave and Linda H provided exciting and historic STG trains for everyone's enjoyment. At any given time, multiple trains graced the layout.



### Food:

As usual the Trackers set an excellent table during the Candy Factory show. Multiple desserts, pizza, Swedish meatballs, barbeque, fried chicken cheese plates, casseroles, chili, chicken and waffles and homemade cookies for starters. We never go hungry and the comradery is over the top. A special; thanks to all the food contributors and chefs, well done!



Take down:

4 PM Sunday was upon us before we knew it, but we were ready to pack up and call it a day. Extra hands were really needed this year and the Trackers came through. Thanks to Gary, Dennis, Russell, Ben, Michael and Peter for providing the needed assistance. Of course, there always is another twist in the course of events. It seems the Arts Center (Candy Factory) had upgraded their elevator controls since our last show 2 years ago. The new controls feature a HELP button for emergencies and it is right there with all the other control buttons. On our very last trip up the elevator, it seems one of us, probably yours truly, accidentally hit the HELP button without realizing it. As we entered the elevator for the last trip down to the lobby, the doors opened and Manassas' Finest was looking at us asking the question, what's your

emergency? It only took them 2 minutes to respond to the Candy Factory. What an ending for a very different Winter Wonderland Show at the Manassas Candy Factory.



Many thanks to everyone that made it a success.

Regis H.

Trackmaster

