

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 17, Issue 1 The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum January/February 2018



Shortlines



NEWSLETTER EDITOR RESIGNS

Director Mike Madyda, Editor of the Rail Yard Dispatch since May 2013, has resigned as Editor. We would like to thank Mike for the many fine Newsletters he created while he was Editor. A search is on for his replacement; if you have an interest in the position, please contact us. Please note that any correspondence sent to the Newsletter Editor should now go to news4drm@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY "NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM"

Interesting slide and video presentations on various railroad topics are periodically scheduled at the Museum on Wednesday nights. To find out what presentations are currently planned, call or stop by the Museum. We can schedule a presentation only when someone volunteers to do one. If you are willing to give a presentation, e-mail the Museum at info@danburyrail.org, or call us at 203-778-8337. A presentation on any facet or railroading is of interest.

STRATFORD POINT DONATION

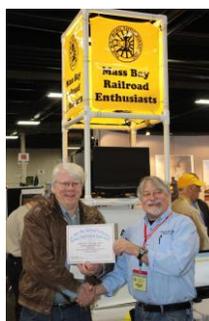


Life member Geoff Knees has graciously donated the former New Haven 4 double bedroom, 14 roomette sleeping car, Stratford Point, built in 1949 by Pullman-Standard. The long term plan is to cosmetically restore the exterior to include new windows; gut the interior save the one remaining bedroom, and use the car to tell the story of Pullman sleeping cars from the past.

NEW HAVEN CLASS NE-5 CABOOSE

We received a generous donation from long-time member Tony White; coupled with a previous donation for paint, we have the funding for a total re-paint and update of the historic (1944) caboose. Bill Arm has accepted the job as Project Manager.

MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT



We received a \$500 grant from the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts for the purpose of painting coach 1547. President Stan Madyda was on hand at the Amherst Railway Society Train Show on Jan. 27th to receive it. This is the first year MBRRE has offered grants, and we are appreciative of having been selected as a recipient.

MILL PLAIN STATION UPDATE

The two major players involved in the move, the trucking company and the restoration company, are working with Metro-North to determine the best way to get the building into our rail yard and overcome the tight clearances involved.

MUSEUM TO HOST TWO PRIVATELY OWNED CARS

We have signed an agreement with the owner of two passenger cars which will eventually come to the - Museum. They are the former New Haven MU "washboard" parlor car #5111 (Pullman-Standard, 1954), and former CDOT SPV 2000 #1001 "conference car" (Budd, 1980). Details for rail transfer to the Museum are being worked out. With these cars, all 3 surviving "washboard" cars will be in Danbury. At one time, there were 100 of these cars in existence.

WILTON SEMAPHORE GETS A NEW BREATH OF LIFE, I MEAN, “LIGHT”

By Jose (Not José) Alves

Back in 2004 when the museum received the Wilton railroad station semaphore signal from Metro-North, a dedicated team of members spent a very good amount of time pouring concrete bases, erecting, and re-assembling this vital piece of trackside signaling from the Danbury branch.

This signal acted as a “railroad traffic light” and made sure one train wouldn’t run into another one further up the track. Two blades, one facing north and one facing south would signal “Stop” in the horizontal position, and in the “dropped” or facing down position they would signal to proceed.

At night of course, this would be much harder to see from a moving train, so atop the tower, there is a light that would glow either red or green through colored lenses on each side of the tower.



After the signal was erected, a small red shack was converted into the operating booth by members Dave Roberts, Bruce Van Wyck, Bill Britt, Bob Pitcher, Justin Chapin, Ira Pollack, Gerry Herrmann, & John Ivansco,

After the exhibit was set up, Jeff Van Wagenen and Marty Grossman, being the two masterminds behind the complex wiring of the museums model railroads that keep many a kid and kid-at-heart adult entertained for hours, wired up the semaphore with a transformer to supply low voltage to the tower.

I joined in 2008, and by this time the lamp atop the tower had been burned out for a number of years. Last month this changed when Justin Chapin and I replaced the bulb atop the tower with a new LED lamp. In addition, the transformer in

the shed was updated, and a new timer was installed.

Now through “digital clockwork” the booth and the semaphore tower come on at dusk to once again provide signaling means for any trains that happen to be on track 24 of the museum’s railyard. And hanging outside the booth, as if to help light the path of the signal operator to his post, an electrified New Haven Railroad lantern. [Before anyone comments on the lantern electrification, please know that it was NOT converted by a member of the museum!]



Please stop by some night and take a peek. It’s very visible from the parking lot and from the back platform of the museum.

TURNTABLE PROGRESS



As previously reported, the Museum received a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Bay Railway Enthusiasts in 2017 to replace the timbers on the turntable. An additional \$10,000 was taken from the General Fund to purchase new ties. The old timbers have been mostly removed; tie plates are being cleaned and inspected. When all the ties are removed, painting and scraping the bridge will need to be done before the whole thing can be reassembled. Work will start up again once the typical New England weather improves. If you are willing to help with this project, please contact us.

2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENING EVENTS, 7:30 PM, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
TRAIN RIDES WEEKENDS APRIL - NOVEMBER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

January 27 & 28	Amherst Train Show	See us at the "Big E" Train show, W. Springfield, MA
*Mar 24, 25, 30, 31	<i>Bunny Trains</i>	<i>Train rides to the Easter Bunny's Special Coach</i>
May 13	Mother's Day	Mothers ride free with child's paid admission
May 28	Memorial Day	Open 12-4
* June 9	Steel & Wheels Car Show	Car show, raffles, prizes. To benefit a local nonprofit
June 17	Father's Day	Fathers ride free with child's paid admission. Special Caboose Trains
*July 14	Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day	Stories, history, and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog.
*August 4 & 5	Danbury Railway Days	Special Celebration with special activities. Free admission for past & present railroad employees.
August 11	Member Picnic	Open to all members, by RSVP.
September 3	Labor Day	Open 12-4
September 8	First Responder's Day	Free admission & train rides for First Responders (with Id card or in uniform) & their families
*October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28	<i>Pumpkin Patch</i>	<i>Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children</i>
November 11	Military Appreciation Day	Free train ride for past & present military personnel (with id or in uniform) and their families
*December 2, 8, 9, 15, 16	<i>Santa Trains</i>	<i>Santa's Special Train Rides. Special evening trains on Saturdays</i>

***Special Fundraising Event with Special Admission.**

Contact the Museum or visit our web site for up-to-date schedule. Reservations suggested for Easter Bunny and Santa Trains. Reserve online at www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org

HOURS:

WINTER (SEP – MAY) WED – SAT, 10-4 SUNDAY 12-4
SUMMER (JUN – AUG) MON – FRI: 10-4 SAT 10-5 SUNDAY 12-5

CLOSED MOST HOLIDAYS. CHECK WEB SITE FOR SCHEDULE, OR CALL.

Hours and pricing may differ for Special Events. Check our web site for more information. All events subject to change.

RESTORATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY

These projects are currently underway and are being funded by member donations. Future Newsletters will highlight these projects and bring you up to date as to the current status.

Lettering of the Tonawanda Valley; B & M 2-6-0 #1455 Stabilization; Burro Crane restoration; NYC&HR Wooden Caboose Restoration; Rutland Flat Car (convert to passenger use?), Turntable (new timbers, walkway, handrails)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Meetings take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone: 203-778-8337; Fax: 203-778-1836

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM

If you have an idea for an article, please let us know that, also.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGES**

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com

PROJECT MANAGERS/CREWS NEEDED

We have a number of projects awaiting a Project Manager before work can begin. Please contact Restoration Chairman Bill Wagner if you would be willing to be a project manager for any of them. Bill can furnish you with a listing of major and cosmetic restoration projects, some of which already are funded.....just waiting for people to tackle them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We can use your help in a variety of ways! Tour guides, car hosts, Gift Shop, Front Desk staff, work crews, operations, library archiving, advertising ... if you can do it, we could probably use your help! Contact the Museum for more information, or email us at 203-778-8837.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

We frequently post reminders about events and information of interest to our followers on Facebook, and many of our friends post pictures there as well.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held March 14, 2018, at the Museum. Newly elected Board of Director members will be announced.

**ALL NEWSLETTERS FROM 2001
TO PRESENT CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE.**



**DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM
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