Santa Express Trains

Santa comes to Danbury Railway Museum’s annual holiday event. By Sue Teer.

In December the Museum was host to Santa, Mrs. Claus and loads of families and children to ride our decorated (and heated) train to the North Pole. About 1,700 people visited during the event days, which ran smoothly thanks to our dedicated volunteers who gave lots of hours to this event. In the Station were model trains, children’s play and coloring areas and temporary tattoos, which seemed more popular than ever this year. Movies, exhibits, gift shop and the free hot chocolate station were all popular “hot” spots.

Outside the trains ran every half-hour and some had every seat taken. After the ride, the families visited with Santa in the CN event car, which was decorated to enhance the experience with Santa. Children met and spoke with Santa to tell them that they were nice and received a small gift and candy cane from Mrs. Claus. Many took advantage of the good weather this year to walk around the decorated railyard and see the steam engine, post office car and other equipment that was open. Families were even able to see Santa in his sleigh and the reindeer feeding area. The 4:30 evening train on the 20th was quickly sold out and the lights in the railyard were well received. Lots of photos were taken and we received lots of compliments on this fun activity. A big thank you to those who helped make this event a success!

Photos this page and page 8 courtesy of Alan Gruber.
Page 4 & 5 photos (unless otherwise noted) courtesy of Carolyn Taylor and Michael Madyda.

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Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago
We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

**Have you noticed?** The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dcanne Chin</td>
<td>Carmel, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Askar</td>
<td>Ridgefield, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson Shaw</td>
<td>Hopewell Junction, NY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Upcoming Events at the DRM

### January 24th & 25th - Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show

Come to the biggest railroad hobby show in the Northeast! As always, the show will be held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA, and the DRM will be there!

Held in four huge buildings covering over 8 acres, this event features real life and scale model railroads, historical societies, travel agencies, artists and art exhibits, flea market dealers, importers, manufacturers and photographers.

Commercial vendors and hobbyists will sell model railroad equipment, photos, slides, DVDs, books and other railroad memorabilia. New and antique railroad items will be on display and for sale.

For those wanting to learn more about various topics in model railroading, the show offers numerous demonstration and hands-on clinics.

Admission is **$14 for adults and free for children 15 years or younger** accompanied by a paying adult. Eastern States **parking fee is $5.00 per day**.

Proceeds from the show are used to promote interest in railroads and railroading. Annual grants and donations have been made to various railroad museums, historical societies, restoration projects and scholarship funds, which the DRM has been a recipient of.

This is a must see train show! For more information, go to: [www.railroadhobbyshow.com](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/)

### February 14th - Sweetheart Train

Winter train ride for lovebirds through our rail-yard, weather permitting of course!

## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

Many good things were happening around the DRM in the fall and early winter of 2004.

In the yard, the Wilton Semaphore which was installed over the summer remained a popular attraction. Work progressed on the Blacksmith Forge Exhibit with the construction of the building underway. The forge itself was once used by the New Haven, likely at the Cedar Hill shops. Small projects were completed such as painting the bumper posts and the switch frogs. Larger projects included restoration work on the GCT double-ended crane, the PRR postal car, the NYC wooden caboose and the roof of the RS-11. The CN caboose was painted by a volunteer group from the Bank of America and DRM members painted the sides and tarred the roof of Reading coach #2014.

The Museum received two donations for the yard. One was the Union Pacific Hi-Rail truck donated by Dapco Industries. This truck was used for detecting flaws in rail. The other donation was a much needed yard office in the form of a construction trailer. This donation came from Tri-County Construction.

Inside the Station, a photograph exhibit opened featuring the work of Peter McLachlan. Over 50 people attended the opening of the exhibit entitled “Changing Tracks: The Penn Central Railroad 1969 – 1976.” Construction began on the long planned HO-gauge layout, replacing the S-gauge layout which was dismantled.

A Metro-North sponsored fan trip visited the DRM in September. It was pulled by two of the CDOT Genesis locomotives and had in its consist the former Phoebe Snow cars, now part of the Metro-North Business Train. The excursion left Grand Central Terminal, traveled along the Hudson Line to Poughkeepsie, and then over the Maybrook to Danbury. Three hundred visitors enjoyed our exhibits in the Station and outside in the yard.

One of our earliest TV/movie shoots occurred at the end of October when Court TV shot a segment recreating a robbery that had taken place in the 1970's.

## New Newsletter Title!

In order to help distinguish the DRM newsletter from our RYL train ride, I asked the membership to vote on a new title. There was a tie between The Danbury Orderboard and The Railyard Dispatch. So as the editor, I broke the tie by choosing The Railyard Dispatch as the new newsletter title! Thanks to all who voted and I hope all of you approve!
Words from Our President

It is now January 2015. I hope you had a great series of holidays and a wish of Happy New Year is in order. Last month I highlighted and recognized the many volunteers who assisted in the growth, profitability and success of the DRM in 2014. As we move forward into 2015, let us further reflect on some of the projects we addressed this past year and to peruse some new projects which deserve our attention this ensuing year. While some of the new projects require funding, many projects are wholly or partially funded. Most of the newly proposed projects are in search of a project leader, volunteer and/or volunteer team. Should any of the following listed projects instill interest in you, or you want to suggest an additional new idea, please contact any Board Officer or Director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Display case (tall) - hats</th>
<th>Trapezoid display case base</th>
<th>Tall display case base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall display case relocation</td>
<td>Trapezoid display case relocation</td>
<td>DRM north sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banners (Bunny Train, Pumpkin Patch, Santa Trains)</td>
<td>North wall display board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target signal display (yard)</td>
<td>Target signal display (parking lot)</td>
<td>Switch stand display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yard carts</td>
<td>Rutland flat car</td>
<td>Solari Board base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solari Board functionality</td>
<td>Ticket window/office display</td>
<td>Turntable ring rail tie replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-gauge layout stone &amp; rebuild</td>
<td>Post Office car mailboxes</td>
<td>Yard security system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rearrange yard for enhanced and interesting display</td>
<td>Track and turnout relocation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update equipment display sign</td>
<td>Paint/refurbish RS11</td>
<td>Paint 44-tonner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW-8</td>
<td>RDC</td>
<td>Burro crane restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1455 restoration</td>
<td>Tonawanda Valley restoration</td>
<td>NYC caboose restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-wood yard benches</td>
<td>Catenary system arches</td>
<td>Water tower base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botsford water tower</td>
<td>Paint N.H. caboose</td>
<td>Display/exhibit reorganization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum P.R. video</td>
<td>RPO video display and video</td>
<td>Z-gauge model layout display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turntable wood replacement</td>
<td>Tie replacement</td>
<td>Yard clean up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track 18 platform storage shed replacement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Forge expansion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hope something above is of interest or stirs an idea.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, Wade W. Roese, President
Santa Express Trains, Continued from Page 4
Danbury Railway Museum
Board Motions Passed in 2014
By Steve Gould, Secretary

January
Motion to approve the 2014 Budget.

Motion to appropriate monies from the respective Temporary Restricted Fund accounts for use during 2014, as follows: #1455 - $4,125; Model Train Layouts - $250; Tonawanda Valley - $2,200; Library - $3,225; and Burro Crane - $1,500.

Motion to transfer $10,000 from the general treasury to the Roundhouse Temporary Restricted Fund.

Motion to move the $75 Britt Temporary Restricted Fund amount to the Tonawanda Valley Fund.

Motion to use the $333.83 RPO Temporary Restricted Fund amount for RPO brake repairs.

February
Motion to establish an Investment Advisory Committee.

March
Motion to nominate Don Konen as Board Chairman.

Motion to continue to have Board meetings the third Thursday of each month.

Motion to spend $300 for a new digital camera to be used by the Newsletter editor.

April
Motion to appropriate $600 from the Temporary Restricted Fund for restoration work on the NYC&HR wooden caboose.

June
Motion to appoint Director Chuck Sager as chairman of ad hoc Site Security Committee.

July
Motion to file grant application with Tom E. Dailey Foundation for a Railroad Heritage Grant for the Burro Crane restoration.

Motion to approve the Charter of the Investment Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the expenditure of $1,500 out of the Library temporary restricted fund; and $500 out of the general fund for consulting work under the direction of Library Committee.

August
Motion to approve the Investment Policy, which was passed out to the Board in July, for a 30-day review.

Motion to appoint Jose’ Alves to the Board of Directors to complete the remaining term of a resigned member.

No motions passed in May, September, October, November, or December.
# DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

## 2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday Evening Meeting and Mini-Events, 7:30 pm.
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability.

*IN THE WORKS: Special Excursion. Details will be online as they become available.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24 - 25</td>
<td>Amherst Train Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Sweetheart Train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28 - 29; April 3 - 4</td>
<td>Bunny Trains</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>National Train Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>CT Open House Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Teacher’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Owney, the Railway</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Danbury Railway</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>First Responder’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25</td>
<td>Pumpkin Patch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Military Appreciation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 12, 13, 19, 20</td>
<td>Santa Trains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Fundraising Events in Italics. Discounted admission for Members.
All events, times and equipment subject to change.

Please check our web site or call the Museum for up-to-date schedule and information.
Reservations suggested for Easter Bunny and Santa Trains. Reserve online at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)

**HOURS:**

**WINTER HOURS (SEP – MAY):** WED – SAT 10 - 4, SUNDAY 12 - 4.
**SUMMER HOURS (JUN – AUG):** MON – SAT 10 - 5, SUNDAY 12 - 5.
**MEMORIAL DAY & LABOR DAY:** OPEN 12 - 4.
**CLOSED HOLIDAYS EXCEPT MEMORIAL DAY AND LABOR DAY.**
Hours may differ for Special Events.

DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM
120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

[www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org) 203.778.8337
info@danburyrail.org
MUSEUM CALENDAR

January 7(7:30pm) New York Central & Other F Units - Carl Liba
January 14(7:30pm) Round-up Time - Pete McLachlan
January 15(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
January 21(7:30pm) Budd RDCs in the 20th Century - Chuck Sager
January 28(7:30pm) To Be Announced
February 4(7:30pm) To Be Announced - Carl Liba
February 11(7:30pm) To Be Announced
February 18(7:30pm) British Steam: The Great Western Railroad - Bill Brett
February 19(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
February 25(7:30pm) New York Central (Part I) - Pete McLachlan

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4
See the newsletter in color at:
www.danburyrail.org

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