

Using your membership to the fullest

By Tony White, Treasurer

Membership to any organization brings many rewards. It entitles one to a sense of belonging, a sharing of purpose, a new extended family, and discounts for great gifts and special events. Over 500 people share your museum membership at the DRM.

Your membership entitles you to voice your opinion in how your museum is run and the direction it should take. People who have decided to be on the board of directors have taken on the responsibility to guide the museum towards the goals of the majority of the membership. It is your choice as members to voice your opinions in what the direction of the museum should be. It is your choice as members to take advantage of electing those to office that would best serve your interests.

Your membership brings lots of advantages to the museum. You are unofficial ambassadors for the museum. You are our best source for free advertising. Carrying flyers about the museum and giving them to others brings them into the museum. These admissions help defray the many costs for the regular operations like gas, electricity and insurance. Since 911 our insurance costs alone have almost doubled.

Membership brings you the distinct advantage to campaign to others about the positive sides of belonging to the DRM. Carrying membership forms with you can increase the total number of people that will also become ambassadors of good will about your museum. Increasing the membership helps as it brings increased numbers of people to assist in restoration, building our historical background, working on committees, and becoming the future leaders of the museum.

It is important to remember that the main reason most of us have joined this or any other railroad museum is to participate in preserving railroad history and the creation of a good educational experience for ourselves and those who visit the museum. We can help by sharing this information with others. Where you live is of no consequence because people from all parts of the world visit this museum. We can also help by sharing this information with those we meet rail fanning, and with those on the board of directors to keep them up to date with the current trends around the country.

Whenever visiting a museum railroad or otherwise, we should make note of what we liked or didn't like about that place. We should make an effort to see what others are doing so that we can learn from them. We all must communicate with people from all historical societies and learn from them. We must not be afraid to learn new things and bring them back to your museum. A museum must not become stagnant and it is up to you the membership to see that the Danbury Railway Museum reaches it's full potential. This is an on-going responsibility and an important part of your membership.

Remember that your belonging to the DRM and other historical societies support railroading and it's preservation. This serves as a source of information, equipment and materials that can benefit everyone when you network.

Mission....

The purpose of the Danbury Railway Museum is to organize and manage a railway museum in Danbury, Connecticut and to engage in any and all activities convenient to said purposes. The goal of said museum shall be to educate the public to the history of railroading and the role of the railroads, both as part of a natural heritage and as an institution in contemporary society. The corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

Officers

Ira Pollack - President
Ron Freitag - V. President
Steve Gould - Secretary
Tony White - Treasurer

Directors

Dan Foley, Chairman
Ed Blackman
Suze Blackman
Geoff Knees
Dave Lowry
Peter McLachlan
Randy Natale
Wade Roese
Michael Salata
Susan Thomas

Change of address

Please send change of address to:
Danbury Railway Museum, Inc
Atten: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813-0090

Or Via Email to:
drmmembers@aol.com

Danbury Departures is made possible by volunteers.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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www.danbury.org/drm

The Yard Inside

November 2002

By Wade W. Roese

What happened to all those warm toasty days that encouraged the outdoor activities? Gone!

O.K. So let's move "inside". Now that we're inside, its a perfect opportunity to view the new J.W. Swanberg photo exhibit in the museum. Featuring an extensive collection of photographs of the Danbury yard and adjacent area this exhibit provides a plethora of reference information for the historically inclined. Please stop in, get warm and enjoy this new photo display.

N Gauge:

Dave Rist looked at some of the previously mentioned J.W.Sanberg photographs and quickly converted those photos to our latest structure addition to the **N Gauge**. Additionally Ira Pollack's additions of foliage and backdrop painting is bringing this display to life as truly representing a historical diorama of the Danbury yard. Please consider construction of a building for the **N Gauge** layout. Big ones and little ones are required and desired. We continue to seek photographs of buildings in and around the yard.

HO gauge:

We continue to look for people interested in our **HO Gauge** project. Anyone with suggestions about the layout design or wishing to assist with the **HO** Project, please contact Jeff Van Wagenen or yours truly:
Jeff Vanwagenen (203)-263-3627 or jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com.
Wade W. Roese (203)-938-3611 or Terwad@aol.com.

S Gauge:

Anyone have a spare Locomotive (Steam or Diesel) they would like to share with Us?

G gauge and "Live Steam":

The November 2nd. Open House saw some initial work on this project in the cleanup and rearranging of railroad ties which now outline the area proposed for the location of the **G Gauge**. Members wishing to work on the **G Gauge** or **Live Steam** should contact:
Bob Boothe (914)-332-9552 and www.mogul1455@hotmail.com and Harry Leeds.

The November 2nd. Open House welcomed many visitors and some new members, Many of these new and prospective new members expressed a strong interest in modeling. Interested people in the **G Gauge**, **HO**, and **N Gauge** spoke in length with museum staff. More about the Open House will be brought to the attention of the membership soon. This is one of the new member friendly programs in the works.

Come by and see the progress in "The Yard Inside" and warm up!!!

Looking for you,
Wade

Ride the Holiday Express Train to New York City!

Avoid the hassles of driving or taking a slow, stop-at-every-station train to New York City to do some serious sightseeing or shopping by taking the Danbury Railway Museum's 9th annual Holiday Express. The museum will host this perennially popular event on Saturday, December 7th.

Join your friends for a relaxing "fast express" leaving Danbury Metro-North station at 10:15 AM. On board you'll find a Museum gift shop, musical entertainment, gifts, a raffle, and complimentary snacks. And, who knows, Santa might also be aboard!

The train is expected to once again be pulled by one of the sleek Genesis locomotives (hopefully in the New Haven paint scheme!), and the rear will be brought up by a private rail car, New York Central No. 3, built by Pullman in 1928 for NYC Director, Harold Vanderbilt. After giving you about 5 hours in the Big Apple, the Holiday Express will return to Danbury at 7:15 PM.

Tickets - adults: \$35, children (5-15): \$20 are available by phone with major credit cards (203-778-8337), or stop by the Museum at 120 White Street in Danbury during operating hours (Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM and Sunday, noon to 5 PM).

Group rates and charters/private cars are also available.

The Danbury Railway Museum is a nonprofit organization, staffed solely by volunteers, and is dedicated to the preservation of, and education about, railroad history. The museum is located in the restored Danbury Station and rail yard at 120 White Street, Danbury, CT.

For further information, visit the Web site at: [Http://www.danbury.org/drm](http://www.danbury.org/drm) or call the museum at: 203-778-8337.

New Members

Constantine Poulos	Redding, CT
Brandt Berrie	New Fairfield, CT
Dan Garrick	Danbury, CT
Mrs. Falguni Hauser	Westerly, RI
Richard R. Krikorian	Sabdy Hook, CT
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis McKee	Newtown, CT

Youth Member

Jeffrey H. McKee	Newtown, CT
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MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEKEND!!!!

As our way of thanking you, our members, for your support over the past year, the Gift Shop will hold our annual Members Only sale over Thanksgiving Weekend (Friday, November 29 - Sunday, December 1). Members will receive 20% off on all merchandise EXCEPT for those items currently on sale (members will receive the current sale price on those items).

So, stop by and see the great selection of items we have to offer, including several 2003 railroad calendars.

Leo, Lisa, Kathie, and Patty will be happy to serve you!

TV-VCR Needed

The Danbury Railway Museum is in need of a new TV and a VCR or a TV/VCR combo for an upcoming exhibit.

If you can donate a TV (no larger than 19"), a VCR, or both, please contact Charlie Albanetti at: theteentrack@aol.com or at the museum at (203) 778-8337.

Thanks for your help!

TRACING MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

By Frank K. Thompson Jr.

In World War I, my father, Frank Thompson, who before enlisting had been night yardmaster at Danbury, served in the 14th Engineer Regiment (Light Railway), supporting first the British on the Somme Front and then the American Army near Verdun. The 60-centimeter gauge light railways provided a vital transportation link between the standard gauge railheads and the batteries and trenches at the front. They carried heavy artillery ammunition, rations and water to the front lines and evacuated wounded soldiers. The 14th Engineers were in France for 21 months, often coming under enemy fire.

On September 17, 2002, my son Jeffrey and I fly to France to retrace Dad's footsteps and to find what may remain of the light rail system. We drive north through Amiens, Albert, and Pozieres, scenes of bitter fighting during the British Somme Offensive of 1916, to Thiepval. From the custodian of the Ulster Division monument here, we learn to look for sections of scavenged light rail track being used by farmers as fence posts. As a souvenir, he gives us a five-foot section of light rail track. We continue to Boisieux-au-Mont, which had been the exchange point between the standard gauge and the light railways; and Mercatel, where Dad had been yardmaster for nine months. Both are fully restored and we find no trace of the light railway other than empty potato fields that once must have been ammunition dumps, and wire fences supported by sections of light railway track.

We arrive in Arras, and next morning, visit the magnificent Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge. In one chamber of the underground dugouts preserved nearby, we find a complete section of 60-cm light rail, the two tracks attached to channel-beam cross ties, like the track of a kid's electric train

The next place we visit is *Le P'tit Train de la Haute Somme*. "The Little Train of the Upper Somme." at Bray-sur-Somme. This new museum opened in 1996 houses a large collection of steam, gasoline and diesel locomotives and rolling stock some of which operated in commercial service on 60-cm lines in France as late as 1972. Among their locomotives we discover a rare 1916 ALCO-Cooke 2-6-2T steam locomotive in a remarkable state of preservation, that is still used to pull tourist trains on summer weekends, and a 50 horsepower Baldwin gasoline tractor once used by the American Forces. In addition we see French and German Locomotives of the WWI era, and box, flat and gondola cars of the same vintage. Outside the museum a crew is demonstrating a British-built Simplex 20-hp tractor, also a relic of WWI. The museum also exhibits a Fairbanks-Morse "speeder" still bearing U. AS. Army markings. We are thrilled to find these WWI veterans still surviving and in use after 85 years.

Tomorrow we will drive on to the battle-city of Verdun.

To be continued...



U.S. Army Light Railway ration train near Morsenek, 1918 (Natioanl Archives Photo)



1916 ALCO-Cooke Locomotive at L'Petit Train Museum, Sept. 2002

SO YOU THINK IT IS BORING WEEKDAYS AT THE DRM?

By Steve Gould

If you take a survey of DRM members, I would bet that most would tell you that it must be extremely boring during the week. After all, the Railyard Local runs only on Saturdays, and most of the events sponsored by the Museum are on the weekends.

Well, it is quite the contrary. Flanged wheel weekday visitors have been plentiful this year. In April, we saw a pair of back-to-back Metro North F10's (#410 and 411) pull into Danbury to retrieve a sick P32 Genesis and three coaches.



Photo by Steve Gould

Metro North F10's

A little later in the same month, the Metro North inspection train ran around the loop with a pair of P32 Genesis units back-to-back. In the consist were the two ex-DL&W "Phoebe Snow" tavern lounges, now MN inspection cars.



Photo by Dave Lowry

Metro-North Inspection Train
with ex-DL&W "Phoebe Snow" Tavern
Lounge Inspection Car

In July, the 56-car James E. Strates Carnival Train rolled down the **Maybrook Line** past the Museum. Several weeks later, the train departed Danbury for its return trip on the **Housatonic Railroad**. Speaking of the "**Housy**", the local will make an appearance once a week if there are cars for Fairfield Processing, many times with a GP9 and a GP35 handling the train. Housy's former **P&W** GP9 has been observed as well.

Interesting two-legged visitors, with one exception, have also stopped by. (The one exception was a three-foot snake that had gotten into the station prior to the August Board meeting!) Dave Lowry reports that in August, two French families stopped by to visit the Museum. They were driving their classic French Citroen cars (1939 and 1957 models) which they had shipped over to the USA for their driving tour of the country. Dave reports that they had arrived from Maine. Dave gave them a railyard tour and spoke v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y so they could understand what he was saying. They were very thankful Dave took his time describing the equipment.



Photo by Dave Lowry

French Visitors with two old Citroens

Also in August, on one of my tours, were Bob and Aileen Higgins from Mine Hill, NJ. Bob indicated he had worked as an RPO clerk on the Erie Railroad. I asked him if he remembered a head-on collision that occurred on the Erie near Suffern, NY back in 1958. "Remember it? Heck, I was in it!", he responded. A commuter train, powered by a PA, ran head on into a mail train with a GP7 on the head end. A tower operator had placed the two trains on the same track in error. Five were killed. Bob was the least injured of the four RPO clerks. He was in the hospital with a mild concussion and some scrapes and bruises, and was interviewed by WNBC-TV's Gabe Pressman. I told Bob I had some news clippings from the NY Daily News and the Times about the wreck, of which I sent him copies. He was extremely pleased to receive them and sent us a nice letter of thanks.

So, you see? There's lots going on during the week at DRM. If you are retired and looking for some excitement, "come on down". You never know what....or who.....will show up on your watch!

PROJECTS AT THE MUSEUM - NOVEMBER 2002

RESTORATIONS:

- 1) Rear panels on FL9 2006
 - a. Sanded down - power wash/sand
 - b. Primed
 - c. Painted
- 2) RS 11 1402 - Ron Freitag
 - a. Dent pounded out - Roof
 - b. Bondo applied
 - c. Primed
 - d. Painted
 - e. Power Wash under Frame
- 3) Crossing Signal
 - a. Add battery pack
 - b. Movement Sensor
- 4) Tonawanda Valley - Roberta Ballard and Charlie Albanetti
 - a. Inside Restoration
 - b. Fiberglass Exterior Holes
 - c. Finish Tarring Roof
- 5) New Haven Box Car - Don Konen
 - a. Sanded down - power wash/sand
 - b. Primed
 - c. Painted
- 6) New Haven Semaphore - Dave Roberts
 - a. Footings dug at east end of Track 34
 - b. Pour foundation with studs and rebar
- 7) Stratford Point
 - a. Clean Out Interior
 - b. Plywood Over Windows

WOOD PROJECTS:

- 1) Benches repaired inside and out
- 2) Hatch covers for roundhouse area
- 3) Loading platform at trailers built out of RR ties
- 4) Door entrance to Sasqua
- 5) Doors built on trailer

MECHANICAL:

- 1) 755 Backhoe
 - a. Lights working
 - b. Backup Alarm
 - c. Hydraulic pump leak in front end steering assembly
 - d. Exhaust stack tightened

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS:

- 1) Move generators into box car
- 2) Paint turntable railing
- 3) Bumper blocks placed on stub end tracks
- 4) Gates - Station Entrance
- 5) Doors built on trailer
- 6) Mold Removed from Brick Work on Building
- 7) Sliding Gate Fixed at Yard Entrance
- 8) Stone added to Track 18

MODEL RAILROAD PROJECTS:

- 1 N Gauge - Buildings and Scenery meets Tuesday nights - Bill Britt
- 2 S Gauge - Maintenance and Track Replacement - Bill Britt
- 3 Proposed HO Layout - Jeff VanWagenen
- 4 Proposed G Gauge Outdoor Layout - Bob Boothe

LIBRARY NEWS

by Stan Madyda

During the past several months, I have been working on a project to identify several hundred slides that I have in my collection. I like to have the date, subject and location noted on the slides. When engines are part of the slide, I include the model and engine number. I then give the slide a unique identification and put the information in an Excel spreadsheet. The slide is then filed in a metal storage box.

Over the years, I have purchased a number of New York Central slides from several sources that advertise duplicate slides. These are great slides but contain very little information. Some locations were easy to recognize while others were not. I began looking through the New York Central books that I have and to my surprise found that some of the slides I owned were reproduced in the books. Most of the images in the books had subject and date information. The images also gave me clues as to the locations for a number of other slides that were not reproduced in any of the books. I now have a fair number of slides identified.

Another group of slides I have belonged to a friend who passed away several years ago. Most of these slides are of model railroads taken in the 1960's and 1970's. When his significant other started to clean out his model railroad belongings she found the slides but decided to throw them out because none of them had any identification. By chance, another member of our model railroad club and I were at the house and she told us what she had done. The slides were in a garbage bag on the curb for the next day's pick up. So we went through the garbage bag pulling out slides. Rather than keep them in the boxes, she opened the all and dumped them out. We found a number of slides of the club layout and many others. One of the most recognizable layouts was John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid which was one of the most well known layouts in the 1960's and early 1970's. I began the long process of trying to identify all of the others. A couple of other layouts that were well known during that time belonged to Cliff Robinson and Whit Towers. By comparing the slides to magazine articles written on the layouts I was able to positively identify them. If you've been a model railroader for a number of years no doubt you have seen Bill McClanahan's book on scenery published by Kalmbach. His picture is on the front cover smoking a pipe. Sure enough, there were slides of a layout with the owner smoking a pipe. Another match.

There were also a number of layout slides that I had very little information on. When my friend visited John Allen's layout in 1961, he also photographed other layouts in the area. He had the good sense to take a picture of the front door of one layout and the outside of the building of another that had the club's name on it. But because the slides were not in any real order I couldn't tell which of the two clubs they belonged to. On a hunch, I searched the Internet and found that both clubs are still in existence and had web pages. One club was in the original location and had pictures. The backdrop painting and protective plexiglass haven't changed in 40+ years. The other club had moved but mentioned they were written up in *Model Railroader* recently. That article referred to two other articles about the original layout written in the 1960's which allowed me to correctly identify more of the slides.

The whole point of this is to demonstrate the importance of identifying your slides and photographs. The Library has gotten a number of donations where nothing is noted on the slide or photo. Dan Foley and Peter McLachlan do their best to identify as much as they can when we receive donations of this sort. While the photographer can probably rattle off the subject and the date by looking at the image we don't have that luxury. The photographer may be deceased or has moved away and the slide or photo that meant something to them means nothing to us without some sort of notation. If anyone would like their photographic efforts to live on after they are gone, they should take the time to make notes on the slide or photo so that others can enjoy them. When working with photos, it is best to use a photographic marking pen available in photo stores.

If any members should have any questions about their photographic collections, please feel free to speak with the Library Committee.

MEMBER APPRECIATION BOOK SALE

Just in time for the Holidays, the Reference and Research Library will have a books sale on Wednesday, December 11, 2002 starting at 7:00. All duplicate books, timetables and other material will be for sale at **half price**. Although we will not have all 40+ boxes of magazines, if anyone is interested we will make you a good deal.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

From Dan Foley, Chairman of the Board

In accordance with the By-Laws, I have appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following:

Chairman: Ed Blackman (Past President)
Bill Britt
Suze Blackman

There are five positions on the Board of Directors to be filled, being the Two Year terms elected in March 2001.

The incumbents are:

Ed Blackman
Dan Foley
Geoff Knees
Mike Salata
Sue Thomas

The committee will determine if the incumbents wish to run for another Two Year Term (March 2003 - March 2005), and also seek additional candidates for these positions. Between 8-10 total candidates would provide choices for the membership.

All Officer terms expire this year. All Officers were elected for Two Year Terms in March 2001, except for the Secretary who filled a vacant position.

The incumbents are:

President: Ira Pollack
Vice President: Ron Freitag
Secretary: Steve Gould
Treasurer: Tony White

The following schedule has been suggested:

Jan. 15, 2003	Nominating Committee Report to Secretary
Jan. 23, 2003*	Secretary mails out Ballots
Feb. 28, 2003	Deadline for receipt of Ballots
Mar. 12, 2003**	Annual Membership Meeting
Mar. 20, 2003	First Meeting of the new Board

* Minimum of ten days notice required.

** The By-Laws require an annual meeting of the membership during the month of March for the purpose of the election and any other business.

Any member who would like to run for any of the positions, please contact anyone on the Committee.