

# The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 8

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

August 2007

## Mechanical Crew Busy

It is only through the efforts of our mechanical crew that we are able to run our *Railyard Local*. They work mostly out of the public eye, and are rarely photographed, but they have been busy repairing and



CMO Justin Chapin reinstalled the traction motor gear case, all patched and shiny, on the SW-8 Pfizer locomotive.

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## RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. There is one major task left to do, and that is refinishing the floor of the car. We received two very nice contributions, so we have the necessary funds set aside for this. We hope to get started on this at about the time you receive this newsletter.



Bill Nickelson (at left) is presenting one of the personal effects drawers to Bill Britt. Photo by Steve Gould.

Bill Nickelson delivered the eight drawers he made and these have been stained and coated. Bill did an excellent job with them.

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Gauging Our Progress and DRM Express Track

## Project Steaming Ahead

Preparations for 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and beyond

By Carolyn Taylor, Project Leader



Our Boston & Maine 2-6-0 Mogul is shown almost ready for its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The stairway with its platform and bridge made to measure were created by Bob Pitcher, with the stairway now primed and painted black with white trim. The wheels and trim were painted on the platform side. Firebox grates have been moved from the tender to storage, and the tender floor completely painted. Glass of the number board was replaced, and the stenciled numerals recreated. One cab window

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## Amherst Railway Grant

A grant of \$1,778, to be used exclusively for brake repairs on the NH 44-tonner #0814, was awarded to the DRM by the Amherst Railway Society. The funds for this generous grant are raised through the giant railroad hobby show sponsored by that organization each year at the Eastern States Exposition "Big E". This coming year's event will be on January 26 & 27. Thank you for this grant, which will be an important part of putting this locomotive into service in our railyard! Thanks also to members of our Grant Committee, Steve Gould, Mike Salata, and Jerry Lawlor, who did the work of submitting the grant application with supporting details and photos!

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## New Members

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, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

Larry Dunn	Ridgefield, CT
Steven Wiczorek	Branford, CT
Ronald Poidomani	Newtown, CT
Michael LaGue	Somers, NY
Robert Gamba	Mamaroneck, NY
Noel Weaver	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Keith Hadley	Easton, CT
Charles & Elizabeth Craft	Boynton Beach, FL
Lori Ellis	New Milford, CT
Peter Losurdo	N. Brookfield, MA
Brian Tramontozzi	Bedford, NY

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## Project Steaming Ahead, *Continued from Page 1*



Ira Pollack replaces the glass and the stenciled numerals on the #1455's number board.

that was in disrepair was removed, glued and painted, then replaced. The cosmetic crosspieces on another window have been affixed again temporarily. The cab and tender interiors have been cleaned up. Thank you Bob Pitcher, Ira Pollack, Dave Roberts, Justin Chapin, Randy Natale, Gerry Herrmann, and Dan Carleton for the work and advice rendered so far to stabilize and cosmetically restore this historic locomotive and tender! It already looks better than it has in years.

Stabilization and cosmetic restoration will continue after the birthday celebration. Assessment and prioritization of the locomotive's and tender's needs will be on going. A BIG THANKS to those who have made donations to enable continuation of this project!

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## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The August 1997 "Danbury Railway News" started by mentioning that Railyard Local was being run several times a month. The RS-1 was being used on the train and the ride included a stop at the turntable.

The newsletter also gave a schedule for monthly Question and Answer nights. These sessions were held on Wednesday nights with Chairman of the Board Bill Guider moderating.

The Volunteer Views featured Joey Sanfilippo who had been appointed Assistant Yard Manager. At 16, he was one of our youngest members and dedicated many hours to the Museum. In addition to working in the yard, he had helped at the front desk, with yard tours and worked on the equipment. He had impressed many members with his questions and insight.

On July 26th, the Museum hosted Pioneer Days in conjunction with the Danbury Library. The summer program highlighted books written by the late Laura Ingles Wilder (Little House on the Prairie) who had lived in Danbury. Members dressed in period costumes of the 1880's and children were given tickets to Sacramento or Salt Lake City. A presentation followed about the opening of the West to rail travel and then a train ride.

Another article dealt with the replacing of the control valve on the PRR Box Car by borrowing the one off the caboose that we just received from Yorktown. After some cleaning and lubricating of the valve, the brakes on the PRR Box Car worked as they were intended.

The Ford backhoe had arrived in the yard and was being serviced by the Andrews brothers.

A photo showed John Christy and Adam Moffat removing rust on the PRR Box Car in preparation of its priming. Another photo showed Lenny Hanson removing the brake wheel from the New Haven gondola. This was needed in order to move a Penn Central caboose that was donated by the United Rail Historical Society of New Jersey to Danbury.

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## Correction

The editor apologizes for the inadvertent omission of the byline on the NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose article in the July issue of *The Railyard Local*. The article was, of course, written by Gerry Herrmann, the long-time and constant project leader for this historic piece in our collection. Before we know it, this caboose will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I'd like to talk about some of the projects that have been going on both in the yard and in the building. Carolyn Taylor and crew have been making progress on the #1455, making it look much better than it has in years. She needs your help with the restoration and stabilization, and your financial help, if possible. Gerry Herrmann and his crew are in the process of painting the final side to the NYC caboose to make it ready for lettering. After they finish erecting their scaffolding, they will move on to working on the roof and cupola. Bill Britt has been very busy working on the interior of the RPO car. By press



time, it is possible that the floor will have been painted and the interior almost complete. This has been a very quick moving project for Bill, and I am sure he, too, is looking forward to its completion.

In the next several weeks I plan to rekindle and finish the track work that we started earlier this season on Track 34. Unfortunately our priorities had to change temporarily because of the events scheduled at the Museum. I am looking forward to completing this work and putting this track back in service and enhancing our Railyard Local's length of run.

Outside we have been training some of our newer members for our operating train crews, and if you have any interest in running trains please come forward and contact me.

In the building, Wade Roese and his Tuesday night crew have been busy working on a new O-gauge layout and moving forward with the maintenance on the other layouts. He has developed quite a crew, which, of course, you are very welcome to join every Tuesday night at 7pm. They don't discriminate as far as what scale you might like to pursue. On a regular basis, they have made a lot of progress with our existing layouts. Our Library group meets regularly on Tuesday nights, sorting out and accessing our many donated artifacts.

As you can see there is a lot going on at the Museum, and I am hoping that you can come forward to join these activities. There is something for everyone

at our Museum. Please contact me, and I will steer you in the direction of your interests.

We are in dire need of new and more personnel to man the Front Desk and Gift Shop on a regular basis. We need to enhance our pool of available Front Desk personnel in the event of vacations, illness, turnover in staff, extra large groups coming in, etc. We need a minimum of three staff members in order to keep the Museum open on a daily basis. The Front Desk staff is our front line in greeting our guests, who are also our potential new members. The Front Desk staff is the principal contact with the public and all people coming through this facility. I need your help more than ever now to come forward and become involved with our weekday operation.



In closing this month I would like to thank all of the members and friends who participated in this year's Little Engine That Could event. I feel that we all pulled together, acted very professionally, and worked as a team to please the guests that showed up for this event. Listed below are the people who did all of the different tasks that were required to make this successful. If I have missed your name in this listing I certainly apologize for that. Volunteers were: Dave Rist, Dave Wilson, Carol Wilson, Bill Britt, Dave Roberts, Glenn Miller, Allan Stock, Bob Pitcher, Sean Harte, Carolyn Taylor, Justin Chapin, Jerry Lawlor, Ed Blackman, Don Konen, Desmond McCann, Gerry Herrmann, Suzie Blackman, Tom Murphy, Josh Pollack, Sue Pollack, Ira Pollack, Steve Gould, Pete McLachlan, Joe Ward, Sue Thomas, Jim Teer, Dana Laird, Marie Salata, Richard Shaboo, Wade Roese, Mike Salata, Steve Mayerson, Howard Peatfield, Dave Lowry, Patty Osmer, Tom McCullough, Kitlin Webbel, Kelly Kiyak, Anne Marie Shannon, Ken Landsiedel, Ron Devine, Randy Natale, Ed Holowinko, Jeff van Wagenen, John O'Hern, Dan Carleton, Bob Andriola, Doug Guerriero, Sara Anello, Dan Foley, Art Slothower, Stan Schoonmaker, Ron Huppert, Matt Manske, Paul Gassner, Cathy Fay, Jeff Heyel, Ryan Heyel, Fred McKenna, Mike Harrington, Stan Madyda, John Ivansco, and Patricia Giurgescu. Just look at all of the different people who were involved in making this event work. Thanks again!

# Out of the Area DRM Guests

## Signers of guest book provide feedback

We appreciate the feedback from guests who care enough to take the time to sign our Guest Book. We learn from their comments, which help us see what our guests like or don't like about their experience here at the Museum. Invariably the comments are positive, and give us volunteers a real morale boost. Indicating how they learned about the Museum helps us determine which are effective ways of reaching out to the public. It is clear that more and more people are aware of us through our website, and the signs on I-84. It is helpful to know which publications, or brochure distribution locations connected them with us. Their home town locations tell us that many visitors live a long distance from here, and that the enthusiasm for railroading is nationwide and international. Home towns of visitors to the DRM during May through July 2007 who signed our guest book, and live outside the CT, NY, MA, and NJ areas are listed below.



- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Warkworth, Ontario                           | Prairieville, LA  |
| Eugene, OR                                   | Atlanta, GA       |
| Polson, MT                                   | Lake Worth, FL    |
| Moscow Mills, MO                             | Niceville, FL     |
| Baltimore, MD                                | Savannah, GA      |
| Naperville, IL                               | W. Chestor, PA    |
| Halifax, Nova Scotia                         | Bel Air, MD       |
| Brussels, Belgium                            | Silver Spring, MD |
| Sewickley, PA                                | Byron, IL         |
| Olney, IL                                    | Philadelphia, PA  |
| Surrey, U.K.                                 | Exeter, NH        |
| Greencastle, PA                              | Baton Rouge, LA   |
| Wilmington, SC                               | Dickson, TN       |
| Lancaster, PA                                | Charleston, SC    |
| Aurora, IN                                   | Minneapolis, MN   |
| Huron, OH                                    | Sausalito, CA     |
| Tamarac, FL                                  | Grune, Belgium    |
| Amsterdam, and Garrellsweel, The Netherlands | Harrington, DE    |
| London, U.K.                                 | Hyd, India        |
| <b>4</b> Toledo, OH                          |                   |

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Elk Rapids, MI                           | Berlin, Germany       |
| Coley's Point, Newfoundland and Labrador | Lititz, PA            |
| E. Corinth, VT                           | Langhorne, PA         |
| Sarasota, FL                             | Tarentum, PA          |
| Lochham, Germany                         | Tahlequan, OK         |
| Massillon, OH                            | West Wyoming, PA      |
| Kingwood, TX                             | Dalton, GA            |
| Robesonia, PA                            | Calbridge, Ireland    |
| Batesville, AR                           | Anniston, AL          |
| Indianapolis, IN                         | Sunbury, PA           |
| Columbia, KY                             | Cotati, CA            |
| Vanersborg, Sweden                       | Northbridge, MA       |
| Cape Elizabeth, ME                       | Royersford, PA        |
| Largo, FL                                | Wilmington, DE        |
| Romford, U.K.                            | Bellevue, WA          |
| Lawrence, KS                             | Auckland, New Zealand |
| West Milton, OH                          | Winnipeg, Canada      |
| Navarre, FL                              | San Francisco, CA     |
| Hong Kong, China                         | E. Stroudsburg, PA    |
| Austin, TX                               |                       |



Young man mesmerized by the new G-scale layout in the railyard. Photo by Tom McCullough.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clyde, NC              | Cranston, RI            |
| Oxford, PA             | Frederick, MD           |
| Wind Gap, PA           | Harrisonburg, VA        |
| Greenville, SC         | Windsor, Ontario        |
| Macungie, PA           | Pacific Palisades, CA   |
| Manassas, VA           | Fallston, MD            |
| Scottsdale, AZ         | Powell, OH              |
| Dulwich, U.K.          | Tsurugashima-shi, Japan |
| Dothan, AL             | Hamilton, TX            |
| Coventry, RI           | Odessa, TX              |
| W. Mifflin, PA         | Dunedin, FL             |
| Quincy, MA             | Ludwigsfelde, Germany   |
| Abbotsford, BC, Canada | Williston, VT           |
| Morrisville, VT        | Barre, VT               |
| LaCrosse, WI           | Anna, IL                |
| York, U.K.             | Grune, Belgium          |
| Harrington, DE         | Toledo, OH              |



# A Sampling of Comments

## The feedback is encouraging

Following are some of the more descriptive replies during May through July 2007 to the question in our guest book, "How did you like your visit?":

- \* Kids loved it, great fun, educational
- \* Friendly people, good equipment
- \* Superb! Lots of material, well presented
- \* It was very interesting. Especially playing with the little trains
- \* Can't wait to schedule a birthday party
- \* Excellent tour by Mr. Joe Ward. Congratulations to the whole team.
- \* Enjoyed it very much. Particularly like seeing the inside of the Sperry car.
- \* Very pleasant. Your staff is friendly, especially Gift Shop volunteer.



- \* What a super place - lovely surprise
- \* Friendly, pleasant, knowledgeable
- \* Very Nice!! Can't wait to come back.
- \* Bill worked on NYC - so really enjoyed it
- \* Great! Keep up the restoration.
- \* Very nice. Pleasant staff. Thanks.
- \* Loved it! Will bring kids back on a weekend for ride.
- \* Great collection - especially for a Budd car(RDC)buff.
- \* Superb! Fascinating. I go back to the 20's and 30's and the tour brought so much of my youth back to me. Steve was an excellent guide. Many thanks.
- \* Very informative, wonderful to see photos, uniforms, hats, china, etc. This museum is kept clean, neat, tidy.
- \* I loved it. I am 1 1/2 years old.
- \* Will be back with others.
- \* Very good. Surprised by extent of exhibit.
- \* Don, our guide made it a special learning experience. Thank you!
- \* Very good. The guide obviously enjoyed his work.
- \* A super fine display of RR equipment and narrated by 2 well-informed tour guides.
- \* Mom and I had alot of fun on the train.
- \* We had a fun time - loved the spin on the turntable!

- \* We had a wonderful time - even the 20 month old loved it. Nicely done.
- \* Wonderful day! Would love to have my son's party here!
- \* Loved it. You're rich with history. Thanks for all you do!
- \* Like it, but disappointed wasn't here on weekend for train ride.
- \* We come here often. It's a real treasure.
- \* Nice and different exhibits. Tour guide very entertaining.
- \* Very impressive collection and very informative tour guide.
- \* Great to go back in time to a simpler life.
- \* Enjoyed the well-cared for collections - This is the "right size" museum.
- \* Very well done and managed, a credit to your community.
- \* Nice collections. Need to have more gifts for adults (e.g., stamps, posters, replicas of lanterns; plates, belt buckles, paper weights, ornaments, etc.)
- \* I was impressed with the museum, photographs and loved the model railroads. My father worked for the Canadian National Railroad for 40 years.
- \* Great! Every child had fun! (birthday party of 12 kids + adults)



Both photos on this page by Tom McCullough.

- \* Nice gift shop!
- \* History at its best.
- \* The working models and climbing on the trains.
- \* Great! Lots to do and see.
- \* This place is truly a gem. I wish you much success in preserving an important part of history !!
- \* Very much. The docents are very enthusiastic + knowledgeable. Thank you for a great museum!
- \* Very much, everyone very informative & helpful!
- \* The visit was great. The boys enjoyed the old-fashioned trains. Thank you.
- \* We loved it! Dave gave us a great tour. Thank you for your dedication to rail history, the next generation very much appreciates your efforts!
- \* Very good; deserves a 2nd visit.

# The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roesé

## Layout Status:

### N Gauge:

The N gauge is still looking for volunteers to build some buildings. J.R. has taken on the task of getting N gauge "train consists" running on the layout. It looks like some track maintenance will be required.

### HO Gauge:

Electronic control and operation is still in final testing. Three of the five operational tracks are! Marty has been spending hours under the layout arranging and connecting the many wires (now that's a picture to be captured!)



Marty is shown under the HO layout working with wiring in May. It is now August and he is still at it. It is hoped that he has surfaced now and then in the interim!

### S Gauge:

Static displays only

### O Gauge:

We have progress on much of the O gauge bench work, which also includes extensive storage space. Trackwork will begin soon. A small temporary loop is in place for minimum operation, but lacks the excitement of that which is planned. Please think about joining our Tuesday work crew to assist with this or any of our display projects.

### G Gauge:

The donated interior G gauge display continues to be a focal point of our operational layouts. The new exterior layout which was filled in with

material that was thought to not be able to support plant growth is full of WEEDS (inherited from Metro-North next door). Any G gauge experts that have some corrective suggestions please, please give me a call. (203) 938-3611.

New displays and exhibits are in place, and additions are coming. Please visit the Museum and tell us what you like, don't like, or would prefer to see. Thanks! Do not bring any weeds!

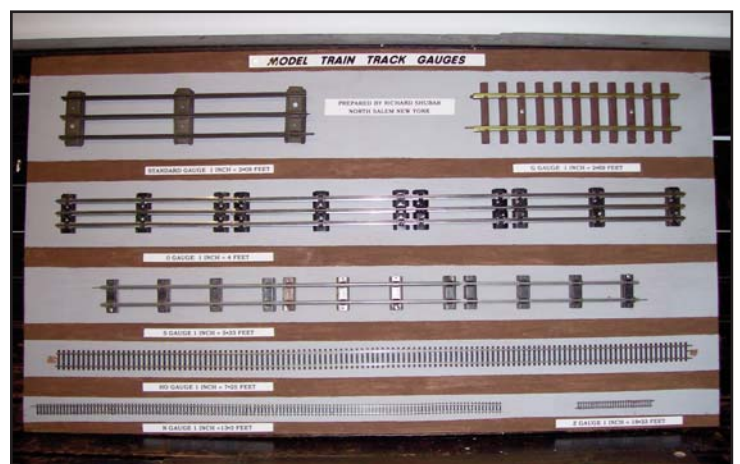
Please consider participating in the building or operating of any of our models and/or display projects.

## Gauging Our Progress

The Danbury Railway Museum has operating layouts of many gauges, including N, HO, O and G. Other gauges of equipment on display include standard gauge, S and Z. Recently Richard Shubar, who volunteers regularly on Tuesday nights, and is a member of the Board of Directors, prepared a handsome display board featuring labeled examples of model railroad track gauges. This handicraft is on display at the Museum. Rich was one of our members who conducted a model railroading workshop at the Hawley Elementary School in Newtown earlier this year, and used this board at that time.

The track, rolling stock, buildings, and landscaping on a model layout are made to scale so that everything is proportional to the real items. Items for sale indicate the scale on the box for matching with layouts. Following are the conventional scales of these gauges, given as ratios and in 1 inch to feet:

Standard gauge	1:25	1 inch = 2.09 feet
G gauge	1:29	1 inch = 2.69 feet
O gauge	1:48	1 inch = 4 feet
S gauge	1:64	1 inch = 5.33 feet
HO gauge	1:87	1 inch = 7.25 feet
N gauge	1:160	1 inch = 13.3 feet
Z gauge	1:220	1 inch = 18.33 feet





maintaining our equipment. In addition to our rolling stock of railroad equipment, that includes our trusty backhoe, dump truck, pickup truck, and lawnmower.



A closer look at the traction motor gear case. This photo and the one of Justin on Page 1 are by Dan Carleton.

The traction motor case on the SW-8 was bent when it arrived at the DRM. That caused it to impinge on the brake rigging. Dan Carleton had removed it (see Feb. issue). J.R. Mitchell did repair work and cleaned it up. Dan got it painted, and Justin greased inside. Randy Natale, Justin and Dan worked on reinstalling it.

Dan coated the #0814 44-tonner's battery box with epoxy. The brake valves were sent out, and were reinstalled by Justin.

All of the SW-8's brake shoes were replaced by Justin, Don Konen, Jeremy Rice, Dave Roberts, and Jim Teer.

Regular lubrication and filter changes are done. This crew keeps our train operation running!



Earlier this year Bob Pitcher welded a damaged hook on to the backhoe.

*RPO News & Notes, Continued from Page 1*

After the floor is complete we will lower the mail bag rack and hang the bags that we have. (I'll be glad to get them out of my kitchen.) We still need some pipe for stanchions.

The baggage room on the car is being repaired and painted. We hope to stow and exhibit some Railway Post Office memorabilia there.



Some of the personal effects drawers, stained and in place in the RPO car. Bill Nickelson used the one remaining original drawer as a guide for creating the eight additional ones.

**DID YOU KNOW?** that it has been just slightly over two years since we started this project, and we thank everyone who has shown interest in it. We also thank all who have contributed financially and materially with help and encouragement.

## Fabulous Rail Display

The DRM has the privilege of having a special display which includes labeled examples of many rail sizes. It is on loan from Eliot Goldfinger for 2-3 months, so visit us soon to see this remarkable collection of railroad, trolley, and crane rail, plus an historic piece of third rail. The captions along with each piece are very informative.





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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Aug 16(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- Aug 22(7:30pm) Africa Steam video - Dick Shubar
- Aug 29(7:30pm) Kitbashing for Model Railroads -  
Wade Roes
- Sept 5(7:30pm) Slides from His Collection - Ed  
Blackman
- Sept 12(7:30pm) Modeling Techniques - Steve  
Mayerson

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: [www.danbury.org/drm!](http://www.danbury.org/drm!)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

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### Change of Address

If you move, please send your change of address to:  
Danbury Railway Museum,  
Attention: Membership Chairman  
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

