Santa Express on Time

The Museum’s annual holiday event is a happy event during a cold season. The five days of the Santa Express event also featured a special night run, which was sold out, on December 15th. Revenues and attendance were slightly down from last year, but it still was a very successful event. Sue and Jim Teer plus Joseph Alves, with some assistance from a few others, worked very hard decorating the Museum, railyard, and Santa’s special coach. Many DRM members volunteered their time to assist during the event. Thank you for your help! These events would not be possible without you. These family and children’s events definitely are a delight to host. After the tragedy at nearby Sandy Hook, it was decided to continue the event as scheduled. A number of residents from that area who came here expressed their appreciation for that since it gave them some temporary relief from the tragic event and its aftermath.

In This Issue
- Messages from the Editor - Page 2
- Gift Shop News - Page 3
- Words from Our President - Page 4
Plus . . . Ten Years Ago and New Members

DRM Training Program - 2013

By John O’Hern, Safety Officer, and Steve Gould

The following DRM Training and Qualifying Exam sessions are offered to our volunteers, who also must be DRM members, for 2013:

Safety Exam:
for ALL volunteers working in our yard

Crew Exam:
for ALL current and potential DRM crew members.

Car Host & Tour Guide Training:
for ALL car hosts and tour guides before working on our trains or giving tours; will cover expected duties of each position

Saturday, February 16th

Safety Exam: 10:30am
Questions? See John O’Hern

Crew Exam: 1:30pm
Questions? See Peter McLachlan

Saturday, March 16th

Car Host & Tour Guide Training: 10:30am
This training program will last about an hour.
Questions? Contact Steve Gould, Peter McLachlan or John O’Hern

These exams must be taken annually to qualify for each position. Any members unable to attend these scheduled times must make their own arrangements with the designated leaders in order to qualify before working.

We have these qualifying tests and training programs annually because we take safety very seriously, but do not let the word “exam” discourage you from volunteering here. The exams are not difficult and are open book, so save the dates, and we hope to see you then!

Continued on Page 6
Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

As 2002 drew to a close, the Museum stayed busy with a number of projects both inside and outside.

The donation of the New York Central and Hudson River wooden caboose was completed and it was moved to Danbury by truck. A crew from the DRM made several trips to Canaan, CT to inspect the caboose and prepare it for the move. The previous owner was the Connecticut Railroad Historical Society.

The Tonawanda Valley had its paint removed from the lounge area. Plans for continued restoration included the repainting of this area as close to the original as possible. The car also would be converted to 110 volts to allow lights and other electrical objects to work. Many light fixtures would have to be duplicated.

Inside the station work continued on the train layouts. The station itself was being decorated for the Holidays and the Santa Trains. The station would also be open for First Night in Danbury with a musical venue and a dinner for members at midnight.

For the first time in the past seven years, in 2002 the G-gauge layout was not set up at the Galleria Office Building on Main Street in Danbury. This layout had been supported by Union Savings Bank which had offices in the Galleria.

In an attempt to get new members involved, a Volunteer Job Fair was held with the idea of showing the many and varied tasks people could work on. A welcome package was assembled by Dan Gallo and Jerry Lawlor, who spearheaded the Fair.

Despite some cold weather, needed track work was completed and the Rutland box car was used for a movie shoot.

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!

Erin Conte Ridgefield, CT
Christine Gefaell Mendham, NJ
John Waters New Rochelle, NY
Christopher H. Lunding Riverside, CT
Mark Hanok New Milford, CT

Correction

The editor apologizes for her error in the November issue concerning the date of Bill Britt’s passing, which was on October 26, 2012.
Gift Shop News

New cap created especially for the DRM
By Patty Osmer

Our embroidered hat sports a reproduction of the Alco builder’s plate from our Boston&Maine 1455 steam engine! The side of the hat describes the engine. This handsome hat is black with bronze embroidery. Cost to members is $13.50.

Ballots on Their Way

The ballots, along with resumes of candidates for the 2013 election of Officers and Board members, will be mailed shortly, so current members please watch for yours and mail it back by the deadline of 7:30pm, Wednesday, March 20th! Let’s try for the best return percentage yet. If you are a member and do not receive a ballot soon, please contact the Museum by phone, email, or in person to get your ballot.

You’ll LOVE Valentine’s Rides

Though the weather may be chilly, the heat will be turned on in our vintage 1953 RDC self-propelled passenger car for train rides on February 9th and 10th. There will be free hot chocolate and sweets in addition to the operating model layouts, free tattoos for children, yard and equipment tours, numerous displays and our impressively stocked Gift Shop. If the weather is snowy or otherwise inclement, please call ahead since rides are scheduled, weather permitting.

Program on Steam Locos

Bob Boothe will present a Wednesday night Power Point program entitled “Steam locomotives 101 - the anatomy of the B&M 1455” on March 13th. He will give an overview of the origins of steam locomotives (1804) as well as point out the significant improvements which led to the development of the Mogul 260 type of locomotive in the 1860s. The program will use pictures and diagrams involving the 1455. We hope you will arrive at 7:30pm for Wade’s popular weekly update on Museum activities, then stay for what promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation.

“Big E” January Train Show

Amherst Railway Society’s four-building train show will be the weekend of January 26th and 27th in West Springfield. The DRM’s presence there is more than to sell our merchandise. The show presents a major publicity opportunity. Our members and volunteers staff the Museum’s tables, shop, and connect with other vendors and organizations. We hope you will volunteer, come see us, and attend to support Amherst Railway Society’s event. That organization uses proceeds from the event to fund grants for other railroading organizations’ endeavors. The Danbury Railway Museum has been the grateful recipient of immensely helpful grants in the past from Amherst.
Words from Our President

Since you are reading this in the New Year of 2013 I guess the Mayan calendar was incorrect! Thankfully and sadly we have to reflect on the loss of valuable volunteer members, all of whom contributed to the benefit of our Museum: former President Ed Blackman, former Vice-President and Project Leader Bill Britt, Ken Williams, Charles Cuniff, and a few that retain their privacy.

In 2012 we were able to succeed with many projects: extending our lease, relocating the rear gate which gave us an additional 83 ½ feet of running room, acquiring catenary arches, constructing two pavilions, initiating work on the burro crane, initiating work on a flat car for use as a ride on an open car, painting of the CN caboose (nice bright red, as a caboose should be), repairing the floor of the Reading coach #2001, continuing work on the Tonawanda Valley observation car and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad wooden caboose. We continued participation in numerous outreach programs, and enhanced our Easter, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa events. The Museum made numerous acquisitions through donations and gifts. The Museum was the site of movie shoots, wedding and engagement shoots, CD cover shoots and music videos, tours, new and expanded Wednesday night programs, and birthday parties. Unfortunately a few planned projects did not come to fruition in 2012, but remain in the working or planning stages.

Even in a marginal economy the Danbury Railway Museum has continued to grow economically through innovative programming, careful and frugal spending and efficient project management. Our accomplishments in 2012, as you can see, were numerous. Why? Because of you, our members and volunteers! The sharing of our members’ talents, knowledge, expertise and cooperation is the main factor which contributed to a reasonable and respectable 2012. We must thank those familiar or maybe not so familiar faces/names and new volunteers who have jumped in to help with both feet! Apologies if I have missed acknowledging anybody.

Joseph Alves  Bob Andriola  Alan Baker
Robert Ballard  Bob Bell  Gary Bentley
Marty Bishop  Suze Blackman  Ed Blackman*
Bob Boothe  Mary Ann Boothe  Bill Brett
Bill Britt*  Chip Brown  Harry Burke
Dan Carleton  Peter Celona  Justin Chapin
Don Collier  Dan Cordoso  Katie Corwin
Charles* & Nancy Cuniff  Jim Daly  Bob Detlefsen
Al Emanuele  Max Enis  Nick Ernst
Dan Foley  Dave Fuller  Bob Gambling
Paul Gassner  Franz Gerencir  Steve Gould
Greg Grice  Marty Grossman  Al Gruber
Gerry Herrmann  John Ivansco  Ian Jenner
Charles Johnson  Bob Kessler  Geoff Knees
Don Konen  Dave Kopycinski  Hans Dieter Krauter
Mike LaGue  Dana Laird  Joe LaPorta
Mike LaPorta  Jerry Lawlor  Harry Leeds
Tom Lenhart  Gil Letellier  Carl Liba
Dave Lowry  Ian Mdnens  Mike Madyda
Stan Madyda  Joe Mato  Tom McCullough
Shannon McDonald  Jim McGeorge  Dave McKee
Pete McLachlan  Glenn Miller  Dan Milone
J.R. Mitchell  Elaine Mitchell  Bill Nicholson
John O’Hern  Patty Osmer  Shirley Peatfield
Andre Perez  Bob Pitcher  Ira Pollack
Bob Powell  Jeremy Rice  Dave Rist
Dave Roberts  Wade Roese  Luis Roman
Dana Rosenbergen  Chuck Sager  Mike Salata
Marty Scatola  Adam Schwartz  Richard Shaboo
Elyse Shapiro  John Silbert  Dave Simington

An * following a volunteer’s name indicates that sadly the person has passed away.  

Continued on Page 5
As a member of any volunteer organization your reward is proportional to that which you put forth. The volunteers above should be proud to have exhibited the utmost of commitment and dedication to their/our own Danbury Railway Museum.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, thanks for your sharing,
Wade W. Roese
Photos below: at left, night photo showing glowing lights on the 1455, taken by Alan Gruber; at right, group photo by Deirdre Gruber.
At right, night shot of lights and decorations at Track 18 pavilion taken by Bob Boothe on December 15th.
MUSEUM CALENDAR

Dec 26  CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
Jan 2(7:30pm)  Chi.-Denver Competition- Carl Liba
Jan 9(7:30pm)  British Steam 1960s - Ian Jenner
Jan 16(7:30pm) CV/CN/CP Steam 03-1957 - Pete McLachlan
Jan 17(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
Jan 23(7:30pm) To Be Announced - Bob Gambling
Jan 30(7:30pm) Potomac Eagle - Bob Brett
Feb 6(7:30pm)  Grand Central Terminal - Carl Liba
Feb 13(7:30pm) China Rails - Ian Jenner
Feb 20(7:30pm) Steam Fan Trips #2 - Pete McLachlan
Feb 21(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
Feb 27(7:30pm) North Shore - Al Baker
Mar 6(7:30pm)  NYC Electric Div. - Carl Liba
Mar 13(7:30pm) Hist. Steam + B&M 1455 - Bob Boothe

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4

See the newsletter in color at www.danburyrail.org!

Contact Information
Please contact us with submissions:
Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
    Attention: Newsletter
    PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone: 203.778.8337
Fax: 203.778.1836
Email: drmnewslettereditor@gmail.com
Editor: Carolyn Taylor
Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

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