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RAILWAY MUSEUM

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Two Connecticut Railroad Heritage Organizations Announce Joint Member Benefits

THOMASTON, CT / DANBURY, CT - The Railroad Museum of New England and the Danbury Railway Museum have announced a new joint initiative to help their members enjoy Connecticut railroad history.

These two unique non-profit organizations, located just 30 minutes away from each other, offer visitors different experiences in railroad preservation. Visitors to the Railroad Museum of New England arrive at Thomaston's historic 1880s station, painstakingly restored by volunteers. There is a short display of historic railroad equipment outside the station, but most visitors come to enjoy the scenic train ride. A riverside ride along the Naugatuck Railroad's 20-mile right-of-way, including the breathtaking views from atop Thomaston Dam, is accented by stops at a chocolate factory at one end and local brewery at the other.

Visitors to the Danbury Railway Museum arrive at Danbury's historic 1903 Union Station, the setting for Alfred Hitchcock's famous film *Strangers on a Train*. Inside, the station boasts artifact, photograph, and model railroad displays. Outside is the Danbury Railyard, a 10-acre space containing over 75 pieces of historic railroad equipment right in downtown Danbury. Most visitors hop aboard *The Railyard Local*, a short train ride through the yard that includes stops at the historic turntable and fairgrounds pumphouse.

These two organizations are coming together to offer each other's members the opportunity to visit both locations at a discount. "The future of railroad preservation is working together," said Orion Newall, Head of Passenger Operations for the Railroad Museum of New England. "It makes it more accessible for families to experience local history."

When members of the Railroad Museum of New England visit the Danbury Railway Museum, they receive free general admission and a 10 percent discount in the museum's gift shop. Meanwhile, when members of the Danbury Railway Museum visit the Railroad Museum of New England, they receive free passage on regularly scheduled Naugatuck Railroad trains and a 10 percent discount in the gift shop. Members of both organizations receive a 25 percent discount on featured excursions at the Railroad Museum of New England (excluding Christmas) and a \$100 discount on the Hands on the Throttle program at the Danbury Railway Museum.

"It's a no brainer!" said Jose Alves, President of the Danbury Railway Museum. "We're proud to be working together. Both organizations are in the same boat when it comes to preservation, and together, we can accomplish more. We each offer something different, so it's more bang for your buck."

This program is in effect now for members of both organizations. Visit both www.danburyrail.org or www.rmne.org to learn more about membership opportunities!