

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

January 2015

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 rail-



yard 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.

Continued on Page 4



In This Issue:

- ~ Upcoming Events at the DRM - Page 2
- ~ Words from Our President - Page 3
- ~ Motions Passed in 2014 - Page 6
- ~ 2015 Schedule of Events - Page 7
- Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

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!

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.

Dcane Chin

Carmel, NY

A. Askar

Ridgefield, CT

Jackson Shaw

Hopewell Junction, NY

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/

February 14th - Sweetheart Train

Winter train ride for lovebirds through our railroad, weather permitting of course!

2

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

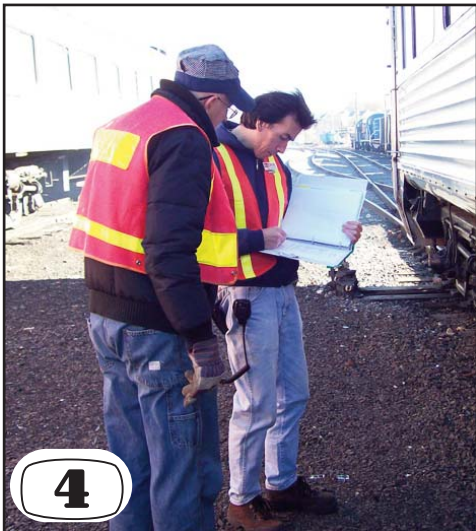
It is now January 2015. I hope you had a great series of holidays and a wish of Happy New Year is in order. Last month I highlighted and recognized the many volunteers who assisted in the growth, profitability and success of the DRM in 2014. As we move forward into 2015, let us further reflect on some 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.

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

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 1



Santa Express Trains, Continued from Page 4



Photo Courtesy of Alan Gruber



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.

January 24 - 25	Amherst Train Show	See us at the "Big E" Train show, W. Springfield, MA.
February 14	Sweetheart Train	Winter Train Ride, weather permitting.
<i>March 28 - 29; April 3 - 4</i>	<i>Bunny Trains</i>	<i>Train rides to the Easter Bunny's Special Coach.</i>
May 9	National Train Day	Free train rides & other activities to be announced.
May 10	Mother's Day	Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.
May 31	Memorial Day	Summer hours begin. Open 12-4 with train rides.
June 13	CT Open House Day	10% off in the Gift Shop.
June 21	Father's Day	Fathers ride free with child's paid admission. Special Caboose Trains.
June 27	Teacher's Day	Teachers ride free with paid admission.
July 4	CLOSED	
July 18	Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day	Stories, history and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog.
August 1	Danbury Railway Day & Member Picnic	Special Celebration with special activities.
August 15	First Responder's Day	Free train rides for First Responders & their families.
September 7	Labor Day	Summer hours end. Open 12-4 with train rides.
<i>October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25</i>	<i>Pumpkin Patch</i>	<i>Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children.</i>
November 7	Military Appreciation Day	Free train ride for past & present military personnel and their families.
<i>December 6, 12, 13, 19, 20</i>	<i>Santa Trains</i>	<i>Santa's Special Train Rides. Special evening train on Saturday, 12/19.</i>

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

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

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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 20 th 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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