



The Railyard Local

Volume 2 Issue 6

A Publication of the Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.

June 2004



Courtesy Peter Mclachlan

Danbury Railyard December 1977.

Photo taken by Fran Melvin

The purpose of the Corporation shall be to operate a railway museum in Danbury, CT to educate the public as to the history of railroading and the role of the railroads as part of our local and national heritage, and to engage in any and all activities convenient to said purposes.

Officers

Ira Pollack-President
Bill Britt-Vice President
Steve Gould-Secretary
Patty Osmer-Treasurer

Directors

Don Konan, Chairman
Charlie Albanetti
Ed Blackman
Dan Foley
Geoff Knees
Dave Lowry
Andrew McClellan
Randy Natale
Michael Salata
Susan Thomas

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Volunteer organization.
www.danbury.org/drm

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debnews@snet.net

NEW MEMBERS:

Stacey Capriolzi	New Preston, CT
John & Deborah Trainor	Danbury, CT
Vitoria Tod	Newtown, CT
Robert Seckler	Poushqua, NY
Andrew Poschmann	Hopewell Jct., NY
Joseph Matera et al	Pawling, NY
Michael Fields	South Salem NY
Madeleine Farkas	Bethel, CT
Paula Elfont	Danbury, CT
Tom DiRenzo	Southbury, CT
Martin F. Grossman	Wassaic, NY

NEW YOUTH MEMBER:

Nathan Lee	New Fairfield, CT
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The Danbury Railway Museum, Inc. would like to thank Seymour Hardware of Wilton and Brandman's Paints of Norwalk for donating paint for the Easter Bunny signs and decorations!

Thank you to all those who helped on the Bunny Train this year. The bunny, train crew, car hosts, station and gift shop volunteers and everyone who helped in the yard to give tours and parking overflow. Lots of happy children visited the Museum the first two weekends of April to ride the Easter Bunny train. Although the first weekend was a little rainy, we had 1150 visitors for the two weekends.

New features this year were the 7 foot inflatable chick and bunny, which the children loved. Photos were taken by Charlie Albanetti and Ed Blackman of family portraits with the Easter Bunny.

Volunteers Needed:

With our new schedule of Saturday & Sunday trains, our weekends are becoming very busy. We are looking for car hosts and tour guides who can give us some time. Two hours or two days, whatever you can spare.

Please contact Dave Lowry on Saturdays and Sue Thomas on Sundays.

Dear Readers:

In this issue I would like to thank Ira Pollack, Charlie Albanetti, Gerry Hermann, Susan Thomas Stan Maydya, Patty Osmer and Peter McLachlan and Skip Kern.



Newsletter Message to Members

From Ira Pollack, President

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

This month I would like to review with you some of the things that have been happening at the DRM in the last six months. Although some of these things don't appear to be major happenings, they are noteworthy in that they are enabling our forward movement and development. Starting in November these are some of our triumphs and successes.

November 2003

1. Bob Pitcher and crew working on roof of NH boxcar replacing the roof walk.
2. Gerry Herrmann and crew continue to sheath wooden caboos. About 2/3 done.
3. Patty Osmer working on 10th anniversary boxcar graphics.
4. Mechanical Department replaced binding brake beam on SW-8.
5. Bill Britt nominated and seated as Vice President.
6. First time for the DRM to be represented at the Poughkeepsie show. We were well received.

December 2003

1. Thanks to Gerry Herrmann, Dave Wilson, and Bob Boothe for their involvement with Ann's Place Festival of Trees. This event helps support fight against cancer.
2. Meeting with Metro North on putting on a railroad rodeo in Danbury sometime in May.
3. Sperry Rail is considering donating a car to Museum – possibly #135.
4. Santa trains to start this weekend in yard with RDC 32.
5. By-law Revision meeting this week – an on-going process.
6. Had to cancel Santa trains on December 5 and 6 - heavy snows – about 15”.

January 2004

1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
2. New Wednesday night speaker schedule will be coming out soon.
3. Invitations for March Anniversary dinner are being printed.
4. Have signed a contract with Metro North Day Get-Away Program to start in May 2004.
5. New battery charger received today.
6. Board meeting – setting budgets for the Museum.
7. Library being rearranged by staff.
8. Dave Conrad to do assessment on 1455 for stabilization plan, sometime soon.

February 2004

1. Good turnout at Big E train show.
2. Training and Safety Committee formed – classes to be scheduled shortly.
3. Thanks to Justin Chapin for keeping yard plowed.
4. Wild Winter Warm Up on February 22 – DRM enters and wins 3rd place prize of \$600 for the Choo Choo Stew. Thanks to Albanetti family.
5. We have found NH script stencil; will pick up in Hamden when weather warms.
6. Final planning for 10th Anniversary Dinner.

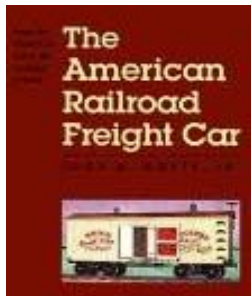
Continued on Page 6

GIFT SHOP NEWS



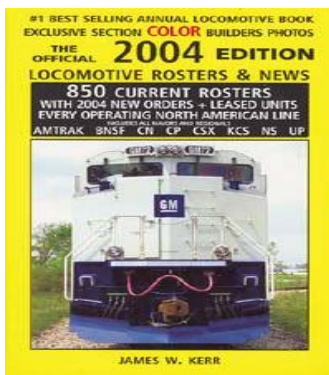
We have two new books in stock:
American Railroad Freight Car by John H. White,
and the 2004 Edition of Locomotive Roster and News by James W. Kerr.

Read what Library Journal has to say about
American Railroad Freight Car:



"White, a historian emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, has written the definitive work on the American railroad freight car, at least up to 1910. The book is primarily technical in nature, with many drawings and details of construction. As such, it is an excellent reference work of invaluable help to historians, railroad enthusiasts, and model railroad hobbyists. However, the author also includes excellent chapters on the economics of freight cars and railroads in the 19th century. Locating the data for this book was difficult; few primary sources were available, and journals provided much of the data. The photographs give good illustrations of the freight cars and the times. This is essential for historical, railroad, engineering, and hobby collections." - *George M. Jenks, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg, Pa.*

Cost is \$51.30 plus tax for members.



The handy pocket format of the 2004 Locomotive Roster & News contains the updated current locomotive rosters of 800 North American railroads including both Class I railroads and shortlines. Included for each locomotive is road number, units of its type in operation, manufacturer, horsepower and build date. Also included are 11 full-color pages of recent locomotive deliveries, 2004 new locomotive orders and short-term rental units. 140 pgs., 11 color photos, 4"x 6½". There are only 11 left in stock, and no more will be ordered. Call to reserve your copy today, or stop by and pick one up. Member price is \$24.25.

Wild Winter Warm-Up—Stew Cook Off

By Charlie Albanetti

Sunday, February 22, 2004, Don Konen, Andrew McClellan, Sue Thomas and myself, served out ten quarts of our special "choo-choo stew" to the hungry citizens of Danbury, at the fifth annual Wild Winter Warm-Up Stew Cook-Off. Although we called it "choo-choo stew", the stew, made by my father, Ed Albanetti, was anything but chewy. Consisting of tender beef and venison seasoned with thyme, sage, and juniper berries, our stew was a hit. This was the first time the Museum participated in this valuable local event.

The competition had nineteen local businesses participating. It was judged by clergy in categories such as theme, appearance, and taste. Our table was decorated with railroad china, silverware, and glassware, a vintage railroad menu and a model train. A poster with photographs of our equipment stood behind the ornately decorated table. Our team was dressed in railroad attire, with Don and Andrew as conductors and Sue as the engineer.... *Continued on*

LIBRARY NEWS by Stan Madyda

June 2004 marks the 10 year anniversary of the first Danbury Railway Museum newsletter. The newsletter was simply called "DRM Newsletter" and was written by President Peter Cornwall.

The first page contained Peter's welcome letter (still appropriate today), reprinted here:

WHO WE ARE

The Danbury Railway Museum, incorporated on March 8, 1994, is off to a good start. That is, WE are off to a good start. As members, you and I and all others who have joined with us so far, are the most important part of the DRM. We are starting an interesting journey together – we'll have a real sense of accomplishment and some good times along the way. Sooner or later we'll meet each other in our "yard office," for now at 16 Ives Street or perhaps in the waiting room of the temporary Metro North station where charter member Ed Blackman holds sway behind the wicket from 0515 to 1415 weekdays. Or, perhaps we'll meet aboard a special bus hop to Steamtown and Strasburg this summer.

Our charter describes us as an educational organization, and the prime mission of a museum is to show and tell others – in our case, about railroads, long past, mid-century and present day and what they have done, and can do, for us. I started with the railroads, and have been watching them on the sidelines for a lot of years, yet I learn something new and fascinating about the art of railroading every time I talk to a railroader or a DRM member close to the subject. You will too!



Along with Chairman Hal Meeker, Vice President Peter McLachlan and other charter members, I extend to you a warm welcome on board! (signed) Peter Cornwall.

The newsletter also had the names of the first 50 members of the DRM. There was talk of the Museum's desire to eventually have a steam engine, a Coach Tours trip to Strasburg and the present day railroad serving Danbury. At the time the newsletter was written work on the restoration of the Danbury Union Station was about to begin under the guidance of Roger Whitcomb. The newsletter speculated that some of the space would be used for retail space. Over the next year or so, the DRM lobbied hard for all space to be allocated to the museum. The yard was another uncertainty as the exact layout and tracks were not yet established.

If you are interested in reading about the DRM in past newsletters, they are available in the Library. Each month, I'll highlight some of the articles in the newsletters.

President's Message continued from page 2...

March 2004

1. RS1 fired up this week with no apparent problems.
2. City of Danbury took about 20 sections of scrap rail for sander hanger shed.
3. March 13th dinner a success with good turnout of people.
4. Safety 101 and requalification classes have good turnout.
5. Ballots being tallied for replacement seats on the Board of Directors. New Board to meet soon. Congratulations to new members.
6. Sperry car #135 delivered to Museum – need crew to help clean up for exhibit.
7. Moving equipment into place for Easter Bunny trains.
8. Grant committee formed to pursue many grants that are available to us.

April 2004

1. Easter Bunny trains did well financially in spite of poor weather.
2. We bought digital camera and printer for photos of guests in engine cab.
3. Season has begun! We need your help cleaning the yard, etc., etc.
4. City of Danbury to have clean-up day once again. Need your help on April 24.

These are just a few of our accomplishments over the last six months. I've left many out but this will show you that there are many, many things happening at the Museum and that we are always on the move.

Please volunteer and help us keep moving!

RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Through April 14, 2004, \$11,273.00 has been raised toward our goal of \$30,000.00.

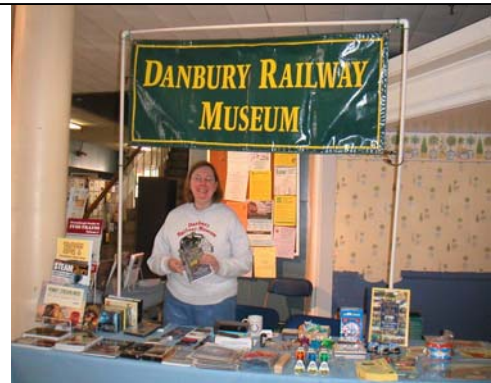
Keniston P. Merrill
Railworks
Leonard Lipton
Carl J. Liba
Linda Mayerson
Jeffrey J. VanWagenen
Frank K. Thompson

Donations of materials have been received from:

Hans Krauter
Julia Abbruzzese
David & Carol Wilson
Anonymous Donor

REMINDER: If your company has a Matching Grant Program, as a 501(c)(3) corporation, Danbury Railway Museum is eligible to receive matching donations! Your donation is fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If we have inadvertently omitted your name from the newsletter, please contact Patty Osmer, Treasurer at posmer@core.com or by mail to the Museum.



Sue Thomas is shown at a train show in Greenwich. Sue and her crew of volunteers (recently Don Konan and Dave Roberts) display museum info and merchandise at all the major area shows. They have done shows in Poughkeepsie, Kingston, and Middletown, NY. They talk to hundreds of people at each show bringing in many visitors and hopefully new members.

Choo-choo stew....continued from page 4

This year the event received generous local corporate sponsorship, allowing for large monetary prizes in many more categories than ever before. Our team won third place over-all! We received a prize of \$400, not to mention the local exposure with the opportunity to hand out brochures. The event was definitely a success and we

ex Berkshire Scenic RR
 exx Conrail
 exx Penn Central
 nee New Haven C-627



Arrived Danbury 4/96. Purchased from Berkshire Scenic Railway. Built May, 1944, by the Pullman Standard Co. First run on the New Haven RR, it was reconditioned in 1978 by Conrail. Restored to its "as-delivered" paint scheme by the DRM, it is still missing its roof-walk. Complete with stove, ice-box and toilet, it was a veritable apartment for the conductor, who might be assigned to the same freight-run with it for a number of months or longer.

MEMBER PROFILE



Gerry Hermann has been a member of the DRM since July 1994. He has been a resident of Bethel for 30 years. Gerry's interest in trains goes back to childhood when steam was king.

Gerry is Co-Chairman of the DRM's reference and research library. He has done much of the carpentry work for the station and on the equipment. Gerry was recently project leader in restoring the New York Central Hudson River Railroad wooden caboose #19322. The March 2004 issue shows photos of the work that was done on this caboose.

SAVE THE DATE:

DRM Member picnic will be Sunday, August 15th at 5:00 p.m.

This is a fun event. No work, just play.

What is it?



Last issue's "what is it" is a spike puller for tight places such as switches, etc. The item in the above picture can be seen in the yard and is believed to be the sole survivor.



120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

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MUSEUM CALENDAR

June 20th Father's Day Rides
Saturdays & Sundays Railyard Local

Wednesday Night Schedule of Events: Starts 7:45 p.m.

June 2	Dan Gallo, Jr.	Steamtown DL Water Gap Excursion
June 9	Peter McLachlan	New Haven RR & African Steam
Sat. June 12	East Broad Top	Slides & Videos 2-4 p.m.
June 16	Ron Smith	Railroad Slide Presentation
Sat. June 26	Bill Bader	Shepaug Line Presentation
June 30	Steve Gould	NH to Croton Fan Trip
July 7	Steve Mayerson	Weathering Box Cars

Museum Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5:00 p.m.