

The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 12

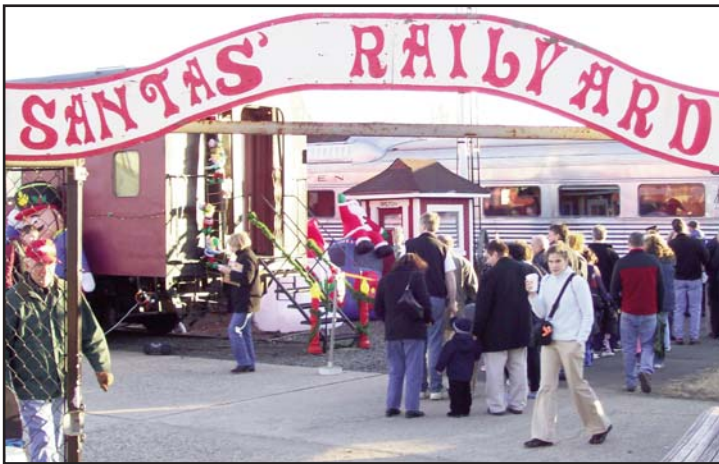
-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

December 2007

Santa Express on Schedule

Three weekends beginning Sat. Dec. 8th

Come join us for this very festive occasion! Tickets are \$8 for ages 2 and up, and include all the extras for this special event. Reservations are suggested, and can be made online at www.danbury.org/drm or by calling the Museum at 203-778-8337. If you can help in any way, (especially ladies!), please contact Sue (Thomas)Teer or Jim Teer at 203-792-1981.



First Night at the DRM

It has just been learned that Danbury Railway Museum will once again be a venue for Danbury's First Night festivities on December 31st. There will be special entertainment at the Museum, and fireworks in the railyard, all arranged and supported by the City of Danbury. Please contact the Museum for further details, which were not available at press time. We hope you will join us for welcoming in the New Year!

Pumped Up about the Move

Saving the Fairgrounds pumphouse - 2007

The October issue detailed some of the history and prior restoration efforts to preserve the pumphouse at the former Fairgrounds, as background information for the present project to relocate it to the Museum's railyard. At this time, through the efforts of Project Leader John Ivansco and several other member volunteers, the motor and pump have been moved. We expect the jacking up and moving of the pumphouse itself to happen soon.

Continued on Page 4

In This Issue

~Library News - page 2

~Scouts Earn RR Merit Badge - page 5

~Photos of Restored RPO Car - page 6

plus . . .

DRM Express Track and New Members

Official Notice:

Now accepting nominations

The 2008 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Jerry Lawlor and John O'Hern, members) is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. Five Director Positions are up for election this year. Each will serve a two year term. If you are interested in running for any of the Director positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare your resume that is **no longer than one-half of an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address.
2. Your DRM accomplishments over the last two years. Keep this to 150 words or less.
3. Your plans and goals as Director for your two-year term. Also, keep this to 150 words or less.

There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:

1. By e-mail to GouldSL@aol.com.
2. By regular mail to DRM, 120 White St., Danbury, CT 06810, Attention Steve Gould.
3. By placing the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 13, 2008 and must be in the format described above to be considered a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment to the Museum and its vision and goals. Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to move the Museum forward and help it grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum, is a requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Committee for help; all three of the members are present at the Museum every Thursday. Also, if you know of someone who wants to be contacted, please let the Committee know for follow up.

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!

Patricia Jorquera	Ridgefield, CT
Brian Colby	Redding, CT
Chip Brown	Brookfield, CT
Jonathan Orr	Danbury, CT
Kathy David	New Fairfield, CT
Andrew Poschmann	Hopewell Jct., NY

Reunion of Railfan Foursome

Wednesday evening November 14th not only marked a return engagement of Bob Kessler of Virginia, presenting another entertaining program, but also a reunion of the Frantic Fatuous Four. This was the first time that all of the members of this informal failfan group, of which DRM secretary Steve Gould is a member, have met at the DRM. These long-time friends (Steve, Bob and Paul were college buddies; Ev and Bob grew up together), have enjoyed numerous railfan trips together to such places as England, Horse-shoe Curve, Cass, the Loops in North Carolina, to O. Winston Link locations, and more local ones in NYC and CT. Those who have attended Steve's Wednesday night presentations showing excursions that they have made together, might feel as though they already are familiar with all of members of the Frantic Fatuous Four. We hope that Bob and Steve will present other Wednesday programs, and that all the FFF members will meet again at the DRM.

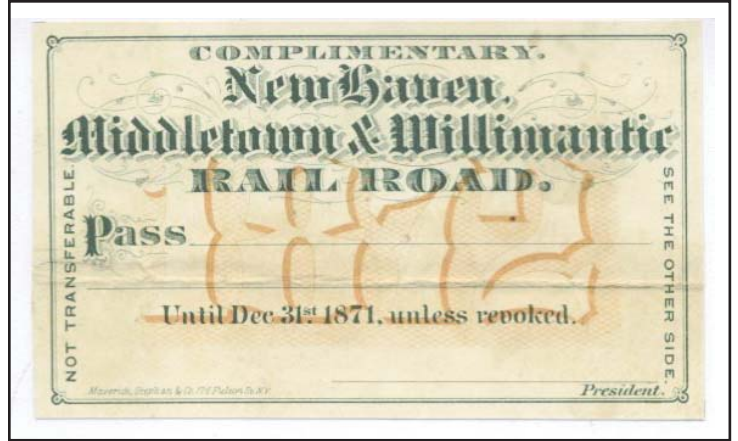


The Frantic Fatuous Four: l. to r., Ev Sahrbeck from Delaware, Bob Kessler from Virginia, Paul Waugaman from North Carolina, and Steve Gould. Photo by Bill Nicholson.

Library News

By Stan Madyda

Recently the Library received a railroad pass from John Manley for the 50 mile New Haven, Middletown & Willimantic Railroad, dated in 1873. This railroad was originally chartered in 1867 by David Lyman from Middletown. Together with the New York & New England and the New Haven, it formed the shortest distance between New York City and Boston.



By 1870 the railroad reached Middletown, and was completed to Willimantic by 1873, sometimes using over 1,000 workers. The line carried three mortgages, and when interest on the third mortgage could not be paid, the railroad was forced into foreclosure. A new railroad emerged in 1875 as the Boston and New York Air Line Railroad. The new railroad saw quite a bit of freight traffic in the late 1800's. Trains in the summer months carried fish, strawberries and peaches. Passenger trains also traveled this route, including the Federal Express and the New England Limited, which was later known as the White Train.

In 1882 the railroad was leased to the New Haven, and it became known as the Air Line Division. Freight traffic declined, in part due to the line's curves and grades. Today the New Haven, Middletown & Willimantic still exists as the Providence & Worcester, running between New Haven and Portland, Connecticut.

Big RR Hobby Show at Big E

Just a "heads up" to mark your calendar for a trip to Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA on the weekend of January 26 and 27, 9-5 on Saturday, 10-5 on Sunday. Yes, the DRM will be there for this awesome show. We hope you will visit our booth there. Amherst has a website at www.AmherstRail.org. The Amherst Railway Society uses proceeds from this show to fund grants.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to take time to wish you all a pleasant holiday season. This is the season of sharing and giving, but this is what you, the volunteer, has been doing all year long. We have had a successful year at the Museum, and it is **you**, our volunteer, that made it possible. Our people have accumulated thousands of hours of time running the Museum, both in the building and in the yard. As you have heard from me many times, we have been rebuilding sections of our track over the past several months. This project alone added up to over 1500 hours to date, all done with our volunteered time and energy. What about the time spent running the Front Desk, Gift Shop, Library, and train operations and equipment maintenance? All of these people are so dedicated to our cause. How about the newsletter, this fine publication and show-piece that we look forward to every month? Our editor works on this many days, making sure everything is right for its final mailing to you. There are many people who volunteer for our Museum, behind the scenes, but so very necessary for our operations and success.



My hat is off to their dedication and commitment. Another example is that each month at our Board meeting we are presented with a report on our financial status by our Treasurer. These important documents take hours and hours of preparation time. There they are at each meeting, though with no fanfare - it is strictly business. It is hard to measure the time, dedication, or commitment, but it is everywhere you look at our Museum. I have to sit back from time to time and remember who we are, and what we have done over these years. I am so very proud and honored to have been part of this Museum, and to have worked alongside many of the people who have made it possible. I guess there is not enough room in this newsletter to praise and thank you for what you have done for our growth.

During these coming winter months I will be spending time planning out the new season's projects and goals. Surprising enough it is not that far off.



Some of my goals are as follows:

1. Continued track stabilization
2. Open-air flatcar for Railyard Local
3. Turntable stabilization
4. More aggressive marketing and advertising
5. Temporary building for maintenance and restoration
6. Broadening our fundraising capabilities
7. Stabilizing the FCD railbus

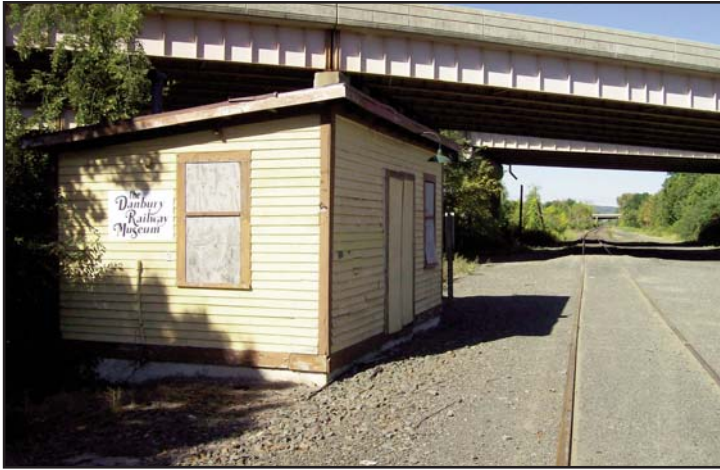
Some of these are large goals, but with your help and input, I know that we can do this. Our optimism cannot be dampened. We must continue to grow and move forward.

Rick Abramson Encore Show

As promised, another special **Saturday night** program, presented by Rick Abramson, and featuring slides from his collection, has been scheduled. We hope you will join us at the Museum on **December 15th at 7:45pm** for this event which is open to the public at no charge. These photos will focus on heavy electric locomotives such as PRR GG-1s, classic diesels such as ALCO PAs, and other northeastern railroad locomotives and trains from the 1970's and 1980's. Since Rick's previous program provided three hours of entertainment, it has been decided to schedule a brief intermission for this engagement. His initial program here was very well attended, and we are sure those who attended the first one will want to return. The combination of slides from his collection plus Rick's commentary kept us wonderfully entertained the entire evening.

Pumped Up about the Move, Continued from Page 1

This year John was joined once again by Dave McKee and Paul Gassner, who were participants in the earlier restoration, Bob Pitcher, Bill Britt, Dave Roberts, and Glenn Miller, as they worked on moving the pump-house and its contents to the DRM. Once here, we expect it to be a major attraction on the center platform.



Scouts Earn RR Merit Badge

DRM has qualified counselors to help

Boy Scouts continue to find earning the Railroading merit badge, an elective, a fascinating learning experience. The DRM and scouts are fortunate to have John O'Hern and Dave Lowry to help them earn the badge here. Both were adult leaders with the Connecticut Yankee Council and have kept up their affiliation as merit badge counselors. The requirements for the badge are listed online at *merit-badge.org*. Our Museum has a videotape which provides almost all of the information needed for the badge. The displays within the Museum, along with equipment and displays in our working railyard, show in real life what railroading is like. This information will be supplemented by Operation Lifesaver posters, pamphlets and brochures which will be on display within the Museum building. Being informed about safety issues is an important part of earning the badge. It is possible to earn the badge in one day.



Scouts from Southbury, CT, Troop 60, of the Connecticut Rivers Council, learn about the mechanics of a locomotive, with our SW-8 as an example. They were accompanied by Scoutmaster Dave Wood, and Assistant Scoutmaster Ed O'Lena, who has brought about 40 scouts through this program here.



Recently Ed O'Lena, Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 60 in Southbury, CT, brought the scouts here to earn the badge. Ed provided much of the information for this article. Troops from outside the local Connecticut Yankee Council, B.S.A., Scatacook District, come here to earn the Railroading badge. We urge members and the public to publicize and encourage this opportunity provided at the DRM. Arrangements can be made by calling the Museum at (203) 778-8337. The scout contact here is John O'Hern. As the scouts earn their badge, they help us fulfill our mission as a Museum to educate the public about railroads, their history, and role, both as part of a national heritage and as an institution in contemporary society.

Pumped Up about the Move, Continued from Page 4



Top two photos, what remains of the water tower foundation and piping; below, Bob Pitcher, John Ivansco, Dave McKee, and Bill Britt with the pump on the platform at the DRM.

Photos of Restored RPO Car



Those touring the Rail Post Office Car in our railyard will be delighted to discover the displays in the baggage compartment at the rear of the car. Bill Britt has arranged a photographic record of the car's restoration in the one display case (top), and assembled an impressive array of RPO artifacts in the other (center). More RPO memorabilia is displayed on the walls. The car is set up with a sorting tray, bags, and paper boxes (bottom).

Improvements on CN 0660

CN 0660 Project Leader Jim Teer has spent many days during this year staining the interior mahogany paneling of this car. It has



been painstaking work. Even with fans circulating the air, fumes from the stain and weather conditions have made progress difficult. He has persevered, making the car interi-



or look magnificent! This is our event and party car, and will be featured during the Santa Express event. Are there any elves around to help us prepare for Santa and Mrs. Claus' arrival?

Meanwhile, other volunteers have been restoring the vestibule of the car, readying it for our guests. Bob Pitcher had a major part in cleaning out the corrosion, priming parts, then welding sheet metal to cap the vestibule.



Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

As 1997 drew to a close the Danbury Railway Museum, the 1998 schedule of events was published showing the dates for the Easter Bunny Trains, the Spring and Fall Train Shows, the Haunted Railyard, The Holiday Express and the Santa Trains. The Railway Local was run only about once a month. Winter hours were also announced. First Night at the Museum was to have illusionist Gale Alexander, and Amy Gallatin and the Stillwaters as entertainment.

On November 24th, the DRM held a Member's Appreciation Night at Two Steps Restaurant. Over 75 people attended and awards given out. Special recognition was given to Dave Lowry and Lenny Hanson.

There was a request for volunteers at the DRM for a variety of tasks, and more importantly, the recording of hours spent on projects.

The Santa trains were very successful, accommodating more than 2200 passengers.

More photos were featured than in previous editions of the newsletter. From the Member's Appreciation Night there was a photo of Dave Lowry receiving his award from Mickey Silberbauer, and one of Ed Blackman and Bill Guider speaking with Mayor Gene Enriquez. Dave was also shown in the yard with his ever present camera. Some equipment in the yard was shown, such as Fred Marinelli's speeder, the recently arrived Conrail caboose #23662, and the backhoe, which had been purchased.

Ira Pollack was shown doing the lettering on the PRR box car #112432. Project manager John Christy was able to obtain the lettering blueprints and paint samples. Leon Dunevein made correct sized copies so Ira could cut out the stencils.

Another photo showed the parade float prepared for lifting onto a trailer. The float, which was in the Newtown Labor Day Parade, won first prize and an award of \$100.

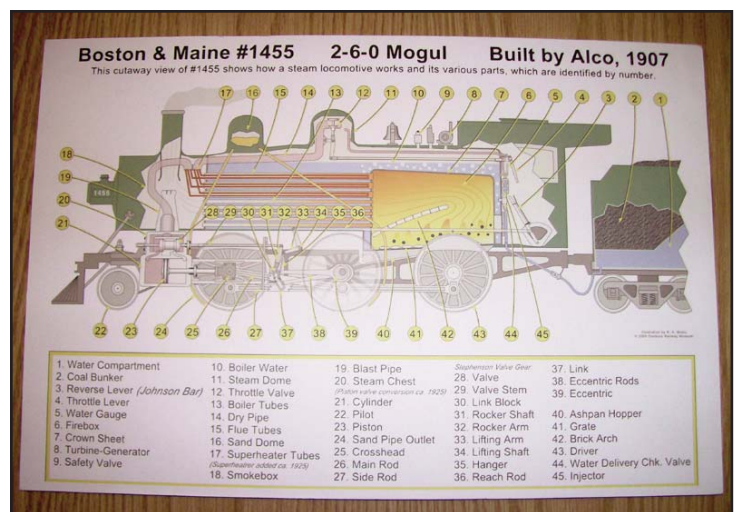
Although having nothing to do with the DRM, a brief history of Boston & Maine's Flying Yankee passenger train was presented with an acknowledgment to the group that was restoring it in New Hampshire.



Steam Locomotive Poster

Cut-away view graphic is now available

Quite often our guests have requested a poster of the cut-away view of the steam locomotive which is displayed in front of our #1455 steam locomotive. Until recently there was no poster available. **Now there is!** We have it at the Museum, and for a suggested donation of \$15 to the #1455 Restoration Fund, you may pick up a free 12" x 18" color poster. It shows how this 2-6-0 Mogul steam locomotive works, and its various parts, which are identified by number. The poster will enhance any railroad enthusiast's collection, and your donation will help finance the stabilization and cosmetic restoration of our 100-year-old locomotive.



They Keep Reaching Out

In addition to sharing their photographs and adventures with our Wednesday night guests, Pete McLachlan and DRM Secretary Steve Gould both individually deliver presentations on railroads and railroading to various other groups. On such occasions they also publicize the DRM. On November 17th they teamed up for a joint presentation at the Southern Connecticut Mensa dinner meeting in Bethel. Steve reports that he covered the history of railroading in Connecticut. Pete, with his extensive engineering experience, discussed what it was like to work on the New Haven Railroad, about early electrification, and railroading life under Patrick McGinnis. Pete also used the opportunity to tell about the early days of the DRM, which were not so long ago! We are sure everyone is smart enough to appreciate the fascinating programs these two train-loving volunteers present.

If there is enough advance notice about upcoming railroad-related outreach activities by our members, we will try to publicize them here.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Dec	15(7:45pm)	SAT. NITE; Electrics & classic diesels of the Northeast-Rick Abramson
Dec	19(7:30pm)	MEMBERSHIP OPEN FORUM
Dec	20(7:00pm)	Board Meeting (Open to Members)
Dec	26	HOLIDAY MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec	31	FIRST NIGHT entertainment
Jan	2	HOLIDAY HAPPY NEW YEAR
Jan	9(7:30pm)	Slides; California Zephyr - Carl Liba
Jan	16(7:30pm)	Florida '59; NH '59 - Pete McLachlan

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



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