

The Railyard Local

Celebrating 20 Years!

Volume 13, Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum 1994 - 2014

May 2014

Annual Easter Bunny Trains Delights Guests

Beautiful weather greeted visitors who hopped on over to the DRM to see the Easter Bunny!

By Sue Teer; Photos by Carolyn Taylor

Over four beautiful spring days in April, people from near and far came to the Danbury Railway Museum for our annual Easter Bunny trains. Visitors rode a vintage train through our six-acre railyard and visited the Easter Bunny in a specially decorated coach. After meeting with the Bunny, each child received a small gift. Before and after the train ride, visitors were able to enjoy exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. Our younger visitors had fun at the play area and coloring station, operating model railroad layouts and receiving cool temporary tattoos.



Since the Budd car was out of service, we used



the #1547 coach with 72 seats the first weekend and found every train seat taken. The second weekend we added the #2012 coach and sold 108 seats per train and the capacity seemed just about right.

We sold 1,722 tickets, which was within 10 tickets of what we sold last year, so we had about 375 –

Continued on Page 6

In This Issue:

- ~ DRM Hosts NJ Boy Scouts, Other Groups & Receives Grant - Page 3
- ~ Words from Our President - Page 4
- ~ Superintendent of Operations Report - Page 4
- ~ Revised "Book of Rules" - Page 5
- Plus . . . New Members & Upcoming Events

Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums Spring Conference

By Stan Madyda

The Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums (ATRRM) is a fairly new organization having been formed about a year ago with the merger of the Tourist Railway Association and the Association of Railway Museums. The DRM is a charter member of the new organization.

The ATRRM held their Spring Conference on April 4th and 5th in Kingston, NY, with the Trolley Museum of New York as the sponsoring organization. I attended the Friday night dinner and a full conference day on Saturday. The Conference attracted representatives from many of the major railroad museums and tourist trains from across the United States and Canada. The California State Railroad Museum, Texas State Railroad Museum, Cumbres & Toltec, Orange Empire Railway Museum, NRHS, Tennessee Valley Railroad, Strasburg and Steam into History were some of the organizations in attendance. Also attending were some firms that sell products and services to museums and tourist trains. They were expecting 40 attendees but the final count was 60.

I was one of two after-dinner speakers on Friday. The purpose of my talk was about our efforts to save the two New York Central electric locomotives in Glenmont, NY. It seems like many of the attendees knew of the locomotives and their history. I met Grey Malloy and Nathaniel Guest from the NRHS and talked briefly about the fact that both locomotives will be added to the Endangered List. I also met a gentleman from Troy who knew quite a bit about the electrics and has been involved with

Continued on Page 2

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.

Kerry DiSalvo	Thornwood, NY
Dr. Mark Hagopian	Rocky Hill, CT
Dianielli Wallace	Bethel, CT
William E. Nicholson	Newtown, CT

Upcoming Events at the DRM

May 10th - National Train Day

To commemorate our rail heritage, the DRM will celebrate National Train Day on May 10th. Visitors to this special event will be able to take a **free** ride on the Railyard Local!

Admission is **\$6** for adults, **\$5** for seniors and **\$4** for children ages 3 - 12 (under 3 years free). Admission includes free train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. There will also be children's activities and a play area, operating model layouts and a book and model railroad sale.

Trains will be running on a **normal schedule** during the day (Museum is open **10am - 4pm**).

If you are a Member and would like to help out with this event, which would be very much appreciated, please contact Sue Teer at 203-778-8337.

May 11th - Mother's Day

Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.

June 15th - Father's Day

Fathers ride free with child's paid admission.

Special cabooses will be running.

June 28th - First Responders Day

Free train rides for first responders and their families.

Parking Deal on Weekends

Thanks to the generosity and cooperation of the staff at the Danbury Parking Authority, guests at the DRM will be able to get their admission ticket stamped at the Front Desk for a \$1 discount on parking at the Municipal garage across the street.

2

Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums Spring Conference,

Continued from Page 1

the USS Slater Museum Ship that is based in Albany. He offered his help in making introductions with some key people in Albany as well as the press.

Saturday featured two seminars at the Trolley Museum. After being welcomed by the Mayor of Kingston, we heard from Stephen Finkle who spoke on ways to tackle getting local, state and federal money for various projects. He has been very involved with the Trolley Museum and the Kingston Waterfront. After lunch, we heard from Ernie Hunt, President of the Catskill Mountain Railroad who spoke of their battles with Ulster County's Executive who would like to curtail their operations and turn parts of the roadbed into a rails-to-trails pathway. This is a situation that tourist railroads across the country are watching closely. The afternoon ended with a trolley ride out to Kingston Point and then a visit to the Catskill Mountain's Cornell Street yard and work area. Another dinner was held that evening with another chance to network.

The Fall Conference will be held at the Texas State Railroad Museum in Tyler, TX, during the first week of November.

Danbury Railway Museum 20th Anniversary Dinner!

Yes, we have reached the goal of 20 years in 2014 and are celebrating with a buffet dinner on July 18th, 7:00 p.m., at Armando's Restaurant, 47 Stony Hill Road, (I-84 exit 8 heading East) Bethel. The price is \$35 per person and you can reserve by July 12th by sending your check (made out to Danbury Railway Museum) to: Sue Teer, Danbury Railway Museum, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813.

You can also reserve at the Museum front desk in person, or by telephone with a credit card. This promises to be a fun evening and we hope to see our members come out to celebrate this milestone in our history!

Change of Address?

If you have moved, or if you or someone you know hasn't been receiving their copy of the RYL, please contact our membership chairman via email at: drmmembers@aol.com. If you don't have a computer, please have someone else email the chairman for you, or you can write him (address on page 8). Thank you.

DRM Hosts NJ Boy Scouts & Several Other Groups

By Steve Gould, Secretary

On April 5th, 2014, 13 Boy Scouts and 6 adult leaders visited the DRM for the purpose of gathering information for the Railroading Merit Badge. The Scouts, from a troop in Paramus, NJ, were camping in nearby Bethel, CT, prior to their visit. President Wade Roese gave a welcoming talk to the group shortly after they arrived. I followed up with the program for the day which included an informational video showing various types of freight and passenger trains as well as locomotives. Then I gave a lecture on the eight requirements as outlined on the BSA website. A ride on the Rail Yard Local followed with a visit to the turntable and pump house. After lunch, the Scouts were taken on an extensive yard tour by Volunteer Jose' Alves. Based on comments received later from the Scoutmaster, the boys were more than satisfied with what they had learned and were well on their way to completing their Merit Badge requirements.

On March 22nd, 2014, a few members of the New England Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society stopped by for a tour. Volunteer Dave Fuller took the group into the yard and out to the turntable, giving them a full-day tour. They concentrated their time on the former PRR equipment in our inventory including the N5 cabin car, the P70 "Sasqua", the test weight car, a PRR hopper and last, but not least, the RPO. One of the members had some additional information about our RPO which Dave gladly accepted for our files.

Member Geoff Knees was the DRM host for the Nutmeg Chapter of the National Model Railroaders Association on April 12th, 2014. The chapter held their business meeting and a modeling clinic on the "History and Mechanics of Turntables" presented by NMRA member Bob Van Cleef in Reading coach #2012 (1922) that CMO Justin Chapin had set up for them on Track 36. President Wade Roese welcomed the group which numbered in the twenties. A special run of the Rail Yard Local took the group to the turntable so they could inspect it "up close and personal", which was followed by a yard tour.

Danbury Railway Museum Receives \$3,500 Grant

By Steve Gould, Secretary

In March, the Albert & Helen Meserve Memorial Fund awarded a \$3,500 grant for the purpose of purchasing new audio-visual equipment for the Museum and the Railway Post Office car. A new flat screen monitor was purchased to replace an out-of-date projection monitor, which was bought 15 years ago through a grant from the same organization. It will be used for our Wednesday night railroad history video/DVD programs as well as for video/DVD presentations during the days the Museum is open. A smaller flat screen monitor with a playback unit was purchased for the Railway Post Office car to play a DVD inside the car about the Railway Mail Service and the RPO's used. This supports our educational museum mission.

DRM Hours Change for Season

After Memorial Day, the Danbury Railway Museum will be open **seven days a week until Labor Day**. The Museum will be open **Monday-Saturday from 10 to 5pm and Sunday from 12 to 5pm**. Hours may vary on days of special events.

Oiling of the #1455 Bell

By Bob Boothe

Looks like the first sign of Spring at the DRM - the annual "oiling of the bell on the 1455" by our master mechanic and craftsman, Jeff VanWagenen (*Pictured at right by Bob Boothe*).

Now it swings and clangs with the greatest of ease!



Words from Our President

It's May and looks like we have finally received a reprieve from the extended winter doldrums. So, what did you do last winter? Carpentry, electrical, plumbing, track work, built tunnels, or plant trees? Obviously, we are alluding to the great hobby of model railroading! Although many DRM members and visitors are not model railroaders, many of us are. As children, we may have initiated the love of trains by watching our first circular route of tinplate under a tree, or on the venerable sheet of plywood, and imagined the world's greatest trains at the control of our small, but powerful hands. Gaining in years, wisdom, creative talent and constructive dexterity, many would-be trainmen satisfied their urge to travel the path of would-be hobos to the unglamorous title of "modelers". Fast-forward a few more years and the wandering vagabonds, now educated professionals, wage earners and busy family builders with all the developed latent skills penned up again, looked for a new or restored creative outlet to drive a golden spike to their newly connected transcontinental monopoly. However big or small our empire, we continued the dream, nostalgia and excitement of trains and the many technical talents learned and developed through the years of our growth.

Model railroaders seem to develop an expertise and ability to apply their many hobby-related talents and skills to the problems/issues confronting us out in the real and volunteer world. The self-taught carpenter, electrician, plumber, engineer, banker, or entrepreneur steps forward to share his/her expertise and thinking philosophies resulting in fixes to many of the everyday problems brought forth. The at-home carpenter that built benchwork fashions roof spars to restore a 100-year-old caboos. A wiring guru that designs electrical circuits repairs non-operational electronic equipment. Our own racecar mechanic that constructs a radiator for a diesel locomotive that can't be purchased from a non-existent "diesel radiator store". The prior examples demonstrate the model railroader's attitudes and service shared at the Danbury Railway Museum.

A few of our members believe modelers serve no purpose at the DRM. Many of the accomplishments (too many to single out), have demonstrated the reserve, perseverance, and success of our own modeling population. Sit in a business meeting of ten people and you can bet that more than one has some train and/or modeling hobby background. Try it!

Many of the active Danbury Railway Museum members and volunteers have been long-term model train collectors that have graduated to extend and share their modeling proficiencies. This in turn has created highly-developed "rail-fans" and individuals with a certain level of expertise. Be careful, those young/old people out there playing with toy trains may become your next engineer or conductor!

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, Wade W. Roesse

Superintendent of Operations Report

By Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations

We had a successful year of operations in 2014. The wheels stayed on the tracks (mostly), and our Museum visitors had a great time riding our trains. My sincere thanks to all who helped.

We have a continuing need for volunteers to help with tie replacement and related track work. We do not charge a gym fee for these activities. Just imagine how much money you can save while still building those muscles!

In 2013, several volunteers qualified for crewmember positions, but we have also lost several in the last two years. We are definitely looking for more members to step forward and help us operate our trains. There were several days when it wasn't clear if we would operate, for lack of qualified crew. Going forward, we will be scheduling our trainees, just like we schedule our crews, so if you are not involved in operations and would like to be a trainee, please let me know and I will put you on the schedule for training. Not only is it fun, but it is guaranteed to be less rigorous than tie replacement!

I would like to say thank you to our CMO Justin Chapin, Jim Teer and others who helped with our equipment maintenance this past year. It was especially gratifying for all of us who got to operate the 0673 again. Without Justin and Jim, we would not have equipment to run. On behalf of the operating crew, thank you both for all of your hard work!

I am looking forward to warmer weather and a great 2014 season, and hope to see all of you soon in the railyard!

Editor's note: We may not have a gym fee, but we do have membership fees of \$40/year for an individual,

4

\$50/year for a family, and \$400 for a lifetime membership. Join us and be an active member today!

Revised "Book of Rules"

By Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations

The Danbury Railway Museum has a new Book of Operating Rules. This is the first revision of our rules since 2003. Our new rules borrow heavily from the previous edition, but have been revised to better fit what we do.

A little history: The first book of railroad rules may have been "Regulations for the Government of the Transportation Department of the Western Railroad," published in Springfield, MA, in 1840. Early on, the "General Rules" and their numbering became largely standardized across the country. And why not? Railroads connected with one another, crossed one another, and the unions and the associations to which railroad employees and railroad management belonged were not company-specific. A copy of the New Haven's "Rules of the Operating Department" from 1907 has "Rule G" as follows: "The use of intoxicants by employees while on duty is prohibited. Their habitual use, or the frequenting of places where they are sold, is sufficient cause for dismissal." The 1956 New York Central's version of "Rule G" was as follows: "The use of intoxicants or narcotics by employees subject to duty, or their possession or use while on duty, is prohibited." NORAC's (Northeast Operating Rules Advisory Committee) 2003 edition of the rules has a "Rule G" as well, with similar wording, which was a model for our own "Rule G". Though wording varies from railroad to railroad, and from year to year, "Rule G" was/is an example of a numbered rule which was/is universal across the country.

The New Haven's 1907 rule book doesn't have a single entry on the operation of radios, and also neglects to limit the use of cell phones while on duty. But in section 3786, it states "Every engine used upon a railroad shall be supplied with a bell of at least thirty-five pounds in weight, and a suitable steam whistle, which bell and whistle shall be so attached to such engine as to be conveniently accessible to the engineer and in good order for use." The whistle on the 1455 may not be in good working order for the moment, but I can personally attest that the bell weighs in excess of 35 pounds!

Rules help prevent accidents. When accidents do happen, the circumstances of those accidents, including the rules involved, are examined closely. As a result of a fatal accident occurring in 1893, the B&O Railroad's rule 441 was read into the record of the US Supreme Court the following year: "When one passenger train is standing at a station receiving or discharging passengers on double track, no other train, either passenger or freight, will attempt to run past until the passenger train at the station has moved on, or signal is given by the conductor of the standing train for them to come ahead; and the whistle must not be sounded while passing a passenger train on double track or sidings unless it is absolutely necessary." It was demonstrated before the Court that the B&O engineer had not obeyed this rule. This led to the fatal accident, and the railroad was held liable.

If rules are generally universal, why should the DRM have our own rules? This is certainly a fair question. We would have several to choose from. We are encircled by the Metro-North Railroad, which has its own rules. The Housatonic Railroad has adopted the NORAC rules, which also governs the Norfolk Southern, the P&W, the Naugatuck Railroad and many others. Our nearby neighbor CSX uses their own rulebook. Railroads west of the Mississippi are governed by GCOR (General Code of Operating Rules). A great deal of all of these rules govern procedures to insure that two trains don't occupy the same place on the same track at the same time. These rules specify signal indications, interlocking rules, timetable authority and the use of Form D track warrants (which have largely replaced train order Forms 19 and 31). According to these rules, inside the yard, you are pretty much on your own to watch out! Since the DRM doesn't have any automated signals, or interlockings, and we don't use track warrants or timetable authorities, the bulk of these rules, while interesting, are irrelevant to what we do. Accordingly, we have our own rules, borrowing heavily from NORAC's general rules, but pertinent to our own operations within the confines of our yard.

We don't go fast. We don't go far. But by following the rules, we get there (and back) safely!

Annual Easter Bunny Trains Delights Guests, *Continued from Page 1*

400 visitors per day. The gift shop brought in \$3,332, which was slightly better than last year.

We try to add something new each year, so this year we had an Easter tree with Easter decorations in the Bunny car and it was a big hit, as were the two Bunny tea parties and running G-gauge train layout with gondola cars full of eggs and chicks.

Tom McCullough and Patty Osmer did an outstanding job of advertising as people came from New Jersey, Long Island, New York City and its suburbs and Massachusetts.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who worked so hard, both inside and out (gift shop helpers, train crew and general all-around helpers). The event could not run without you! A special thanks to first timers, Jeff Scott and Jack Hawkins at the desk, Cathy Y., our part-time Bunny, and teenagers Jade and Anna (with hopes they will come back) as tattoo girls and bunny helpers. One more special thanks to Fiona and Josh Herrmann, who were our "seasoned" teenagers and helped the new teenage volunteers learn the ropes.

We had a lot of fun and are looking forward to our next children's event, Pumpkin Patch trains later this Fall.



Continued on Page 7

Annual Easter Bunny Trains Delights Guests, *Continued from Page 6*





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

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|------|-----------------|---|
| May | 7(7:30pm) | Niagaras & Northerns - Carl Liba |
| May | 14(7:30pm) | New England Railroads
- Gary Gurski |
| May | 15(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| May | 21(7:30pm) | Steam Fan Trips Continued
- Pete McLachlan |
| May | 26 Memorial Day | Day - Summer hours begin.
Open 12-4 with train rides. |
| May | 28(7:30pm) | Railroads of the Deep South
- Bob Kessler |
| June | 4(7:30pm) | NYC Training Program - Carl Liba |
| June | 11(7:30pm) | U.K. & Wales Steam - Steve Gould |
| June | 18(7:30pm) | To Be Announced |
| June | 19(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| June | 25(7:30pm) | To Be Announced |

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

After Memorial Day: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5

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



Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

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Attention: Newsletter

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