

# The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 15, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

July - August 2016

## Museum Joins Danbury History Museum in Welcoming Elementary Students

By Secretary Steve Gould

During May and early June, the Danbury Railway Museum teamed up with the Danbury Museum and Historical Society Authority to welcome visits of third grade classes from the City of Danbury



School kids watching the Operation Lifesaver cartoon in the Station. *Photo courtesy of Wade Roese*

elementary schools. The field trips occurred on eight different days starting on May 9<sup>th</sup> and ending on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 606 students along with approximately 80 teachers and parent-chaperones visited the Museum.

In the morning of each day, the classes visited the Danbury History Museum on Main Street, viewed artifacts on display and learned local area history. Depending on the weather, they walked from there to the Danbury Railway Museum, arriving around 12:30pm. At DRM, they were given a short talk by President Wade Roese and were shown an Operation Lifesaver cartoon, learning how to be safe around trains. They were then ushered into the railyard for a ride on the Railyard Local to the 1914 turntable and given a 360 degree ride on it, the only operating turntable in Connecticut. On one visit, there were 101 students plus 13 adults which required two trips of the RYL to accommodate the large group.

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## In Memoriam - John Ivansco



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Ivansco, age 75 of Danbury, who died on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at his residence. He was the husband of the late Mildred "Millie" (Herter) Ivansco. John was born in Danbury, February 23, 1941, the son of the late John P. Sr and Rose (Deluca)

Ivansco. A lifelong Danbury resident, he was a graduate of Danbury High School and served with the National Guard. Affectionately known by his co-workers as "Stumpies", John was employed as a fireman with the Danbury Fire Department B Group at the New Street headquarters for 16 years until the time of his retirement. He later worked various part-time positions, including Foley Pump Service in Danbury. John was a member of D.A.R.F. and a long-time member and volunteer at the Danbury Railway Museum. He was an avid train collector and enjoyed racing in all forms. In his younger years, he maintained a pilot's license. He could fix anything and worked on many projects at the Museum, most notably as part of the crew that restored and brought in the pump house to the yard. John is survived by his two sons: John A. Ivansco of Danbury and Robert J. Ivansco and his wife Vanessa of Danbury, two grandchildren: Rebecca and Robert Ivansco, and his friend, Cathy Yagielski of Danbury, who also volunteers at the DRM.

To share a message of condolence visit [www.cornellmemorial.com](http://www.cornellmemorial.com). Our condolences go out to his family. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers are requested to be made to the Danbury Railway Museum, Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090.

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## 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!

**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.

Max Dymerski	Shelton, CT
Gabrielle Hookumchand	Bronx, NY
Alexander Rabb	Fairfield, CT
Benoit Adamo	South Salem, NY
Athena Detlefs	South Salem, NY
Michael Gallo	Danbury, CT
Bhooshan Porbra	Danbury, CT

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## Upcoming Events at the DRM

### August 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Danbury Railway Days

Special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with special activities! Guided tours of the *Tonawanda Valley* observation car, which is currently undergoing restoration, Budd rail diesel car, #1455 steam engine, FL-9 diesel locomotive, Railway Post Office car and the NYC & HRR wooden caboose will be available. Other things going on will be an operating forge, open equipment exhibits, operating model train layouts and children's activities. *Please see flyer on page 7 for more information.*

### August 13<sup>th</sup> - DRM Picnic

The Museum will hold a members-only picnic at **6pm** where there'll be plenty of great food. A \$5 donation is requested at the picnic. Members can also take a ride on one of our engines or try their hand at the throttle!

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by calling the Station (203-778-8337) to let us know how many will be coming and if you are bringing a salad or dessert.

### September 5<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day

The Museum will be open from **12 to 4pm** with train rides. This is also when the Museum's summer hours end. After Labor Day, the Museum will be open **Wednesday to Saturday from 10am - 4pm and Sunday from 12noon to 4pm.**

### September 10<sup>th</sup> - First Responders Day

Free train rides and admission for first responders and their families. First responders must have ID card or be in uniform.

## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

After many months of phone calls and emails back and forth, the two 44-tonners donated by Electric Boat finally arrived in Danbury. Both locomotives were slated to be scrapped if the DRM did not act to save them. Getting them donated was the relatively easy part. Moving them to Danbury was another story. At first, then President Ira Pollack looked at having them trucked to Danbury. When this fell through, moving them by rail was explored. Friction bearing trucks did not make the process any easier. Ira spent time talking to the railroads involved and Electric Boat about how to best move them by rail. It wasn't until Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and her staff got involved did the hurdles come down and the locomotives arrived in June. A dedication ceremony was held in July with Congresswoman Johnson, DRM officers and members, a representative from EB and Danbury and state elected officials present. One of the 44-tonners was the demonstration model built by GE that was eventually sold to the Union Pacific while the other was former New Haven #0814.

The Jeep/Railroad Rendezvous attracted over 120 vehicles of all shapes and sizes. In addition to vintage Jeeps, there were off-road, contemporary, custom and military Jeeps in attendance. A number of prizes were given out in various categories. The event was enhanced with our forge in operation and special G-gauge layout in operation.

The summer of 2006 also saw The Little Engine That Could event take place over two weekends in June. Based on the book by Watty Piper, this was a new event. A life-size non-operating engine was the highlight, coupled onto our coaches. We had volunteer readers in one of the coaches telling the story of The Little Engine That Could. A newly installed PA system was put to good use. Power was supplied by the SW-8. The forge and G-gauge trains were in operation. There was also a petting zoo, a hay maze, inflatable slide and bus, musicians and costumed characters in the yard making this a real family event. Unfortunately, three rainy days and one very hot day limited attendance.

In restoration work, the RPO crew was busy working on the roof having just completed working on the windows. The RS-11 was having some of its rust removed and carpentry work continued on the New York Central wooden caboose.



# 2016 Steel & Wheels Car Show

By Patty Osmer; Photos courtesy of Philip Beard

In spite of the damp forecast, 50 antique vehicles registered to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Steel and Wheels" car show on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Visitors were able to view not only the cars, but were also able to watch the New Haven forge in action, ride the Railyard Local and take a spin on the turntable. Food was provided by the Danbury Appalachia Service Project team and music came all the way from Buffalo, NY, thanks to Ron Schiralli and DJ Mike Brosfske. Doris Saunders and Carla Pierce performed the opening ceremony where they sang the National Anthem and Amazing Grace. A moment of silence was given for John Ivansco, a long-time member, volunteer and supporter of the Museum. The event raised \$1,200 for the Appalachian Service Project.

Award winners were: Owners Choice - Leon Yarrish - 1983 Pro-Street C10 pick-up; People's Choice - John Hoffman - 1950 Chrysler; Mayor's Award - Donny Giannatano - 1950 Willy's Jeepster; ASP Choice - Chris Kasinskas - 1968 Mustang; Best truck - Steve Lening - 1949 Ford F1; Volunteer Award - George Marohn - 1968 Dodge Coronet R.; Veterans Award - Eugene Newman - 1964 Pontiac GTO; Danbury Railway Museum Award - Tarry Lorentz - 1928 model A.

Save the date for next year's car show – June 10, 2017!





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## *Elementary Students Visit the DRM, Continued from Page 1*

One-half took the train while the other half toured the railyard. Afterwards, the groups switched positions. Busses came to the Museum later to pick them up.

While at the Museum, the students were able to learn how trains operated and why they were so important to Danbury's growth. The Museum looks forward to next year's crop of students and thanks Executive Director and City Historian Brigid Guertin for including the DRM in the field trip program.

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## CLHO Award of Merit and Annual Conference

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

For a number of years, the DRM has been a member of the Connecticut League of History Organizations and each year they hold a conference. This conference was held in Meriden and saw the largest number of attendees. Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda were there for the entire day attending the various sessions offered and networking with others from around the state.

Each year, the CLHO presents Awards of Merit to various history-related projects occurring in Connecticut. This year, the DRM was awarded an Honorable Mention for its restoration of the *Tonawanda Valley*. On hand to receive the award were Project Leader Art Slothower, President Wade Roese and Secretary Steve Gould. Missing, sadly, was Bill Britt who passed away several years ago. Bill and Art were the catalysts that got the restoration off the ground and with the help of others from the Museum, made this a show piece of our rolling stock collection.

Additional Awards of Merit were presented to organizations for books published, programs instituted and exhibits. This is the second award the DRM has received, the first being for the RPO restoration. All-in-all, it was a good conference and something the DRM will continue to be a part of.



Pictured at the June 6, 2016, CLHO awards ceremony are (from left to right): Secretary Steve Gould; President Wade Roese; Liz Shapiro, CLHO Executive Director; Art Slothower; and Stephen Bartkus, CLHO board member.  
*Photo courtesy of Laurie Lamarre*



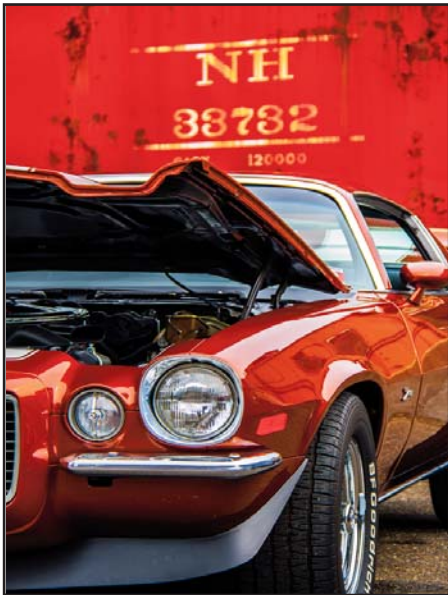
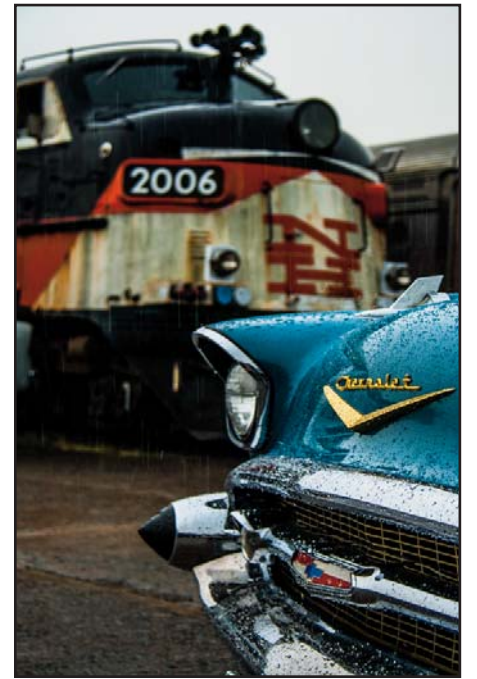
Pictured at the June 6, 2016, CLHO awards ceremony is a group shot of all the award recipients.  
*Photo courtesy of Laurie Lamarre*

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## Reporters Wanted

Reporters for the DRM's newsletter, *The Railyard Dispatch*, are needed. If you have an interest in journalism and photography and also like trains, then become one of our newsletter's reporters. Reporters would be needed for annual special events, various Museum activities and other occasions that would warrant reporter coverage. If interested, you must be a Museum member, have taken the safety exam and be over 16 years of age. Please contact the newsletter editor at: [drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com) if you are interested.







# NYC & HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

## 2014 - 2015 Restoration Update

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader; *Photos by Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda*

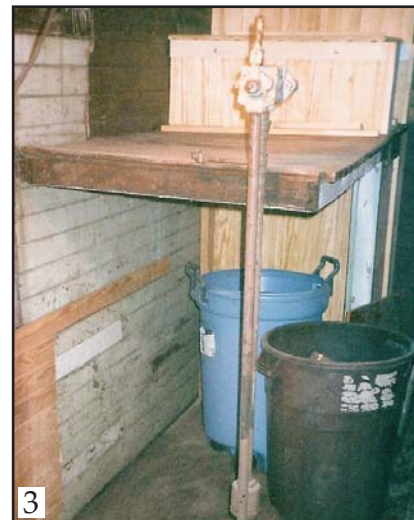
Beginning in 2014, we continued to work on the cupola seats and cabinets (see the *Railyard Local* October-November 2014 newsletter for detail). The cupola seats were finished on the same side (photo 1). The cabinets were also finished.

In 2015, we started on the other side with the cabinet walls and doors. This side had a large storage cabinet under the cupola seats (photos 2 and 3). First, we built the cabinet wall (photo 4) then the doors (photo 5). This finished all the cabinets and walls (photo 6). We started the trim work where needed. We got halfway through when we ran out of good weather. The trim will be finished in 2016.

It has been 13 years working on this caboose. What is left to do are the storage benches, conductor's desk, the entrance doors, the floor, the vestibule, the steps and grab irons and finally painting the interior of the caboose and refinish the exterior. Volunteers for the years 2014 - 2015 are Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Bob Pitcher, Dave Roberts and Stan Madyda. Total volunteer hours for 2014 - 2015 were 1,170 hours.

To continue this restoration, The DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum and a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax deductible contributions should be sent to: **Danbury Railway Museum, NYC/HRR #19322 Project, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810.**

A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration.



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# ***10TH ANNUAL DANBURY RAILWAY DAYS!***



***AUGUST 6 & 7, 2016***  
***SAT. 10AM - 4PM***  
***SUN. 12PM - 4PM***

## **INCLUDES**

- ~Train rides in our railyard
- ~Visit the cab of the famous FL-9 engine
  - ~See our operating forge
- ~Ride our 100 year old turntable
- ~Railroad hand signaling demonstration
  - ~Caboose rides
  - ~Historic railroad cars
- ~Exhibits and operating train layouts
- ~Used book & model sale

**Admission: \$10. Members, \$9.**  
**Under 36 months, free**

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## **SPECIAL - HANDS ON THE THROTTLE!**

Operate a GE 44-tonner and caboose in our railyard.  
Instruction & supervision provided by qualified crew  
Reservations required. Call the Museum to reserve.  
\$50—includes admission to the event. Must be over 18.

**Danbury Railway Museum**  
**120 White Street**  
**Danbury, CT 06810**  
**203-778-8337 [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)**

\*All activities subject to change, depending on equipment availability.  
Event will be held, rain or shine.



PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

August	3(7:30pm)	Berkshire Scenic RR - Jim McGeorge
August	10(7:30pm)	Maine, Canada Steam 1957 - Peter McLachlan
August	17(7:30pm)	Scratch Building, Figures - Loren
August	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
August	24(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
August	31(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
September	5(Labor Day)	<b>Open 12-4pm with train rides</b>
September	7(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
September	14(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
September	21(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
September	22(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members

### Summer Museum hours:

**Mon-Fri 10-4; Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5**

**Beginning Sept. 7, Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4**

See the newsletter in color at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum

Attention: Newsletter

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Editor: Michael Madyda

Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

### Change of Address:

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,

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PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)