

The Railyard Local

Volume 9, Issue 5

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

June - July 2010

LEGO Layout Enthralls All

DRM's "Block Party" was a great attraction

The featured Connecticut & Vermont LEGO Railway exhibit painstakingly created by Bill Probert, Steve Doerner, and Elroy Davis was such a success with our members and public that we happily were able to convince them to extend its stay, and hope to engage them for a return visit soon. Almost every day of each weekend during the exhibit, plus some other days, at least one of these men was here adding to the exhibit, answering questions, exchanging operating

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National Train Day at DRM

On May 8th we and our guests celebrated National Train Day with free train rides and numerous



added attractions. Our historic New Haven forge was in use. Railyard Local passengers enjoyed musical accompaniment, a ride on the turntable and tour of the pumphouse. Coupling/uncoupling demonstrations were popular, as were the LEGO layout, and play tables. We displayed Operation Lifesaver information. An added treat was that the FRA's

special car happened to be outside the Museum. The day turned out to be a happy occasion for all.



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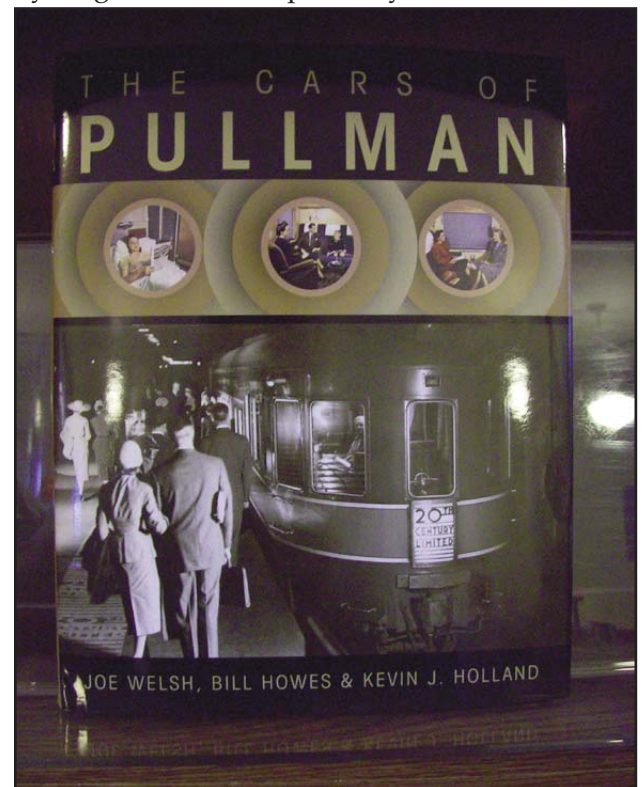
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

Please stop in any time to visit and look over our selection of merchandise. There is something for everyone, and remember, members get a 10% discount on most items.

We have several new books in stock:

The Cars of Pullman by Joe Welsh, Bill Howes, and Kevin Holland. This illustrated history examines Pullman's diverse fleet, from its spectacular custom-built wooden cars of the nineteenth century to steel heavyweight cars in the prewar years and on into the



lightweight streamlined era. Period photos, car diagrams and ads help trace the development, composition, and evolution of the historically and culturally significant Pullman fleet, including the gamut of sleeper, parlor, and restaurant cars. Member price, \$36.

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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 as soon as possible!

Our Membership Chairman requests that all those renewing their membership **PLEASE return the paperwork with your check.**

Tom Assheton	Bethel, CT
Rachel Kovaciny	Danbury, CT
Karem Hoar	Carmel, NY
Gary & Nancy Kurz	New Fairfield, CT
Gina Dignor	Newtown, CT

National Train Day, *Continued from Page 1*



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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Railfair 2000 was a big success with over 1100 people attending the two-day event held on May 6th and 7th. An excursion train trip began in Poughkeepsie and brought many first time visitors to the DRM. Shorter trips were made to Towners. The excursion presented a new challenge to the car hosts. They arrived in Poughkeepsie at 8:00 in the morning, but the train was not yet in position. At 8:30, car hosts, supplies and passengers all were loaded at the same time. When our excursion trains originated out of Danbury, the cars were readied beforehand. The Poughkeepsie train also made stops in Beacon and Hopewell Junction to accept passengers. Dan Carleton and Dan Foley coordinated loading at the respective stops. On one of the shorter trips, a stop was made at the pump house's original location on Segar Street where John Ivansco gave a tour.

Back at the fair, visitors saw our newly painted "New York Central" FP4-A and FP4-B set. Metro-



Ira Pollack doing the lettering. Photo by Bob Westerfield.

North had their two New York Central FL-9s on display and U.S. Army Transportation Unit from Middletown was there with their GP-10. A photo freight was operational in the yard at the same time as our Railyard Local. On Saturday night, Ed Blackman and Dan Foley were in charge a night photo session, assisted by Kermit Geary and Steve Barry.

The Museum was visited by a group of students enrolled in WestConn's American Prospective course. Part of the course, taught by Board Member Emeritus Terri Stramiello, focused on the railroad and how it impacted America's growth. Each student was asked to write a brief essay and the newsletter reprinted one of them. The students toured the Museum and Railyard and all had an enjoyable visit.

The monthly Restoration Report highlighted the painting of the two Alcos in preparation for

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Ten Years Ago, *Continued from Page 2*

Railfair 2000. Updates were mentioned for ongoing projects including the CV flat car, EL hopper, the NYC crane and the PRR caboose. Planning was in place for initial painting on one of the New Haven MU cars and the 1455.

During May, the DRM also took delivery by flatbed tow truck of two Maine Central cabooses that were in Canaan, CT. Both were originally built for the Western Maryland. At the time they were not property of the DRM. They were purchased by an individual who would pay the DRM rent to keep them in the yard while he finalized plans to convert them into hot dog stands. As we know, this did not happen.



Shirley Peatfield shot this photo of the DRM taking delivery of the Maine Central cabooses.

There was a lengthy article by Ron Freitag on safety in the yard. Mentioned prominently was the use of proper footwear, blue flag rules and derails. At the time the DRM did not have the formal Rule Book and test that we have today.

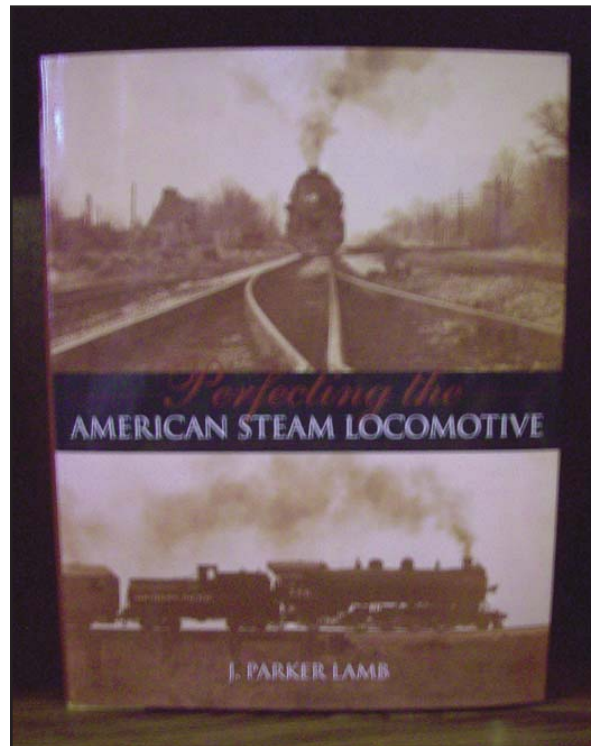
From the membership, one of our younger members, Charlie Albanetti, became editor of the "Teen Scene" column in "Railpace Magazine." Steve Mayerson was the featured member profile.

Passing of a Special Member

One of the Danbury Railway Museum's original members, who also contributed immensely to its success, passed away in June. **Marie Salata** volunteered in a variety of capacities throughout the existence of the Museum, but was especially active involving children's events. She was part of the birthday party team, along with Suze Blackman and Shirley Peatfield, which actively conducted over 300 children's parties. When we held special events for children such as *Thomas* and *The Little Engine That Could* she was a story reader. Christmas time found her in costume for our Santa Claus event. When car hosts were needed on our trips to New York City and the Hudson River, she was there to help. She will be greatly missed, and we extend condolences to her husband Mike, who is a member of our Board of Directors, and her family.

Gift Shop News, *Continued from Page 1*

Perfecting the American Steam Locomotive by J. Parker Lamb traces the evolution of the steam engine from the early 1700's through the early 1800's, the development of the American steam locomotive and

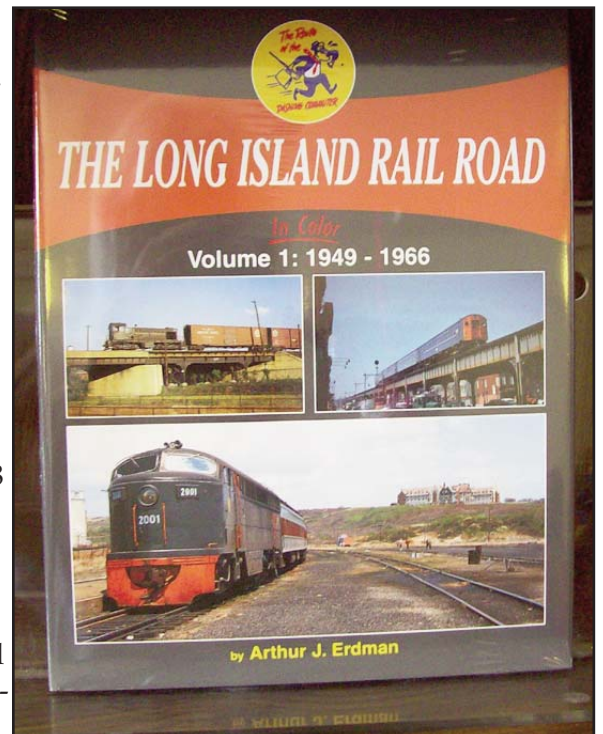


the progress of the technology through the 1930's. It then discusses the reasons for the subsequent decline of the famous machine. Member price, \$40.50

Long Island Railroad in Color, Volume 1, 1949 - 1966 by Arthur Erdman takes a chronological look back at Long Island Railroad operations beginning with steam

displacement by FM C-liners and RS3's and ending with the introduction of new Alco Century 420's. Hard-cover, 128 pages, all color. This is newly published book; normal retail

is \$65; our price is \$60, and members can purchase it for \$54. We only have a couple in stock, so

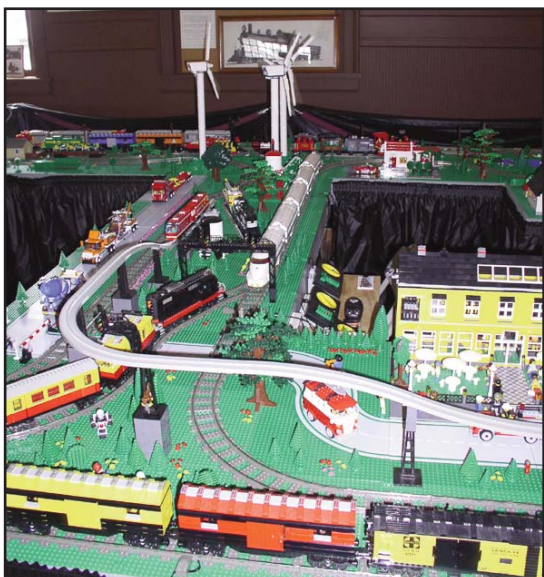


LEGO Layout Enthralls All *Continued from Page 1*

equipment, and making adjustments. (These LEGO modeling enthusiasts do this as a hobby without any sponsorship from the LEGO company, and have regular employment at paying jobs. They do this for the love of sharing their passion for LEGO modeling.) Each week the layout was somewhat different and worth a return visit. The skill, imagination, and detail incorporated into the layout was incredible. It was virtually impossible to notice everything in at one time. Touches of humor were visible throughout. The layout was very colorful, so be sure to look for this issue in its color version on our website!



LEGO Layout Enthralls All, Continued from Page 4



DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President
Hope all is well with you this month.

We have been busy in the yard with many different projects. I would like to update you with some of the things going on.



Progress is being made on all of the following:

Tonawanda Valley - New steps have been fabricated



and are being installed by Project Leader Bill Britt. Rust converter has been applied to certain areas of the rear steps, which are awaiting paint. What a difference this makes in the appearance of the car!

NYC Caboose - Gerry Herrmann and crew have fabricated new windows for the cupola and will be installing them briefly. The caboose crewmembers have once again outdone themselves with their craftsmanship.



Shed for G-gauge - Wade Roese and crew have built a small shed next to the G-gauge for storage of the model equipment. A portion of the structure was built using material that was either donated or that Museum members already had on hand. I am trying

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to convince Wade to build another one for additional yard storage.



Loading Dock at Pumphouse - Our yard crew has



begun building a platform to help with the loading/unloading of our guests at the

turntable, the destination point of our Railyard Local. At this point we are using materials that we have on hand. This dock will extend from the pumphouse building out across to trackside, and extend lengthwise about 100 feet.

Turntable - Work is progressing rapidly with a good crew of people turning out both during the week and also on weekends. I have included my plan for restoration in this report to show you, the membership, what we have done and what is planned for the future.

(The plan is printed in detail on Page 7.) At this point we are trying to sta-



bilize what is there and trying to slow down the deterioration of the structure.

There is much going on at the Museum. Become part of its growth and future! Volunteer if you can and feel free to call me anytime. I want to know who you are and how I can help you become involved with the Museum.

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Turntable Restoration & Preservation June 2010			
Danbury Railway Museum			
Phase I	Prices	Funding	Schedule
1 Replace deck boards 2 x 6" x 12'	\$350	restricted acct	done
2 Install hand rail 200' 5/4 x 5"	\$202	restricted acct	done
3 Clean & paint with antirust metal converter - 6 gallons	\$380	restricted acct	done
4 Paint girder with Sherwin Williams Gloss Black - 8 gallons	\$385	restricted acct	done
5 Paint wood deck & railing with solid black stain - 13 gallons	\$507	restricted acct	done
6 Clean out pit of spalled and broken concrete	\$0	restricted acct	done
7 Clean out area of ties, replace rotten ties	\$0	restricted acct	
8 Replace with 100 white oak ties for ring rail support - restricted fund	\$1,400	restricted acct	
9 Level pilot / control house by raising mtg brackets and rebolting. Weld new floor (diamond plate), weld patch around base of booth.	\$3,000		
10 Replace fuel tank mounting behind booth, mount kill switch in control booth	\$1,000		
11 Patch approx. 100 sq ft of floor with RediMix Concrete, fill end beam	\$500		
Phase 1 Sub Total	\$7,724		
Phase 1 Completed Costs	\$3,224		
Phase 1 Balance Due	\$4,500		
Phase II			
1 Contract with shotcrete (gunite) company to reface +/- 75 ft of spalled retaining wall, approximately \$10,000	\$10,000	Fund Raiser and/or Grant	
2 Replace outrigger bearings with babbit or sealed roller bearings	tbd	Fund Raiser and/or Grant	
Phase II Sub Total	\$10,000		
Phase III			
1 Replace drive system with electric motor	tbd	Fund Raiser and/or Grant	
2 Remove deck and rail replace with new timbers	tbd	Fund Raiser and/or Grant	
Phase III Sub Total	\$ -		
Volunteer Hours		Approx Hrs.	
Art Slothower - Paint Antirust Converter and Black Finish Coat		100	
Chuck Sagar - Stain Deck, install top rails		40	
Group* - Clean out Pit		300	
Bob Pitcher - Fabricate new stanchions		15	
Volunteers Hours Sub-Total		455	
* Group is: Ira Pollack, Steve Mayerson, Carolyn Taylor, Dave Roberts, Rob Bell, Bob Wolken, Ed Holowinko, Charly Herman, Jeremy Rice, Glenn Ferdico, Dave Hoseid, Tom Brown			
tbd = to be determined			



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

June	23(7:30pm)	New in 2009 - Gary Gurske
June	30(7:30pm)	Snd Ptch,Rat Hole,Magn-Bob Kessler
July	7(7:30pm)	Vid;Red Alcos, Grn Mtns - DRM Lib.
July	14(7:30pm)	German Rys 2001 - Gerry Herrmann
July	15(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
July	21(7:30pm)	1970 Rails - Gary Gurske
July	28(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Steve Gould
Aug	4(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Ed Blackman
Aug	11(7:30pm)	F Units in Action - Ron Smith

Museum hours: Mon-Sat 10-5pm; Sun 12-5pm
See the newsletter in color at www.danburyrail.org!



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