

The Railyard Local

Volume 11, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January-February 2012

NYC /HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

2011 RESTORATION UPDATE

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader
THE ROOF IS FINISHED!

Starting April 2011, we completed and installed the last 20 trusses (see photo 1). The next process was to install the tongue and groove boards. It took 1636



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Holiday Festivities at DRM

Santa Express for five days in December

Mild weather helped encourage attendance at the DRM's winter event, so we were able to heartily welcome many children, their relatives, and other guests. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible! The success of events such as this help keep



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DRM Training Program - 2012

By John O'Hern, Safety Officer, and Steve Gould
The following DRM Training and Qualifying Exam sessions are offered to our volunteers, who also must be DRM members, for 2012:

Safety Exam:

for ALL volunteers working in our yard

Crew Exam:

for ALL current and potential DRM crew members.

Car Host & Tour Guide Training:

for ALL car hosts and tour guides before working on our trains or giving tours; will cover expected duties of each position

Saturday, February 4th

Safety Exam: 10:30am

Questions? See John O'Hern

Crew Exam: 1:30pm

Questions? See Peter McLachlan

Saturday, February 25th

Car Host & Tour Guide Training: 10:30am

This training program will last about an hour.

Questions? Contact Chuck Sager, Peter

McLachlan or Steve Gould

These exams must be taken annually to qualify for each position. Any members unable to attend these scheduled times must make their own arrangements with the designated leaders in order to qualify before working.

We have these qualifying tests and training programs annually because we take safety very seriously, but do not let the word "exam" discourage you from volunteering here. The exams are not difficult and are open book, so save the dates, and we hope to see you then!

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. (If you have very recently renewed your membership the new date may not be reflected yet on the label). The membership of Life Members does not have an expiration date.

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Larkin | Glenham, NY |
| Michael Arogh | Pound Ridge, NY |
| Ken & Lois Wilder | Southbury, CT |
| Joanna Zuchos | Sandy Hook, CT |
| Jessica Grutzner | Brewster, NY |
| Remington D'Andrea | Waterbury, CT |
| Sylvien-Patrick McGowan | Danbury, CT |
| Wesley Iwatake | Wappingers Falls, NY |



Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Two new additions arrived in the yard, New Haven PS-1 Box Cars numbered 33732 and 34537. Both of these cars were purchased from a scrapper in New London, CT. Talk about timing. The scrapper was on site ready to start cutting them up awaiting our decision. Once the purchase was completed, arrangements were made with Lisi Towing to bring them to Danbury over the road on a flat bed trailer.

The Holiday Express to New York City was not as successful as past years but riders did have an enjoyable time. A New Haven Genesis engine was in the lead and the New York Central 3 was the last car in the consist. Plans and schedules were announced for the Easter Bunny Railyard Specials.

Work continued inside the station on the train layouts. The N-gauge layout of Danbury Yard saw the addition of the McCarthy Coal Company structure. This was built full-size and measured nearly 30 inches. Some scenery work was also completed. The S-gauge and O-gauge layouts continued to be popular with visitors. The G-gauge layout at the Galleria on Main Street also saw many visitors and had been dismantled for the season.

Plans were in the works for building a permanent HO-gauge layout in the station.

In addition to the layouts, a new display section was being constructed that would be used for photo and artifact exhibits. The first exhibit would be of some photographs taken by L. Peter Cornwall.



The restored New Haven boxcar 33732 in June 2005.

Work continued on installing new computers in the station. The first was for the Gift Shop where Patty Osmer and Kathie Fay stepped up to take over the day to day operation. A computer would be installed at the front desk along with a more welcoming counter.

Out in the yard, despite the cold weather, the Budd Car crew continued with restoration work on the inside of the car. John Geigle was appointed Head of Operations. He announced scheduled rules classes for anyone wishing to be involved with train operations.

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nails to fasten the boards to the trusses, and we only bent nine nails (see photo 2). Dave Roberts planed the



end boards so they were flush with the fascia boards (see photo 3). The soffits were then installed using 160



screws. When completed the fascia boards and soffits were painted (see photo 4).



On December 3, 2011 the commercial roof was installed. Unfortunately, all the fine woodworking that was done was covered by the roof. We then installed the windows in the cupola and mounted the chimney (see photo 5).



To finish the cupola, fascia boards need to be installed. This will cover the flashing and seal the windows. It was decided to do this in the Spring of 2012. This entire project for the year took 875 hours.

Each time we worked on the roof, the tarps had to be removed and replaced at the end of the day. On average this was done twice a week. This tedious process took 190 hours of our time. During this time, three tarps failed to keep the water out and had to be replaced. This put a crimp in my budget. All this would not have been necessary if we had had a building to work in. Hopefully in the future, other projects will not have this problem.

Volunteers for 2011 are: Harry Burke, Franz Gerencir, Al Gruber, Gerry Herrmann, Dave McKee, Pete McLachlan, Stan Madyda, Bob Pitcher, Dave Roberts and Jim Teer.

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.

All photos by Gerry Herrmann.

Words from Our President

Goodbye 2011, welcome 2012. We hope you all had great holiday celebrations, family gatherings, and that the New Year is prosperous and full of successful resolutions.

In 2011 the DRM was a slight victim of the lackluster economy, but not quite as much as some of the federally funded larger national museums. Our attendance, income, and membership were down. Some of our events were slightly more successful than previous years, but we didn't set any records or achieve all of our goals. Financially, we are O.K.

Throughout the year we were able to accomplish a number of the goals/projects upon which we were working: 44-tonner 1399 operational, Pavilion #1 up, Pavilion #2 started, Catenary arches located to DRM yard, Roof installed on the New York Central caboose, Grant received from Amherst, Music video, Fashion shoot, Murder mystery movie, Wedding photo shoot, Night photo shoot with the Candlewood Camera Club, Great progress on the Tonawanda Valley; Baggage cart repaired, restored and displayed; Weaver estate grant received, 1455 progress on winterizing and window replacement; Repair of the control shed, decking and handrails on the turntable; New platform at the pumphouse, Hawley School outreach program; Shelton Library, New Fairfield and various other area outreach presentations, Speeder operational for use in trackwork, 3-piece diesel display lash-up in yard, Numerous donations (both financial and materials), New video security system with recorder in Museum building, Safety training; Tour guide, car host, conductor, and engineer training programs, Boy Scout merit badge program, and continued work on the Model layouts and exhibits within the Museum building. In addition, we ran our yearly events: Sweetheart trains, Bunny trains, National Train Day, Mother's Day, Owey the Post Office dog, Father's Day, Danbury Railway Day and Member picnic, Pumpkin trains, Santa trains, and a regular schedule of Tuesday library recording sessions, Tuesday modeling work/maintenance sessions, and Wednesday evening presentations. Numerous train shows around the state, Danbury Library display, and work with the Bethel Historical Society round out some additional ongoing projects the DRM continued running.



Words from Our President, *Continued from Page 4*

The above accomplishments were brought to fruition entirely by our own volunteer members and staff: Joseph Alves, Robert Andriola, Alan Baker, Roberta Ballard, Bob Bell, Gary Bentley, Ed Blackman, Suze Blackman, Robert Booth, William Britt, Chip Brown, Harry Burke, Joseph Carella, Dan Carleton, Justin Chapin, Don Collier, Charles and Nancy Cuniff, Robert Detlefsen, Kathy Fay, Dan Foley, Robert Gambling, Paul Gassner, Franz Gerencir, Steve Gould, Greg Grice, Marty Grossman, Alan Gruber, Gerry Herrmann, John Ivansco, Robert Kessler, Geoff Knees, Don Konen, Mike La Gue, Dana Laird, Joe Laporta, Gerry Lawlor, Harry Leeds, Gil Letellier, Carl Liba, Dave Lowry, Mike Madyda, Stan Madyda, Tom McCullough, James McGeorge, Dave McKee, Peter McLachlan, Mike Miciukiewicz, Glenn Miller, J.R. Mitchell, Eileen Mitchell, William Nicholson, John O'Hern, Patty Osmer, Shirley Peatfield, Andre Perez, Bob Pitcher, Ira Pollack, Jeremy Rice, David Rist, Dave Roberts, Wade Roese, Chuck Sager, Mike Salata, Marty Scatola, Richard Shaboo, John Silbert, Art Slothower, Lovett Smith, Nancy Sniffin, Frank Sullivan, Carolyn Taylor, Jim Teer, Sue Teer, Jeff Van Wagenen, Bill Waggoner, Joe Ward, Tony White, Carol Wilson, David Wilson, Fiona Herrmann, Ashley Norkowski, Kristina Maceira, Victoria Maceira, Samantha Stainbrook. In addition, Rings End of Bethel, Kellogg Hardwoods, True Value Hardware of Bethel, and Modzedewski's Towing assisted the DRM through donations of materials and services through the year. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the above as we only achieved our successes through the cooperation and dedication of this great team.

Unfortunately, we were unable to successfully complete some of the projects we undertook, but we continue to work on them diligently and are optimistic that we will see their fulfillment in 2012: Lease extension signature, Albany electrics relocation, New buildings, Turntable pit work, New and expanded signage, Repair of yard displays, Relocation of select yard equipment, Pavilion roofing, G-scale garden layout.

Many newly suggested ideas never made it into the work schedule, but they will! We look forward to your sharing of more new ideas, thoughts, dreams, and reminders. The exceptional commitment of time and energy of our volunteers above allowed the DRM to accomplish.

On behalf of the officers and directors of the Danbury Railway Museum, please allow me to extend our sincerest expression of gratitude for the support you give. Please ride our train to 2012.

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



Holiday Festivities at DRM, *Continued from Page 1*

the Museum financially solvent throughout the year even when the nation is suffering through poor economic times. Once again the Museum, railyard and Santa's special coach were decorated in the spirit of the season by dedicated volunteers. As many of the photos show, Santa took advantage of his visit here to tour part of the railyard. Children loved the chance to have temporary tattoos applied. Our attractions of the play tables and operating layouts were kept very busy. While in the Great Hall guests were entertained with live guitar music.



The three photos above were taken by Deirdre Gruber.



The two photographs below showing Santa touring the #1455 were shot by Joseph Alves.



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Holiday Festivities at DRM, Continued from Page 6





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| Feb | 8(7:30pm) | Exploring Railroads - Ron Smith |
| Feb | 15(7:30pm) | 1976 Freedom Train NY,NE -
Pete McLachlan |
| Feb | 16(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| Feb | 22(7:30pm) | Colorado Narrow Gauge Steam -
Dan Foley |
| Feb | 29(7:30pm) | Program to be announced |
| Mar | 7(7:30pm) | NYC Passenger Trains - Carl Liba |
| Mar | 14(7:30pm) | To be announced - Ed Blackman |

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

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



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