

# The Railyard Local

Volume 8, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January - March 2009

## New Year Brings Train Show

DRM participates at annual "Big E" event

Nearly 20,000 train enthusiasts attended

Amherst Railway Society's long-awaited train show in West Springfield, MA on January 24 and 25, and the DRM had a booth and staff there to greet them. The



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## Preparing for the Bunny

March may come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, but for us April will come hopping along with the Easter Bunny. Our special coach will be dressed in Easter finest to greet the Bunny and parade of DRM guests on April 4, 5, 10 and 11. A vintage train will run every 1/2 hour, 12:30-4:00pm, then children will receive a gift from the Bunny. Once again we will have the popular Temporary Tattoo and Coloring stations, operating model layouts, festive decorations, play area, and full sized vintage railroad equipment to tour in the railyard. The Museum will be open Friday and Saturday from 10am-4:30pm, on Sunday from noon to 4:30pm. Reservations are recommended, and also can be handled on-line through our website at [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org). Tickets are \$8 for ages 2 and over, with children under 2 years old admitted free. Danbury Railway Museum members presenting their membership card receive a \$1 discount off the ticket price.

This is one of our events at which we need extra help. If you will be able to assist on even one of the days, please contact Sue Teer at (203) 792-1981.

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## Ballot Deadline Nears

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

By now all members should have received the resumes and ballot for this year's annual election for the Danbury Railway Museum's Board of Directors. Please contact the Museum immediately if you have not received yours. The four incumbent officers are running for reelection, and four candidates are running for positions on the Board. Please take time to read the cover page and resumes of our candidates, then return your marked ballot. It must be received at the Museum or delivered in person before the deadline. Your member number (see your membership card) and/or name must be on the return envelope. We appreciate the interest and commitment stated by the candidates, and your member response by returning your ballot. Thanks go to Nominating Committee members Steve Gould (Chairman), John O'Hern, and Dave Lowry for their work, and to Patty Osmer and all others who helped with the mailing.

## Notice to All Volunteers in DRM Railyard & Train Crew

Required exams for these volunteers are scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>. **All volunteers, who also must be members, planning to help in our railyard MUST qualify** on our annual DRM Safety Exam for 2009.

Among those included are tour guides, car hosts, and those doing restorations. Those volunteering as train crew also must qualify on our DRM Rules Exam. We have these qualifying tests annually because we take safety very seriously, but don't let the word "exam" discourage you from volunteering here. The exams are not difficult and both tests are open-book.

**Safety Exam: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am**

**Rules Exam: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - 1:00pm**

Any member unable to attend these sessions must arrange for a mutual makeup date with our instructors: Safety Officer: John O'Hern, Conductor Training: John O'Hern, Engineer Training: Peter McLachlan.

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## New Members

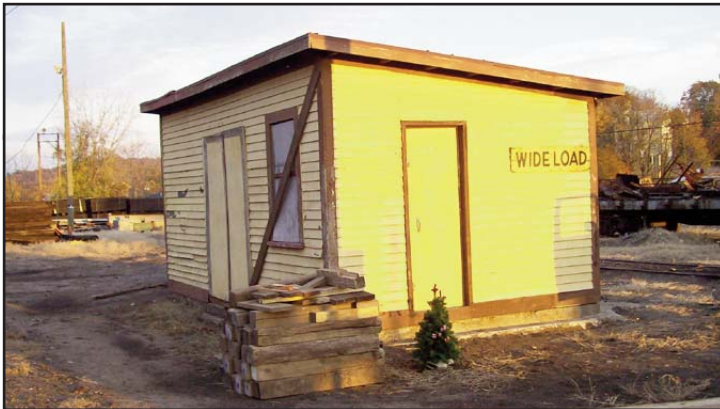
We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

Fernando Cardel	New Windsor, NY
Steven E. Fanning	Newnan, GA
Jackson Powell	Peekskill, NY
Ritu Duenwald	Redding, CT
Jama Hansonbrook	North Salem, NY
William A. Siebert	Beacon, NY
Rosen Mavilyn	Sandy Hook, CT
David McConnell	Burlington, CT

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## Pumphouse Needs a Roof

The pumphouse, which was recently moved to the DRM railyard from its original location by the Danbury Mall, is in dire need of a new roof. That is the first priority in its restoration. Project Leader John Ivansco has been able to get a price of \$850.00 for replacing the roof (if we do the demolition of the existing one), or, for \$100.00 more, the roofer will do that also. Please consider making a donation toward the pumphouse fund so that this desperately needed repair can be done as soon as the winter weather has left us. Moneywise this is a small enough initial project that if many people make even small a donation



we will have enough funding to go ahead right away. If you can help, please direct your contribution to the Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810, Attention Dave Roberts, and noting that it is for the Pumphouse. We have just established a restricted account for the Pumphouse, and if for some happy reason we receive more than enough funding for the roof replacement, we will have something to work with for continued restoration of this historic building. Thank you!

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## Ten Years Ago

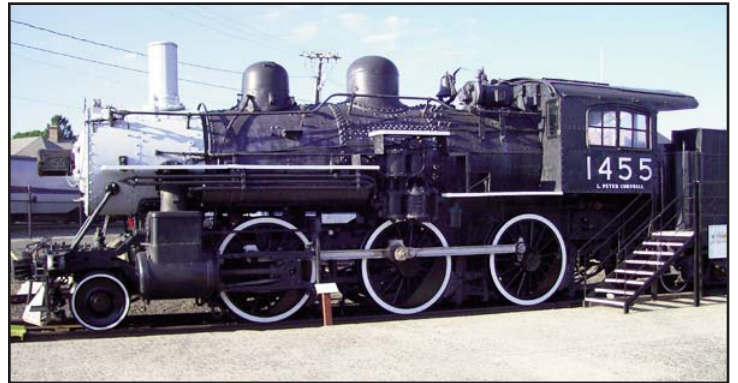
By Stan Madyda

A lot happened at the Danbury Railway Museum during the first quarter of 1999. Here is a recap of the goings on as written in "Danbury Departures."

In February, we received our first grant, totaling \$5600, from the Meserve Fund. The grant would be used for a railroader oral history program. Marie Salata and Jeanne Swanton were thanked for the efforts in preparing the grant application

A dinner was held at Two Steps to review the past year, present future plans and to recognize certain members for their achievements. A total of 110 members and spouses attended.

Also in February, the membership heard the first word that the DRM could be receiving a steam engine. The previous month, Geoff Knees, Peter Cornwall, Dan Foley and Ed Blackman traveled to Wareham, MA to access Boston & Maine 1455.



A new feature was added to the monthly newsletter – Member Profiles – giving a short biography of the person and the activities they are involved with at the Museum. The first members profiled were John Christy, Kathy Fay, Christen Russo and Dan Ericksen.

Final numbers were in on the 1998 Holiday Express to New York City and they were very good. A sell out of 500 tickets was achieved. In addition to the Metro-North cars, the New York Central 3 was added to the rear of the train and 16 tickets were sold for that at \$90 each. Ed Blackman cooked breakfast for those passengers on the southbound trip. Once in Grand Central Terminal, a rare move was made with the entire train being turned on the loop track for the trip back to Danbury.

Our first Santa Trains were run in the yard and were equally successful. Ed Blackman led a group of Museum members who prepared the train and the yard for the event. Tara Lewis was in charge of decorations in the train and in the station. A new tradition

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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

Hope all is well with you this month. I have not been in touch with you over the past several weeks, so I would like to update you on what has been going on at the DRM. To begin with I would like to thank all the people who helped keep our yard and walkways open during this winter season. Although we did not have large storms, it was enough to make our facility extremely slippery and hard to walk through. My thanks also go out to Justin Chapin for using his personal vehicle to plow and keep our roadways open. I am hoping that once the weather breaks we can spend time working on the DRM pickup that we purchased last fall for use in plowing.



Several weeks ago I received some sad news that I will share with you. Long-time member Charlie Bardo passed away after a long illness. Charlie, a devout historian who was on our original Board of Directors, was a walking history book. Charlie was also an early supporter of the Museum from the beginning, and always commented on our diversity of interests. He knew and actually lived the history that we pursue. Not too many people were aware of Charlie's unique hobby of painting miniature landscapes on handsaws. He had quite a collection of them, and took much pride in displaying them when he could. Our condolences go out to the Bardo family.

As you may know by now, the Tonawanda Valley has been graciously donated to the Museum by Dr. Diana Beardsley. I am also very pleased to tell you Bill Britt has come forward to be the project leader in the restoration. Bill and company were responsible for the restoration of our RPO car, which has turned into a showpiece for the Museum. I am looking forward to helping Bill in any way possible with the success of



this project. Please help us with this unique piece, either by providing financial assistance or by talking with Bill and joining this restoration team, if you want to be part of preserving railroad history.

In other news, I am very happy to report that the FL9 2006 has been donated to the DRM by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. This has been a long and stretched-out process for me, but perseverance has won in the end. We have no operational plans initially for this New Haven classic, but eventu-



ally would like to turn this into an accessible display, allowing our guests into the cab, teaching them the history of FL9's, and possibly using photos in the cab.

Finally, in mid-March the Museum will be receiving the donation of a coal loading conveyor from a gentleman from Brewster, NY. This piece, although non-operational, just reeks of railroad and would fit very nicely in our yard as a display. The Museum must continue to explore, pursue, and obtain pieces such as this for unique exhibits and a diverse collection in the yard and Museum.

Our new DRM schedule calls for the Museum to be open to the public seven days a week beginning Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. We will need additional staff, and time to train new volunteers, so now is a very good time to speak up if you can help.

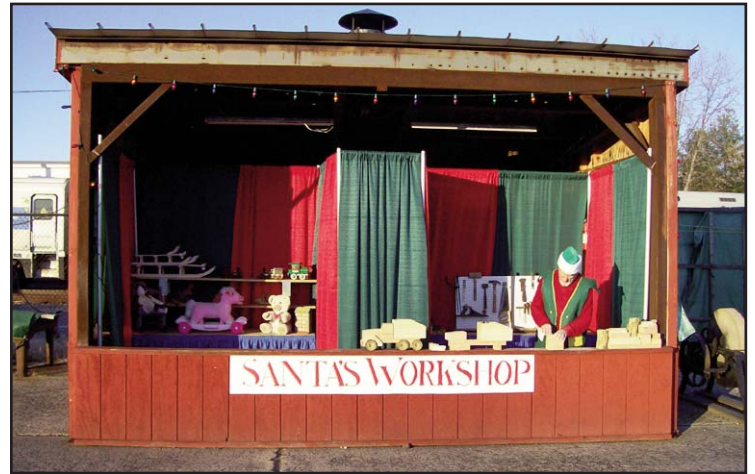
Spring is just around the corner, and we have many projects before us this year, but unfortunately with a very limited budget. I am hoping that we can work on projects within our restricted fund accounts, such as the cosmetic restoration of the RS11 #1402 (#7589), stabilization of the Boston & Maine steam locomotive #1455, and restoration of the NYC wooden caboose. There still is track work to be done! There are enough projects to go around for everyone to help.

Talk to you next month!



# DRM Welcomes Guests on the Santa Express in December

Our Santa Express event in December continued to be popular with area families. Both our guests and volunteers added to the atmosphere of holiday excitement and anticipation. Once again our volunteers dressed the part within and outside the Museum building. This year featured a Santa's Workshop with an elf creating toys, and a newly painted CN 660 as Santa and Mrs. Claus' special railroad car. New decorations were added, and an enhanced model layout set up in the Claus' headquarters. In this and other ways we keep this event fresh so that even guests from previous years will find somethings new to enjoy. No doubt Sue Teer, who is always looking for new decorations to enhance our events, has already found some bargains for next year's Santa Express! The weather cooperated for four of the five days of the event, but the last was snowed out. Well, it is winter! Many thanks to those who planned and participated in making this major DRM event such a success.

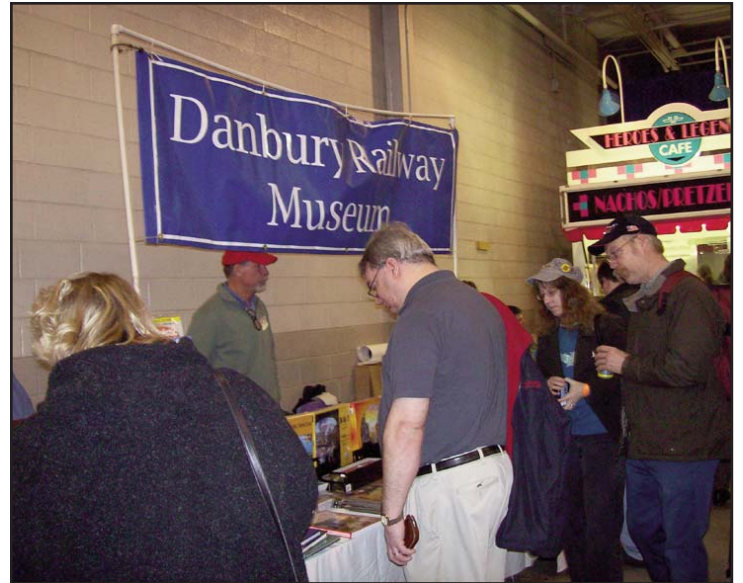


*DRM Welcomes Guests on the Santa Express in December, Continued from Page 4*



## *New Year Brings Train Show, Continued from Page 1*

layout from our Gift Shop continued to attract visitors. We were able to publicize the recent, exciting news of the donation of the Tonawanda Valley coach, and start an appeal for funds to restore it. A wide variety of Gift Shop merchandise, including a sale of duplicate books from the DRM Library, was featured. A colorful photo display highlighted DRM activities from 2008. Chris Iorillo added his display of computer-generated artistry to our booth. Although attendance was comparable to the previous year, our proceeds from the weekend were about two-thirds of last year's. Sales are only part of the benefit of participation at this show, which once again utilized space in four buildings. This occasion is an incomparable opportunity to educate the public about our Museum. Members of our Events Committee had prepared an array of handouts to publicize our Calendar of Events, Bunny Trains, birthday party facilities, etc. Aside from that, we all anticipate the chance to browse and buy, socialize with other train lovers, and be surrounded by the marvelous atmosphere. Amherst Railway Society once again put on a wonderful, well-organized show! Some of the proceeds from this event are used to fund grants, and the DRM has been fortunate to have been selected for grants in the past from this organization. We are already anticipating next year's show! (Look for more photos from "Big E" in the upcoming April issue.)



## Library News

By Stan Madyda

Here are some more donations received by the Library in recent months:

- Bill Mahaney – Lionel trains, N gauge trains, steamer trunk
- Steve Gould – photos from Conrail, Southern Railway, AAR, annual reports, newsletters, photos of Pennsylvania collieries, railroad ephemera.
- Philip H. Jones – magazines
- Greg Zanganan – New Haven cigarette lighter, New Haven match book, New Haven tie pin, marker lamp lenses
- Eric Haggenkotter – New Haven Railroad forms
- Bruce Malone – magazines
- David Wilson – Bachman G gauge train set
- Dan Milone – timetables, reprints of timetables, books, booklets, maps
- Robert Robertson – employee timetables, track diagrams, locomotive manuals
- Steve Mayerson – books

- Thomas Hourican – magazines
  - Donald E. Stump – HO trains
  - Marty Scatola – magazines and calendars
  - Raymond J. Keogh – magazines, Official Guides, Railway Equipment Registers
  - John J. Farrell – tools used on the railroad, tallow pot, spike puller, rail tongs
  - Frank Sullivan – standard gauge trains and track
  - Michael F. Crandall – detail photos of DRM engines
  - Chuck Kilson – New Haven wrenches and engine handles
  - Louis Alosco – Lionel track, trains and transformers
  - Robert Leavitt – book "Railroad Maps of North America"
  - Melissa Leffinbine – magazines and N scale trains
  - Michael Pierwola – railroad maps of Connecticut, circa 1893
  - Dave McKee – book "Western Connecticut Trolleys"
- Thanks to all of our donors.

was born.

The Library was looking for (and still is) male mannequins to display some of the uniforms donated.

In March, the DRM celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a brief summary of its founding was given. In the early 1990s, the Railroad Museum of New England considered Danbury as their permanent home. The proposal they submitted, which included new buildings in the yard, carried with it a price tag that the City of Danbury was not willing to commit to. They withdrew their proposal but a group in Danbury still felt a rail museum would work. A new proposal was written and signed by John Flower. A meeting was held with then Mayor Gene Eriquez who supported the new plan. Days later Peter Cornwall, Peter McLachlan and Hal Meeker worked with lawyers, and on March 8, 1994 the Danbury Railway Museum was incorporated. Jesse Meeker would become Treasurer and Terri Stramiello would be Secretary. A storefront at 16 Ives Street became our first home. Each Wednesday was Open House with discussions on future plans for the station, yard, events and equipment.

There was also quite a bit of news on equipment and restoration. Geoff Knees wrote an extensive report on his privately owned Stratford Point. He outlined the history of the car and told of all the work that was needed to move the car from its siding in New Milford to the DRM. Geoff also wrote about a trip that was made to Maine in September 1998 to prepare two ex-Canadian National engines for movement to Danbury. The units are an FPA-4 and an FPB-4, both owned by Ed Bowers.

Another new addition to the rolling stock collection was also highlighted. The scale test car was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad in October 1909. This car was used to aid in calibrating the scales used to weigh freight cars. Since customers were charged by weight, scales needed to be accurate. The car would travel to each destination as the last car on the train. Our car was spotted by Ron Freitag in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania sitting in a gondola waiting to be cut up for scrap. Inquiries were made and eventually the car was sold to the DRM for \$750 delivered. Because of the age and condition of the car, it was moved to Danbury in a gondola and off-loaded

In the yard, Bob and John Andrews worked to get our turntable back in operation. Ongoing work on the equipment included the NH gondola 60521, PRR caboose 477099, NH caboose C-627, NH Budd car 32 and PC caboose 23662. The double ended crane was in need of a project manager and Bob Broderick volunteered to begin the task of cleaning and painting it.

## Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have a new book in stock: Railroads of the Hudson River Valley, 1979-2008, by Bill McBride, \$40.50 to members, with 144 pages full of color photos of trains traveling throughout the Hudson River Valley.

We also just received a new supply of New Haven (and NYNH&H) apparel, including long sleeve t-shirts, golf shirts, t-shirts, and sweat shirts. Stop in and check them out!



We're clearing out some of our older stock to make more room! All of our VHS' are on sale for \$4, which is about 1/2 of our cost. We have a large selection of children's videos, as well as a number of rail-fan videos, including movies. And, all Little Engine That Could party goods are 50% off. Sorry, no member discount on these items, but at these prices, who needs one!



We're sorry to report that there will not be a 2009 DRM car, but hopefully, there will be one again in 2010.



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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Mar	4(7:30pm)	Slides; East Broad Top - Carl Liba
Mar	11(7:30pm)	Slides; 2004 on - Pete McLachlan
Mar	18(7:30pm)	<b>7:30pm ballot deadline; Annual Meeting;</b> Misc. slides - Ron Smith
Mar	19(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Mar	25(7:30pm)	Slides; Industrial locos - Pete Brill
Apr	1(7:30pm)	NYC Hudsons, Pass. Trains - Carl Liba
Apr	8(7:30pm)	Slides: 4449, CA RRs 1984 - Pete McLachlan

**Museum hours:** Wednesday-Saturday 10-4pm; Sunday 12-4pm  
See the newsletter in color at [www.danbury.org/drm!](http://www.danbury.org/drm!)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

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### **Change of Address**

If you move, please send your change of address to:  
Danbury Railway Museum,  
Attention: Membership Chairman  
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

