

The Railyard Local

Volume 9, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January 2010

Santa Welcomed DRM Guests

A festive atmosphere infused the DRM during the recent Santa Express event as we helped Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves welcome holiday revelers of all ages. Sue Teer and helpers spent days of time decorating the Museum building, railyard, and special car in preparation for Santa, his entourage and our guests. As in other years, our volunteers came forth to greet,



assist, and entertain our visitors. Thanks to all who made it such a success! Each year of this annual event we have some new attractions and decorations. Planning for next year begins immediately after the holiday!



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Watch for the Ballots

Ballots and resumes of those candidates running for the six positions on the DRM Board of Directors will be mailed shortly. Make your choices! There are more candidates than positions so your vote will make a difference. Be sure to return your ballot by the time of the DRM's March Annual Meeting. Instructions will be enclosed.

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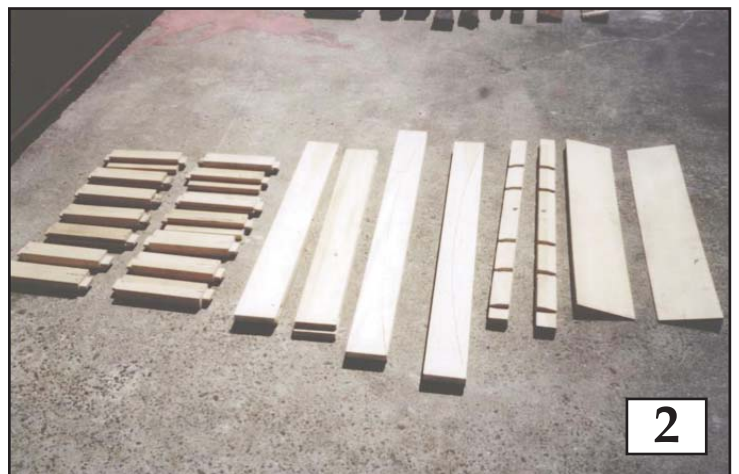
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NYC /HRR Wooden Caboose # 19322 Restoration Update

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

Beginning in April 2009, we continued the restoration of the cupola which was started in 2008 (see October 2008 edition of The Railyard Local).

All 22 pieces of the cupola were finished (see photo 1: before, and photo 2: after).



The new pieces were test-assembled on the concrete platform (photo 3). We were all pleased with how well the pieces fit together. After disassembly, we

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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!

David N. Clinton	Hingham, MA
James McCarthy	Reno, NV
Dan Gizzo	New Fairfield, CT
Louis Weinberg	Yonkers, NY
Leon St. Jean	Sherman, CT
Kenric Gubner	Sherman, CT
Daniel Hirsch	Scarsdale, NY

Tonawanda Valley Coach

Progress has been made on the restoration of the Tonawanda Valley coach, but more funds are needed. This past fall DRM Secretary Steve Gould snapped the images below of the windows restored to the large rear lounge of this historic coach.



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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The Holiday Season was behind us and a two-day Christmas Train held on December 11 and 12 proved to be very successful. The "NYC" E9 was displayed on the turntable all decked out with lights.

Minutes from the December Board Meeting were recapped. Plans for 2000 were discussed with a Train Show in May. This would include an excursion train originating in Poughkeepsie and several short runs to Brewster. The Botsford water tower would be prepared to be brought into the yard. The National Railway Historical Society annual meeting was to be held in Stamford and the DRM would be part of their activities. Progress in the Library was discussed along with having more station exhibits of DRM material.

It was announced that Ira Pollack would be holding a series of model railroading seminars every two weeks during January and February.

The call was made that any member wishing to run for the board should notify the Nominating Committee before the end of January. The directors in the five seats were elected to one year terms in 1999 as a way of staggering the election of board members.

Since most of the restoration work had stopped in the yard because of weather, Ron Freitag wrote about the histories of some of the DRM rolling stock. Featured were the Central Vermont flat car #7625 and the New Haven MU #4671. The flat car was built in 1923 and used in regular service and maintenance of way service up until the 1960's. It was then sold to the Bullard Company in Fairfield, CT where it was used for in-plant service. After Bullard closed, the car sat on the property until the DRM took possession of it and several others. The New Haven MU was delivered in 1954. Being a combination car, one section had seating for 92 passengers and another section was used for mail, express deliveries and newspaper delivery. Nicknamed "washboards" because of the fluted sides, the 4671 remained in service into the 1970s when it became part of the Stamford Wire Train.



Member profiles were written for Tim Pieplow and Karl Wanzer.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I first would like to wish you all well with good health and fortunes. To start off, I would like to thank CDOT and the City of Danbury Police and Highway Departments for their help in erecting four railroad station signs on Patriot Drive and on White Street, denoting the Metro-North Railroad Station. This has been an ongoing problem at our Museum, with passengers coming to our station requesting tickets, missing trains, and becoming somewhat confused in their directions to the commuter station. I am hoping that these signs will somewhat clarify directions to the Metro-North station, and ease the frustrations of this daily problem. My thanks go out to Mr. James Fox (CDOT), Chief Alan Baker (Danbury Police Department), Mr. Marc Otfinoski (CDOT), and members of Danbury Highway for their diligence in making this happen.



We also have been having some problems at our back gate off of Patriot Drive. Our locking of the gates has once again caused frustrations with the different entities that must access our property. To date, there are three different locks on that gate – one for the Danbury Sewer Department, one for our vendors and Metro-North, and one for DRM members. Are you confused yet? The key, which is probably the wrong term, is to lock each lock to another, and finally loop the chain around the gate. This should allow each group to use their respective lock and go their merry way. I guess it sounds simple enough, but . . . !

I am trying to look ahead and begin planning out our upcoming season in the yard now, because before you know it, it will be here. My goals remain the same for the most part. Trackwork will continue on Tracks 18 and 42, with possible tie replacement on Track 26. I would love to be able to have a dedicated work session, possibly once a month, with an all-hands turnout of volunteers working on that one dedicated project for that weekend. This last year we did that just one time and it was a huge success. My continued goals are still painting the turntable and replacing the operator's booth, scrapping of steel around the yard, and possibly rebuilding a flatcar into a riding car for our Railyard Local. I have great expectations, but also great frustrations in finishing these projects because weather is a determining factor, and volunteers are very few at times. I feel that time is our biggest enemy, but there never is enough of it. As

usual we have much before us. I am hoping that once the weather breaks, we can begin working Saturdays again, and I will be contacting you for work sessions.

Santa Welcomed DRM Guests, Continued from Page 5



Top photo taken by Deidre Gruber; center and bottom photos shot by Justin Chapin on the last run of the year, ending the Santa Express event.



NORTH POLE CENTRAL RAILROAD



NYC /HRR Wooden Caboose # 19322 Restoration Update, Continued from Page 1



installed each piece of the cupola framework to the body of the caboose (see photo 4). This was a time-



consuming, highly-detailed process which further entailed exactly drilling the holes for the previously fabricated truss rods and bolts. The roof boards were



chamfered and installed on the completed cupola frame (see photo 5 with Franz Gerencir). The completed cupola is shown in photo 6. This was completed in time to button up the caboose for the winter.



Over the winter Bill Nicholson will be fabricating the 10 window frames for the cupola.

Volunteers for 2009 were: John Fegley, Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Stan Madyda, Pete McLachlan, Bill Nicholson and Dave Roberts.

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 accompanying this article were taken by Gerry Herrmann.)

Come See Us at "Big E"!

January 30 & 31 are almost here, so the DRM will have a booth at the Amherst Railway Society's HUGE railroad hobby show in West Springfield, MA. Very shortly we will begin packing merchandise and the layout from our Gift Shop, all sorts of flyers, duplicate items from the DRM Reference and Research Library, and newsletters for display there. It provides the Museum with an opportunity to show the approximately 20,000 attendees what we have to offer at our attraction in Danbury. We hope you will stop by our Museum's booth!

Calendar of Events 2010

Free programs and DRM weekly update, open to the public, every Wednesday, 7:30pm at the Museum
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability



Sweetheart Trains - Take your sweetheart for a train ride, weather permitting	February 13 & 14
Bunny Trains - Trains rides to the Easter Bunny's special coach	March 21, 27, 28, April 2 & 3
National Train Day - Speeder rides & other activities to be announced	May 8
Mother's Day - Moms ride free with child's paid admission	May 9
Memorial Day - Summer hours begin. Open 12-5pm with train rides.	May 31
Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day - Stories, history, and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog	June 12
Father's Day - Fathers ride free w/child's paid admission. Special caboose trains	June 20
July 4 - Open 12-5pm with train rides	July 4
Hobo Day - Visit with a real railroad hobo and enjoy free hot dogs at the hobo camp	July 17
Danbury Railway Day & Member Picnic - Special Celebration with special activities	August 14
Labor Day - Summer hours end. Open 12-5 with train rides	September 6
Antique Wheels - Antique vehicle show	September 25
Pumpkin Patch - Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children	October 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31
Movie Night - Special movie showing sponsored jointly by the Danbury Museum and Danbury Railway Museum	November 6
Santa Trains - Train rides and visit Santa in his Special Coach	December 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19

Please note: Bunny Trains, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa Trains are special events, so pricing and scheduling may differ from regular events. All other events are attractions in addition to our regular weekend schedule of train rides. Visit us at www.danburyrail.org or contact the Museum at 203-778-8337 for an up-to-date schedule and information. Reservations are suggested for Bunny Trains and Santa Trains, and are available through our web site. All events are subject to change.

Museum Hours

Memorial Day - Labor Day: Monday - Saturday, 10-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm

Labor Day - Memorial Day: Wednesday - Saturday, 10-4pm, Sunday 12-4pm

Closed holidays except Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day

Hours may differ for special events



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Jan 27(7:30pm) Midwesterner Looks at NE -Al Baker
- Jan 30 & 31 **Come visit us at Amherst Railway Society's
Railroad Hobby Show at the Eastern States Exposition!**
- Feb 3(7:30pm) Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Power
and Trains - Carl Liba
- Feb 10(7:30pm) Slides; New Haven - Pete McLachlan
- Feb 17(7:30pm) Australia Visit - DaveWilson
- Feb 18(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- Feb 24(7:30pm) Slides; Trains and Water - Ron Smith

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm; Sun 12-4pm
See the newsletter in color at www.danburyrail.org!



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