

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

May 2015

Annual Easter Bunny Express Trains Delights Guests

Guests hopped on over to the DRM to see the Easter Bunny despite weather

By Patty Osmer & Sue Teer; Photos by Carolyn Taylor

Over four not-so-great spring days in March and April, people from near and far came to the Danbury Railway Museum for our annual Easter Bunny trains. Visitors rode a vintage train through our



six-acre railyard and visited the Easter Bunny in a specially decorated coach. Once again, our Easter tree was a big hit, as were the two Bunny tea parties and running G-gauge train layout with gondola cars full of eggs and chicks. After meeting with the Bunny, each child received a small gift. Before and after the train ride, visitors were able to enjoy

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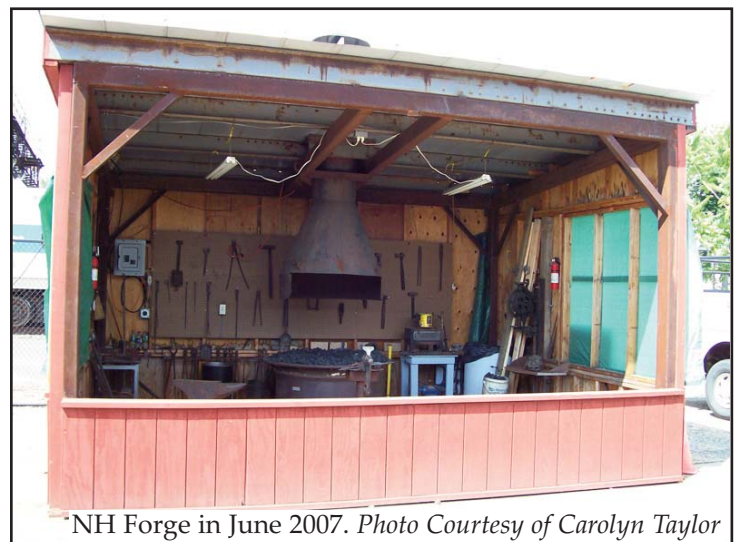
Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

Work continued on the forge in preparation for the Hammer – In Event scheduled for the end of May. With the roof completed in the fall of 2004, all that was left were the sides. The Gift Shop added several books on blacksmithing in advance of the event. The forge was located at the New Haven shops in Cedar Hill Yard and saw much use as the railroad made parts for its locomotives and rolling stock.

Elsewhere in the yard, the finishing touches were made for the Wilton Semaphore operator shed. After a concrete base was made, controls were installed that would allow for operation of the semaphore.

When Lionel Trains decided to produce an O-gauge model of a Boston & Maine Mogul, they sent representatives in 2003 to take measurements and photos of our #1455. We also supplied them with information from our archives. Two years later, the engine was produced with the 1455 number. Thanks to Steve Gould for writing the president of Lionel, a locomotive was donated to the DRM and remains on display in one of the showcases near the front door.



NH Forge in June 2007. Photo Courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

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!

Melissa Fox
Skip Kern

Wilton, CT
Norwalk, CT

Have you noticed?

The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have a new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date. Please renew as soon as possible if your membership is expiring to prevent an interruption in your benefits.

Upcoming Events at the DRM

May 9th - National Train Day

To commemorate our rail heritage, the DRM will celebrate National Train Day on May 9th. Visitors to this special event will be able to take a **free** ride on the Railyard Local and turntable (with paid admission)!

Admission is **\$6** for adults, **\$5** for seniors, **\$4** for children ages 3 - 12 (under 3 years free), and **free** admission to current and former railroad employees. Admission includes free train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. There will also be children's activities and a play area, operating model layouts and a book and model railroad sale.

Trains will be running hourly during the day from **10:30am - 2:30pm** (Museum is open **10am - 4pm**).

If you are a Member and would like to help out with this event, which would be very much appreciated, please contact Sue Teer at 203-778-8337.

May 10th - Mother's Day

Mothers ride **free** with child's paid admission.

May 25th - Memorial Day

Summer hours begin! The Museum will be open **12noon - 4pm** with train rides.

June 13th - Connecticut Open House Day

Car show to be held in the Museum's railyard from **9am - 3pm**. See full-page flyer on page 7 of this issue. **10%** off all items in the gift shop. This discount applies to members and non-members.

June 21st - Father's Day

2 Fathers ride **free** with child's paid admission. Special caboose train operating!

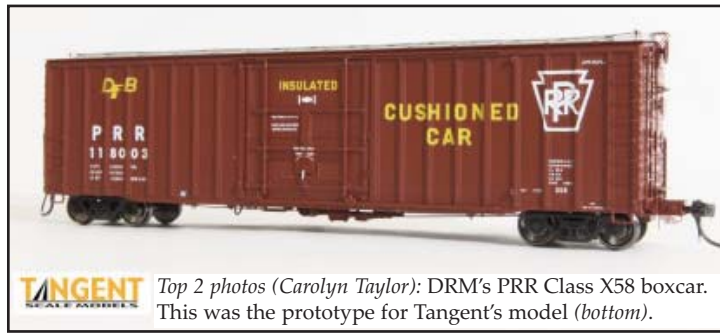
Gift Shop News

Tangent Scale Models has produced an HO scale model of our PRR Class X58 boxcar, 112432. They actually came to the Museum to measure and photograph our boxcar! These models are high quality, thoroughly researched and extremely detailed!

We have several of these PRR Class X58 50' Boxcars in HO-scale with 6 different road numbers from Tangent for sale in our Gift Shop and they are going fast! You can visit Tangent's website at www.tangentscalemodels.com for more information.

These models sell for \$44.95 (**member price \$40.50**) and can be shipped priority mail for \$6.00. Because of the limited number available, please email us at info@danburyrail.org, or call 203-778-8337 during normal business hours to order your boxcar.

Editor's note: Tangent is SOLD OUT of these boxcars. However, the DRM Gift Shop has several left in stock!



Top 2 photos (Carolyn Taylor): DRM's PRR Class X58 boxcar. This was the prototype for Tangent's model (bottom).

Parking Deal on Weekends

Thanks to the generosity and cooperation of the staff at the Danbury Parking Authority, guests at the DRM will be able to get their admission ticket stamped at the Front Desk for a \$1 discount on parking at the Municipal garage across the street.

Change of Address?

If you have moved, or if you or someone you know hasn't been receiving their copy of the RYL, please contact our membership chairman via email at: drmmembers@aol.com. If you don't have a computer, please have someone else email the chairman for you, or you can write him (address on page 8). Thank you.

Boy Scouts Visit the DRM

By Steve Gould, Secretary

On Sunday, May 3rd, 28 Boy Scouts and 8 adult leaders from three different troops (Troop 15 in Stamford, CT; Troop 4 in Chappaqua, NY; and Troop 78 out of Rockland County, NY) visited the Danbury Railway Museum to work on the Railroading Merit Badge. As the date was a Sunday, the Museum opened two and a half hours early to accommodate the Scouts as one group had to depart early in the afternoon while one could not arrive until 11:30am. A very packed and detailed agenda was prepared by Secretary Steve Gould that consisted of words of welcome from President Wade Roesse, a yard tour, a ride on the Rail Yard Local, a lecture on Operation Life Saver by Board Chairman Don Konen and a lecture on the Merit Badge Requirements by Steve. All Scouts were able to attend the Operation Life Saver talk and video as well as the Rail Yard Local and turntable ride. The other agenda items were given twice to smaller groups. Steve had prepared a folder of information for each Scout which included some of the material covered.

Accompanying Troop 15 was Jay Hemenway, a Merit Badge Counselor, who signed off the Merit Badge cards for all the boys.

All in all, it was a full day and the Scouts left with plenty of information. Who knows? We may have influenced some of the Scouts to pursue a transportation career!

As an aside, Wade should be a qualified Merit Badge Counselor by the time you read this.



Top left: Secretary Steve Gould explaining the types of RR signals.
 Top right: Steve describing types of RR equipment.
 Left: Scouts listen to Steve's presentation.
 Right: Steve indicating the horn blasts for a RR crossing. Photos courtesy of Wade Roesse



Pictured right: Scouts taking a spin on the turntable. Photo courtesy of Philip Beard



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Words from Our President

The DRM celebrated its 20 years in 2014. Obviously that news is not new news. Back in 1994 however, our future was uncertain. Our membership was growing and our leadership was learning through trial, error, and experience. We think it worked.

In November 2014, the DRM applied to participate in the StEPs-CT program, a 26-month integrated program of professional development for smaller cultural organizations which is based on the national Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs). Debuting in 2009, StEPs has helped 585 institutions nationwide, including 27 in Connecticut. On December 12th, 2014, the Danbury Railway Museum received notification that it was one of the 23 organizations accepted into the 2015-2017 program after a competitive application process. Support and training comes via curriculum-based workshops, coaching with a dedicated mentor and initiatives related to achieving StEPs-CT program standards. The StEPs-CT is a program of the Connecticut Humanities (CTH) and the Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO), in partnership with the Connecticut Historical Society.

On January 20th, 2015, after approval by our Board of Directors at the December 2014 meeting, Stan Madyda, our permanent representative, and myself attended the first meeting of the first module of the six-module program which was held at the Connecticut Historical Society in West Hartford. The first module is devoted towards Mission/Vision/Governance & the StEPs-CT Program. After numerous meetings, seminars, open house programs and homework, fast-forward to April 2015 where we have almost completed our first module. With additional participation by Don Konen and Steve Gould, we are about to venture forward into module two which is "Audience".

So...how are we doing? As an organization with not much formal training, we were in a relatively decent position. We learned we were doing some things very well, some O.K., and others needed more work. As we continue on our 26-month journey, we expect to enhance our education, formalize our business plan and successfully illustrate the professional abilities of our talented membership. Please stay tuned to our progress.

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

Danbury Railway Museum Receives \$2,200 Grant

By Steve Gould, Secretary

In March, the Albert & Helen Meserve Memorial Fund awarded a grant of \$2,200 to the DRM for the purpose of buying new computers and software for both the Front Desk and the Gift Shop. Both computers were in dire need of replacement and are key pieces of hardware in the management of the Museum. The new software will allow us to gather more detailed point-of-sale statistics as well as improved admission information. The Meserve Fund has generously supported the Museum over the years and the Board of Directors thanks the Fund's managers for their current grant.

DRM Hours Change for Season

After Memorial Day, the Danbury Railway Museum will be open **seven days a week until Labor Day**. The Museum will be open **Monday-Saturday from 10 to 5pm and Sunday from 12 to 5pm**. Hours may vary on days of special events.

Boy Scouts Visit the DRM, Continued from Page 3 (Photos below courtesy of Philip Beard)



Annual Easter Bunny Express Trains Delights Guests, *Continued from Page 1*

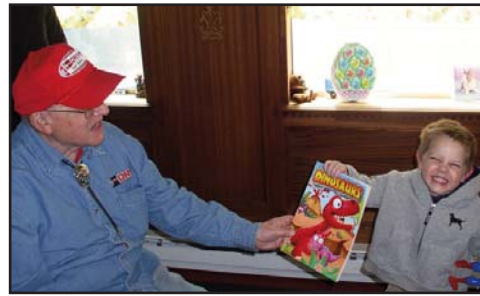
exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. Our younger visitors had fun at the play area and coloring station, operating model railroad layouts and receiving cool temporary tattoos.

In spite of the disappointing weather, we had a very successful Easter Express this year, with over 1,600 visitors coming to see the Bunny over the 4 days of the event! We were fortunate to have had so many young people helping out by acting as car hosts, helping the Bunny hand out gifts and candy, or decorating visitors with temporary tattoos. There were lots of happy families and many thanks go out to the volunteers who came out to make it a successful event!



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Annual Easter Bunny Express Trains Delights Guests, Continued from Page 5



CAR SHOW

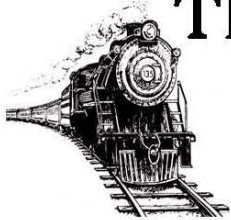
DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

presents

STEEL & WHEELS

to benefit

The Women's Center of Danbury



RAFFLES!

June 13, 2015



(rain date, June 14)

FAMILY FUN!

FOOD!

9am - 3pm

120 White Street, Danbury, CT

GENERAL ADMISSION \$10 (age 5 & up, under 5, free)

Includes: admission to Museum, train rides, tour vintage railroad equipment, operating railroad forge.

www.danburyrail.org/info@danburyrail.org/203.778.8337

Additional parking @ Patriot Garage

Show Cars, \$10.

Goodie Bags and Dash Plaques for 1st 100 cars. Special Owners Award, People's Choice, Surprises! Registration starts at 8:30. Show cars only enter off Patriot Drive by MN Station. Call 203-778-8337 or email info@danburyrail.org for more information.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|---|
| May | 13(7:30pm) | Czech, WWII, Germ. Admin. -
John Barton |
| May | 20(7:30pm) | I Still Like Steam - Dan Foley |
| May | 21(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| May | 25 Memorial Day | Day - Summer hours begin.
Open 12-4 with train rides. |
| May | 27(7:30pm) | Western RRs - Pete McLachlan |
| June | 3(7:30pm) | Chicago - San Francisco - Carl Liba |
| June | 10(7:30pm) | Metro-North RR - Al Baker |
| June | 17(7:30pm) | Bridge Lines to Maybrook -
Ron Smith |
| June | 18(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| June | 24(7:30pm) | To Be Announced |

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

After Memorial Day: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5

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



Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter

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Change of Address:

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman

PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com