

# The Railyard Local

Celebrating 20 Years!

Volume 13, Issue 7

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum 1994 - 2014

December 2014

## Elections 2015 – Resumes Due

### Official Notice: Now Accepting Nominations

The 2015 Nominating Committee being headed up by Steve Gould, Chairman, is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum's Board of Directors. Four Director positions and four Officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) are up for election. Each will serve a two-year term. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare your resume that is **no longer than one-half of an 8 ½" X 11" sheet of paper**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. Your DRM accomplishments over the last two years. **Keep to 150 words or less.**
3. Your plans & goals for the DRM over your two year term. Include a project or area where you would contribute your time. **Keep to 150 words or less.**

**There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:**

1. By e-mail to: **GouldSL@aol.com**.
2. By regular mail to the DRM at: PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813, Attention: Steve Gould.
3. By placing the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

**All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 11, 2015, and must be in the format described above to be considered as a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Serving on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment to the Museum and its vision and goals. Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to move the Museum forward and help it grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum, is a requirement. Check Museum By-Laws, which are available at the Museum, for requirements for running for any of the positions.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Gould for help. Also, if you know someone who wants to be contacted about running, please let Steve know for follow up.

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## 2014 Santa Express Trains

Here comes Santa for the Danbury Railway Museum's annual holiday event!

Santa's coming! We (and the big guy) surely hope you are able to come to this special annual event. He needs to make a list, check it twice and find out who's been naughty or nice!

Ride our Railyard Local through our decorated railyard with Frosty and then visit Santa in his special-decked-out coach to welcome kids of all ages. Children will receive a small gift from Santa.

Tickets are **\$10 for ages 2 and over, under 2 free**. So don't miss out and reserve your tickets now! Tell your friends and family!

See **Page 2** for complete information on event activities and train dates/times. Santa's waiting!



Photo courtesy of: Carolyn Taylor.

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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!

**Have you noticed?** The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date.

Luke Dolman	Bethel, CT
Kathleen Goralski	Bethel, CT
John Coates	Newtown, CT
Bill Mathews	Wilton, CT
Gloria Rosner	Irvington, NY
Cyrus Nozad	Armonk, NY
Traces Lee Graves	Waterbury, CT
Judah Alper	New Fairfield, CT

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## Upcoming Events at the DRM

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> -**

### **2014 Santa Express!**

Come see Santa! Ride the train in our railyard with Frosty and visit Santa in his Special Coach! Every child will receive a small gift from Santa.

**Reservations are strongly recommended!**

Reserve online at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org), or call 1-203-778-8337. Parking available at Patriot Garage.

The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our 1903 Station, operating layouts, children's activities and free hot chocolate!

Trains will be running every **half-hour 12:00pm - 3:30pm on Saturdays and 12:30pm - 3:30pm on Sundays**. There will be a **special evening train on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm!** For one night only, take a ride through our lighted railyard!

If you are a member and would like to help out, please contact Sue Teer at 203-792-1981.

### **Amherst Railway Society Railroad**

### **Hobby Show - January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Come to the biggest railroad hobby show in the Northeast! As always, the show will be held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA, and the DRM will be there!

Admission is **\$14 for adults and free for children 15 years or younger** accompanied by a paying adult. A

must see! For more information, go to:

**2**

[www.railroadhobbyshow.com/](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/)

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## Founding of the DRM - Part 3

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

By the summer of 1994, the Museum was up and running. Nearly 100 people became members by July and activities and ideas were being planned.

The opening of the Station was still in the future and the DRM needed a place to meet. Arrangements were made with the DaSilva brothers who had an empty storefront at 16 Ives Street to allow this to be our temporary headquarters free of charge. Each Wednesday evening the room was filled with members and prospective members eager to see the Museum get established. Our long tradition of Wednesday night programs was also established.

The Museum received a few early donations. One was a farm wagon that was thought could be used for an outside exhibit. Metro-North donated the New York Central cantilever signal that had recently been taken down at Woodlawn. Geoff Knees, Dan Foley and others began looking for equipment and discussions were started with CDOT and the Housatonic Railroad to take delivery of the ex-Reading coaches that had been used on tourist trains. As early as 1994, we had our eyes on the Wilton semaphore. A large collection of books, magazines, timetables and other railroad related items was received from the estate of Nathaniel Greene. This became the first official donation to the yet to be established Library.

Elsewhere in the Museum, Ed Blackman began the process of organizing our first excursion train, a non-stop Holiday special to New York City at the beginning of December. Also, a group of members under the guidance of Tom Morris, worked on the G-scale layout at the Union Savings Bank Galleria office building on Main Street. The layout was completed in time for Thanksgiving weekend and a small gift shop was opened at the site. Still others worked with the City on the restoration of the Station and the state of Connecticut on yard fencing.

By the beginning of 1995, the Museum was well on its way to being an important addition to the City of Danbury.

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## Vote for New Newsletter Title

To help distinguish the RYL newsletter from our RYL train ride, I'm asking you, the membership, to vote for **1** of the following titles: The Danbury Orderboard; The Railway (**or** Railyard) Post; The Railyard Bulletin, Dispatch **or** Times. **Email** me your favorite by January 1<sup>st</sup> and the name with the most votes will start appearing on the first issue of 2015.

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## Words from Our President

As this report is being prepared, our 2014 holiday season has begun, Black Friday is upon us (for about the fifth day), it's turkey sandwich time, and the football games are over for the day. As the Danbury Railway Museum approaches the end of our twentieth anniversary year, a slight reflection is probably appropriate. Many of the founding members continue to volunteer and serve, new member and long serving member volunteers' participation and participant hours has grown, and projects and project involvement has resulted in Museum growth and expansions. Bottom line: More, better, enhanced, bigger, mission achievement and success! While many entertainment attractions are down on funding, staffing, and support, the DRM has continued to attract new visitors and provide enhanced volunteer service. The Officers and Directors of the Danbury Railway Museum wish to take this opportunity to thank and recognize those volunteers whom have served the Museum throughout this past year. Our apologies if we have missed acknowledging anyone.

Jose' Alves  
Alan Baker  
Gary Bentley  
Suze Blackman  
Bill Brett  
Dan Carleton  
Nancy Cuniff  
Kathy Fay  
Bob Gambling  
Franz Gerencir  
Greg Grice  
Jack Hawkins  
Josh Herrmann  
Ian Jenner  
Don Konen  
Dana Laird  
Jerry Lawlor  
Bernice Liba  
Mike Madyda  
Joe Mato  
Dave McKee  
Glenn Miller  
Tom Murry  
John O'Hern  
Andre Perez  
Bob Powell  
Dave Roberts  
Luis Roman  
Mike Salata  
Adam Schwartz  
Elyse Shapiro  
Dave Simington  
Nancy Sniffen  
Judith Stavans

Bob Andriola  
Roberta Ballard  
Martha Bishop  
Bob Boothe  
Chip Brown\*  
Justin Chapin  
Al Emanuel  
Dan Foley  
Dan Gallo  
Steve Gould  
Marty Grossman  
Fiona Herrmann  
Mike Herrmann  
Bob Kessler  
Dave Kopycinski  
Joe Laporta  
Harry Leeds  
Carl Liba  
Stan Madyda  
Tom McCullough  
Pete McLachlan  
Dan Milone  
Bill Nicholson  
Patty Osmer  
Louis Pisacano  
Jeremy Rice  
Terrie Roese  
Dana Rosenbergen  
Rob Sailer  
Jeff Scott  
Patrick Shea  
Art Slothower  
Danielle Spino  
Terrie Stramiello

Bill Arm  
John Barton Jr.  
Tim Bishop  
Mary Ann Boothe  
Harry Burke  
Don Collier  
Max Enis  
Dave Fuller  
Paul Gassner  
Jack Gustaitis  
Al Gruber  
Gerry Herrmann  
John Ivansco  
Geoff Knees  
Mike LaGue  
Mike Laporta  
Tom Lenhart  
Dave Lowry  
Steve Mayerson  
Jim McGeorge  
Jesse Meeker  
J.R. Mitchell  
Tom O'Grady  
Shirley Peatfield  
Bob Pitcher  
Dave Rist  
Wade Roese  
Chuck Sager  
Marty Scatola  
Richard Shaboo  
John Silbert  
Lovett Smith  
David Stavans  
Frank Sullivan

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*Words from Our President, Continued from Page 3*

Carolyn Taylor  
Jeff VanWagenen  
Joe Ward  
Roger Whitcomb  
Kristina Maceira

Jim Teer  
Bill Waggoner  
Vic Westman  
Tony White  
Sam Steinbrook

Sue Teer  
Bill Wagne  
Matt Wuensch  
Carol Wilson

and last, but certainly not least, Anna, Jade, Julia and Maya.

\*Sadly, has left us.

A special thank you to the spouses and families of all the volunteers noted above that have sacrificed to allow the time graciously contributed to the Danbury Railway Museum.

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

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## Have You Noticed?

The new Danbury Railway Museum sign overhanging the Museum's front entrance was created because our first one was stolen in 1996 shortly after it was put up. It hung from chains where the new one is located. This new sign was done with the talented help of Joe Carella (painting), Bob Pitcher (steel), Ilene Mitchel (lettering) and Wade Roese (base and installation). This was put up into service this past August to identify us as the museum (and so people don't mistake us as the Metro-North train station). A second one is in the works for under the North overhang facing White Street. *Photo courtesy of: Wade Roese*



Just under our new DRM sign and affixed to the front door, is a new "badge" of honor. This past year, TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, awarded the Danbury Railway Museum with a Certificate of Excellence, signifying that we have consistently earned outstanding feedback from TripAdvisor travelers. This prestigious award is based on the quality of reviews and opinions we've earned on TripAdvisor over the past year. Thank you to all the guests who visited and gave us favorable feedback in order for us to win this award! We look forward to this becoming an annual distinction.

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# Superintendent's Report - Review of 2014 Operations

By Jeff VanWagenen

As our 2014 operating season is winding down, I am happy to report we have had another successful year of operations. The year began with a re-write of our operating rules, for the first time in several years. These rules were re-written to better reflect our operations, which are confined to our yard. We also instituted a system whereby the current crew qualifications, crew contact information, crew schedule, operating rules and operating and mechanical bulletins are all posted online, so that operating crews, front-desk personnel, and Events Committee personnel can access them as needed. Crew scheduling worked out well this year, with great cooperation from and between everyone on the roster. The Mechanical Department worked extremely hard this season. As a result, no trains were cancelled due to lack of crew, or lack of equipment.

We qualified several new engineers this year. We are still looking for Museum members to join in operations as engineers and conductors, as we have difficulty covering assignments due to vacation and personal schedules. Maybe we need to increase the pay rate; I will propose a generous percentage increase! Seriously, if you are not involved in operations, we would appreciate your help. If you are interested, you can contact me directly via email at: [jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com](mailto:jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com).

Part of our regular operations includes giving our patrons a spin on our turntable. Unfortunately, the two-cylinder Wisconsin engine that powers the turntable broke down, and required a good deal of effort to repair. It is running fine now, thanks to efforts lead by Dave Fuller. Thanks, Dave!

Operations require track and equipment, as well as operating personnel. Jim Teer kept up with spikes, bolts and grease, and we had no track-related problems in 2014. We received a large donation of ties this year, and we hope to reinstitute a few track "work weekends" next year, so that we can replace a number of deteriorated ties. We need volunteers to help, as this is hard work, but getting together as a group makes this more productive, and the camaraderie is enjoyable. Watch for further announcements in the newsletter, and please come out and help if you are able.

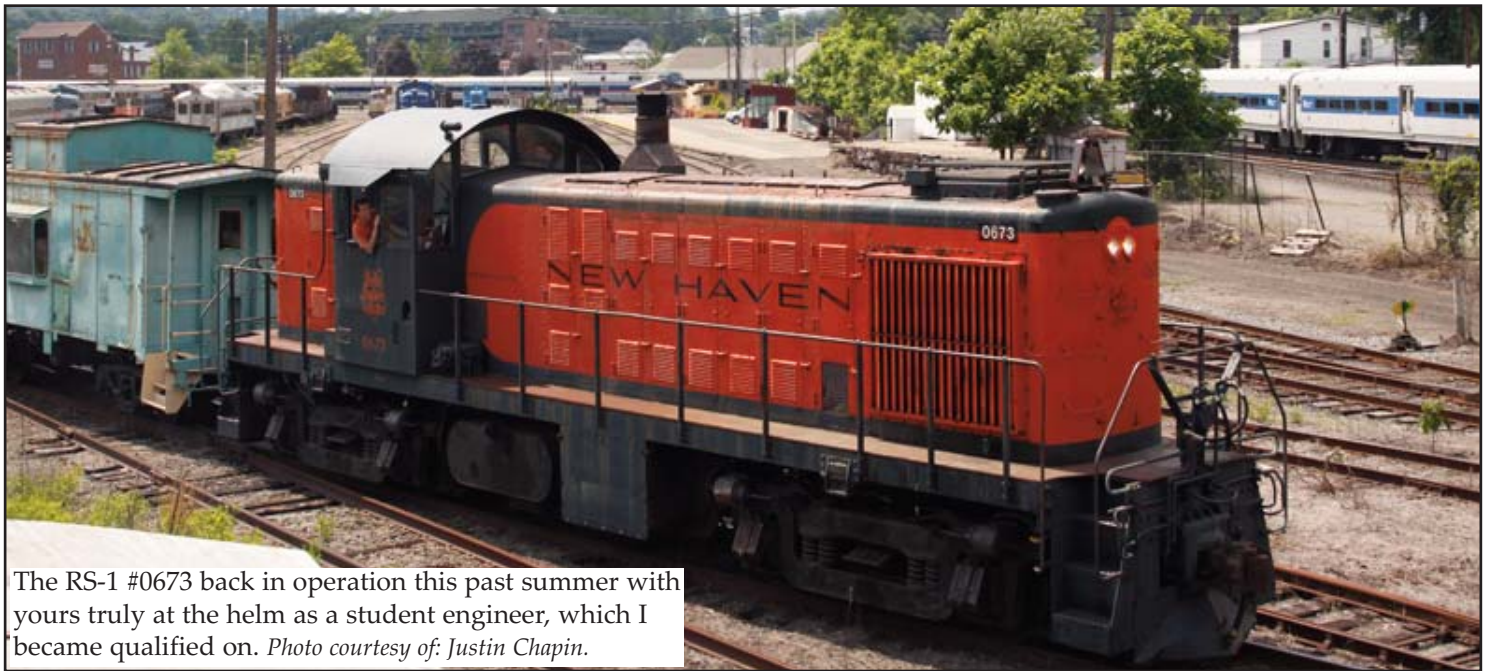
As for equipment, the RS-1 #0673 was our regular power for much of 2014, with the 44-tonner #1399 and the Budd car #32 filling in. Mid-year, the #32 had an electrical problem, and fried a voltage regulator (Paleolithic vintage, and about the size of a toaster oven). It is now back in service and will be used for the Santa trains. Our CMO, Justin Chapin, did a great job bringing the #0673 back to life this year, as well as repairing everything else as needed. It now looks like the SW-8 (Pfizer Chemicals #1) will be ready for the 2015 season, after replacement of a cracked cylinder head and replacement of the seals in the other seven cylinders. I am continually impressed with Justin's skill and dedication at keeping us running.

In my experience, we are unique in giving our young visitors a chance to ride in a caboose cupola, or to blow the whistle in the cab of an operating locomotive. This makes the DRM a special place for many of our young visitors. I would like to share one story from this past summer. I was talking to a young man in the company of his father, who were both admiring the RS-1 from the platform. I asked the young man if he would like a look inside. He replied very seriously, "I've wanted to see the inside of a locomotive all of my life!" I responded, "Well, that's not a very long time, is it?" He responded emphatically, "Seven years!!" He got his look inside, and he and his dad got a cab ride that day.

In closing, I would like to again thank our operating crew members, as

*Continued on Page 6*

well as all of the other volunteers who keep us going. Without these countless volunteer hours, no wheels would turn. Thanks!

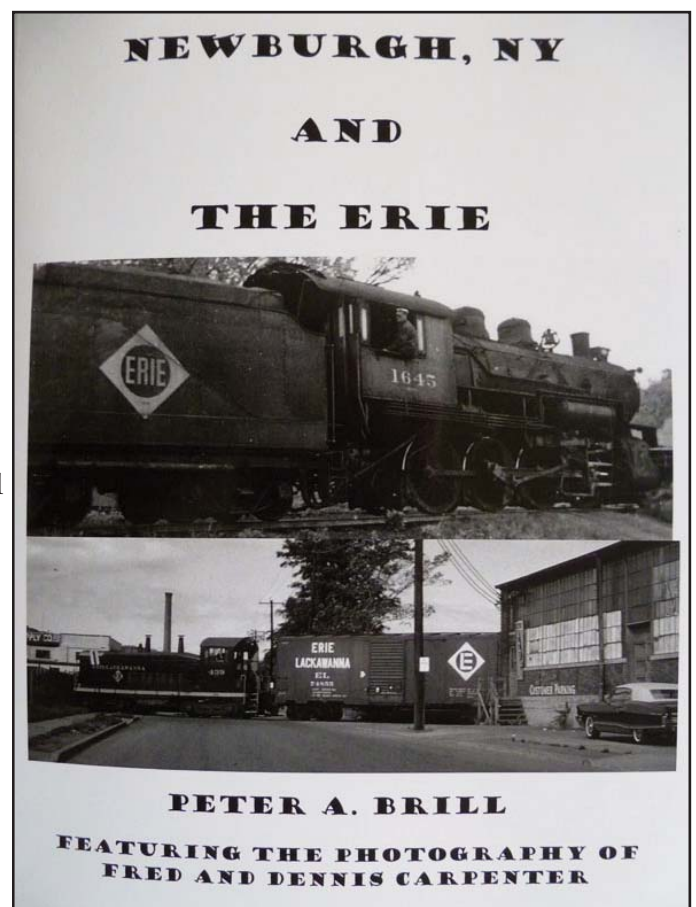


The RS-1 #0673 back in operation this past summer with yours truly at the helm as a student engineer, which I became qualified on. *Photo courtesy of: Justin Chapin.*

## Gift Shop News - New Items!

By Patty Osmer

**New Book:** Newburgh, NY and the Erie, by Peter Brill. Because of the trans-Hudson car ferry, William T. Hart and Pennsylvania Coal Company, Newburgh was a major traffic hub for the Erie. The car ferry linked the Erie to the New York & New England Railroad (and later the New Haven) to form an important route into southern New England prior to the building of the Poughkeepsie Bridge Route. The coal terminal for decades was the destination for millions of tons of anthracite hauled by the Erie out of northeastern Pennsylvania. Even after the car ferry and the coal terminal was gone, Newburgh still offered the Erie, and successor Erie Lackawanna, considerable traffic from its local industries for another fifty years. This book tells the story of Newburgh, NY and the Erie. 234 pages softcover. \$36, member price \$32.40.



We just got in our latest Danbury Railway Museum souvenir, a **Euro-style magnet!** The magnet is high-quality vinyl with a magnetic backing and sells for \$3 (\$2.70 for members). Great for your car or refrigerator!

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**Season's Greetings!**  
**The Danbury Railway Museum's**  
**Officers and Directors wish you and**  
**yours a happy, healthy and safe**  
**Holiday season with best wishes for**  
**the New Year!**



*Pictured from left to right (Standing): Bob Boothe; Justin Chapin, CMO; Chuck Sager; Don Konen, Board Chairman; Jeff VanWagenen, Superintendent of Operations; Jose' Alves; Mike Madyda, Newsletter Editor. (Sitting): Wade Roese, President; Stan Madyda, Vice President; Steve Gould, Secretary; Patty Osmer, Treasurer.*



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Address Correction Requested

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- December 3(7:30pm) RMS Queen Mary - Carl Liba
- December 10(7:30pm) Pennsylvania RR (Part 2) - Pete McLachlan
- December 17(7:30pm) Video - B & M RR - DRM Library
- December 18(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- December 24 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- December 31, 2014 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- January 7, 2015(7:30pm) NYC & Other F Units - Carl Liba
- January 14(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- January 15(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members

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

See the newsletter in color at [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)!



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:  
 Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum  
 Attention: Newsletter  
 PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
 Phone: 203.778.8337; Fax: 203.778.1836  
 Email: [drmmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:drmmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com)  
 Editor: Michael Madyda

Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

### **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](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

