

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 16, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

July - August 2017

TripAdvisor 2017 Certificate of Excellence

This past year, the Danbury Railway Museum received its fifth TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence! Certificate of Excellence recipients include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

The Certificate of Excellence accounts for the quality, quantity and recency of reviews submitted by travelers on TripAdvisor over a 12-month period. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site, enabling travelers to plan and book the perfect trip. TripAdvisor offers advice from millions of travelers and a wide variety of travel choices and planning features. TripAdvisor branded sites make up the largest travel community in the world, reaching 340 million unique monthly visitors, and 350 million reviews and opinions covering 6.5 million accommodations, restaurants and attractions.

Help us make next year our sixth in a row!



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Museum Hosts City Center Downtown Mixer

By Secretary Steve Gould

On July 6, 2017, from 5 to 7 PM, the Danbury Railway Museum hosted a downtown mixer for City Center. Over 30 people representing downtown businesses and the City Library attended the event. City Center's mission is to promote business development and increase foot traffic in downtown Danbury. The mixers, held at a different venue monthly, serve to acquaint attendees with the locales visited. Soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served. City Center Executive Director P.J. Prunty welcomed the crowd to the mixer, while DRM President Stan Madyda welcomed them to the Museum. Stan outlined the Museum's mission and the things that were going on inside the station and outside in the railyard. He offered to take people out into the railyard if they were interested in seeing some of the exhibits. A number of them took him up on his offer and toured the current "showpiece", *Tonawanda Valley*, as well as several other historic pieces.

This was an excellent way to "meet-and-greet" our neighbors in downtown Danbury and to acquaint them with our Museum. Many favorable comments were heard during the mixer about the DRM.

Thanks to Don Konen for purchasing all the food; Sue Teer for setting up the tables; Stan for his welcoming remarks and being a "tour guide"; and the other DRM members in attendance who welcomed the visitors to our Museum.

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!

Odd S. Gjerstad	Danbury, CT
Julian J. Brix	Sandy Hook, CT
Delissa Perez	Derby, CT
Judy Herold	Brewster, NY

Upcoming Events at the DRM

August 5th - 6th Danbury Railway Days

11th anniversary celebration with special activities! Guided tours of the *Tonawanda Valley* observation car, which is currently undergoing restoration, Budd rail diesel car, #1455 steam engine, FL-9 diesel locomotive, Railway Post Office car and the NYC & HRR wooden caboose will be available. Other things going on will be an operating forge, open equipment exhibits, operating model train layouts and children's activities. Also, a special hands on the throttle program! *Please see flyer on page 7 for more information.*

August 12th - DRM Picnic

The Museum will hold a **members-only** picnic at 6pm where there'll be plenty of great food. A \$5 donation is requested at the picnic. Members can also take a ride on one of our engines or try their hand at the throttle!

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by calling the Station (203-778-8337) to let us know how many will be coming and what you'll be bringing. Salads and desserts would be appreciated.

September 4th - Labor Day

The Museum will be open from 12 to 4pm with train rides. This is also when the Museum's summer hours end. After Labor Day, the Museum will be open **Wednesday to Saturday from 10am - 4pm and Sunday from 12noon to 4pm.**

September 9th - First Responders Day

Free train rides and admission for first responders and their families. First responders must have ID card or be in uniform.

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.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, President

The summer of 2007, saw us host the Little Engine that Could event for the second year. While not as successful as Thomas, it did bring families into the Museum. With any major event, members again out in countless hours to prepare for the event, from marketing, ticket sales and set-up to making sure the SW8 and 44-tonner were in fine working order.

With good weather comes the ability to work on various projects outside. The New York Central wooden caboose was having its last side restored and painted to be readied for lettering. There was much work done on the 1455 in anticipation of its 100th birthday to be celebrated in August. A metal staircase replaced the wooden one making access much safer. New glass and number boards were installed and the locomotive received some sprucing up paint. New coil springs were installed on the tender, cab windows repaired and a new apron plate was installed between the tender and the cab. Progress on the RPO almost always relied on cash flow from donations. With needed funds on hand, the restoration crew was able to finish painting the interior of the mail sorting section of the car and begin work on the baggage section. In addition, new drawers were fabricated. Close to being finished, they looked forward to being able to work on the floor.

Inside the Station, the HO-gauge layout was nearing completion and would be a big addition to our operating layouts. A new O-gauge layout was planned and work commenced.



Words from Our President

Dear Members,

The summer has gotten off to a good start with good attendance and work continuing on projects in the yard. Justin Chapin, Art Slothower and Bob Pitcher have been working on the exterior of CN car #660, replacing rotted-out metal and painting the car in CN colors. Philip Beard and his crew have gotten the air compressor on the 1455 to work and we can now have it operational as a display during our events. With the help of our operating crew, the locomotive was moved back-and-forth on the track in order to give the running gear a much needed workout. Gerry Herrmann continues work on the New York Central 19322 wooden caboose (see article on page 4 of this issue). Whenever possible, Jim Teer and others have been doing trackwork.

Our turntable restoration is coming along. We have placed an order for the timbers that will be needed. The grant we received from the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts will only cover part of the cost for the timbers. We have a little money already in a restricted fund but that is still not enough. If you care to donate to this project, please mail a check to the Museum with a notation for Turntable Restoration.

While I am pleased to see some new members wanting to take part in our operations in the yard and with our layouts, we could use some help with the front desk and gift shop. We have a dedicated group of people who give much of their time to the Museum. From time-to-time, they have other commitments and we are left shorthanded. The tasks involved are easy to learn and we never leave a new person on their own if they are not ready. If you or someone you know would like to help out, please call the Museum and let us know. Thank you.

President Stan Madyda



CMO Justin Chapin working on the exterior of the CN car. *Photo courtesy of Michael Madyda.*

NYC & HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

2016 Restoration Update

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader; *Photos by Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda*

Beginning in 2016, we finished the trim work on all of the cabinets in the cupola. We then started to work on making the five storage bench covers (lids) and installed them (see photo #1).

Next we built the conductor's desk. The original desk was in poor shape so we decided to build a new one (see photo #2).

We then removed the entrance door from the 'B' side of the caboose. We partially took it apart (see photo #3) and decided to build a new door. I removed the door lock and took it to a locksmith to have a new key made. He informed me it was from the 1940s. I tried the new key in the lock and it worked fine.

Beginning in 2017, Stan Madyda noticed one of the cupola window frames was rotted and you could see daylight. On checking past records, we had installed all 10 windows in the cupola in 2012. This surprised us as out of the 10 windows, only one was rotted. We built a new frame and installed it. Well, another project we didn't plan on.

Volunteers for 2016 were Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Dave Roberts and Stan Madyda. Total volunteer hours for 2016 were 604. To continue on this restoration, the DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum and a notation on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax deductible donations should be sent to: The Danbury Railway Museum, NYC&HRR #19322 Project, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090. A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration.



Steel & Wheels Car Show

By President Stan Madyda; *Photos courtesy of Philip Beard*

This was the third year that the Steel & Wheels Car Show has been held at the Museum. The weather on Saturday, June 10th was great compared to last year when rain shortened the show. Each year, we see more cars participating and more visitors coming out. Close to 50 cars and trucks were on display, including a classic Mercedes Benz owned by our own Joe Ward. The Danbury Fire Department also rotated in a few fire engines during the course of the event. Mark Pierce is the organizer of the show and he makes sure that in addition to the restored vehicles, there is plenty of food, music and awards. Mark ties the show in with a local charity and this year proceeds went to the ALS of Danbury. The DRM was very pleased to donate a portion of our admissions for the day - \$300. The Appalachian Service Project of Danbury was also involved, handling the food tent. Mark and the DRM are looking forward to having the event again next year, likely the second Saturday in June.



Continued on Page 6



Reporters Wanted

Reporters for the DRM's newsletter, *The Railyard Dispatch*, are needed. If you have an interest in journalism and photography and also like trains, then become one of our newsletter's reporters. Reporters would be needed for annual special events, various Museum activities and other occasions that would warrant reporter coverage. If interested, you must be a Museum member, have taken the safety exam and be over 16 years of age. Please contact the newsletter editor at: drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com if you are interested.

11th Annual Danbury Railway Days!



August 5 & 6, 2017

Sat. 10am - 5pm

Sun. 12pm - 5pm

Includes:

- ~Free train/caboose rides in our railyard
- ~Visit the cab of the famous FL-9 engine
 - ~See our operating forge
 - ~Ride our 100-year-old turntable
- ~Railroad hand signaling and spike driving demonstrations
- ~Tours of historic railroad cars such as our Railway Post Office car, Tonawanda Valley observation car and NYC & HRR Wooden Caboose
- ~Exhibits and operating model train layouts
- ~Used book & model railroad sale

Admission: \$10. Members, \$9.

Under 36 months, free

SPECIAL - HANDS ON THE THROTTLE

Operate a GE 44-tonner and caboose in our railyard. Instruction & supervision provided by qualified crew. Reservations required. Call the Museum to reserve. \$50 - includes admission to the event. Must be over 18.

ENHANCED HANDS ON THE THROTTLE

Same as above, except also learn how to couple/uncouple and "spot" a car. \$125 - includes admission to the event.

Danbury Railway Museum

120 White Street

Danbury, CT 06810

203-778-8337 www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org

*All activities subject to change, depending on equipment availability.
Event will be held, rain or shine.

Museum Hosts American University Function

By Secretary Steve Gould; *Photos by the author*

On July 23, 2017, the Danbury Railway Museum hosted several Connecticut families of incoming American University Class of 2021 students. AU Class of 1961 alum and DRM Secretary, Steve Gould, hosted the event billed as a Summer Send Off. The University was represented by Sarah Martone Van Fechtmann, Assistant Director, Alumni Admissions Volunteers. Steve welcomed the families to the Museum. He outlined three reasons why AU has meant so much to him: 1. He met his wife there; 2. He received such an excellent education in the field of transportation management that he stayed in the field his entire working career; and 3. He made excellent friendships there that last until this day. Sarah welcomed the families to AU and encouraged the incoming students to make connections with each other now to help them become acclimated to University life. The families and students enjoyed light snacks, checked out the Museum artifacts and took the Rail Yard Local train ride. All-in-all it was a rewarding day for all.



New AU students & families on turntable with Sarah (black dress).



New AU students & families on the turntable.

Museum Announcements:

***Note** - Wednesday night meetings and programs are scheduled to start at 7:30pm.*

Due to a lack of presenters on Wednesday nights, there will no longer be any listing of presentations in the newsletter. Please call the Museum during open business hours to find out what's on Wednesday nights.

Board of Directors meetings will still take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

**Summer Museum hours:
Mon-Fri 10-4; Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5**

View the newsletter online at our new website:
www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org



Contact Information

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Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com

Please remember to send us your current email address