

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 6

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

June 2015

The Danbury Railway Museum on the 11 O'Clock News!

By Secretary Steve Gould

As many of you already know, Amtrak #188 derailed just north of Philadelphia on the evening of May 12, 2015 as the train was heading into the curve near Frankford Junction; eight people lost their lives in the wreck. This was also the site of an accident involving a "hot box" on the PRR's southbound "Congressional" in 1943, killing 79.

On Thursday, May 14th, a phone call was answered at DRM from WTNH News 8, the ABC affiliate out of New Haven, CT. They wanted to send a reporter and camera crew to speak to someone from the Museum on rail safety. It was twenty minutes from closing time but President Wade Roese, Secretary Steve Gould and volunteer Dave Fuller agreed to stay and wait for the crew. News 8 reporter Josh Scheinblum and a cameraman



arrived around twenty to six. Steve agreed to be first on camera standing in front of RDC #32. He was asked a number of questions about the age of the Northeast Corridor infrastructure. Also, Josh wanted to know where the safest place to sit in a railroad car was. Steve responded that since he had never been in a railroad accident, he couldn't answer that question; he did say it depended on the type of accident. In the Amtrak derailment, for example, any seat in the first car behind the locomotive was not safe due to the condition of the car after the accident.

The crew then went aboard the RDC where Wade showed them the emergency window exit and described how it worked. The RDC has a similar arrangement as the Amfleet cars that were on Amtrak train #188.

All in all, there was about thirty minutes of taping. It was all whittled down by the editors at WTNH to about two and one-half minutes which appeared twice



Steve answering Josh Scheinblum's questions. that evening as a follow-up to the accident story in Philadelphia, once at 10pm on "sister channel" MY TV9 and on News8 WTNH at 11pm. In both cases it was the lead story. Here's the link to the story: <http://wtnh.com/2015/05/14/commuter-rails-still-safer-than-cars-trucks-motorcycles/>

The end result? News8 learned quite a bit about the DRM in the short visit and hopefully, we will be included in more stories, but ones with a happier message.



President Wade Roese demonstrating how to use an emergency exit window found on rail passenger cars.

In This Issue:

- ~ Upcoming Events at the DRM - Page 2
- ~ Track Work Help & Superintendent's Report - Page 3
- ~ Words from Our President - Page 4
- ~ National Train Day 2015 - Page 5
- Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

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!

Matthew Peterson	Chappaqua, NY
Tara De Giorgio	Holmes, NY
Erin Smith	Cos Cob, CT
Steven Jaroszewski	Sandy Hook, CT
Kelly Avila	Poughkeepsie, NY
Vasan Kesavan	Rye, NY

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

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.

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.

June 21st - Father's Day

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

June 27th - Teacher's Day

Teachers ride **free** with paid admission.

July 4th - Museum Closed in observance of Independence Day

July 18th - Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day

History, stories and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous Railway Post Office dog.

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

2 parking at the Municipal garage across the street.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

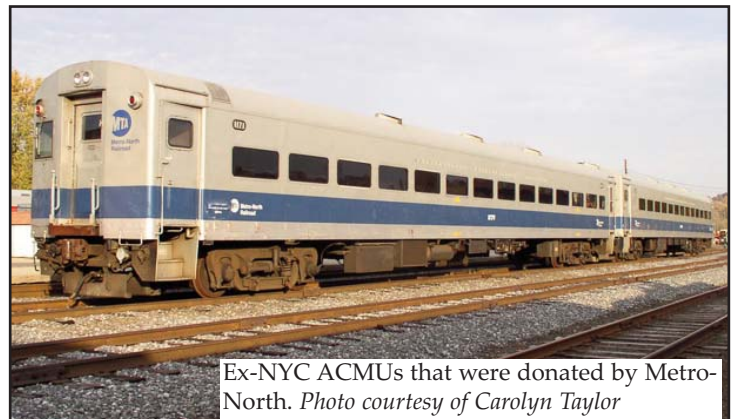
As the summer season was getting started, the Museum was waiting for some new pieces of equipment to be donated. After months of waiting, Metro-North agreed to donate two of their retired former New York Central ACMU cars. They were built in the 1960s as replacements for equipment that the NYC had been using since the 1920s. With the M-7 equipment arriving and going into service for Metro-North, the ACMUs became surplus. The DRM is the only Museum to have been able to save these cars.

Also coming to Danbury was the Pennsylvania Railroad RPO car. It had been stored on the property of the Housatonic Railroad and they decided to donate it to the DRM. Crews from the Museum had to travel to Canaan, CT on several occasions to prepare the car for movement.

The Museum also approved our new logo and color scheme featuring the Wilton Semaphore. Not everyone was in agreement with the change, but it was passed by the Board. Soon, all of our stationery and signage would reflect the new logo.

With the Museum adding new events to its already active schedule, a call was put out to members to become involved in some way to help take the burden off some of the members who had been putting in many hours. To help with this process, the idea of a training manual was introduced. This would help members understand the requirements for working different parts of the Museum such as the Gift Shop and Front Desk. The goal of the manual would be to have everyone volunteering time to know the policies and procedures.

Planning began for a fall visit from the New York Transit Museum. For several years they included the DRM in their event schedule and each time they visited, the trip was sold out. With each visit, we have tried to enhance what we did in previous years, so early planning was essential.



Ex-NYC ACMUs that were donated by Metro-North. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

Help Needed for Track Work!

By Superintendent Jeff Van Wagenen

We are planning to replace some ties from **June 24th (Wednesday) through June 28th (Sunday)**, and are looking for volunteers to help. **No experience necessary.** Out-of-towners are welcome, and hospitality (overnight accommodations) and food will be provided. Or you can sleep in one of our cabooses! We will start out Wednesday morning at 10:00am and finish up Sunday around noon. Arrangements for showers are being made and we are planning to attend the regularly-scheduled slide show Wednesday night. Bring some of your favorite slides or railroad videos to share on other nights. We have a few volunteers already signed up but we can really use a few more. If interested, please contact Jeff Van Wagenen at jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com, or contact the front desk at 203-778-8337. Thank you!

Superintendent's Report

By Superintendent Jeff Van Wagenen

Our 2015 operating season has begun. Thanks to dedicated work by our Mechanical Department, the SW-8 has been returned to service and is our regular power for weekend train service. We are in the process of qualifying engineers on the SW-8, since this locomotive was not available when several of our more recent engineers qualified on other equipment.

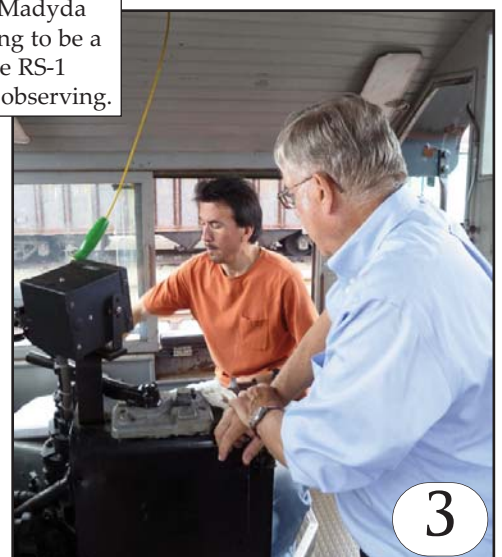
We are again providing special event trains during weekdays for the Danbury school system, already starting in May and continuing through June. These class trips place additional demands on our limited operating crews, but we are getting by. We need additional train crew personnel. If you have an interest in becoming a



Left photos: The SW-8 back in action. Top right: The SW-8 on a Railyard Local run sitting outside the pumphouse. Bottom right (photo taken last year): Michael Madyda (left & yours truly) training to be a qualified engineer on the RS-1 with Dave Fuller (right) observing.



Conductor and/or Engineer, please let me know and we will arrange training with our qualified crews on our regular weekend trains. This is a great way to become more



involved with our Museum and is great fun as well!
Thanks again to all who help with operations!

Words from Our President

“Nice job”, “great work”, “you look terrific” and “thank you” are phrases that indicate appreciation, complement, or verbal award. Human nature seems to say we all appreciate some form of award. Recognition or certificates presented for school graduation, achievement in sports, proficiency in music and success in business, and we get a warm fuzzy feeling and a sense of accomplishment. When Bill Britt and Art Slothower completed restoration work on the Pennsylvania Railway Post Office Car, the Danbury Railway Museum was the recipient of an award of merit presented by The Connecticut League of History Organizations. We proudly and prominently display this recognition within that railcar.

Sometimes we as individuals, or as an organization, receive awards without even being aware we are candidates. Early this May the Danbury Railway Museum received notification that we were a winning recipient of the Certificate of Excellence for the year 2015 presented by TripAdvisor. TripAdvisor is a nationally recognized and independent travel site which offers over 225 million travel reviews and has over 340 million monthly visitors. Many of the visitors to restaurants, hotels, resorts and places of interest submit their personal impression, rating and experience. As of this date, the Danbury Railway Museum has received approximately 68 reviews. Last month we commented about how we did with regard to the StEPs program. So...how did we do with the TripAdvisor reviews since they started in 2008?

Excellent:	29
Very Good:	21
Average:	16
Poor:	2
Terrible:	0



Oh! Did I mention we also received the Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor in 2014? We did! How did we do it? It starts when our guests walk through the front door. A warm welcome and friendly greeting make a great first impression! A short list of the facilities and services the Museum has to offer are provided to our guests: Displays and exhibits inside and outside the Station, interesting and unusual equipment in the yard, train rides, guided tours and a fully-stocked gift shop. However, it comes down to our all-volunteer staff. Friendly and personable front desk people, helpful and knowledgeable docents and a dedicated and professional train crew all contribute to a Disney-like, organized visitor experience. Our volunteer staff, directors and officers continuously strive to enhance, improve and stimulate our guest relations.

Thank you to all the guests who visited and gave us favorable reviews! Join us and hop aboard, it's a fun ride!

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



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



National Train Day at the DRM

By Secretary Steve Gould; Photos courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

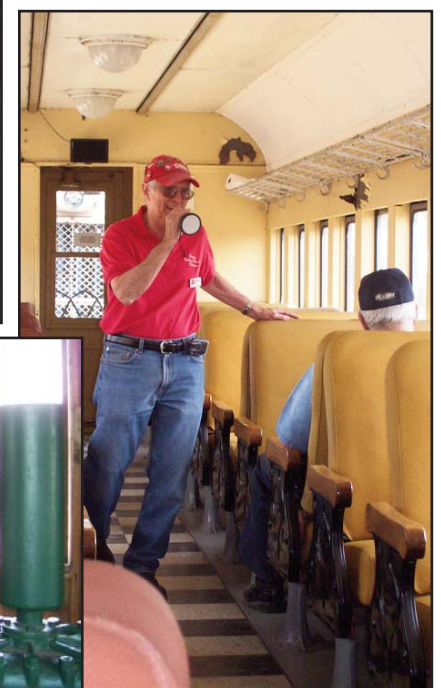
Amtrak, which started National Train Day in 2009 hosting events at major Amtrak stations, decided this year to celebrate all year with Amtrak Train Days, hosting events around the various stops of its Exhibit Train. The Danbury Railway Museum decided to host its own National Train Day event on May 9th.

Railroad employees, past and present, were given free admission while the public got a free train ride with a paid admission; normally train rides are extra. The ex-New Haven forge was operating with Bob Pitcher doing demonstrations; the Railyard Local detrained its passengers right in front of the forge. Onboard the RYL, there was a whistle demonstration with five separate whistle signals sounded by engineer Jim Teer, four of which are commonly used on the RYL's runs. Also, returning from the Track #42 stop, passengers were asked if they could identify examples of railroad jargon, such as "crummy", "gandy dancer", "yard goat", the "real McCoy" and becoming "outlawed". A ride on the turntable and a tour of the pumphouse were also included. There was also a library book sale and model railroad equipment sale.

All-in-all, it was a pleasant day and attendance was about the same as a normal Saturday.



National Train Day at the DRM, Continued from Page 5



CAR SHOW

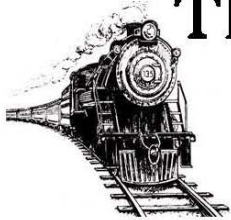
DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

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

- 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
- July 1(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- July 4 Independence Day - **Museum Closed**
- July 8(7:30pm) New York Central: Part 2 -
Pete McLachlan
- July 15(7:30pm) Western Rails - Bob Kessler
- July 16(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- July 22(7:30pm) To Be Announced

Summer Museum hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5
See the newsletter in color at: www.danburyrail.org



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

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: drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com
Editor: Michael Madyda
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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