

The Railyard Local

Volume 11, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

March 2012

Easter Bunny Express

The next featured event on the DRM's calendar will be the Easter Bunny trains, an occasion popular with guests and volunteers. Eileen Mitchell has created this colorful and bold announcement which greets guests as they enter the Museum. Trains will depart every half-hour 12:30-3:30pm **March 25, 31, April 1, 6 & 7** for a ride on our vintage equipment, ending with a visit at the Easter Bunny's Special Coach. Children will receive a small gift from the Easter Bunny. Tickets are \$9 for ages 2 & over, ages 2 and under free. For the event the Museum will be open Friday & Saturday 10-4:30pm, Sunday noon-4:30pm. The event also includes additional children's attractions. Reservations are recommended, and may be made online at www.danburyrail.org or by calling the Museum at (203) 778-8337. Come join us!



Near Record at Big E Show

Attendance at Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show for the weekend of January 28th and 29th totaled more than 22,000. The weather was great for the end of January. Of course, the Museum was represented in its usual location in the Young building, one of four structures filled for the event. Museum sales for the weekend were a near record.



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Taking Shots in the Dark

The DRM was the scene of a night photo shoot on Saturday, November 4th with members of the DRM and Candlewood Camera Club availing themselves of this unique opportunity to capture images of the railyard at night. Some of the resulting prints are on display in the DRM's Great Room. Framed and unframed copies are for sale with a percentage of the proceeds to go to the Museum and to the Candlewood Camera Club. Members of this photography club provided



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Safety and Crew Exams

To date at least 25 volunteers have taken and passed the annual Safety Exam administered by John O'Hern, the DRM's Safety Officer, on Saturday, February 4th. All participants must be members. Passing it is a prerequisite for taking the Crew Exam and for volunteering in the railyard in any capacity. The Museum emphasizes safety. Ten of those passing the Safety Exam opted to attend the crew session in the afternoon then take the Crew Exam. John O'Hern conducted the session which included input from experienced crew members, then administered and graded the tests. These exams were scheduled

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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. (If you have very recently renewed your membership the new date may not be reflected yet on the label). The membership of Life Members does not have an expiration date.

Andrea Eberhard
Joseph Vasaturo

Redding, CT
Danbury, CT

Received Your Ballot?

Ballots have been mailed for the 2012 Board of Directors elections. If you have not received yours yet, please contact the Museum immediately! There are five two-year term Director positions to fill this year. We are fortunate to have four incumbents and one new candidate running for the Director positions. The resumes for all candidates are well worth reading so please take the time to look them over. Instructions also are enclosed. Just make your selections on the ballot, tear it off, place it in the return envelope provided, add a stamp and mail it. Be sure to fill out the return address on the envelope and add your membership number, which you can find on your membership card. Ballots received without a return address or membership number cannot be counted. The responses also may be hand delivered to the Museum and put into Steve Gould's mailbox in the DRM Office. **The deadline to receive your ballot is 7:30pm on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.** The results will be announced that evening at the Annual Meeting. Thanks go out to all the candidates running for office and their interest in helping the Museum achieve its goals.

We have mailed the ballots first class mail and have inserted an appeal for funds for specific projects with brief account of the work needing to be funded for each one. The featured projects this year are the RS1 and SW8 locomotives, the 44-tonners, and our historic turntable. There is an option of donating to the Museum for other purposes. While filling out and returning your ballot please consider sending a donation. The results from previous years have shown that combining the appeal with the ballots has been more than worth the extra postage.

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The new Board of Directors took office. The Board members were Dan Foley (chairman), Ed Blackman, Suze Blackman, John Greene, Geoff Knees, Dave Lowry, Peter McLachlan, Mike Miciukiewicz, Randy Natale, Mike Salata and Sue (Thomas) Teer. Officers were Ira Pollack (President), Ron Freitag (Vice-President), Steve Gould (Secretary) and Tony White (Treasurer).

After spending a good amount of time in 2001 cleaning the yard, Ira Pollack expressed hope that a number of restoration projects could be started in the yard. In addition to ongoing restorations, the New Haven box cars and RS-11 #1402 were mentioned as rolling stock that should be seen as a priority to restore.

Inside the station, much work was being done on the N-gauge and O-gauge layouts. It was announced that Jeff Van Wagenen had started the DRM Society of Model Engineers, a group that would be dedicated to an HO-gauge layout.

In the Gift Shop, a computer was installed that could now be used in place of the cash register. This would eventually allow the inventory to be barcoded. Kathie Fay and Patty Osmer took over the management of the shop from Sue Teer who had been manager since its beginning.

Steve Gould wrote an article for the newsletter on a recent trip to Roanoke to tour the Virginia Museum of Transportation. He also recalled a 1959 fantrip he took behind Norfolk & Western J Class #611.

Railroad Terms in Common Usage

from a flyer in the Museum

Stay on track: Reference to avoidance of being derailed; means to not be distracted from main course

Deadbeat: Laden cars and empty cars have a different beat; laden cars have a rhythm as they pass over the rail joints - unloaded cars have no beat. Unloaded cars are not profitable

Light at the end of the tunnel: The tunnel is dark, but when you can see the light, you know you are almost at your goal, or you can see your way clearly

Highballing: Some small town stations had a pole with a large ball attached. When the ball was at its highest position, the train went through without stopping; when the ball was lowered, the train had to stop.

Words from Our President

Last month we took the opportunity to thank our volunteers and some of our corporate supporters. Throughout 2011 we were also graciously supported by many members financially. During these tenuous economic conditions every donation to the DRM, financial, participatory or constructive suggestion input is and has proven to be invaluable.

We expect 2012 to see our in-progress projects continue, new projects be initiated and new ideas become projects. Is there a project you would like to work upon, have initiated or enhanced? Please advise us as to ideas that are of interest. We need and welcome our members' input and concerns.

We will try to publish a list soon of the many projects concerning work, to be undertaken, and needed. This list will be posted for review and updated on a periodic basis.

Again, thanks for your assistance, input, and support.

On behalf of the DRM, Wade Roesse

Safety and Crew Exams, Continued from Page 1

earlier this year in order to have volunteers qualified before the busy season. If you are interested but were unable to attend the sessions on February 4th, please contact John regarding the Safety Exam and Pete McLachlan about scheduling the Crew Exam.



Taking Shots in the Dark, *Continued from Page 1*

equipment, models and technical expertise. Some DRM members may be recognized as models for the photos. They had to pose for rather lengthy periods of time. The awe inspiring photos were a result of using extended shutter opening and selective focused lighting. The subject of focus of the multiple lights is depicted clearly, while background items become part of the dark backdrop. Watch for information about another night photo shoot to be scheduled this coming spring! These spectacular photos were taken by DRM President Wade Roesse. This is just a sampling of what are true photographic works of art. They are in color on the DRM website.



Near Record for Big E Show, *Continued from Page 1*

The DRM Library did very well with sales of duplicate items, and modeling items were brisk sellers. The tables were staffed with some who regularly help at this show and some new participants. Thank you! The layout shipped from the Gift Shop continued to be popular. The digital photo frame had been loaded with additional new photos taken during 2011, making a total of almost 180 to view as a slide show. One of the display boards featured prints representing the DRM in 2011; another displayed photos from the fashion shoot at the DRM. In addition to making sales, the Museum publicizes its attractions when visitors pick up DRM flyers and back issues of this newsletter. Once again Amherst produced a great show! Proceeds from this show are used to fund grants to railroading organizations.

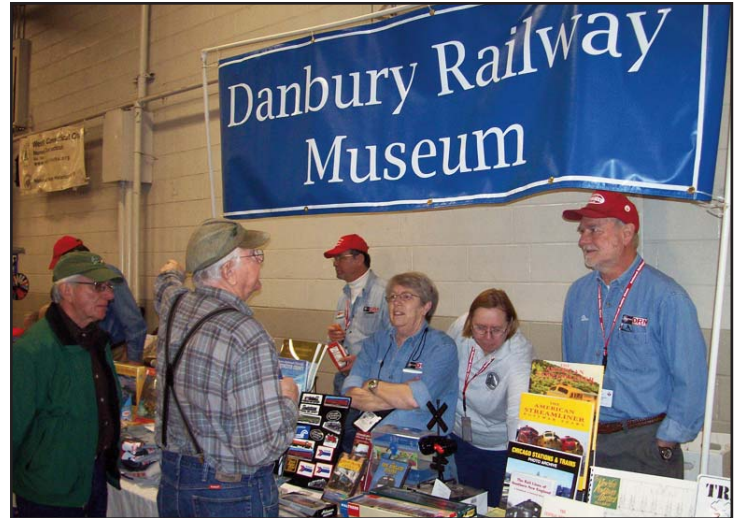
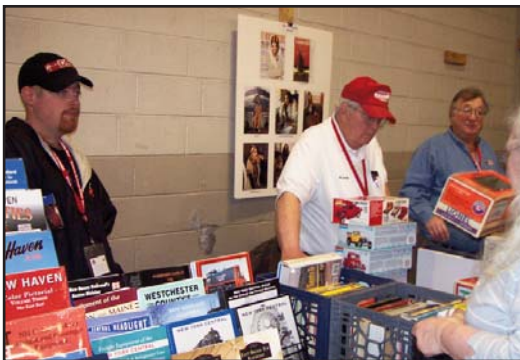


Photo below taken by Jim Teer;
all others by Carolyn Taylor



Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have an assortment of hand towels sporting the logos of various railroads. These absorbant towels are made of 100% cotton terry velour and are finished with a hem for long-lasting quality. The size is 16" x 26" and they sell for \$12.99.



Towel colors with embroidery in appropriate colors, l to r: forest green New York New Haven & Hartford; black LIRR; navy Long Island Rail Road:the route of the Dashing Commuter; black NH towel; navy New York Central System; black PRR

Spring and Easter are coming soon! The Gift Shop has a **wide variety** of colorful T-shirts for children ranging in price from \$12-15. Too many to show, but a few of them are pictured below. Kids will love them!

We have a limited supply of beautifully embroidered, mid-weight jackets in black with the McGinnis logo on front and back, or in green with the NYNY&H logo in gold, front and back. These jackets retail for \$130, but we are offering them for \$100. We have the jacket in L, XL, and 2XL. No member discount at this special price. You have to see this jacket to appreciate how nice it is. (NYNY& H front and back shown below)



DRM Hosts Historical Groups

by Gerry Herrmann

On January 18, 2012, the Housatonic Valley Area of the Connecticut League of History Organizations met at the Danbury Railway Museum. A total of 25 people were in attendance.

The following organizations were represented:

Bridgewater Historical Society
Danbury Museum and Historical Society
Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park
Georgetown History Project
Keller Tavern Museum
Newtown Historical Society
Sherman Historical Society
WestConn History Department

Brookfield Museum and Historical Society
Danbury Railway Museum
Georgetown Committee Association
Gunn Museum
Monroe Historical Society
Ridgefield Historical Society
Southbury Historical Society

The groups started arriving around 11:30 AM and were free to tour the restored railroad station. We gathered the group together at 12:00 noon by ringing our famous steam engine bell. They were informed that they would be boarding our New Haven railcar RDC #32 for a tour through our yard. This was a big surprise for them. Peter McLachlan was our engineer and Don Konen was our conductor. We went down Track 18, switched to Track 42, and stopped at the RPO car. A brief tour was conducted by Don Konen. Upon returning, the meeting was started in the Museum's restored CN 660 Coach. This was the second time the CN Coach was being used for this meeting. The first meeting was in January 2008.

President Wade Roese welcomed the group and thanked them for coming and their continuing support over the years. Lunch was served.

The topics of discussion were:

- What to do with hard copies of magazines when they are available in a digital format
- Who do you go to for restoring paintings?
- How do you separate photos from frames when they are stuck to the glass?
- Binding and repairing old books
- Transferring video cassettes to CDs; is the shelf life any better?
- The difference between a Conservator and a Restorer
- Past and upcoming programs

The meeting ended by 3 PM. The group had nothing but praise for Wade Roese's addressing the group, a great lunch with fantastic sandwiches, the train ride and the overall hospitality of putting together an excellent program.

The next meeting will be held on April 25, 2012 hosted by the Southbury Historical Society.

The Reference & Research Library would like to thank the following volunteers for assisting – Harry Burke, Joe LaPorta, Gerry Herrmann, Don Konen, Stan Madyda, Peter McLachlan, Jim Teer and Sue Teer.



Photos by Stan Madyda





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Feb	29(7:30pm)	To be announced - Joe Laporta
Mar	7(7:30pm)	NYC Passenger Trains - Carl Liba
Mar	14(7:30pm)	To be announced - Ed Blackman
Mar	15(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to members
Mar	21(7:30pm)	West Coast + Misc. 1978 - Pete McLachlan
Mar	28(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Al Baker

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

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



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