

The Railyard Local

Volume 12, Issue 3

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

May-July 2013

DRM at GCT's Grand Centennial Parade of Trains

Huge crowds come to see famous and historic railcars on display

Danbury Railway Museum was honored to have five pieces of its rolling stock chosen to be displayed at Grand Central Terminal's 100th anniversary "Parade of Trains" the weekend of May 11th & 12th. The



A sign welcomes visitors.
Top photo: Carolyn Taylor
Bottom photo: Bob Boothe



three other pieces of rail equipment and private rail cars from other sources were displayed on tracks 34-37. The pieces of rail equipment included Metro-North's new M8 m.u. cars, BL-14 diesel-electric locomotives, their inspection train, the *Phoebe Snow*, and one of their Genesis locomotives. The private rail cars included the *Hickory Creek*, NYC #43, the *Wisconsin*, NYC #448, the *Ohio River*, the *Kitchi Gammi Club*, the

Continued on Page 6

In This Issue

- ~ Upcoming Events at DRM - Page 2
- ~ Words from Our President - Page 4
- ~ Board of Directors News - Page 5
- Plus . . . Ten Years Ago and New Members

Burro Crane Revival

Part 1 Introduction

By Michael Madyda, Project Manager

After it's arrival in October 1995, our 1947 Model 30 Burro crane CB3004 had sat unrestored and inoperable. A couple of unsuccessful attempts had been made in the past to restore it. For those of you who remember, CB3004 came with a counterpart, CB3001, that was supposed to provide parts for the restoration of CB3004. Several years ago, a decision was made to scrap CB3001 when the yard was being cleaned up. Unfortunately, vital parts from CB3004 that were removed, but not replaced, for its restoration were lost or scrapped during that time.



Up until last summer, it sat in the back of the yard next to the junk piles, untouched, except for the hands of Mother Nature. Last June, with the help and blessing of President Wade Roese and the Board of Directors, a proposal was given and passed to begin a long overdue restoration of this vital piece of railroad maintenance-of-way equipment. My objective for the crane's restoration was simple: to restore DRM 1947 CB3004 Burro Model 30 rail crane to operating condition so it may be used in track repair, restoration

Continued on Page 3

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!

Janaka Persyapperuna	Sandy Hook, CT
Paul Ctomj Murray	Danbury, CT
Chris Geier	New Milford, CT
Loretta Wolf	Ridgefield, CT
Jeffrey Gibson	New Fairfield, CT
Levi Newsome	Danbury, CT
A. Wolf & Family	Ridgefield, CT
Michael DeMato	New Fairfield, CT
Erik Smith	Cos Cob, CT
James Lewis	Weston, CT
Herbert Reimann	Mahopac, NY
Timothy Copp	Danbury, CT
Paul Seaman	Danbury, CT
A. Piantaggini	Danbury, CT
Rick Richardson	Stratford, CT
Jeffrey Scott	Ridgefield, CT
Dina Savits	New Fairfield, CT
Michael Eddy	Bethel, CT
Shannon Ochs	Bethel, CT

Upcoming Events at DRM

July 27th - Danbury CityCenter Summer Concert Series

On Saturday July 27th, at 7:30pm *In Harmony* will be performing at the concert stage near Patriot garage. It is a Doo Wop or 50's band that is very popular. The Danbury Railway Museum will be at the concert asking for donations to benefit the construction of the roundhouse. Admission to the concert and all of the CityCenter summer concert series is free. For more information visit: www.citycenterdanbury.com.

Trackwork Saturdays

Volunteers are needed for doing trackwork beginning at 9:30am on the first Saturday of each month through October. However, **for the month of August, trackwork will be held on the 10th.**

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.

2

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Plans were underway for two celebrations on July 12th and 13th marking the 100th Anniversary of the Danbury Union Station. A special ceremony was scheduled for Saturday the 12th featuring a history of the station, guest speakers and a proclamation from the City of Danbury. Other activities in the works included a special commemorative stamp envelope from the Post Office, live music, engine rides, new exhibits and a night photo session.

The May Railfair event was very successful. The weather was great and many people turned out for the event. In previous years, the Museum was able to accommodate vendors inside and outside the station. Due to the lack of space, it was decided to hold the model train and railroadiana show at the Bill Williams Gym located on the campus of WestConn. The HART Trolley ran a shuttle between the station and the show. At the Museum, visitors were treated to operating layouts, train rides, music and exhibits. Steve Mayerson ran clinics on weathering HO scale models.

As a fundraiser for the Boston & Maine 1455, artist Andrew Neilly, Jr. donated 200 prints made from his original oil painting. He was on hand during the Railfair weekend to personally sign copies.

The main entrance to the station was not always the most inviting and functional space. Thanks to the woodworking skills of Bill Britt, a new counter was fabricated. It still is in use today and makes our entrance much more professional looking.

The train layouts continued to be upgraded. The N Scale layout of Danbury Yard received much needed rolling stock. A scratch built model of Meeker's Hardware was added thanks to Dave Rist. The S Gauge and O Gauge layouts also were being worked on and continued to be popular with visitors.

Outside in the yard, the interior of our Maine Central caboose was painted making it much more inviting. As part of National Volunteer Week, a group of employees from Fleet Bank were on hand and painted the exterior of the Canadian National caboose #C627.

DRM Hrs. Change for Season

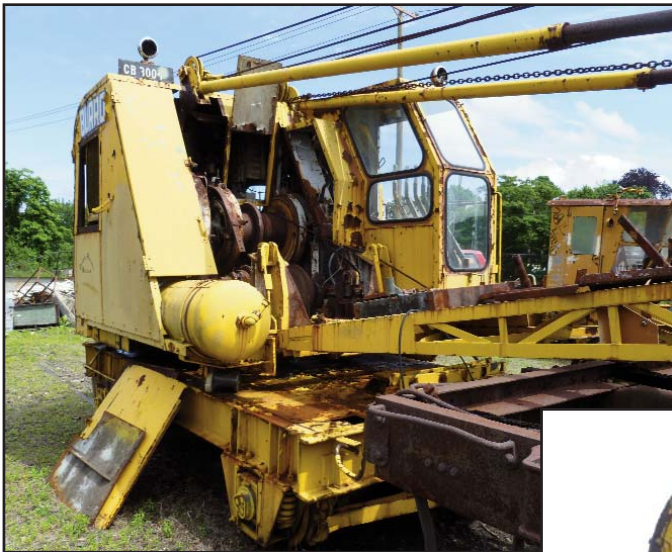
The Danbury Railway Museum will be open seven days a week until **Labor Day**. The Museum will be open **Monday-Saturday from 10 to 5pm, and Sunday from 12-5pm. Hours may vary on days of special events.**

Burro Crane Revival, *Continued from Page 1*

projects, structure construction, and as a display piece when not in service.

With the help of my mechanically-inclined friend and historic engine restorer, Louis Pisacano, we started by assessing what needed to be done and/or fabricated to get the crane operational. Work started last June by removing the main gear shaft, cables, and transmission from the engine. A lot of fabrication work will have to be done to make missing parts and panels that were scrapped or corroded from weathering. A couple of missing parts are the babbitt bearing caps that hold the main gear shaft in place. Any information on how we can make or find replacements of these caps would be greatly appreciated.

Keep your eye on the newsletter for upcoming articles detailing the progress of our work. If you would like to make a monetary donation, which would be greatly appreciated, or have any information on Model 30 Burro rail cranes, printed or otherwise, please contact me at the Museum's address: Danbury Railway Museum, Attention: Burro crane restoration, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. Please make checks out to: Danbury Railway Museum with 'Burro crane restoration' in the memo. Thank you very much for your help!



Top photo, Burro crane as it looked before work started; top right, removing the main gear shaft; bottom right, main gear shaft removed from crane housing being placed in Louis's truck to be rehabilitated; bottom left and center, Louis removing exterior sheet metal to gain access to the engine.



Words from Our President

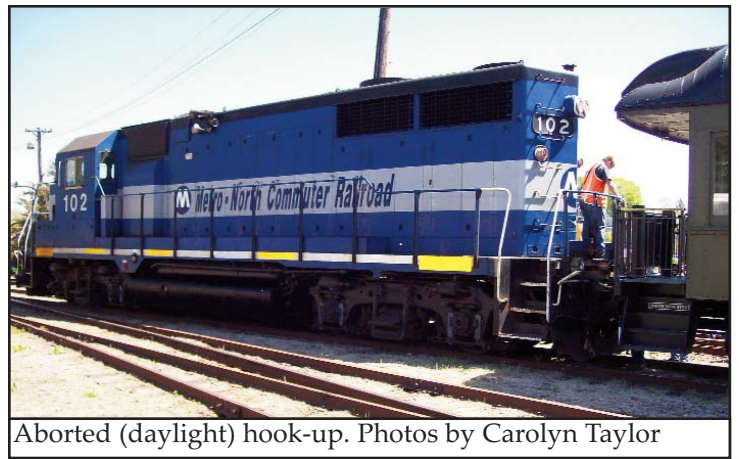
It is July 1, 2013, it is raining again/still. This past June almost set a record for the most rain in the month. Obviously not the point of this report as you also are trying to dry out. Good Luck! As you read this newsletter please acknowledge and pass on kudos to our previous editor Carolyn Taylor and extend a warm welcome to our newest liaison officer, Dr. Michael Madyda, who has stepped forward to disseminate and share all our news that's "fit to print." We welcome and solicit articles, issues, concerns and information you wish to share, would like to see published, or would be interested in seeing investigated. New stuff is coming.

My report this issue consists of a myriad of topics. Cooperation! Wow! It abounds at the DRM. A lot of emails are forwarded to Steve Gould and myself, and are greatly appreciated since we get to see what's going on and/or what problems have arisen. Recently, some crew problems with coverage arose concerning personnel being able to crew trains for an abundance of tours, special events or busy weekends that came up. A notice went out and the problem went away and was solved because the many qualified people sent many emails back and forth until all the needs for crew were satisfied. This tremendous spirit of cooperation is a terrific example of a great spirit of commitment and dedication which abounds at the DRM. Thanks everyone!

We talked briefly about the move of the five pieces of equipment to New York City for the 100th anniversary celebration and Parade of Trains at Grand Central Terminal for the May 11th & 12th event. The arrangements and work required to conduct this successful move and display of our equipment warrant sharing with our members how it happened.

Late in 2012 and early 2013 we were contacted by Metro-North regarding the possibility of some of the Danbury Railway Museum's equipment going to New York for inclusion in their 100th anniversary celebration. We suggested the 2013 FL-9 (how appropriate), but they have their own FL-9s. After a visit in early 2013, four to five possible pieces were suggested by Metro-North: the 1910 Railway Post Office; the 1928 *Tonawanda Valley*; the ACMU 1171; the RS-2 #605; and the double-ended wreck crane. Reviews, testing, checking, repairs, fixes, and retesting by Chief Mechanical Officer Justin Chapin, Jim Teer, Don Konen, et al. (including Metro-North staff), were done over a five to six week period, then final decisions were made. All pieces would go except the double-ended wreck crane due to too many brake and bearing issues.

Now it was three weeks till the move. Metro-North came back and asked, "Do you think we could borrow the 2013 FL-9?" More quick checks, tests, etc....Ready to go....Almost....Paperwork! On Sunday May 5th, 2013, the five pieces were scheduled to move to Stamford, CT at 1:30pm. Lots of DRM members came armed with still and video cameras, and lots of anticipation - but no signed paperwork from MN! Augh! On Wednesday, May 8th, 2013, at 1:30am a Metro-North work diesel pulls into the DRM yard, connects up, air tests, and is ready to leave the yard. Whoops! Hold on. Real railroading happening! Here comes the forty (40) car stone train around the



Aborted (daylight) hook-up. Photos by Carolyn Taylor

Danbury curve, past the station (Museum) and out to the Federal Road Shaker. Then our consist going, going, gone, out the yard and down to Stamford at 2:30am. A great display at Grand Central Terminal on May 11th & 12th, 2013, and back to the DRM yard on Monday, May 13th at, you guessed it, 2:30am. ZZZZ, but another great example of exceptional Danbury Railway Museum teamwork and Cooperation. More thanks and appreciation to all those without whose assistance and perseverance, our honor and success would not have come to fruition.

Welcome and thanks Mike!

Danbury Railway Day & Members Picnic

Caboose train ride among highlights

On August 3rd, the Danbury Railway Museum will be hosting Danbury Railway Day 2013. The event schedule will be as follows: trains will leave to tour the yard at 10:25am, 11:25am, 12:25pm, 1:25pm and 2:25pm. The cost of the train ride is included in the \$7 admission price and will consist of riding in vintage railway equipment, riding the only working turntable in Connecticut and taking a tour of the *Tonawanda Valley* observation car, which is currently undergoing restoration. There also will be a caboose train ride at 11:25am and 1:25pm and an active freight train throughout the day. Guided tours of the Budd rail diesel car, #1455 steam engine, 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 kids activities. The Library also will be having a 1/2-off used book sale.

After 3:30pm members can take a ride on our engine (perhaps even drive) before the picnic. Then the Museum will hold a members-only picnic where there'll be plenty of great food. A \$5 donation is requested at the picnic, and it would be appreciated if people could call the station (203-778-8337) by July 30 to let us know how many are coming.

Questions for Membership

As the new editor, I'm asking whether you, the membership, would like to continue receiving the newsletter in its printed (black-and-white) form, or access it only on the Museum's website (and in color). Please let me know by emailing the **new** editor's address at: drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com.

Secondly, I'm looking at changing the title of our newsletter to distinguish it from our actual railroad local train ride. I would like to have a title that signifies the newsletter as a newsletter. So let your voice be heard and let me know what you think about the idea and any suggestions for a new title. I'll post the list in a future issue of the newsletter. Thanks in advance for your help!

Editor's note: I would like to thank President Roeser for this opportunity to be part of an important aspect of the Danbury Railway Museum. I also would like to give a special "Thank You!" to the former editor of *The Railyard Local*, Ms. Carolyn Taylor. Without Carolyn's help, time and patience, this would not have been possible for me to assume.

Board of Directors News

At the Board of Directors meeting on May 16th, letters of resignation were handed in from Chuck Sager and Ian Jenner who could no longer make the commitment. The resignations were regretfully accepted and approved by the Board. The Board decided to eliminate one position and fill Ian's with the person who had the next highest vote count from this past March's election, Michael Madyda. Congratulations and welcome Mike!

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors and being project manager of the Burro crane restoration, Mike has stepped up and volunteered for the challenge of being our next newsletter editor. To learn more about Mike, please see the article below.

New Newsletter Editor

By Carolyn Taylor

Michael Madyda has volunteered to be the new editor of Danbury Railway Museum's newsletter *The Railyard Local*. He has been incredibly apt in learning the necessary software, working with the photos, and editing in general. I think he is to be congratulated on the publication and quality of this, his first issue of the newsletter. He will have a fresh approach and new ideas for this important means of communicating and publicizing what is going on at the DRM. Such a big undertaking is a group effort. It is only because of our members that there is a Museum and content for a DRM newsletter. Mike will be seeking help from you, the members, in terms of ideas, articles, documentation of Museum events, processing bulk mailings, and other ways. Please give him a hand.



Mike has been interested in trains beginning with his childhood growing up in Irvington, NY on Metro-North's Hudson Line. While earning college degrees including a doctorate in pharmacy and dual master degrees, and thereafter, he somehow he managed to fit in some railfanning with second cousin DRM Vice-President Stan Madyda. As a member of the DRM since August 2002, Life Member since 2003, Mike has assisted Gerry Herrmann with the caboose and helped with special events. He is training to become a conductor for the Museum's train rides, leading the Burro crane restoration effort, and is the newest DRM Board member.

Welcome Mike, and best wishes!

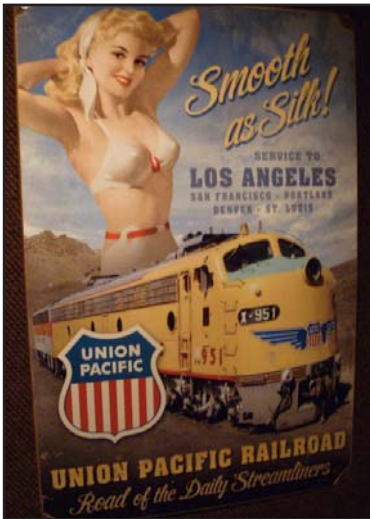
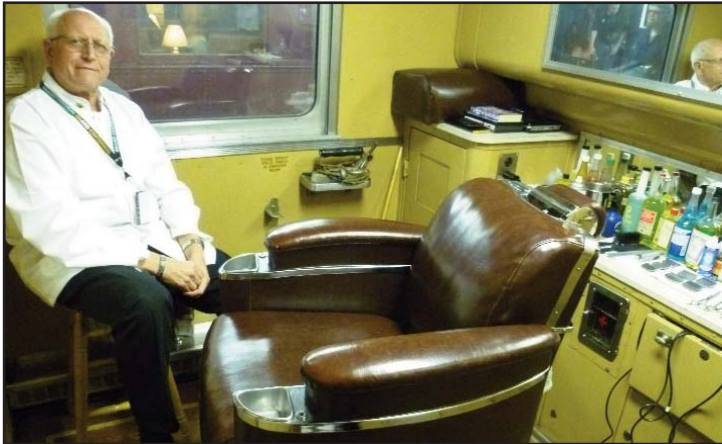
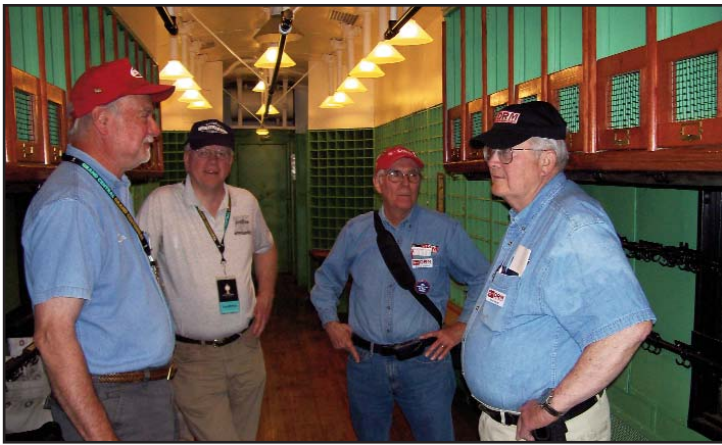
DRM at GCT's Grand Centennial Parade of Trains, *Continued from Page 1*

Birken, the Babbling Brook, the Dover Harbor, the Tioga Pass, the Overland Trail, the Pacific Sands, the Salisbury Beach, the Berlin, the Cimarron River, and the Montana. All told, this Parade contained the largest collection of privately-owned rail cars in the history of Grand Central Terminal! The event also included model train displays, railroad antiques and collectibles, demonstrations and activities from Metro-North, The New York Transit Museum and The New York Botanical Garden. Additionally, a children's activity area was located in Vanderbilt Hall. The Museum had a booth in Vanderbilt Hall displaying what the Museum has to offer. Metro-North estimated that around 65,000 people attended the two-day event. The Danbury Railway Museum is very grateful and honored to have been at such a "grand" occasion and would like to give a special thanks to the people at the MTA and Metro-North who helped make the Museum's participation in this historic event possible. The Museum also gives a special thanks to our members, including, but not limited to, our CMO Justin Chapin, Secretary Steve Gould and DRM Board Chairman Don Konen, for their assistance with this event.



Clockwise from top: Art & Don next to the *Tonawanda Valley* (by Bob Boothe); Joe Alves giving a behind-the-scenes tour of the *Tonawanda Valley* to some visitors; interior shot of the observation end of the *Tonawanda Valley* (by Alan Gruber); kitchen in the *Tonawanda Valley*; interior lounge of the *Tonawanda Valley* (by Alan Gruber); NYC 2013 FL-9; sign advertising the *20th Century Limited* (by Carolyn Taylor).





Clockwise from top left: DRM members gather in the RPO; Patty at the display booth; crowds on the private railcar platform; rear end of the *Hickory Creek*; dining table on the *Dover Harbor*; PRR RPO; advertisement on the *Pacific Sands*; barber shop on the *Overland Trail*; center (left) photo, bedroom in the *Dover Harbor*. First two top photos and photo of Chuck and Justin on back by Carolyn Taylor.





PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813
Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DANBURY, CT
PERMIT NO. 569

MUSEUM CALENDAR

June	26(7:30pm)	Steam, diesel & electrics - Steve Gould
July	3(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
July	10(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
July	17(7:30pm)	Video - Far East & Australian Steam - Bill Brett
July	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
July	24(7:30pm)	To Be Announced - Bob Gambling
July	31(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
August	7(7:30pm)	St. Louis 1977-80 - Bob Kessler
August	14(7:30pm)	To Be Announced

Summer Museum hours: 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
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone: 203.778.8337
Fax: 203.778.1836
Email: drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com
Editor: Michael Madyda
Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

Change of Address

If you move, please send your change of address to:
Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com



Photo courtesy of: Bob Boothe