

# The Railyard Local

Volume 9, Issue 8

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

November 2010

## Danbury Railway Day/Picnic

### Caboose train and F.R.E.D. coexisted

Although the focus of this year's Danbury Railway Day on August 14<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our magnificently restored Railway Post Office car, we added a number of informative demonstrations to the day's attractions. The coupling/uncoupling, whistle, and hand signal demonstrations were enthusiastically attended.



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## GIFT SHOP

## Gift Shop News

### Member Appreciation Days

By Patty Osmer

The Gift Shop will be celebrating DRM Member Appreciation Weekend beginning Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and continuing on Saturday and Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. On these days DRM members will receive a 20% discount off the price of almost every item from the extensive selection available in our Gift Shop. This special weekend comes just in time for holiday shopping, so take advantage of this extra discount and purchase those sought-after items on your train lovers' lists (Yes, you may include yourself!). The Gift Shop is always adding new items to enhance the already wide variety offered, so it's always worth taking time to browse for items you may not have seen before. Page 6 features several new books which you may want to add to your list.

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Plus . . . New Members

## Santa Express Stops Here

Scheduled arrival - weekends in December



The timetable for the Santa Express shows that Santa and Mrs. Claus, elves, and entourage will be arriving at the DRM on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Trains will depart every 1/2 hour 12:00 - 3:30pm on the Saturdays; 12:30 - 3:30pm on the Sundays for an excursion in our railyard with Frosty. After the ride in our vintage train, our guests will be welcomed by Santa and Mrs. Claus in their special coach! Children will receive a small gift from Santa.

During this highly popular event there will be special activities in addition to our year-round attractions of operating model layouts, play tables, artifacts, displays, fabulous Gift Shop, and full-sized railroad equipment in the railyard. Everyone loves the temporary tattoos. We will have children's activities and hot chocolate for all. Watch Santa's busy elves in their workshop! All this will be enjoyed amid a festive atmosphere with holiday decorations throughout the Museum building and railyard.

Admission for the event will be \$8 for ages 2 & up (under 2, free) and includes all of the activities and attractions listed above. Reservations are suggested! They can be made online at [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org) or by calling 203-778-8337 during business hours. Ample parking is available at Patriot Garage.

# 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!

Our Membership Chairman requests that all those renewing their membership **PLEASE return the paperwork with your check.**

Patrick Burke	New Canaan, CT
James W. Joyce	Brewster, NY
A. Delvecchio	Danbury, CT
Gerald Arnst	Lisle, IL
Jody Morris	Sandy Hook, CT
Rachel Kilcullen	Stamford, CT
Julie Mak	Katonah, NY
Ken Mak	New York, NY
Ron Maxwell	New York, NY
Ilanit Levitir	Danbury, CT
Karin Ali	Patterson, NY



# A Message of Thanks

From Steve Gould

To all volunteers who helped out at Danbury Railway Day August 14<sup>th</sup>

We had a very successful Danbury Railway Day event and the only reason was because of the DRM volunteers who planned the event and the ones who showed up to help at the event.

1. Thanks to Dave Lowry for being the "first person" our guests meet at DRM, and for starting them off on their visit in a positive way!
- 2.. Thanks to Justin for putting the train together, to Chuck who cleaned the cabooses, and the crew for the day (Jeff, engineer; Chuck, conductor; car hosts Pete, Jim, and Andre); and Tommy, who brought people out to the train.
3. Thanks to Wade and Joseph for running the G-scale layout with fabulous equipment (the NYC passenger consist with PA and PB on the head end and the "DRM" Pacific steam locomotive were outstanding).
4. Hats off to Jeff, Pete, and Don for their excellent coupling/uncoupling, whistle, and hand signals demonstrations. You guys truly enjoyed the interaction you had with our guests. Pete, the hand signals used in the Danbury yard were great!
5. Thanks to Patty for her work in the Gift Shop and helping people spend their money wisely. We truly have one of the finest, if not the best, railroad museum Gift Shops in New England.
6. Thanks to the team of Sue and Jim, and Dave Roberts for all that they do for every event; they were everywhere helping out.
7. We thank Bob Pitcher for his operation at the Forge, which is another side of railroading that people know very little about.
8. Thanks to newsletter editor Carolyn for recording the event on her digital camera for an upcoming article so that our entire membership can see how well we did.

I hope I have mentioned everyone, and if not, I apologize. Thanks again. Steve



# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I would like to wish you all well and hope the best for you with the coming holidays almost upon us. I would like to thank you for all the help you have given to the Museum this year. We have had a good year overall, with the many projects moving forward at whatever pace is possible for them. Some of the things we do happen quickly, and some others do not and are very time consuming and drawn out.



Track 24 – We have had a fairly good turnout of volunteers over the last several months rebuilding Track 24. Our crew has replaced over sixty ties in this area and has made really great progress on this rebuild. The hardest part of this project is getting dedicated volunteers who will show up on a regular basis for a hard day's work. Let's face it, this is very nasty, heavy and dirty work for us. We are doing this manu-



ally with very little mechanical help. My heart does go out to the people who have showed up to help with this project though. My sincere thanks go out to



Bob Wolken, Tom Brown, Ed Holowinko, Stan Madyda, Jeremy Rice, Jim Teer, Chuck Sager, Jim Vigar, and Charlie Herman for their dedication to this project. I am sure that I have forgotten others who participated in this project and I apologize to them.

Turntable – Progress has slowed down for the season with this grand project. I have met with a CDOT Structural Engineer for guidance and planning

for rebuilding of the pit walls. This will entail cleaning of the loose concrete walls, installing a pin-and-mesh reinforcement system, and finally pouring a special bonding mortar. We have been collaborating with the State Historical Preservation groups to maintain a proper level of accuracy with the final pouring of the wall. I have also begun getting quotes on the actual work to be done. The range of these quotes is very wide, and I feel that the Museum should possibly begin a fund drive through our membership, the public, or even the City of Danbury to help support this



phase of the restoration. We could be looking at somewhere around \$15,000 for this work to be done. I have begun sending out requests for donations to some of the larger concrete vendors in this region hoping for an answer to our needs. Possibly our Grant Committee can help, too.

NYC Caboose – Work has continued with the roof replacement on our wooden caboose. Gerry and crew have removed the rotted sections and are racing to beat the winter weather that is on the way. Gerry plans to install a temporary sheathing and then a tarp to protect the work that has already been done on the roof. In essence Gerry and crew have fabricated many of the new parts using the originals as patterns. This has been quite a challenge and their workmanship really shows off that dedication to this project.

Yard Lease – Progress has been made with our negotiations with CDOT/City of Danbury. A new map has been drawn up including the original and amended areas of the yard. What still remains is the extension of the time limits of the lease agreement. I am pushing for a minimum of 50 years, with several 10-year extensions. Time will tell though! My goal is to solidify a stronger future for the Museum along with a better working relationship among ourselves, CDOT and the City of Danbury. Communications had been vague at best in the past and I am hoping what I have done will clarify what our goals and the future may be, and nurture these relationships that we now have.

In closing my report this month, again I thank you all for the help that you have given to our Museum and to wish you all a pleasant, healthy Holiday Season.

Danbury Railway Day/Picnic, Continued from Page 1



Steve Gould conducted popular rail-yard tours featuring the Railway Post Office car, visual and audio-enhanced explanations and demonstrations of journal boxes, hotbox detection, and F.R.E.D. (flashing rear-end device). Despite F.R.E.D.'s being the reason cabooses were phased out of use on commercial railroads, to the delight of our guests, we put together a consist featuring three cabooses!



Continued on Page 5



## Danbury Railway Day/Picnic, *Continued from Page 4*

Special skills were demonstrated at the operation of our New Haven forge. Visitors were excited by the outdoor G-scale layout which ran several circuits with unique equipment and which incorporated numerous buildings last used years ago as part of the Christmas layout at the Danbury Mall. A contest was held with five questions to answer based on information given at the demonstrations. From the entries with all correct answers and information filled out, four winner's names were drawn to receive four Pumpkin Patch tickets each. We were very pleased with our guests' response to the way we hosted Danbury Railway Day. Each year we learn from the event experience and use that knowledge to enhance our guests' visits to the Museum.

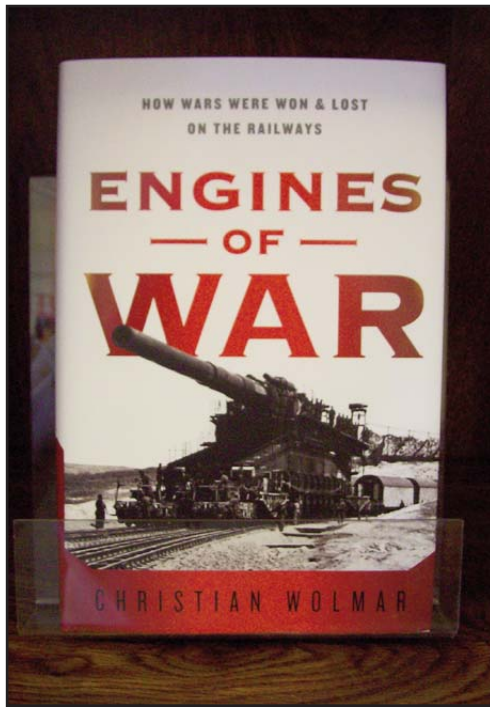


Once again Don and Patty did the preparations and hosted our annual Members Picnic. Some members supplemented the selections with contributions of home-made refreshments. Delicious food was plentiful! Crew members conducted the long-awaited member locomotive cab rides. The sun was setting by the time the last ride headed down Track 18 at the end of an enjoyable and successful event.



## New Books in the Gift Shop

*Engines of War: How Wars Were Won & Lost on the Railways* by Christian Wolmar explains how the railways became a weapon of war exploited to the



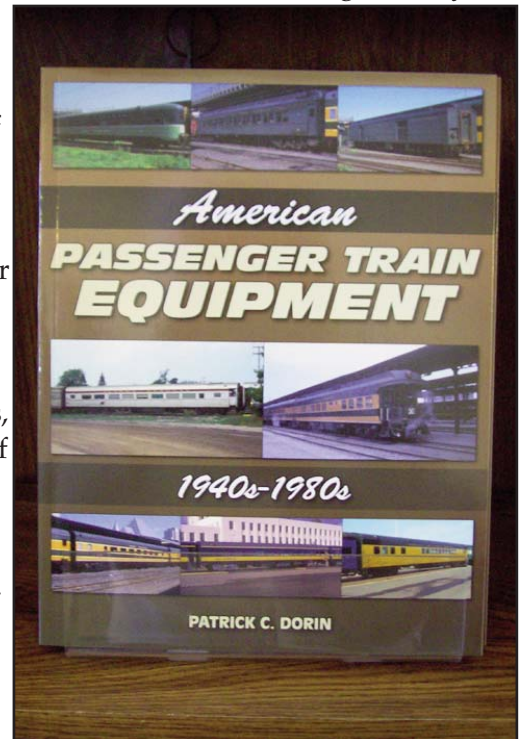
full by governments across the world. He looks at all the engagements in which railways played a part, from the Crimean War and American Civil War through both world wars, the Korean War, and the Cold War with its mysterious missile trains. Hardcover, 368 pages. \$28.95, \$26 for members.

*Dining on the B&O* by Thomas Greco and Karl Spence. The authors uncovered the original sources of these recipes by revisiting America's first institutional cookbook, researching records from the B&O. In addition to the original recipes and modern interpretations, the book has photos of the dining cars, patrons, and staff and commentary describing the technical

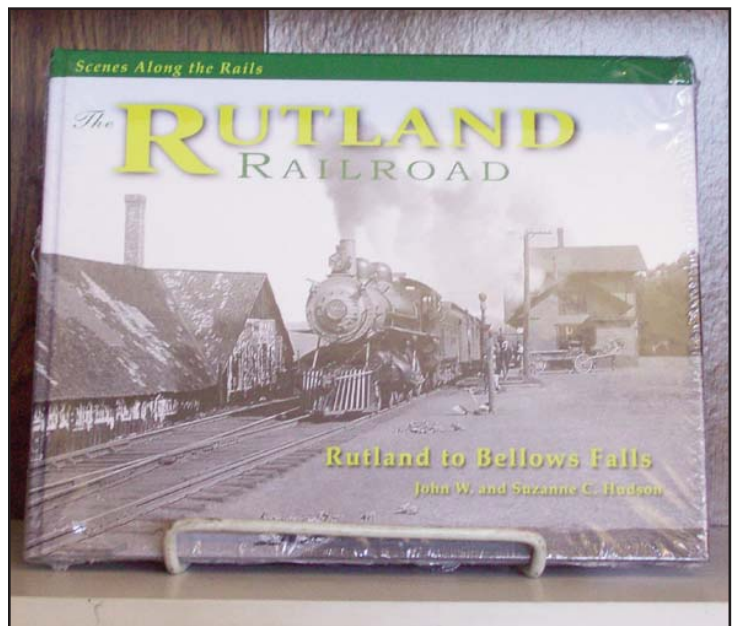


aspects of cooking on a moving train. Hardcover, 208 pages. \$34.95, \$31.45 for members.

*American Passenger Train Equipment, 1940's - 1980's* by Patrick Dorin contains photos, drawings and detailed captions which document the huge variety of passenger cars in operations from the 1940s into the days of Amtrak. Information such as dimensions, passenger seating capacities, heating and air-conditioning systems, and the types of train services are included. A great book for model railroaders. Hardcover, 128 pages. \$34.95, \$31.45 for members.



*Rutland Railroad, Rutland to Bellows Falls*, John & Suzanne Hudson. Experience a point-to-point journey over the Green Mountains from Rutland to Bellows Falls through more than 200 vintage illustrations, maps, ephemera, and Victorian advertising fea-



turing stations, industries, hotels, and small town "main streets" in the Golden Age of Steam. Hardcover, 128 pages. \$45, \$40.50 for members.

# Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Editor's Note: As pointed out in the last issue, the newsletter from ten years ago combined the three months of September, October, and November. Stan has selected a number of photographs from the DRM Reference and Research Library's collection to illustrate what was happening here approximately ten years ago.



Preceding the Pumpkin Patch event held by the DRM in recent years, ten years ago the Danbury Railway Museum celebrated Halloween by conducting a Haunted Railyard event. The above photos taken by Bob Westerfield show what our Reading coaches looked like when decorated for the event. The finished restoration of the Segar Street pumphouse, now at the DRM, has been a big attraction. The photo at right, also by Bob Westerfield, pictures the pumphouse at Segar Street. Ten years ago it was in an extreme state of disrepair and undergoing some emergency restoration work.

Lower two photos, unknown photographer. Below, Randy Natale sits in the cab of the Boston & Maine 1455 before it was moved to Danbury. At right, the PRR bobber caboos was being unloaded. The gas ball in the background is now gone.





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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Nov	10(7:30pm)	New Haven RR - Pete McLachlan
Nov	17(7:30pm)	Rest. of D&H Caboose - Gary Gurski
Nov	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Nov	24	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Dec	1(7:30pm)	N.P. North Coast Ltd. - Carl Liba
Dec	8(7:30pm)	Restoration BAR, B&M Cabs - Gary Gurski
Dec	15(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Stan Madyda

**Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm; Sun 12-4pm**  
See the newsletter in color at [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)!



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