

The Railyard Local

Celebrating 20 Years!

Volume 13, Issue 6

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum 1994 - 2014

October - November 2014

NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

2012 - 2013 Restoration Update

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

It was slow going during the years 2012 and 2013 due to untimely health issues for this project leader.

Beginning with 2012, we completed the exterior of the cupola by installing fascia boards, installed all the windows and painted the entire exterior (photo 1).

We then took down all the scaffolding which had been up since 2008. The caboose once again is free standing (photo 2). It was time to start on the interior by installing fascia boards (photo 3), replacing bathroom walls (photo 4) and starting on the cupola seats (photo 5).

In 2013, we completed the cupola seats on the south side (photo 6). We started to take apart all of the cabinets. At this time it was decided to replace all of the cabinet doors. Yellow pine tongue and groove flooring boards were picked for this project. The boards needed to be chamfered and will be done this year.

Volunteers for the years 2012 - 2013 were Harry Burke, Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Stan Madyda, Dave Roberts and Danielle Spino. Total volunteer hours for 2012 and 2013 were 911.



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Founding of the Danbury Railway Museum - Part 2

By Stan Madyda

With the Railroad Museum of New England backing out of their plans to move to Danbury, a grassroots effort to establish a museum gathered momentum. As early as 1993, some of our founders discussed this possibility. In March 1994, the Danbury Railway Museum was incorporated in the State of Connecticut. In fact, many projects and assignments were identified as early as February 1994.

L. Peter Cornwall was named President. Peter had been very involved with the RMNE in getting them to move to Danbury. Peter McLachlan became our first Vice President and Terri Stramiello and Jesse Meeker were named Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Local businessman, Hal Meeker, was appointed by Mayor Gene Eriquez as the first Board Chairman. Hal and others in the Danbury community believed a railway museum would thrive in Danbury and worked from the early days to make this happen. Other first-term Board members named by the mayor were Charlie Bardo, Dennis Elpern, John Flower, Margaret Gagnon, Joseph Heyman, John Holbrooke, Tom Leonard, Albert Matthews, Mike Neustadt, Felice Plain and Dwyer Wedvick.

Members of the WestConn Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society gave their support to the museum. Ed Blackman began exploring excursions that the Museum could undertake and Dan Foley started to look for any piece of railway equipment that could be donated. The City of Danbury was doing their part in securing a \$2.5 million grant to restore Danbury Union Station in addition to working with CDOT to get access to the railyard. Unfortunately, the freight house had already been torn down. This would have given the Museum far more space for storage, offices and exhibits.

An informational meeting was

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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!

Thomas O'Grady	Danbury, CT
A. Kearney	Burk, VA
Kim Lemak	Danbury, CT
Jonathan Greenfield	Danbury, CT
Robley G. Sailer	Danbury, CT
Patty Betancourt	Waterbury, CT
Rafael Rivera	Mahopac, NY
Malnak Sarkar	Danbury, CT
Jennifer McDowell	Hamden, CT
Kathryn E. Collins	Greenwich, CT

Upcoming Events at the DRM

November 9th - Military Appreciation Day

The DRM will be thanking our servicemen and women (past and present) on November 9th. Past and present military personnel and their families will be granted a **free** train ride with paid admission.

November 23rd @1pm, 24th & 25th @10am - Decorating for Christmas & Santa Express!

We will be decorating inside and out, so all hands are welcome! Show up at the **picnic area**. Call Sue or Jim at 1-203-792-1981 if you can help.

December 7th, 13th & 14th, 20th & 21st - 2014 Santa Express!

Come see Santa! Ride the train in our railyard with Frosty and visit Santa in his Special Coach! Every child will receive a small gift from Santa.

Reservations are strongly recommended!

Reserve online at: www.danburyrail.org, or call 1-203-778-8337. Parking available at Patriot Garage.

The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our 1903 Station, operating layouts, children's activities including temporary tattoos, and free hot chocolate!

Trains will be running every **half-hour** 12:00pm - 3:30pm on Saturdays and 12:30pm - 3:30pm on Sundays. There will be a **special evening train on Saturday, December 20th at 4:30pm!** For one night only, take a ride through our lighted railyard!

If you are a member and would like to help out, please contact Sue Teer at 203-792-1981.

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Founding of the Danbury Railway Museum - Part 2, *Continued from Page 1*

held at City Hall introducing the idea of the Museum and by April, memberships started to come in. By July, there were close to 100 members.

A business plan was written outlining what the museum hoped to be in the near and long term. At the start, it was hoped that excursion service could be run to the Mall and back on a regular basis. This would have given the Museum a lot of exposure in the community as well as necessary funds. Going beyond Danbury, the plan included running less than regular excursions with our own equipment and crews to Beacon, Derby and Pittsfield. Estimates were as high as 140,000 passengers in the first year of operation with revenues of \$1,000,000. There was also an idea of having a dinner train operating along the Maybrook Line to possibly Hopewell Junction.

While all of this was going on, Sperry Rail had been sold. There was some discussion of looking at the Sperry building as a restoration shop should the new owners decide to close the Danbury operations. This of course never happened and Sperry did make our first corporate monetary donation.

So much was going on in the first few months as plans were being discussed and progress was being made on the Station. The Museum still needed the yard secured, a place to meet and equipment in place.

The next installment will look at events from mid-year through to the end of the year.

Gift Shop Sale

The gift shop will be having a special for members over the Thanksgiving weekend. Members will receive a **20% discount** on purchases Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is a chance for members to pick up that special item that they have been thinking about.

Past Question to Membership - Now Time to Vote!

Last year, I asked you, our members, what you thought about the idea of changing the title of this newsletter and any ideas you had for a new title. This would help distinguish the RYL newsletter from our RYL train ride. I received some responses with good suggestions for a new title. The best ones are: The Danbury Orderboard; The Railway (or Railyard) Post; The Railyard Express, Bulletin, Gazette, Dispatch or Times. **Email** me your favorite name and the name with the most votes will appear on the January issue.

NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose #19322 - Restoration Update, *Continued from Page 1*

To continue this restoration, the DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum and a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax deductible contributions should be sent to:

**Danbury Railway Museum
NYC/HRR #19322 Project
120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810**

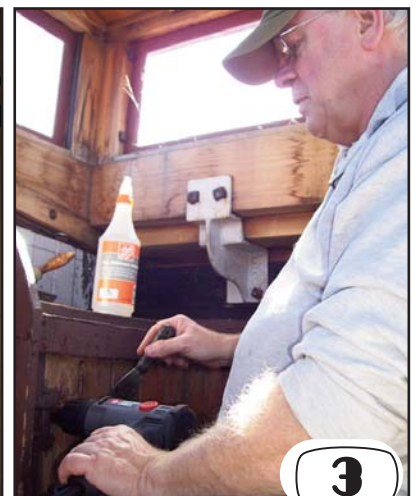
A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration.

Photo 1 by Michael Madyda; Photo 2 by Carolyn Taylor; Other numbered photos by Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda.



Right: Gerry Herrmann and Franz Gerencir work on replacing bathroom walls while Stan Madyda works on the cupola seats in the background; Middle right: Interior view of bathroom wall; Far right: Stan Madyda strips paint from a cupola seat using a heat gun.

Photos courtesy of Carolyn Taylor.



Words from Our President

On October 26th, we completed the successful 2014 Pumpkin Patch event - up almost 7% from last year. As you are aware, Pumpkin Patch is one of our major events, but what else is happening at the DRM about which you may not have heard?

In late September, the DRM was host to *Shape* magazine and a host of guests that photographed various fall fashions on selected pieces of our yard, building and rail equipment. A quick view of their November 2014 issue will allow you to visit our trains as visited and exposed within their magazine. In early October we were again exposed to the fashion industry, this time on *Shopbop*, an Internet shopping connection that again featured the DRM as a fall clothing arena. Unfortunately, the shoot results were only viewable for one week shortly after the actual shoot. Thumb nails may show up in the future.

Within the building, we have been busy updating the various displays. The N-gauge layout now has new train displays on top and a new plywood skirt surround in place of the old curtains which allows for secure storage under the layout. A similar plywood skirt surround was added to the base of the G-gauge resulting in more storage. An eight-foot-long double-sided trapezoid-shaped display case was placed upon a raised base and has been placed in the main hall to display a newly donated model and associated items for a milk car display. A duplicate display case has also been moved into the main hall and features many newly acquired railway artifacts, which were previously not displayed. Personal artwork and drawings by Vic Westman is now displayed in the main hall.

Moving outside into the yard, extensive work on our well-visited garden model railroad has transpired. Bill Arm, Don Konen, Wade Roese, Jim Teer and some WestConn volunteers have taken apart the old ties and installed a new, lengthened three-tier tie base surround. This will receive a redesigned and enhanced multi-loop operational train venue. A future interactive display will allow DRM members and visitors alike, to share track-age rights with "live steamers" and electric specialists. A little further back in the yard, Justin Chapin, Wade Roese, Jim Teer, and Jeff VanWagenen scurried down to Westport, CT a couple of weeks ago (with trailers in tow) and returned with 16 target signals and associated stands. The equipment was formally utilized on the overhead catenary system on the Glenbrook line and has been donated to the DRM.

Speaking of donations, back in 2009 the DRM was informed that a piece of memorabilia was available and we were asked if we were interested. We expressed that we were. Tick-tock...time passed, up and down with the donation and where it was to go, when it was to go and who/whom owned it. Last we heard it was not coming to Danbury. Then, on October 22, 2014, we received a phone call. It was coming to Danbury! On October 24, 2014, a 40-foot tractor-trailer delivered the formerly New Haven Station displayed, operational "Solari" board. This will be displayed within the Danbury Railway Museum building...soon.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, Wade W. Roese, President and Director of exhibits

(Photos by Michael Madyda; Solari board photos courtesy of Chuck Sager)



Words from Our President, *Continued from Page 4*

Opposite page - Clockwise from bottom top left: New train displays on top of N-scale layout; New plywood skirting; Trapezoid display case with newly acquired items.

This page - clockwise from right: Hanging artwork by Vic Westman; Vic Westman sitting under one of his paintings; Extended garden model railroad looking east; Garden model RR looking west with piled dirt to be graded; Picking up target signals in Westport, CT; Arrival of Solari board; Hoisting Solari board off of flatbed trailer; Moving Solari board into the Station.



Photo courtesy of Wade Roese



Pumpkin Patch Event

By Sue Teer; Photos by Carolyn Taylor

During October, the Pumpkin Patch train ran 6 days and carried over 1,500 people to the pumpkin patch, where everyone had apple cider, cookies and the kids picked up a pumpkin. The Station and yard were decorated with scarecrows, hay bales and cornstalks with a lot of things for people to see and do. Thanks to the many volunteers who manned the Station, pumpkin patch, gift shop and tattoo area to keep things moving along. It was fun to see the decorated coaches filled with happy guests enjoying the beautiful weather and great event!



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Pumpkin Patch Event, Continued from Page 6





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- November 12(7:30pm) Conrail on the River Line - Stan Madyda
- November 19(7:30pm) The Shepaug - Chris Lewis
- November 20(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- November 27 **Happy Thanksgiving!**
- December 3(7:30pm) RMS Queen Mary - Carl Liba
- December 10(7:30pm) Pennsylvania RR (Part 2) - Pete McLachlan
- December 17(7:30pm) Video - B & M RR - DRM Library

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

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



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