

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 16, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

September - October 2017

New DRM Railyard Local Tickets

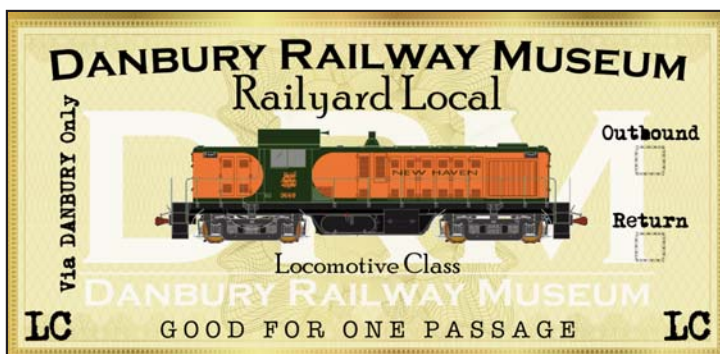
By: Jose' Alves

About a year ago, Bob Pitcher and I were talking about our train ride tickets and how they were just photocopied scraps of paper. So after a trip into the library and a discussion with Peter McLachlan, we found a collection of tickets from the DRM years past and other rail museums, as well as a few original New Haven Railroad Tickets.

Drawing inspiration from the tickets Peter found and Bob's saying, "Give the kids something they'll take home and save in their cigar box of souvenirs," I went home and started the graphic design process. After a while, the presses were rolling with these designs pictured. The new tickets are printed on heavy card stock and look and feel like the real McCoy.



Example of standard coach-class ticket.



Example of locomotive-class ticket.

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Danbury Railway Days 2017

Another Successful Event for the DRM

By Secretary Steve Gould; *Photos by Carolyn Taylor*

The Danbury Railway Museum held its 11th annual Danbury Railway Days event on August 5 and 6, 2017. Several hundred guests visited the Museum over the two-day event.

A major component of this year's event was the reprise of last year's "Hands On The Throttle" (HOTT) program. Attendees who signed up received thorough training about running a locomotive, from a walk around of the locomotive to an "in the cab" demonstration of what makes it tick. The training was conducted by Tom McCullough, a highly qualified operating crew member. Once the instruction was completed, the attendee was then allowed to "take the throttle" under complete supervision of Tom and take the engine for a short spin in the railyard. At the conclusion, the attendee was given a certificate of locomotive training completion. This year the program was modified to include two "Enhanced HOTT" sessions at the end of each day. These were longer sessions of an hour-and-a-half and cost the participant \$125 (vs. \$50 for the shorter sessions). However, the trainee got to couple and uncouple from various freight cars in the yard, moving them from place to place. This was done after the Railyard Local runs had concluded so there would be no conflict with another train in the yard. All of the sessions, both the shorter ones and the "enhanced" ones, were sold out. We had favorable comments about the program with several suggestions on how to improve it, which we plan to do in 2018.

Guests also got a chance to ride the Museum's Railyard Local train,

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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!

Allan B. Deering	Riverside, CT
Vanessa Potanovic	Pound Ridge, NY
Karen Peiris	Fairfield, CT
Daniel Stein	Wilton, CT
Russell Nolan	Brewster, NY
Christopher Isaacs	Wilton, CT
Paula Valluzzo	Danbury, CT
Tim Lewis	New Milford, CT
Rachel Beard	Hopewell Junction, NY
Laura Conry	Ridgefield, CT
Jessilyn Westhoff	Danbury, CT
Edel Boland	Bronx, NY
Erik Pereira	Carmel, NY
Katie Ambrose	Danbury, CT
Art Leaderman	Ridgefield, CT
Patrice Meaden	Hopewell Junction, NY
Val McVey	Bethel, CT
Christopher J. Nore	Mahopac, NY
Louis Mattei	Brookfield, CT
Dylan Iwrato	Pawling, CT
Ligia Dechioh	Ridgefield, CT

Upcoming Events at the DRM

October 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd, and 28th & 29th - Pumpkin Patch Weekends

Come to the DRM for a fun train ride in decorated cars to our pumpkin patch where children ages 2 - 12 get a **free** pumpkin! The **\$12** admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes historic train ride, exhibits and displays inside our restored 1903 Station and outside in the railyard, operating model layouts, children's activities including **free** coloring station and temporary tattoos, and **free** cider and cookies! Children are encouraged to wear their costumes! Hours are **10am - 4pm on Saturdays** (October 14th, 21st, and 28th) and **12pm - 4pm on Sundays** (October 15th, 22nd, and 29th). Trains will be running hourly 10:30am - 3:30pm on Saturdays and 12:30pm - 3:30pm on Sundays.

November 12th - Military Appreciation Day

Free train ride for past & present military personnel and their families. Must present ID or be in uniform.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, President

Our operating turntable has always been an attraction at the Museum and it was ten years ago that we received the plaque announcing that it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was unveiled at our August Danbury Railway Day event. Also celebrated was the 100th birthday of our Boston & Maine 2-6-0 Mogul #1455. On hand for these important events were Mayor Mark Boughton, State Senator David Cappiello and Carl Byron of the Boston & Maine Historical Society.

Out in the yard, after months of restoration work, the Pennsylvania RPO was opened for visitors. Each time the project ran into a shortage of funds, new donations arrived for the work to continue. What started out as a worn and rusted car became an exhibit on the importance of carrying U.S. Mail by train.

As the fall approached, John Ivancso and crew were readying the Pump House for its move to the yard. The inner components had already been brought over and it was felt that moving the building itself as soon as possible would lessen further deterioration and the threat of vandalism.

The DRM has always tried to assist model manufacturers with any information they might need on equipment in our yard. Digitrax, a leading DCC company, paid a visit to record some of our locomotives for the sound system products. They recorded the 44-tonner, RDC #32 (complete with the Hancock whistle) and the SW-8.



Then DRM President Ira Pollack (L.) with State Senator David Cappiello (R.) at the turntable plaque unveiling.



Mayor Mark Boughton speaking at the 100th birthday celebration for the #1455. Photos courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

Words from Our President

Dear Members,

As I write this, we are in the midst of a very successful Pumpkin Patch season. The weather has been great and the trains are full. Let's hope our good fortune continues right straight through the Santa Trains.

If you have not been to the yard lately, please consider coming down to see some of the work that is being done. Our two Canadian National cars have been repainted in correct colors by Art Slothower and are awaiting lettering (not always an easy task). As most of you know, we use one of the cars as our Santa and Easter Bunny car. The other car will be used for storage - containing items we need for the two events. It will be a lot easier on members not having to pull things out of other storage areas to set up the Events Car. Art continues to spruce up the *Tonawanda Valley* and we open the car on special occasions. About six weeks ago, I was taking numerous photos and measurements for a theatre set designer who was working on a production of the musical "*20th Century Limited*." Wish I could see the set first-hand, but it is Melbourne, Australia.

Also happening in the yard, we have begun repainting some of the coaches we use in the Railyard Local. We will finish this work next year. When Peter McLachlan is available, he will open the New Haven FL-9 which has proven to be a very popular exhibit. As with the *Tonawanda Valley*, we really need someone on the equipment to explain and protect it. Work continues on the New York Central caboose and the 1455, usually on the weekends. Project managers Gerry Herrmann and Philip Beard (respectively) are more than happy to explain their progress. Jim Teer continues to do track work and can always use help.

To help with track work, we have purchased a tamper from the Catskill Mountain Railroad. In fact, this is the same tamper we sold them about ten years ago when we thought it would not be used at the DRM. CMRR repaired what needed to be fixed and used the tamper for a number of years on their trackage out of Kingston. It became surplus when they purchased another model.

A couple of major projects are still coming along. We have the replacement timbers for the turntable and work has begun with Jeff VanWagenen and Justin Chapin overseeing the work. As for the Mill Plain Station, our contractor has stripped off the roof material and will soon begin dismantling the additions. We still need to figure out a way to move the station into the yard around a very tight corner that is problematic. Fortunately, we have been in touch with a crane company that is familiar with the corner having moved the substation for Metro-North.

So while the weather is still good, consider visiting the yard and seeing all that is going on.

Next issue, I'll bring you up-to-date on what is going on inside the Station and archives.

President Stan Madyda

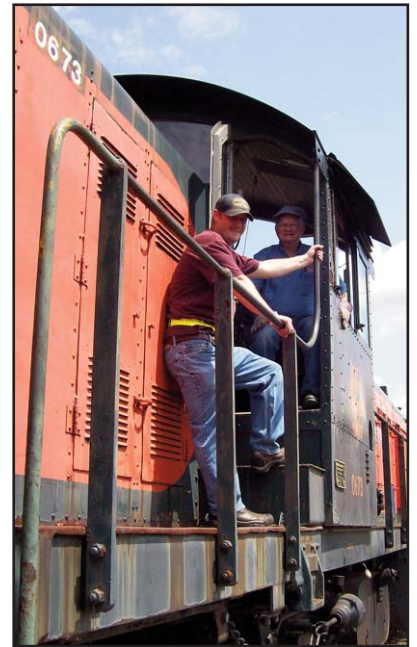
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itself a rolling Museum exhibit: A 1948 RS1 locomotive and two passenger coaches from the 1920's. The passengers got off and rode the operating 1917 turntable one-half revolution. Then they got off and walked the "red carpet" to tour the restored 1928 observation/lounge/sleeping car *Tonawanda Valley*. This car once served on the famed *20th Century Limited*, operated by the New York Central Railroad; passengers for this train walked on a red carpet to board it at Grand Central Terminal and originated the phrase "roll out the red carpet" (This year was the 50th anniversary of the cancellation of this famous train in 1967). While out by the turntable, guests got a chance to drive a spike into a railroad tie before completing the turntable and train ride.

In addition, guests were able to visit other open exhibits such as a 1907 steam locomotive where volunteer Phillip Beard had a display of model steam engines; a former New Haven Railroad FL-9 diesel locomotive with former engineer Pete McLachlan holding forth in the cab; a former New Haven Railroad Rail Diesel Car; a 1909 New York Central and Hudson River wooden caboose where Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda gave tours; and the 1910 Pennsylvania Railroad Railway Post Office. The former New Haven Cedar Hill Yard forge was in operation with demonstrations by volunteer Bob Pitcher. Kids got to participate in a visual scavenger hunt.

The overall comments were very favorable for this once-a-year chance to learn more about the "steel wheel on steel rail."







Museum Announcements:

***Note** - Wednesday night meetings and programs are scheduled to start at 7:30pm.*

Due to a lack of presenters on Wednesday nights, there will no longer be any listing of presentations in the newsletter. Please call the Museum during open business hours to find out what's on Wednesday nights.

Board of Directors meetings will still take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

**Museum hours:
Wednesday-Saturday 10-4; Sunday 12-4**

View the newsletter online at our new website:
www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org



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