

The Railyard Local

Volume 1 Issue 4

A Publication of the Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.

November 2003



Photographer Unknown

The Danbury Railway Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, restore and operate vintage railroad equipment as well as creating and managing a reference library in order to educate the public and its members about railroading in the Northeast while stimulating tourism in the State of Connecticut and the City of Danbury.

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Change of Address

Please send change of Address to:

Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.
Attn: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90

Danbury, CT 06813-0090 Or e-mail to:

drmmembers@aol.com Phone: (203) 778-8337

Fax: (203) 778-1836

Danbury Railway Museum, Inc. is a not for profit 501©(3) all Volunteer organization. www.danbury.org/drm

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NEW MEMBERS.....

Mimi Perrot Ridgefield, CT Michael P. Cafaro Trumbull, CT Fred Gutt Mahopac, NY Jonathan & Alison Pohl New Milford, CT Max Allan Stamford, CT Karen Kleine Yorktown Heights, NY The Rohn Family Kent, CT Kent, CT Carol Taylor Richard Sens-Castet Brooklyn, NY Michael Joyce Middletown, NY Grea Guimond Marshfield, MN Paul Collins Brookfield, CT **Thomas Swift** Monroe, CT

NEW LIFE MEMBERS......

Dr. Michael R. Maydyda Matthew Joyce Groton, CT Ridgefield, CT



Newsletter Message to Members

From Ira Pollack, President



Dear Membership:

Another month has gone by us. Our summer season has just about drawn to a close. I'd like to thank you all for a grand effort in running the Museum this season. We persevered through the wet spring and all of our trackage problems. All that is hopefully and thankfully behind us now.

We are in the process of planning our Halloween Haunted Railyard and of course the Santa Claus trains, which before you know it, will be upon us. This spring we will again be doing our annual show on May 1st and May 2nd. We would also like to have an annual dinner and fundraising event as a designated local restaurant in early March.

Speaking of fundraising I've included a flyer in this month's newsletter to remind you to help us financially if you can. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to help defray some of the costs of the yard track work this spring, to support some of our restoration projects, and to cover some of our on-going monthly expenses.

As you have seen and heard I've been trying to move our training program in the yard along as quickly and as safely as possible. I feel that the time has come to expand our train operations on the weekend with both Saturday and Sunday train service. By collaborating with MetroNorth's Day Get Away Program and developing more tour visits to the Museum we should be able to enhance our financial status and enhance our footprint on the map of railroad museums. By having our crews trained we will be better prepared and at the ready to support these programs that are coming up in 2004. Dan Gallo and Charlie Albinetti have been working toward organizing these programs.

I'd like to thank Nancy Sniffen who has graciously taken off time from the RDC 32 restoration project to help run the Operations Training Program on a temporary basis. She has been very influential in moving our training forward in the last several weeks with the scheduling of our qualified personnel along with our trainees. This does seem to be working in that our newer personnel are getting the required hours and necessary training for train service. It's a difficult job doing this but as usual Nancy's persistence and dedication to the Museum are paying off once again.

In closing John O'Hern will also be helping us by administering and keeping record of the General Safety Course 101. This course is required for your own safety and for you to work in the yard. It is really our only prerequisite in doing yard work or restoration work at the Museum and must be completed. Please contact John O'Hern at the Museum on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for the Safety Rulebook and test if you haven't taken it yet this year. The test has to be successfully completed each year.

I'm trying to keep us moving forward at the Museum. I feel that we are at a stage now where we must take that next step. Please support these programs.



We Need Your HELP!

In the past few months, the Danbury Railway Museum has had some unforeseen expenses that have put us in serious financial constraints.

The Board of Directors has decided to begin a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$30,000 to help defray these costs.

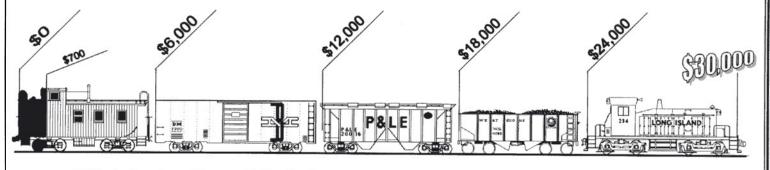
Recently, the yard trackage underwent substantial repairs, which were necessary for safe operation. In addition, operating two different train sets, along with other ongoing restoration projects have added to the funding problem we are now encountering.

Please consider helping your museum in this time of need. Your tax deductible donation will help us continue to fulfill our mission as we have for eight years now.

Any help you can offer can be sent to:

Treasurer
Danbury Railway Museum
PO Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813

Watch this space to see our progress!



Original railroad graphics provided by Ken Houghton Rail Images – Modifications and design by Charlie Albanetti

2003 DRM PICNIC

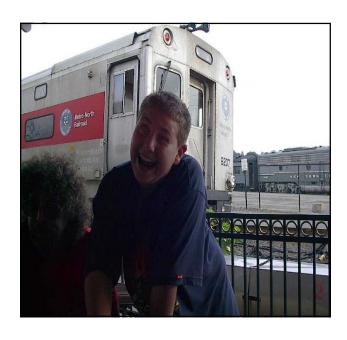


The left and bottom pictures show that you don't have to work to have a good time at the DRM. The Member picnic was a success.

The food was good, the company interesting and the weather was great. We were happy to see some new faces this year and we missed those who didn't make it from last year.

The happy face below shows the anticipation of being the engineer on the SW8 for the members annual throttle thrills.







We've been going through our inventory, and have come upon several books which are either out of print or hard to find. Some vendors are already selling these books at a premium! Three of the titles we have are History of Baltimore Streetcars by Farrell, The Nickel Plate Story by Rohr, and A Century of Pullman Cars Volume 2, The Palace Cars by Barger. We also have a number of wooden Thomas the Tank cars which have been "retired" and can no longer be ordered. Stop by, or call the Gift Shop at 203-778-8337 to see if we have what you are looking for!

VOLUNTEERS.....FOR HALLOWEEN

Help is needed any Saturday between now and October 18th to set up the two haunted railcars and to set up the station and yard. On the 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th we need people to man the station, watch layouts, give out candy and most important of allbe a MONSTER. The gift shop will be open those evenings for a chance to do a little shopping. Remember, \$1 discount for members.

VOLUNTEERS.....CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Want to work off your Turkey Dinner? Come in and help decorate the DRM for the holidays on November 28th, 29th and 30th. We have many areas to choose from. Inside the station, the outdoor displays and the Santa car where Mr. Claus makes all the kids happy. If you need more information, contact Sue Thomas at 203-792-1981 or



Ed Holowinko has been a life member of the DRM since February 1999. He refurbished a headlamp and a signal post, has volunteered on the Poughkeepsie to Danbury excursion, the Christmas train to NYC and for the Thomas the Tank event. He is very interested in preserving our history and community and is also a member of the local NRHS chapter where he has been active in the conversion of Switch Tower #44 to a museum.

Ed always had a love for narrow gauge steam trains in the Rocky Mountains and spent a week in May of this year volunteering for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in the Chama, NM yards. He worked in borrowed clothes after Amtrak misplaced his bag.

He and his wife, Beth enjoy traveling by train and biking on rail trails, which they have done in nine US states and three Canadian provinces so far. Friends notice that their vacation photos have a lot of RR related items in the background.

In 2000, Ed converted the heating system in his house from oil to gas so he could get rid of the oil tank and make room to expand his N-gauge train layout.

When not involved with trains, Ed poses as general contractor, doing kitchen and bathroom remodeling, especially lots of tile work. He also volunteers as a Conservation Commissioner for the City of Norwalk, as a disaster volunteer with the Red Cross, on the trail maintenance crew for the Appalachian Mountain Club and otherwise enjoys standing up for the environment

Last month's "what is it" is a bull gear. Its pressed fit on to a locomotive axel and the traction motor gear meshes with this gear to drive that wheel set. Anyone who would like to send in a "what is it" please send to dkern@snet.net or drop off at the Station.

We would like to recognize those who have generously contributed to our various projects this year. Through September 5, 2003, we have received a total of \$5,730.06 in monetary or material donations, thanks to the following contributors. If you have made a donation for which you have inadvertently not been recognized, please contact our Treasurer, Patty Osmer, at posmer@core.com, or by phone (203-778-8337) or mail (Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813) so that we can make sure that our records agree.

As a non-profit 501(C)-3 corporation staffed solely by volunteers and receiving no State, Local, or Federal funding, your tax-deductible contributions help keep our Museum and its exhibits and equipment running, and <u>DO</u> make a difference!

Lawrence Aasen
Nels Anderson
John Arents
Pierce Behrendt

Bob Bell
Donald P. Bentlow
Bob Broderick
Thomas Brown
Donald Bullock
Michael Coviello
Vincent DeYoung
Robert Emerson

Kenneth & Veronica Erdman

Dan Erickson
Matthew Ferrante
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David Flinn
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Robert Gambling Clarence Gardner Franz Gerencir

Golden Age of Trucking Museum

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June Hanna Sean Harte

Nancy Hershatter

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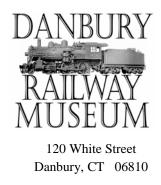
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Raymond Varian

Ted Wahl Ronald White Mark Wurst Thomas Wyness



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Haunted Railyard & Ride October 18th & 19th and October 25th & 26th.

EVERY SATURDAY: Railyard Local Train Ride

November 5 Steve Gould CSX and #734

November 12 Dan Gallo, Jr. Tourist Railroads of New York State

November 19 Dan Gallo Cass Scenic

December 10 Ed Blackman Slides

Museum Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Noon to 5:00 p.m.