

The Railyard Local

Volume 11, Issue 9

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

December 2012-January 2013

Santa Express on Time

The Museum's annual holiday event is a happy event during a cold season. The five days of the Santa Express event also featured a special night run, which was sold out, on December 15th. Revenues and attendance were slightly down from last year, but it still was a very successful event. Sue and Jim Teer plus Joseph Alves, with some assistance from a few others, worked very hard decorating the Museum, railyard, and Santa's special coach. Many DRM members volunteered their time to assist during the event. Thank you for your help! These events would not be possible without you. These family and children's events definitely are a delight to host. After the tragedy at nearby Sandy Hook, it was decided to continue the event as scheduled. A number of residents from that area who came here expressed their appreciation for that since it gave them some temporary relief from the tragic event and its aftermath.



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Plus . . . Ten Years Ago and New Members

DRM Training Program - 2013

By John O'Hern, Safety Officer, and Steve Gould
The following DRM Training and Qualifying Exam sessions are offered to our volunteers, who also must be DRM members, for 2013:

Safety Exam:

for ALL volunteers working in our yard

Crew Exam:

for ALL current and potential DRM crew members.

Car Host & Tour Guide Training:

for ALL car hosts and tour guides before working on our trains or giving tours; will cover expected duties of each position

Saturday, February 16th

Safety Exam: 10:30am

Questions? See John O'Hern

Crew Exam: 1:30pm

Questions? See Peter McLachlan

Saturday, March 16th

Car Host & Tour Guide Training: 10:30am

This training program will last about an hour.

Questions? Contact Steve Gould, Peter

McLachlan or John O'Hern

These exams must be taken annually to qualify for each position. Any members unable to attend these scheduled times must make their own arrangements with the designated leaders in order to qualify before working.

We have these qualifying tests and training programs annually because we take safety very seriously, but do not let the word "exam" discourage you from volunteering here. The exams are not difficult and are open book, so save the dates, and we hope to see you then!

Messages from the Editor

By Carolyn Taylor

At least once a year I want to be sure to acknowledge those who have contributed to the content, production and distribution of the *The Railroad Local*. First of all, without the time and efforts of the volunteers at the Museum, there would be no content regarding the activities or equipment here. Some people, such as our President Wade Roese, Vice-President Stan Madyda, Secretary Steve Gould, and Treasurer and Gift Shop Manager Patty Osmer have regularly written interesting articles for this publication. Dan Foley has submitted the schedule of Wednesday night programs. The Membership Chairman, as a *small* part of his duties, has submitted the names of new members each month and produced a set of labels for the mailing. John Silbert has posted the color web version of each edition. Others occasionally submitting articles or photos have been acknowledged within each issue. Jim Teer, Sue Teer, Dave Roberts, and Gil Letellier have assisted by taking the bulkmailing over to the facility in Danbury. The staff at Infinity Printing in Danbury has been unbelievably wonderful with the promptness and quality of the printed version of the newsletter. **Thank you all!**

It has been a privilege to be editor of *The Railyard Local* for the past eight years. A previous editor, Charlie Albanetti, was a wonderful teacher to this editor who had a lot to learn! He also was the one who set up the basic format using QuarkXPress, which is the software being used.

I anticipate stepping down as editor within a few months, thereby giving an opportunity to someone else to make a major contribution to the DRM in this way. Would you be interested in assuming this position for this wonderful organization? Do you know someone who would? I certainly am willing to assist someone else in learning about the QuarkXPress software and the job of editor. The newsletter is a way that members and important non-member contacts can keep informed about the Museum, its members and activities. The DRM also will need someone else to be in charge of the bulk mailing which I have been doing. This certainly could be a person other than the editor. **If you are interested in either of these positions, please send an email to info@danburyrail.org or contact a member of the Board of Directors.**

Correction

The editor apologizes for her error in the November issue concerning the date of Bill Britt's passing, which was on **October 26, 2012.**

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

As 2002 drew to a close, the Museum stayed busy with a number of projects both inside and outside.

The donation of the New York Central and Hudson River wooden caboose was completed and it was moved to Danbury by truck. A crew from the DRM made several trips to Canaan, CT to inspect the caboose and prepare it for the move. The previous owner was the Connecticut Railroad Historical Society.

The Tonawanda Valley had its paint removed from the lounge area. Plans for continued restoration included the repainting of this area as close to the original as possible. The car also would be converted to 110 volts to allow lights and other electrical objects to work. Many light fixtures would have to be duplicated.

Inside the station work continued on the train layouts. The station itself was being decorated for the Holidays and the Santa Trains. The station would also be open for First Night in Danbury with a musical venue and a dinner for members at midnight.

For the first time in the past seven years, in 2002 the G-gauge layout was not set up at the Galleria Office Building on Main Street in Danbury. This layout had been supported by Union Savings Bank which had offices in the Galleria.

In an attempt to get new members involved, a Volunteer Job Fair was held with the idea of showing the many and varied tasks people could work on. A welcome package was assembled by Dan Gallo and Jerry Lawlor, who spearheaded the Fair.

Despite some cold weather, needed track work was completed and the Rutland box car was used for a movie shoot.

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!

Erin Conte
Christine Gefaell
John Waters
Christopher H. Lunding
Mark Hanok

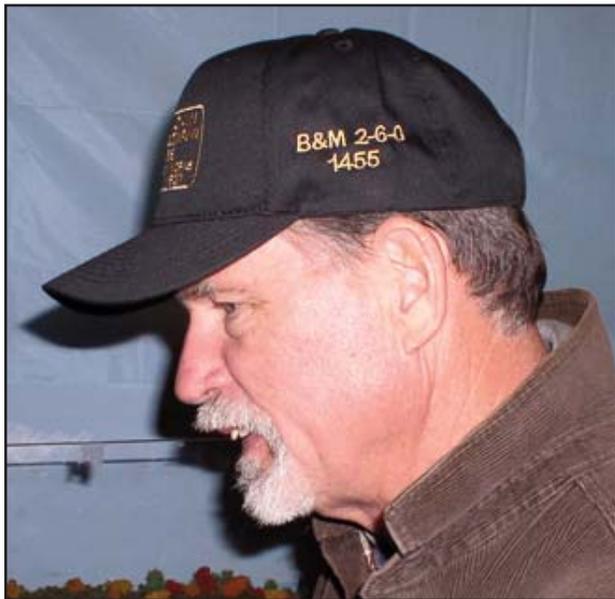
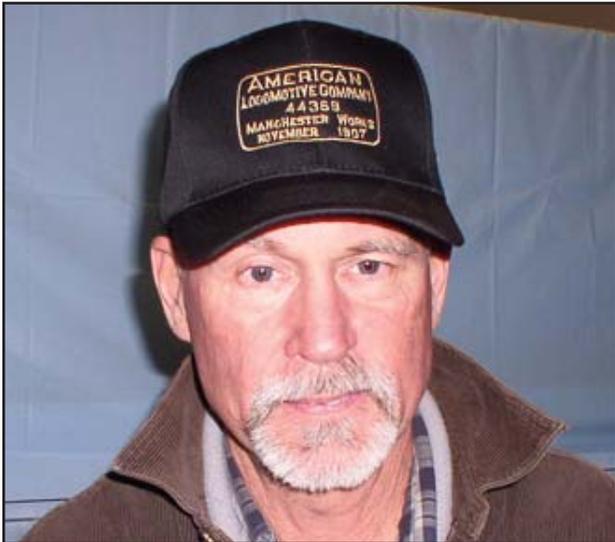
Ridgefield, CT
Mendham, NJ
New Rochelle, NY
Riverside, CT
New Milford, CT

Gift Shop News

New cap created especially for the DRM

By Patty Osmer

Our embroidered hat sports a reproduction of the Alco builder's plate from our Boston&Maine 1455 steam engine! The side of the hat describes the engine. This handsome hat is black with bronze embroidery. Cost to members is \$13.50.



DRM member Jim Teer models the new cap.

Ballots on Their Way

The ballots, along with resumes of candidates for the 2013 election of Officers and Board members, will be mailed shortly, so current members please watch for yours and mail it back by the deadline of 7:30pm, Wednesday, March 20th! Let's try for the best return percentage yet. If you are a member and do not receive a ballot soon, please contact the Museum by phone, email, or in person to get your ballot.

You'll LOVE Valentine's Rides

Though the weather may be chilly, the heat will be turned on in our vintage 1953 RDC self-propelled passenger car for train rides on February 9th and 10th. There will be free hot chocolate and sweets in addition to the operating model layouts, free tattoos for children, yard and equipment tours, numerous displays and our impressively stocked Gift Shop. If the weather is snowy or otherwise inclement, please call ahead since rides are scheduled, weather permitting.

Program on Steam Locos

Bob Boothe will present a Wednesday night Power Point program entitled "Steam locomotives 101 - the anatomy of the B&M 1455" on March 13th. He will give an overview of the origins of steam locomotives (1804) as well as point out the significant improvements which led to the development of the Mogul 260 type of locomotive in the 1860s. The program will use pictures and diagrams involving the 1455. We hope you will arrive at 7:30pm for Wade's popular weekly update on Museum activities, then stay for what promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation.

"Big E" January Train Show

Amherst Railway Society's four-building train show will be the weekend of January 26th and 27th in West Springfield. The DRM's presence there is more than to sell our merchandise. The show presents a major publicity opportunity. Our members and volunteers staff the Museum's tables, shop, and connect with other vendors and organizations. We hope you will volunteer, come see us, and attend to support Amherst Railway Society's event. That organization uses proceeds from the event to fund grants for other railroading organizations' endeavors. The Danbury Railway Museum has been the grateful recipient of immensely helpful grants in the past from Amherst.



Words from Our President

Since you are reading this in the New Year of 2013 I guess the Mayan calendar was incorrect! Thankfully and sadly we have to reflect on the loss of valuable volunteer members, all of whom contributed to the benefit of our Museum: former President Ed Blackman, former Vice-President and Project Leader Bill Britt, Ken Williams, Charles Cuniff, and a few that retain their privacy.

In 2012 we were able to succeed with many projects: extending our lease, relocating the rear gate which gave us an additional 83 ½ feet of running room, acquiring catenary arches, constructing two pavilions, initiating work on the burro crane, initiating work on a flat car for use as a ride on an open car, painting of the CN caboose (nice bright red, as a caboose should be), repairing the floor of the Reading coach #2001, continuing work on the Tonawanda Valley observation car and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad wooden caboose. We continued participation in numerous outreach programs, and enhanced our Easter, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa events. The Museum made numerous acquisitions through donations and gifts. The Museum was the site of movie shoots, wedding and engagement shoots, CD cover shoots and music videos, tours, new and expanded Wednesday night programs, and birthday parties. Unfortunately a few planned projects did not come to fruition in 2012, but remain in the working or planning stages.

Even in a marginal economy the Danbury Railway Museum has continued to grow economically through innovative programming, careful and frugal spending and efficient project management. Our accomplishments in 2012, as you can see, were numerous. Why? Because of you, our members and volunteers! The sharing of our members' talents, knowledge, expertise and cooperation is the main factor which contributed to a reasonable and respectable 2012. We must thank those familiar or maybe not so familiar faces/names and new volunteers who have jumped in to help with both feet! Apologies if I have missed acknowledging anybody.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Joseph Alves | Bob Andriola | Alan Baker |
| Roberta Ballard | Bob Bell | Gary Bentley |
| Marty Bishop | Suze Blackman | Ed Blackman* |
| Bob Boothe | Mary Ann Boothe | Bill Brett |
| Bill Britt* | Chip Brown | Harry Burke |
| Dan Carleton | Peter Celona | Justin Chapin |
| Don Collier | Dan Cordoso | Katie Corwin |
| Charles* & Nancy Cuniff | Jim Daly | Bob Detlefsen |
| Al Emanuele | Max Enis | Nick Ernst |
| Dan Foley | Dave Fuller | Bob Gambling |
| Paul Gassner | Franz Gerencir | Steve Gould |
| Greg Grice | Marty Grossman | Al Gruber |
| Gerry Herrmann | John Ivansco | Ian Jenner |
| Charles Johnson | Bob Kessler | Geoff Knees |
| Don Konen | Dave Kopycinski | Hans Dieter Krauter |
| Mike LaGue | Dana Laird | Joe LaPorta |
| Mike LaPorta | Jerry Lawlor | Harry Leeds |
| Tom Lenhart | Gil Letellier | Carl Liba |
| Dave Lowry | Ian Mdnsen | Mike Madyda |
| Stan Madyda | Joe Mato | Tom McCullough |
| Shannon McDonald | Jim McGeorge | Dave McKee |
| Pete McLachlan | Glenn Miller | Dan Milone |
| J.R. Mitchell | Elaine Mitchell | Bill Nicholson |
| John O'Hern | Patty Osmer | Shirley Peatfield |
| Andre Perez | Bob Pitcher | Ira Pollack |
| Bob Powell | Jeremy Rice | Dave Rist |
| Dave Roberts | Wade Roese | Luis Roman |
| Dana Rosenbergen | Chuck Sager | Mike Salata |
| Marty Scatola | Adam Schwartz | Richard Shaboo |
| Elyse Shapiro | John Silbert | Dave Simington |

Words from Our President, Continued from Page 4

Art Slothower
David Stavans
Frank Sullivan
Sue Teer
Joe Ward
Tony White
David Wilson
Victoria Maceira

Lovett Smith
Judith Stavans
Carolyn Taylor
Jeff Van Wagenen
Matt Wuensch
Ken Williams*
Fiona Herrmann
Ashley Norkowski

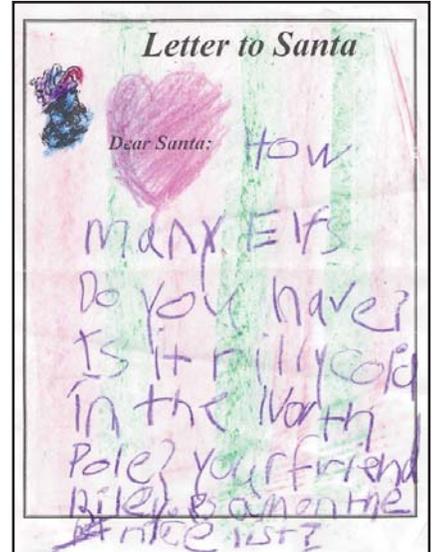
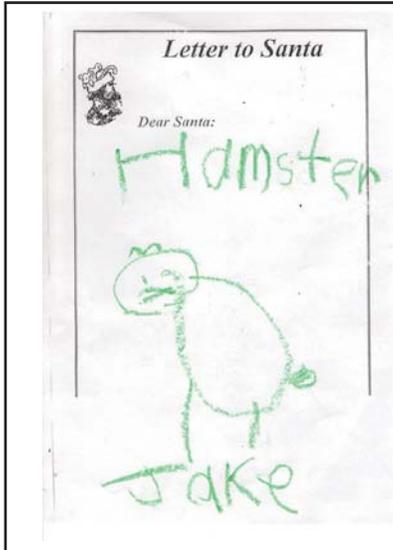
Nancy Sniffen
Terrie Stramiello
Jim Teer
Bill Waggoner
Roger Whitcomb
Carol Wilson
Kristina Maceira
Sam Steinbrook

As a member of any volunteer organization your reward is proportional to that which you put forth. The volunteers above should be proud to have exhibited the utmost of commitment and dedication to their/our own Danbury Railway Museum.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, thanks for your sharing,
Wade W. Roese

Santa Express on Time, Continued from Page 7





Photos below: at left, night photo showing glowing lights on the 1455, taken by Alan Gruber; at right, group photo by Deirdre Gruber.



Santa Express on Time, Continued from Page 6



At right, night shot of lights and decorations at Track 18 pavilion taken by Bob Boothe on December 15th.





PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

Address Correction Requested

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MUSEUM CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Dec | 26 | CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS |
| Jan | 2(7:30pm) | Chi.-Denver Competition- Carl Liba |
| Jan | 9(7:30pm) | British Steam 1960s - Ian Jenner |
| Jan | 16(7:30pm) | CV/CN/CP Steam 03-1957 - Pete McLachlan |
| Jan | 17(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| Jan | 23(7:30pm) | To Be Announced - Bob Gambling |
| Jan | 30(7:30pm) | Potomac Eagle - Bob Brett |
| Feb | 6(7:30pm) | Grand Central Terminal - Carl Liba |
| Feb | 13(7:30pm) | China Rails - Ian Jenner |
| Feb | 20(7:30pm) | Steam Fan Trips #2 - Pete McLachlan |
| Feb | 21(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| Feb | 27(7:30pm) | North Shore - Al Baker |
| Mar | 6(7:30pm) | NYC Electric Div. - Carl Liba |
| Mar | 13(7:30pm) | Hist. Steam + B&M 1455 - Bob Boothe |

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

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



Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum

Attention: Newsletter

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Change of Address

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Attention: Membership Chairman

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Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com