

The Railyard Local

Volume 10, Issue 4

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

May-June 2011

Easter Bunny Express in April

Bunny was all ears to guests' compliments

As the accompanying photographs illustrate, those attending were very pleased, and numerous members assisted with this popular annual event. The DRM conducted the Easter Bunny event on five days this year as opposed to four days other years. That worked out well for the guests and financially for the Museum. Thank you all volunteers, especially since there was an extra day involved!



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Hours Change for the Season

The Danbury Railway Museum now is open seven days a week for the summer season until Labor Day. Monday - Saturday it is open 10-5pm; on Sunday open 12-5pm. The Museum will be closed on Monday, July 4th, but open from 12-4pm on Labor Day.

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National Train Day at DRM

Enhanced by more demos and attractions

Once again the response to our National Train Day event was very positive. Train rides were free with each paid admission, and the weather also cooperated in attracting many people to our celebration.

Guests were delighted by the increased number of demonstrations and other special attractions. Bob Pitcher and Glen Miller fired up the New Haven forge for showing blacksmithing skills. Many people were intrigued by the outdoor G-gauge layout operated by Joseph Alves. We have found at some recent



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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!

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

Rubin Thomas	Fishkill, NY
Raffaele Bevilacqua	Wilton, CT
Gesette Jewett	Brookfield, CT
Blaine Talbott	Danbury, CT
James Stauble	Brookfield, CT
Gil Letellier	Bethel, CT

Annual Member Picnic Alert

The Danbury Railway Museum's Annual Member Picnic will be held Saturday, August 13th immediately following our celebration of Danbury Railway Day. Those who wish to attend and will be current members at that time are asked to reserve their spots at least by Wednesday, August 10th. This is necessary in order to plan for the event. Thanks!

Newsletter Delayed

The editor apologizes for the extreme delay in creating this particular newsletter. There have been issues, but ones *affecting* it rather than ones mailed out. These are the same reasons that this is a combined May-June edition. Hopefully the same circumstances will not occur again during the tenure of this editor!

Partially funded by a Meserve Foundation grant, the Museum purchased new computer equipment and software which also is used for *The Railyard Local*. This precipitated the long-needed reorganization and weeding out of the editor's photo file, plus the complete backup, and finally the transfer of all files. This project has been one spanning many months, accompanied by an editorial vow to keep the photos well organized and backed up on an ongoing basis. Also, some of the upgraded software has been different enough that it has taken some time for this editor to make the adjustment. This issue has been the test!

Special thanks goes to Patty Osmer.

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Thank you readers for your patience!

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Results of the March 2001 election were announced. Ira Pollack was elected President, Ron Freitag Vice President, Tony White Treasurer and Skip Kern Secretary. Dan Foley, Mike Salata, Geoff Knees, Ed Blackman and Sue (Thomas) Teer were re-elected to the Board with Dan serving as Chairman. Ira took the opportunity to outline a number of topics and projects that he would like to see addressed including a safety program and testing, exhibits, restoration, grants, advertising and A Day Out with Thomas.

In other news, Ron Freitag was elected to the 12 member Board of Directors for the Tourist Railway Association, Inc. (TRAIN). This organization addresses the needs of tourist railroads, museums, private car owners, excursion operators and suppliers to these groups. It was also announced that Attorney Jeff Heyel had become the Museum's legal counsel.

A Day Out with Thomas was booked for three days in July. This would be the third year that the event was held at the DRM. A new twist was a steam powered Thomas the Tank Engine. The two previous years were very popular with families and a large turnout was expected. A number of jobs were needed to be covered by volunteers and the recruiting call was made with a sign up sheet sent with the newsletter.

For several years after the Museum was formed, two tank cars (NATX 12616 and 12811) sat in our yard. They were purchased by the Housatonic Railroad to be used for fuel storage. No one seemed to



The two tank cars today in the DRM railyard.



know for sure if anything was in them. The Housatonic would later build a fuel facility and the cars became surplus. They were determined to be empty and were donated to the DRM.

Words from Our New President

It is May as we compose this issue of *The Railyard Local*. Thanks to Sue Teer and the rest of the bunny volunteers, our Easter event celebration was one of the best Bunny Train events we have had.



Above, children enjoying their visit with the Easter Bunny. Below, Don Konen educating passengers about Operation Lifesaver Operation on National Train Day. Both photos by Steve Gould.



In addition, the National Train Day event in early May was also a success. Thanks to more than half the Board of Directors, over a dozen member volunteers, many guests, and great weather (until the 3:45 rain) some new ideas came to fruition. These included Operation Lifesaver education by Don Konen and Steve Gould, coupling/uncoupling demonstrations by Don Konen and Pete McLachlan, operating the forge by Bob Pitcher and Glen Miller, operating the G-gauge layout by Joseph Alves, and Child fingerprinting through New York Life Insurance Company by Andre Perez and the Company volunteers. Danbury Police Department Officers and a police cruiser arranged by Alan Baker gave credibility to the fingerprinting service and to the DRM by the City of Danbury.

Thanks to Staff Writer Susan Tuz and Photographer Scott Mullin of the Danbury News-Times for a very nice color photo display and cover article about the National Train Day in the May 9, 2011 issue.

We have had a pleasant influx of new members and volunteers and some have already begun to share their talents and have undertaken new projects: construction of a few covered pavillions by Wade Roesse and Gil Letellier, and Bob Pitcher, and the expansion of the operating forge. Also, we have resumed work on some of the ongoing projects: Gerry Herrmann and the New York Central caboose, Bill Britt and the Tonawanda Valley, Carolyn Taylor and the 1455, Chuck Sager and the turntable, and Justin Chapin with the 44 Tonners. New ideas have been proposed and are under review. As they are formatted and get out of the planning phase we will continue to provide updates . . . and look for assistance.



Volunteer Andre Perez and his son pose with a Danbury police cruiser on National Train Day. Andre arranged for the child fingerprinting service offered by New York Life Insurance Company and its volunteers.

Remember the ongoing activities at the Museum and please consider joining: Tuesday night layout modeling, Tuesday night Library Group, Wednesday night presentations and information exchange, weekend operations (all sorts of activities) and Daytime Museum hours (note that our hours of operation expand to Seven days and to 5pm starting after Memorial Day. We can always use help. Please think about sharing your time and talents with the DRM. Many people are very giving of their time and energy. I apologize if I have not specifically identified anyone, but We greatly appreciate your contributions.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum,
Wade W. Roesse

Easter Bunny Express in April, Continued from Page 1

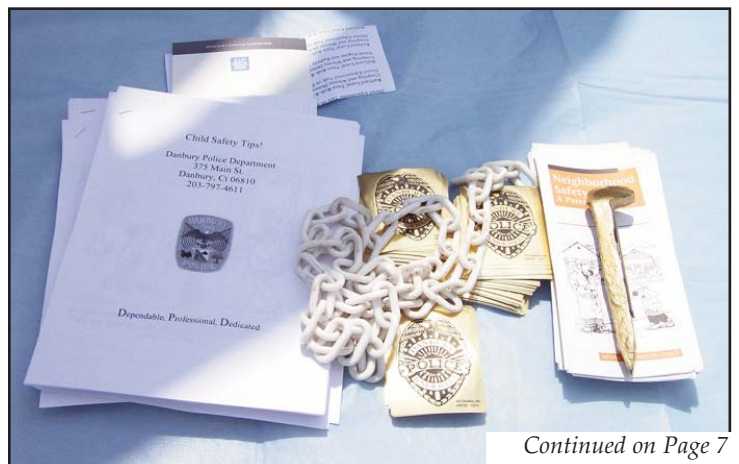
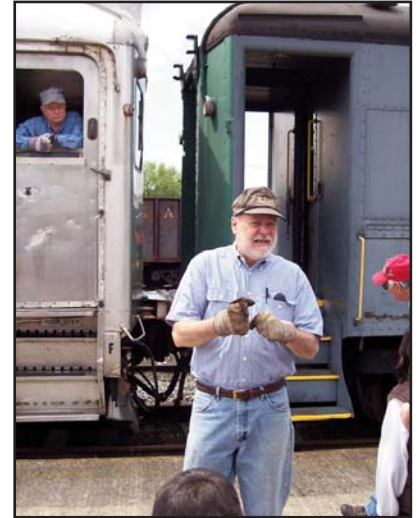


Easter Bunny Express in April, Continued from Page 4



National Train Day at DRM, *Continued from Page 1*

special events that the coupling/uncoupling and explanation of signals demonstrations have been popular, so thanks to Don Konen and Pete McLachlan, those continued to be part of this celebration. Also in accordance with the educational part of the DRM's mission, Pete McLachlan attracted guests with a brief informational session about the Museum's RS-1 locomotive. Important information provided by Operation Lifesaver was presented to passengers on the "Railyard Local" ride by Don Konen and Steve Gould. Parents used the opportunity to have approximately 60 children fingerprinted courtesy of New York Life Insurance Company, its volunteers and DRM member Andre Perez. This was backed up by the presence of Danbury Police and their brochures emphasizing child safety. Steve Gould also conducted tours of our railyard.



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Our New DRM Officers

President - Wade Roesse
Vice-President - Stan Madyda
Board of Directors - Charles Sager

As previously explained, since there was no candidate for DRM President in the last election, the Museum's newly elected Vice-President, Wade Roesse, in accordance with the DRM's by-laws, became the Museum's President. This left a vacancy in the office of Vice-President. The Nominating Committee reported the results of the search for candidates for that position, and the Board appointed Stan Madyda as the new Vice-President. Since Stan was already on the Board of Directors, and as an officer could not occupy both positions, the Board made the decision to fill the vacancy with Charles Sager, who had already qualified and had run for the Board in the recent election. So is this an illustration of the "domino effect" or "musical chairs"?

Congratulations to all three, and welcome to your new positions on the Board!

Death of Farley Granger

The handsome actor, who died at age 85 at the end of March, starred in the film "Strangers on a Train". Famed director Alfred Hitchcock shot the railroad portions of this classic film here at the Danbury Railroad Station in October 1950. Our Museum is privileged to have a display near the Front Desk of movie stills and a poster photo, all on loan from member Ronald Freitag. The Gift Shop has DVDs of the movie for sale.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

June	1(7:30pm)	RR Bridges and Tunnels - Carl Liba
June	8(7:30pm)	To be announced - Mark Osmun
June	15(7:30pm)	G & D Show - Housie Daze
June	16(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
June	22(7:30pm)	Penn. Railroads - Bob Gambling
June	29(7:30pm)	Steam in Snow, AC&W - SteveGould
July	6(7:30pm)	Maine Central Mt. Div. Video
July	13(7:30pm)	Unusual Metro-North - Dan Foley

Museum hours: Mon-Sat 10-5pm; Sun 12-5pm

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



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