

The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 11

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

November 2008

Pumphouse Move to DRM

The pumphouse from Danbury Fairgrounds was moved to the DRM railyard very early on Sunday, October 19th thanks to the very hard work, combined with their expertise and equipment, provided by Jack



The pumphouse is jacked up over its foundation, and as the detailed photo below shows, ready to roll, slowly pulled by a winch on the truck.



Venning, his wife Agi, and Ray de Zara. Prior to these photos being taken, they had spent numerous hours shoring up and bracing the structure in preparation for jacking it up, then moving it over to a spot where the trailer could be driven under it. The preparations documented in the photos at the Segar Street site took

Continued on Page 6

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer/Carolyn Taylor

MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEKEND

In appreciation of the support of our members, the Gift Shop will hold its annual Member Appreciation Weekend on Fri-Sun, **November 28, 29 & 30**. Members will receive **20% off most items** (The books *The Old Put* and *Bridging the Hudson*, and the print of *Ardsley Station* are excluded - these will remain at 10% off, and the FL-9 print by Chris Iorillo is not discounted). Sorry, no discount on special orders; first come, first served. **Now** is the time to stock up for Christmas!

Continued on Page 5

In This Issue

- ~ Preparing for Santa's Visit - Page 2
- ~ DRM at M-N Harmon Shop's Open House - Page 2
- ~ DRM Express Track - Page 3
- ~ New Brookville Locomotives - Page 7
- plus . . .
- New Members and Calendar

All Aboard! Pumpkin Patch!

Delightful fall weather for five of the six days of our Pumpkin Patch event increased attendance and the enjoyment of this popular event. Our guests appreciated the newly added decorations and the longer destination of the Pumpkin Patch located off of Track 42. The orange of our vintage RS-1's livery suited the occasion perfectly. We noticed families took advantage of our venue for numerous photo opportunities. The highlight for many youngsters may have been the chance to climb into the cab of the RS-1 between train runs to blow the whistle. Festive decorations abounded throughout the Museum building, railyard, and coaches. Many thanks to all the volunteers who came to help! It is because of you that we are able to conduct this and other events to which the public looks forward year after year.



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!

Frederick Hirsch

Gillian Bailey

Eleanor Langham

Mark Day

Paul Fossati

Matthew O'Halloran

Colleen D'Alessio

Robert Carrocetto

Thomas Blankinship

Melrose, MA

Ridgefield, CT

Danbury, CT

Bethel, CT

New Canaan, CT

Wilton, CT

Yorktown, NY

Somers, NY

Danbury, CT

Preparing for Santa's Visit

December 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21st

Although Thanksgiving hasn't come yet, we are already preparing a coach for our Santa Express. Just like the department stores, we can hardly wait to set up the winter holiday decorations throughout our Museum building, special coach and railyard. An added attraction this year will be a chance to see Santa's elves working in their workshop. There will be many special attractions for this family-oriented event. Our guests have found that this outing is filled with wonderful photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Frosty, the elves, the many decorations, and of enjoying the many activities and exhibits. Museum hours will be from Noon-4:30pm. Santa Express trains will run every 1/2 hour from 12:30-4:00pm. Tickets are \$8 for ages 2 and up, with under 2 free. Reservations

are strongly suggested for this popular annual event. We are already filling reservation requests. If you can help, please contact Sue and Jim Teer at (203) 792-1981.



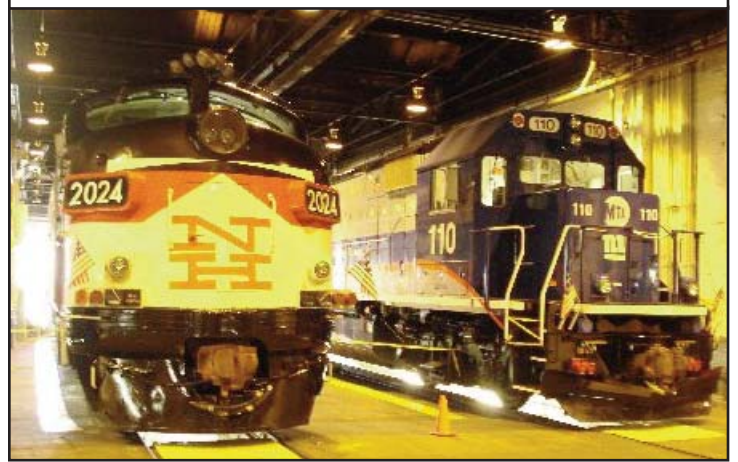
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DRM at Metro-North's Oct 11 Harmon Shop's Open House

Steve Gould, DRM Secretary, represented our Museum at Metro-North's Harmon Equipment Maintenance Facility on October 11th. We were pleased to be included at this immensely popular event, and hope to be there again next year, with two volunteers!. Steve indicates that approximately 5000 guests attended for a tour of the shops and train excursion up the Hudson. His supply of whistle handouts and newsletters was exhausted shortly after the beginning of the event. It was a wonderful opportunity to distribute flyers publicizing our Museum, the excursion to Kent, and our Pumpkin Patch and Santa Express events. He somehow found time to snap the photos shown here, and supplied the captions.



Above, the DRM table was set up in front of a new M7 MU in the huge maintenance facility. Below, old and new: an ex-NH FL-9 sits next to a brand new Brookfield BL20-GH.



DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to talk about some of the things going on at the Museum.

Our mechanical staff has been busy rebuilding the fan assembly on the SW-8 Pfizer locomotive. To date, the bearing blocks and shaft have been replaced, along with the fan blades and additional framing for the shutters. What remains is the rebuilding of the shutter assemblies which were pretty much rusted and frozen open. My thanks go out



to Jim Teer, Jeff Van Wagenen, Justin Chapin and Bob Pitcher for facilitating this work on this important piece of our operating roster. This is one of the many maintenance issues that we have before us, but one by one they are getting resolved and fixed.

Now that we will be ending our season very shortly because of the weather, I will tell you we have done well with our trackwork this year. Most of the work we did was initiated by the FRA inspection we had several months ago. Fortunately our trackage was in much better shape than I had expected, but this still entailed replacing several ties and regauging many feet of rail that was either wide or narrow in varying areas. This must be an ongoing project for us, unfortunately, for our trackage is continually deteriorating and must be maintained on a regular basis. Many of the rail joints were tightened with new bolts, and replaced where needed.

Once again we have maintenance that has to be done. I am hoping that once we have gotten through the winter freeze we can begin a tamping program to level many of the rail joints that have settled or are just too low to begin with. Danbury yard was never known for its good trackage. I also am hoping that next year we can address rebuilding the runaround track. This will mean gutting out about 45 ties that have deteriorated and therefore have compromised operating over

them. I plan to rebuild this section from the ground up, which will make things easier in the long run for this restoration.

I am very proud and pleased to tell you that during the month of October our yard crew moved the Segar Street, or I should say Fairgrounds Pumphouse, into the yard. My thanks and gratitude goes out to Jack Venning, his wife Agi, along with their friend Ray de Zara, for moving the building on an early Sunday morning. Mr. Venning, a professional building mover and rigger, graciously donated the many hours of hard work, time and expertise to save this artifact from certain doom. Along with help of the Danbury Police as escort, it made quite a sight going down Park Avenue at the crack of dawn. We have decided to mount the building at the site of the old sandhouse down past the turntable. Funding has been appropriated for the initial stabilization of the structure, which will also serve as an unloading area for our Railyard Local. I also plan to build a platform in this area to make this another destination spot and point of interest in our yard. A special thanks to John Ivansco, Bill Britt, and Dave McKee for moving this project forward.



John Ivansco proudly standing in front of the pumphouse.

In last month's newsletter I had talked quite sternly about the condition of our Museum. I do not mean to alarm you, but I take this very seriously, and always have and will. We have something very unique at the DRM, and I get very frustrated when I see all the hard work that we have put into it just shrugged off or not even acknowledged. I can only hope that there are other people who feel as I do, who have that passion for our success, and who are willing to step up to keep us growing and moving in the right direction. It has been a long, hard struggle right from the beginning, but look at what we have done, as a whole, as an organization. Do not forget that we still have a long way to go, and we cannot be content with what has already been done. There is a lot more waiting in front of us.

All Aboard! Pumpkin Patch!, Continued from Page 1



All Aboard! Pumpkin Patch!, Continued from Page 4



Gift Shop News, Continued from Page 1

Signed and numbered, limited edition litho-prints by Charles Ciccarelli of the Ardsley Station are being offered for sale in the Gift Shop. Built in 1880, the Ardsley Station on the Putnam Division of the NYC Railroad is located in Westchester County about 15 miles north of the Bronx. The print depicts the station as it appeared in 1950. Only 1500 of these prints were produced. Member price is \$22.50.



The DRM Gift Shop also is privileged to feature a 12" x 18" color print by Christopher Iorillo of the beloved New Haven FL-9 locomotives. Using 3-D modeling software, he has created a brilliant image representing FL-9's in McGinnis livery within a New York, New Haven & Hartford engine facility. The locomotive in the foreground is shown as a cutaway image revealing the mechanical equipment within the engine. In its detail and realism the print could be mistaken for a photograph, but it actually is artwork, and his company website name, www.beyond-real.com, reflects that. It is available in our Gift Shop for \$25. He also has created a print of a 1937 Aherns Fox fire engine available by contacting him at (203) 241-3730.

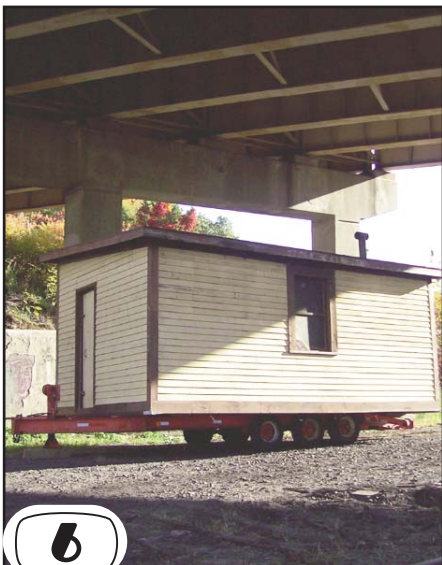


Pumphouse Move to DRM, *Continued from Page 1*

from early morning until dark. With police escort, they moved the pumphouse to the DRM on October 19th.



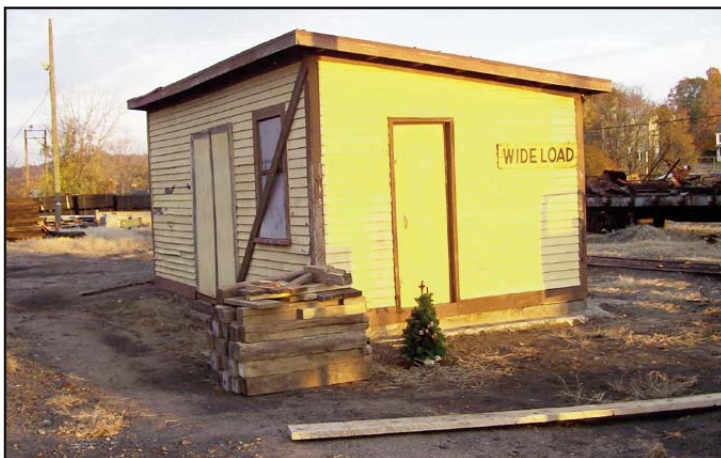
After inching the pumphouse horizontally off its foundation, and additional jacking up, there was space for backing the trailer underneath it. It was moved on the trailer to a spot below the highway overpass at Segar Street to await the move to the DRM. At 7am sharp on October 19th, the move began. Upon arrival at our railyard, it was backed into place next to the foundation formerly used by the sand tower. Cribbing was inserted to support it so that the trailer could be removed.



Continued on Page 7



Despite the early hour, several DRM volunteers came to help with the move. Agi (on the truck) pitched in. Below, a couple of weeks later, after some needed sill replacement, the pumphouse rested on its concrete foundation. Work will continue on its restoration.



New Brookville Locomotives

Several DRM members gathered outside our Museum on Thursday, September 18th to witness and photograph the arrival in Danbury of Metro-North's new Brookville locomotive. The glare of late-day sun made photography difficult. Nevertheless Wade Roesse was able to capture the image below of this BL20-GH.



The ConnDOT website indicates that this locomotive, which was built in Brookville, PA by Brookville Equipment Corporation, is the first new locomotive to be purchased for the State in almost ten years. The twelve shuttle locomotives are designed for use in passenger and work-train service, and will be used on the New Haven, and Waterbury & Danbury branch lines. Part of their versatility is that they can be used on Shore Line East service.

A knowledgeable DRM member added that these locomotives are built on ex-GP40 frames, and have added flared vents at the end, which show in Wade's photo. They use fuel oil, cannot use third rail, and are not for Grand Central Terminal use. The numbers are in the 120 series, and they are painted in New Haven Railroad colors. These locomotives have approximately 2000 HP.

The Brookville Equipment Corporation's website gives additional information. As Wade's shot shows, the Brookville diesel electrics coming to Danbury are 4-axle locomotives. They have an "Anti-Spin/Anti-Slip Solid State Drive System (up to 38% Adhesion)". They tout higher fuel efficiency and low exhaust emissions which meet EPA requirements. The locomotives can attain a speed of up to 70 mph.

These locomotives have traveled to Danbury many times since the initial trip here, and have been spotted on the Harlem Division. As Steve Gould's photo in this issue shows, one was on exhibit at Metro-North's Harmon Equipment Maintenance Facility's Open House in October. Perhaps one will arrive, or be on Metro-North's trackage adjacent to our Museum when you visit!



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Nov	19(7:30pm)	DRM thru the Yrs - DRM Library
Nov	20(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Nov	26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Dec	3(7:30pm)	Slides; Misc. New England - Carl Liba
Dec	10(7:30pm)	Slides; Wyoming - Al Baker
Dec	17(7:30pm)	Videos presented by Steve Gould
Dec	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members

Museum hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-4pm; Sunday 12-4pm
See the newsletter in color at www.danbury.org/drm!



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