

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

April 2015

DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results

Members come out for annual meeting

At the annual meeting of the Danbury Railway Museum held on March 18th at the Museum, Chairman of the Board Don Konen acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the four officers, each of whom gave an annual report. Don called on the speakers in the same order as he does at each board meeting with Wade Roese, our president, speaking first. Wade was followed by Stan Madyda, Vice President; Steve Gould, Secretary; and Patty Osmer, Treasurer.



Master of ceremonies and Chairman of the Board, Don Konen, addresses the members gathered at the annual meeting. *Photo courtesy of Stan Madyda*



Vice President Stan Madyda gives his report to the assembled members during the annual meeting. *Photo courtesy of Chuck Sager*

Superintendent of operations Jeff Van Wagenen also gave a report. Don enhanced the comments each speaker made and singled out some folks for keeping the trains running and the turntable turning. Food, provided by Wade, Patty and Don, included finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, spinach dip, several pies and punch. Approximately 25 to 30 members attended.

Videos taken by Wade

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Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests

By Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations and Steve Gould, Secretary

Over the weekends of March 14th & 21st, DRM members took the safety exam and attended training sessions for operating crew and/or car host/tour guide.

Each year, the Superintendent of Operations administers the rules examination for volunteers who serve in train operations as Conductors, Engineers and Brakemen. This year's rules examination was held on March 14th, with 14 volunteers present for the exam. Additionally, two volunteers having scheduling conflicts on the 14th completed the examination electronically.

There were two rule changes in the 2015 edition of the rules. Rule 10.55 was added to cover shoving movements with occupied equipment. This new rule requires the Engineer and Conductor to establish visual marks for stopping purposes, and requires Conductors to make an emergency brake application should the Engineer exceed these stopping marks. This has been our operating practice. However, this practice had never been codified into a rule. The second rule change constituted a re-write of Section 11 on cell phone usage. Under the revised rule, a crew member may not receive or make cell phone calls unless the locomotive in use is secured by hand brake, with the reverser removed and the generator field relay tripped. In one sense, this is more stringent than the FRA rules, which does not require the locomotive to be so secured. However, this allows crew members to make (or receive) telephone calls while the RYL is secured between its scheduled runs. The FRA rules are far more complicated: as implemented in the NORAC book of rules, cell phone usage spans seven pages! The DRM's rule is covered in four sentences.

The rules examination process gave us an opportunity to review the rules as

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New Member

We are delighted to welcome our new member 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!

David Young

Darien, CT

Have you noticed?

The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have a new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date. Please renew as soon as possible if your membership is expiring to prevent an interruption in your benefits.

Upcoming Events at the DRM

March 28th & 29th and April 3rd & 4th

2015 Easter Bunny Express Trains!



Come see the Easter Bunny! Ride a vintage train through our ten-acre railyard and visit the Easter Bunny in a specially decorated coach! Every child will receive a small gift from the Bunny!

Reservations are strongly recommended! You can reserve online at our website or you can call 1-203-778-8337. The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. There will also be a coloring station, play area, operating model layouts, temporary tattoos and more!

Trains will be running every **half-hour from 12:30pm - 3:30pm**. The Museum will be open Friday & Saturday 10am - 4:30pm and Sunday 12noon - 4:30pm.

If you are a member and would like to help out with this event, which would be very much appreciated, please contact Sue Teer at 203-778-8337.

May 9th - National Train Day

Free train rides with paid admission & other activities to be announced.

May 10th - Mother's Day

2 Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.

Photos this page courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

The next operating season was underway at the Museum with members helping out with the Easter Bunny Trains. These weekend events continued to grow attendance figures.

Results were in from the 2005 election and announced at the annual meeting. 33% of the membership voted and the four officers elected were Ira Pollack, President; Bill Britt, Vice President; Steve Gould, Secretary; and Patty Osmer, Treasurer. Carolyn Taylor, Dan Foley, Sue Thomas (Teer) and Mike Salata were elected to the board. Also in the ballot were some revisions to the By-Laws which were approved. In addition, a number of members received certificates recognizing 10 years of continuous service.

The Museum received a \$4,500 grant from the Meserve Foundation. This money was to be used for upgrades to existing exhibits as well as introduce interactive displays.

A new event was planned for the end of May to show off our forge called a 'Hammer-In.' The idea was to gather local artists to use the forge and to sell some of their creations. At the time of the announcement, all we had was the frame and the roof. The walls would be erected and finishing touches completed by the time of the event.

An ongoing fundraising campaign for track repairs was underway with a final goal of \$30,000. By April, almost \$16,000 was donated.

Gift Shop News

Tangent Scale Models has produced an HO scale model of our PRR Class X58 boxcar, 112432. They actually came to the Museum to measure and photograph our boxcar! These models are high quality, thoroughly researched and extremely detailed!

We have 12 of these PRR Class X58 50' Boxcars in HO-scale with 6 different road numbers from Tangent Scale Models for sale in our Gift Shop and they are going fast! You can visit Tangent's website at www.tangentscalemodels.com for more information.

These models sell for \$44.95 (member price \$40.50) and can be shipped priority mail for \$6.00. Because of the limited number available, please email us at info@danburyrail.org, or call 203-778-8337 during normal business hours to order your boxcar.

Editor's note: Only 4 road numbers are left to choose from as of this printing.



TANGENT
SCALE MODELS

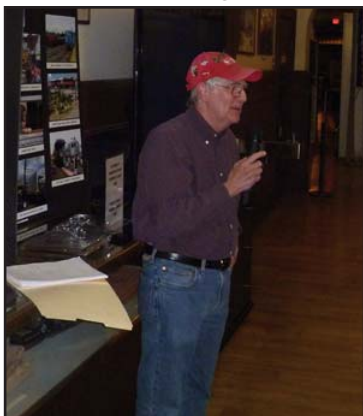
DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results, *Continued from Page 1*

over the years of many of the Museum's events were shown. The most popular sequence was that of the "pick" of the ex-New Haven FA as it was lifted off of cribbing and placed back on trucks.

After Wade made his comments, Jeff gave his report (*see page 5*) and then Stan gave his:

Update on the Electrics – We are making progress, albeit slow. There are a couple of plans being discussed to remove the locomotives from Glenmont. The disposition of the two diesels we own has not been finalized. Stan is following up on several pieces of equipment that may be available to us. They include locomotives, rolling stock and passenger equipment. Some of them are available through government agencies and these take time. 2014 saw a below average number of donations in the Library. In addition to model trains, magazines, books and videos, we received uniforms and personal items from railroad workers, caboose lights, a switch stand and marker, ashtrays and EMD drawings for Pyle Lighting. While we may not need many of these ourselves, there is the possibility that other museums will need access to the drawings. The Library also had some students helping out in the re-organizing and cataloging our collection of books. The idea is to eventually have our holdings on a website used by historians and researchers so that we reach more people with what we have. The new catalog did help recently with someone doing research on the Erie Railroad. The Museum has also been accepted into the StEPs-CT program which was discussed in the March newsletter.

Following Stan, Secretary Steve Gould gave his report:



Secretary Steve Gould presents his report to the members during the annual meeting. *Photo courtesy of Stan Madyda*

1. Election Results: 64 valid ballots received vs. 350 sent out = 18.3% return rate. In 2014, return rate was 22.6% and in 2013, 33.1%. The lowest return rate we have had occurred in 2005 with 17%. No candidate, officer or director, received all 64 votes. Votes ranged between 57 and 60 as some voters picked and chose their candidates.
2. Car Host and Tour Guide Training to be conducted on March 21, 2014.
3. Received three grants in 2014: \$3,500 from Meserve Foundation for audio-visual equipment (big-screen TV, etc.) and stand; \$1,500 from Tom E. Dailey Foundation for Burro Crane restoration; and \$2,000 from Amherst Railway Society also for Burro Crane restoration (awarded in January 2015).
4. The DRM hosted the New England Chapter of PRR RR Historical and Technical Society, Nutmeg Chapter of the NMRA and several Boy Scout troops working on Railroading Merit Badge.
5. Wade and Steve attended a screening of the indie film, "The Reluctant Detective" at the Bijou Theater in Bridgeport. Several scenes of the film were done at the DRM.
6. We exercised the first 10-year renewal option on the station lease which now runs until September 2024.

7. Steve's article and Art Slothower's photos on the restoration progress of the *Tonawanda Valley* appeared in the 4th Quarter issue of the New York Central Historical Society's magazine, *Century Headlight*.

8. We met with Providence & Worcester Railroad personnel on the possibility of running a fan trip on the P&W in 2015.

9. We were notified that we're a TripAdvisor Award Winner for 2014 and received a Certificate of Excellence. It says that we "consistently earned outstanding feedback from TripAdvisor travelers."

Next, Patty Osmer gave the Treasurer's report, which is posted on pages 6 & 7 of this issue. She stated



Treasurer Patty Osmer gives her report to the assembled members during the annual meeting. *Photo courtesy of Stan Madyda*

that the Museum saw a gain in gross profits and total expenses and a decrease in net income. However, 31% of expenditures were from utilities such as gas and electric, which decreased by one percent over last year.

Finally, Gandy Dancer's Service awards for outstanding service and dedication were awarded to John O'Hern, Dave McKee, John Ivansco and one other member who wasn't at the meeting and hasn't been notified yet.

More pictures from annual meeting on back page of this issue.



Dave McKee receiving his Gandy Dancer's award. *Photo courtesy of Stan Madyda*

Words from Our President

The Danbury Railway Museum has been fortunate enough, over our years of existence, to have received many donations of artifacts, memorabilia, collections, books and magazines, model trains and other railroad equipment. Some of the donations have come from our neighbors (Metro-North and the State of Connecticut). Recently, the DRM was the recipient of the Solari Board from New Haven's Union Station.

Following is some of the story of the Solari Board (pictures of its arrival in Danbury appeared in the October - November 2014 newsletter). The Solari Board is an electrically/mechanically operated train status board that is now being replaced by video displays similar to those seen in various airports. The Board is over 12 & 1/2 feet long, 5 & 1/2 feet tall, 7 inches deep and weighs approximately 2,000 pounds. In New Haven's Union Station it was mounted on a wall over an entry/exit doorway approximately 8 feet above the floor. Many pictures and videos of it in operation can be observed on the internet. So, maybe, you ask, how did it come to the DRM? In 2009 we received notice from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, that the DRM was one of the organizations being considered to be the recipient of the Solari Board, which was a computer controlled status display from New Haven's station. The computer and software to operate the display was not to be included as it was proprietary. Its final disposition and date were unknown, but the decision was eminent. At least a year passed without news. In mid-2012, a visit from the project manager of the relocation project visited the DRM to see where the Board would be located if we were the recipients and could it be adequately structurally supported. Two locations were proposed. Still no news on the Board's future location. Many news articles and internet blogs and other interested groups with agendas, comments and speculations resulted in confusion and controversy. Late in 2014, a phone call to the DRM from CDOT stated that all bets were off because Amtrak was the current owner of the Solari Board and wasn't sure what they were going to do with it, nor where it would go. AUGH! The following week; a phone call and a visit from the rigging company that was going to bring the Board to the Museum on whether they could get their tractor-trailer into the driveway, if they could get the Board into the building and where was it going to be stored. A few days passed and the Solari Board finally arrived at the Danbury Railway Museum.

Jeff Van Wagenen and Marty Grossmann have designed and constructed electrical circuits that will make our new acquisition interactive! Stay tuned for progress on this great new artifact!

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

Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests, Continued from Page 1

well as lessons learned during the previous season. This review process was interactive, with each participant reading an examination question and initiating a discussion about the correct answer. At the conclusion of the review, the written test was taken on a closed-book basis.

My thanks to all who participated!

Steve Gould, Secretary, gave a Car Host and Tour Guide Training Session at the Museum on Saturday, March 21st at 10:30am. It was "touch and go" as Connecticut got yet another snow storm; it was snowing hard in Shelton, CT, where Steve was coming from, but by the time he got to Danbury, the snow had stopped and the sun was shining. About 10 volunteers braved the elements to participate. Steve started his presentation with quotations from articles written about the "gold standard" corporation for customer service, the Walt Disney Corporation. For instance, the Disney Parks do three things each day to insure an excellent customer experience: 1. Be Show Ready: Make sure everything looks good as neatness counts. Neatness is everyone's business. 2. Make Every Customer Feel Important: Be "assertive friendly" and actively make contact with customers on the RYL or during yard tours. 3. Provide Communications Training: Make sure our volunteers can answer any question a customer may have. Walt Disney's comment brought it all together: "Do what you do so well that they will want to see it again and bring their friends." The gist of this, Steve said, was that if the DRM emanates the very best in customer service, how can we go wrong?

Steve then went over the procedures to be followed for Car Hosts and Tour Guides, and passed out script information as well as on board emergency procedures. Comments during the presentation were encouraged and there was a lively discussion as to how we should be sure we do formal yard tours and not just send customers out into the yard on their own. After all, it was said, our yard tours make us a unique railroad museum.

4 For those that missed the training session, please see Steve for up-to-date information. If there are enough volunteers, the session will be repeated.

Superintendent of Operations Report

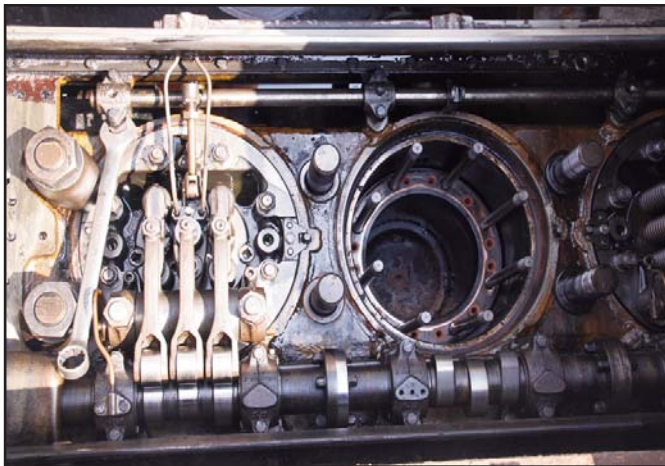
By Jeff Van Wagenen (*as reported at the annual meeting*)

The 2014 operating season was successful, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our train crews, car hosts, our Yardmaster (Jim Teer) and our Mechanical Department (Justin Chapin, CMO).

We revised our Operating Rules for the 2014 season, for the first time in many years, to reflect our needs within the confines of the yard. If and when we operate outside our yard, our crews will need to qualify on Metro-North rules and NORAC rules, in addition to our own. Yikes! But that is a discussion for another day. The DRM operating rules review and examination for our upcoming season was administered Saturday, March 14th with excellent results! Thanks to all who participated!

We conducted a class on air brakes last summer that was well attended and well received. It is amazing to reflect that the basic air brake technology was invented in the 1870s, and yet there are things we all can learn about them in order to use them safely and effectively.

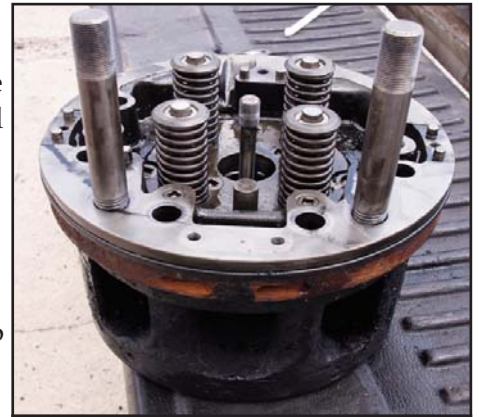
Our 2014 season was an interesting one. We had four locomotives operating: the RS1 (0673), the 44-tonner (1399), the Budd Car (32) and the SW-8 (1). This is the first time in my memory that we had four operable locomotives at the same time. My thanks go to Justin and the Mechanical Department crew, who put in a great deal of time keeping us running. The 32 was nursed back to health following a voltage regulator failure. The SW-8 had a cracked head replaced, and has been fitted with new seals in all eight cylinders. No telling when this was last done! We are hopeful that the SW-8 will return to regular RYL service in 2015.



Looking down from the top deck of the engine on the SW-8 showing the number seven cylinder head removed. *Photo courtesy of Justin Chapin*

Following a careful and detailed analysis of our RYL operations, we determined that we spend an identical amount of time backing up, as going forward. With this vital information in hand, we've installed a new (old, actually) brass dump valve/backup whistle on our New Haven cabooses, and our backup hose also got a new brass backup whistle, which nobody has heard yet, since it was installed just a few weeks ago.

Listen for it in another couple of weeks!



New cylinder head waiting to be installed into the SW-8's engine. *Photo courtesy of Justin Chapin*

Our track held up well in 2014, but all track requires ongoing maintenance every year. I am hoping to work with Jim Teer to schedule a track work week that will involve barbeque dinners, evening slide shows and movies, overnights in our cabooses and/or local hospitality for out-of-town volunteers. Well, that is the fun part. The work part will be replacing ties. We have a good number of candidate ties for replacement and a good supply of replacements waiting for deployment. This designated work week has been a successful approach for several railroad museums, and I would like to give it a try here. I have penciled this into my calendar for Wednesday June 24th through Sunday June 28th. I hope some of you will be able to volunteer for some or all days. It should be fun.

Our train crews did a great job covering assignments in 2014. We have room for additional train crew members, which would make the scheduling less demanding. Please let me know if you would like to participate as a trainee. There is a lot to learn, but it is fun. We are often scrambling for conductors and engineers because of vacations and other commitments, and we can definitely use additional qualified conductors and engineers.

Our first trains for this upcoming season are scheduled for March 28th. These will be our popular "Bunny Trains", which are fun for our young visitors, as well as an important source of revenue for the museum. Following the Easter weekend, our regular operating season begins. We will be running every weekend through our "Santa Trains" in December.

Again, my thanks to all of the volunteers that make this possible.

DRM Annual Financial Report

By Patty Osmer, DRM Treasurer

Fund Results for Year 2014

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

The General Operating Fund is what is used to pay the Museum's day-to-day bills. Each January, a balanced budget is approved by the Board of Directors. Income above and beyond normal operating expenses are budgeted to go into Asset Restoration/Maintenance and Improvements.

	2014	2013	2014 % of Income/ Expense
INCOME			
Events	\$55,058	\$42,824	37.2
General Admission	\$48,516	\$53,719	32.7
Sales (less cost of goods)	\$23,746	\$26,611	16.0
Membership	\$11,559	\$11,670	7.8
General Contributions	\$1,919	\$2,120	1.3
Interest Income	\$659	\$1,535	0.4
Other	\$6,725	\$6,050	4.5
GROSS PROFIT:	\$148,182	\$144,529	
EXPENSE			
Accounting & Legal	\$4,975	\$5,544	4.19
Advertising	\$7,983	\$8,982	6.73
Asset Restoration/Preservation	\$7,523	\$1,807	6.34
Credit Card Fees	\$3,363	\$3,239	2.83
Equipment Rental	\$2,749	\$2,669	2.32
Exhibits	\$935	\$1,054	0.79
Event Expense	\$6,769	\$4,523	5.70
General Maint. & Supplies	\$11,937	\$11,710	10.06
Insurance	\$16,680	\$15,898	14.06
Locomotive Operations	\$10,533	\$5,973	8.88
Misc (Misc, Fees, etc)	\$4,959	\$3,002	4.18
Printing/Publications/Postage	\$2,830	\$5,136	2.38
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Tel, Refuse)	\$36,453	\$34,001	30.72
Yard & Maintenance Equip	\$974	\$3,256	0.82
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$118,663	\$106,794	
NET ORDINARY INCOME:	\$29,519	\$37,735	

Fund Results for Year 2014

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

Temporary Restricted Funds are accounts where monies are earmarked for a specific purpose. The majority of money in these funds comes from donations or from grants.

INCOME

Donations & Grants \$37,627

EXPENSES

\$21,858

FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/14:

1402	\$13,675.03
1455	\$9,296.63
Burro Crane	\$2,972.31
Coach Repair	\$2,000.00
Electrics	\$(872.30)
FA-1 (0428)	\$60.00
Library	\$12,892.43
Meserve - Video	\$478.14
Model Layouts	\$2,025.96
NH Box Cars	\$802.97
NH Caboose Paint	\$250.00
NH Cab Roofwalk	\$1,000.00
NYCHR Caboose	\$2,431.25
RDC	\$11,377.10
RPO	\$333.83
Rutland Misc	\$971.00
Rutland Boxcar	\$3,823.01
Shop	\$34,823.21
Tamper	\$2,475.00
Tonawanda Valley	\$7,670.37
Tools	\$200.00
Track	\$1,180.28
Turntable	\$490.39
TOTAL:	\$110,356.61



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Address Correction Requested

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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- April 1(7:30pm) Chicago - S.F. Corridor - Carl Liba
- April 8(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- April 15(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- April 22(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- April 23(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- April 29(7:30pm) I Like Steam - Dan Foley

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

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



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Change of Address:

If moving, please send your new address to:
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 PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
 Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com



Left: John O'Hern (left) receiving his Gandy Dancer's award from President Wade Roese (right) at the annual meeting. Above right: Superintendent Jeff Van Wagenen speaking at the annual meeting. Photos courtesy of Stan Madyda