

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 18, Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

April 2018



Shortlines



MILL PLAIN STATION UPDATE

If you happened to have passed the Mill Plain Station site in the last couple of weeks, you will have noticed a lot of progress being made. Our contractor, Salem Preservation, has removed the additions that were added to the building over the years. They also had to remove the bay window and other windows prior to the move.

We had long thought that the building would be moved whole, but more and more there were complications in this method, namely the tight access getting into our yard. It was then decided that the move would be a lot easier if the four walls and roof were dismantled and reassembled on site. We will be using the same company that was to move the structure, Nicholas Brothers of Hopewell Junction, to move the walls. As soon as they have a break in their schedule, Salem will begin the final phases of dismantling.



Had the Museum not stepped up to save the station, it would have likely been destroyed as the land owner wants to develop the property. The move is an

expensive undertaking but one the Board of Directors feels worthwhile. Once reassembled, the station will be an important part of our outdoor exhibits. We welcome donations of any amount. Please send your check to Museum and note that it is for the Mill Plain Station Project.

TWO PRIVATELY OWNED CARS ARRIVE

The former New Haven MU “washboard” parlor car #5111 (Pullman-Standard, 1954), and former CDOT SPV 2000 #1001 “conference car” (Budd, 1980) arrived at DRM in the wee hours of the



morning on April 11. All 3 surviving “washboard” cars are now housed at Danbury. At one time, there were 100 of these cars in existence.

EASTER BUNNY RESULTS

We had over 1200 visitors during the 4 days of the event, making this a very successful Bunny year. Thank you to all who helped with the event. These events are our largest source of revenue for the general operations of the Museum, and we always need help, whether it be car hosting, helping to set up or take down the event, working the Front Desk or the Gift Shop, Operating Crew, doing tattoos, helping the Bunny or Santa or in the Pumpkin Patch. Volunteering for even one day at one of the events would really help us out, and will give you a chance to see how much goes on behind the scenes to run these events.

ACROPHOBIA VS LEAKY RDC

CMO Justin Chapin managed to coax Jose Alves into confronting his fear of heights and get him on top of RDC #32 to fix a leak that developed over the winter. You’ve risen to new heights, Jose!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRESENTATIONS

Looking for people to present slide shows/give talks for the Wednesday Night public meetings. Please contact us if you can help us out.

MUSEUM RECEIVES PORTABLE BOILER, (J)UST (I)N (CASE)

By: Jose A. Alves

Sorry for submitting two articles with puns in the title, but the museum recently accepted the donation of a portable boiler built by the J. I. Case Company around 1925, donated by life member Bob Pitcher.

Bob, Justin Chapin, and I took a ride to Brookfield to load the four-wheeled behemoth onto Justin's trailer. Of course we picked the muddiest day of the winter, and with the help of a small tractor and multiple winches and come-alongs, the boiler was loaded and headed to the railyard.

This particular boiler once had a steam engine attached, and would have been used to power belt driven machinery in remote areas like farm fields.

After the engine had been removed, the boiler was used to steam the tobacco beds in the Windsor Ct area. The purpose of steaming the beds is to kill weeds and sterilize the soil

We would like to re-attach the smoke box cover, (which is adorned with the iconic "case eagle,") fabricate a new smoke stack, paint it, and place it on a flat car to simulate a period load.



COMING EVENTS

May 13	Mother's Day	Mothers ride free with child's paid admission
May 28	Memorial Day	Open 12-4
June 1	Summer Hours start.	Open Mon – Fri 10-4, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5.
*June 9	Steel & Wheels Car Show	Car show, raffles, prizes. To benefit Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Members who would like to enter a car, please email (news4drm@gmail.com) the Museum for information.

June 17	Father's Day	Fathers ride free with child's paid admission. Special Caboose Trains
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RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT

PROJECT FUNDS AVAILABLE AS OF 12/31/17

Major Projects Currently Underway	Funds Available	Priority
Tonawanda Valley (lettering)	\$3,405	High
B&M 2-6-0 #1455	\$10,167	Med
Burro Crane	\$4,183	Med
NYC&HR Wooden Caboose	\$1,985	Med
Rutland Flat Car	\$971	Med
Major Future Projects		
Mack FCD Rail Bus	\$1,000	Low
CN Caboose (roof leak, floor repair)		
NH C-627 Caboose (repaint and reletter)	\$1,250	High
NH C-627 Caboose (replace roof walk)	\$1,000	High
Sperry Rail Detector Car (repaint in and out)		Med
E-L Bay Window Caboose (repaint, windows)	\$1,275	Low
RS11 #1402 (prep work, repaint, operation?)	\$13,675	Low
NH FA-1 (prep work, repaint)		Low
Rutland Wooden Box car (rebuild, repaint)	\$3,823	Med
Ex-RDG Coach #2001 (floor repair, repaint)	\$2,000	High
Ex-RDG Coach #2012 (seats, floor, repaint)		Low
Cosmetic Projects		
Stratford Point (steam clean, repaint)		Low
RPO (repaint and reletter)	\$1,000	High
Ex-RDG Coach #1547 (repaint, reletter)	\$2,700	Med
NH MU "washboards" (steam clean, repaint roof, ends)		Med
RDC #32 (floor repairs, update NH script logo)		Med
FL9 #2006 (outside prep and paint)		Low
RDC #47 (repaint end visible to public)		Med
44 Tonner #1399 (repaint to UP scheme)		Low
RS1 #0673 (repaint cab roof, repaint rest of unit)		High
Tank Cars, Hoppers, etc (repaint for display)		Low
ACMU's (repaint back to as-delivered NYC scheme)		Low
CN #660 and #756 (letter both cars)		High

Please contact us if you can help us out with in any of these projects.

Work on the TURNTABLE is starting. We need help with scraping and painting the metal structure before we can replace the ties. Please contact us if you can help with this project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Meetings take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone: 203-778-8337; Fax: 203-778-1836

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM

If you have an idea for an article, please let us know that, also.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGES**

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com

PROJECT MANAGERS/CREWS NEEDED

We have a number of projects awaiting a Project Manager before work can begin. (See the article on Page 3). Please contact Restoration Chairman Bill Wagner if you would be willing to be a project manager for any of them. You can email to the Newsletter, or to info@danburyrail.org, we will pass your information along to Bill.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We can use your help in a variety of ways! Tour guides, car hosts, Gift Shop, Front Desk staff, work crews, operations, library archiving, advertising ... if you can do it, we could probably use your help! Email us, or call 203-778-8837.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

We frequently post reminders about events and information of interest to our followers on Facebook, and many of our friends post pictures there as well.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

We are in need of a Newsletter Editor so that we can keep the **Railyard Dispatch** going. Please email NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM if you can help us out.

**ALL NEWSLETTERS FROM 2001
TO PRESENT CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE.**



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