

The Railyard Local

Volume 9, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

February-March 2010

Record Attendance at "Big E"

Our booth and volunteers were there to greet the 21,458 people who attended Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA during the last weekend of January. Preparations



began weeks ahead, especially by Gift Shop staff. The Tuesday night train modelers found excess track and

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Election Time Is Here

By Steve Gould, DRM Secretary
Has your ballot arrived?

Be on the lookout! Ballots have been mailed for the 2010 Board of Directors elections. If you have not received yours yet, please contact the Museum immediately! There are five two-year term Director positions to fill this year. We are indeed fortunate to have five incumbents and four new candidates running. Your vote will make a difference! Included with the letter of instructions will be the resumes for all candidates, so please take the time to read them. Just make your selections on the ballot, tear it off, place it in the return envelope provided, and add a stamp and mail it. **Be sure to fill out the return address on the envelope and add your membership number**, which you can find on your membership card. Ballots received without a return address or membership number cannot be counted. The deadline to receive your ballot is 7:30pm on Wednesday, March 17, and the results will be announced that evening at the Annual Meeting. Thanks go out to all the candidates running for office and their interest in keeping the Museum headed on the right path to the future.

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DRM Training Program - 2010

By John O'Hern, Safety Officer

The following DRM Training and Qualifying Exam sessions are offered to our volunteers, who also must be DRM members, for 2010:

Safety Exam:

for ALL volunteers working in our yard

Crew Exam:

for all current and potential DRM crew members.

Schedule: Saturday, March 13th

Safety Exam: 10:30am

Questions? See John O'Hern

Crew Exam: 1:30pm

Questions? See Peter McLachlan

A new Car Host & Tour Guide Program has been added due to insurance requirements. **All hosts and guides must have received this training before working on our trains.**

A training session for this work has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 20th at 10:30am.**

Questions? See Peter McLachlan or Steve Gould.

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 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!

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!

Michael Cech	Newtown, CT
Anthony Gore	Redding, CT
Max Katchko	Stamford, CT
Ralph Hammock	Stamford, CT
Glenn Ferdico	Garrison, NY
Laura Kozelouzek	Sherman, CT
Michael Grant	Stamford, CT
John Lambrech	Redding, CT

Our Membership Chairman has requested that those renewing membership at the DRM include the "Application for Membership" form with the check for membership. It will make this volunteer's job easier since the form has your name and address on it. There also are some important questions about your interests that we hope you will answer.

News of Note

Fund Drive

The fund drive to help Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum in Willimantic, CT ended with donations of \$370, which the DRM matched, so a contribution of \$740 was sent to help that Museum recover from damage as a result of vandalism.

Easter Bunny Event

Even with all the snow which has descended upon us recently, the Easter Bunny is preparing to emerge from his burrow for the annual visit to Danbury Railway Museum for our Easter Bunny Express event. It will be held on March 21, 27, 28, April 2 & 3 this year. Trains will run every 1/2 hour, 12:30-3:30pm. Reservations are recommended for this popular event. Tickets are \$8 for everyone aged 2 and over. The ride on our vintage train will end with a visit with the Easter Bunny in his Special Coach and a small gift. In addition to our usual attractions, there will be a coloring station, temporary tattoos, and holiday decorations throughout.

If you will be able to help at any time for this event, please contact Sue Teer at the Museum or at (203) 792-1981. The Museum will be open Friday and Saturdays of the event from 10-4:30pm and on Sundays from noon-4:30.

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

As the Danbury Railway Museum continued to grow, more opportunities for available equipment came to our attention. The Museum was in need of a second locomotive that could back up the RS-1 on the Railyard Local. It was learned that a former New Haven RS-11 #1402 was for sale in Georgia. The price tag for the locomotive was \$18,000 with an estimated charge of \$7,000 to move the locomotive to Danbury. The Board voted to purchase the locomotive and a fundraising effort was underway. If the DRM could not raise the money to complete the purchase, then the owner said the engine would be scrapped.



One piece of equipment that arrived in January was the Conrail Reefer #359020. Originally built for the Erie Lackawanna in 1966, this car was later outfitted by Conrail with a GPS system. The car was a test car for this new science and received a new paint scheme of white sides and blue ends and roof. The car saw service between California and New York and Boston. Ownership of the car passed to the Conrail Technical Society. They agreed to store the car in Danbury. The DRM could use half the car for storage.

A membership report was submitted which showed that there were 531 members including 78 life members. Most members resided in Connecticut (391) with New York (99) in second place.

Although the weather was cold, outside restoration on the Budd RDC #32 continued. The crew moved the work to the PRR baggage car. The brakes were inspected and repaired using Budd RDC #47 parts for this work. Inside work continued removing the carpeting Amtrak placed on the walls and ceiling.

Restoration also continued on the PRR Caboose #477099 while some of the other projects were put on hold. It was hoped that in the near future all restoration work could be moved down to the area where the roundhouse stood.

Announcements in the newsletter brought attention to an upcoming slide auction, a reception at the DRM for Jack Swanberg on his retirement and the upcoming Board of Directors election.

Members highlighted were Debbie Kern and Mike Miciukiewicz.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I would first like to wish you all well.

Obviously not much has been going on in the yard as a result of all the snow, cold and inclement weather that we have been having this month. Justin has been keeping the yard plowed out though, and when the sun does shine, Bob Wohlken has been coming in and prepping the relay ties for this season's trackwork. He has been prying out the spikes and tie plates, then filling the remaining holes, getting them ready for our use. We have a total of about 80 of these ties for our non-ending maintenance issues. I will be ordering about 100 more of these relays from our vendor in New Haven to help bolster our supply. I am hoping that once the weather breaks and the ground settles out we can begin once again replacing ties on Tracks 42, 18, 34, and possibly on 26 this year. As I have stated before, it is an ongoing project. Our track maintenance is a dire necessity. A lot will depend on how much frost was in the ground and how much our gauge has shifted, but that is also part of it. It is just a matter of time though, and I cannot wait for spring.

There are lots of things happening, even though some are behind the scenes. I will just quickly report to you that progress is slowly being made on the electric engines up in Albany. Although this has been very slow moving, I am still trying to remain optimistic that this will happen in the near future. Basically, there are regulations that must be met by R.J. Corman and the power company that have taken a lot of time. I am hoping that we can make this move while the ground is still frozen at the job site. It is very frustrating waiting for this to come to fruition. I still feel these electrics will be a big asset to our collection once they arrive.

In other news, we are collaborating with Bill Probert of Lego Collectors fame to erect an operating Lego train layout in the Great Hall of the Museum. This will be a new event for the DRM, I am hoping to draw many new faces with this exhibit. Wade Roese, who is in charge of the building displays and exhibits, will be removing the photo walls in the Great Hall to accommodate this unique display. We have had this area up now for several years, and it has served its purpose very nicely, but it is time now for a facelift and change in the building. This new exhibit will run for about three weeks starting in April.



The New England Lego Users Group's operating Lego layout in the Mallary Complex at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show at "Big E" was a major attraction. We are excited about displaying one here.



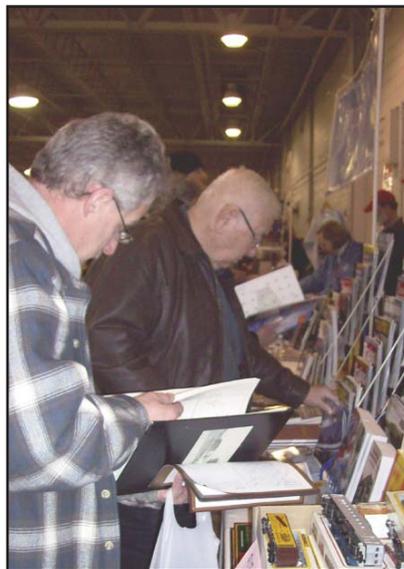
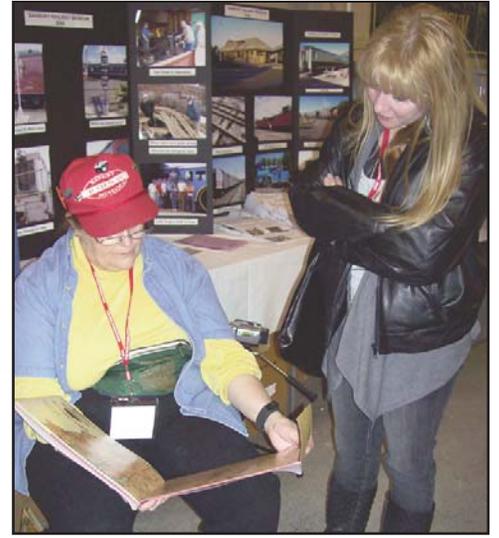
There are other things happening at the DRM, but I will not comment on them now. I do not like to talk about them until they actually happen, and I certainly do not want to disappoint anyone, especially you, the member and volunteer.

We have an election coming up in March. Use your judgment as to who might best fit the open positions of five directors. I will say though that the main purpose and goal of a non-profit 501-C-3 Director is solely to raise funds and to sustain the organization financially. Use your discretion accordingly. I also thank the directors who did serve on this last Board over these past two years. Our Board has made some progress in these two short years with many new policies, new events, and most of all, better financial stability.

I look forward to the coming spring and also look forward to meeting and working with all of our new members. See you next month.

Record Attendance at "Big E", Continued from Page 1

rolling stock to sell, and the Library displayed duplicate items for sale. Of course, everyone needed some time away from the booth to do some browsing and shopping, too! Our layout from the Gift Shop was a big hit, as usual. Sales at our booth were better than last year, but less than our average. This event provides the optimum opportunity for our staff, flyers, brochures and newsletters to help publicize the DRM, and also for networking since vendors and guests come great distances to attend it. Thank you to all who helped with this endeavor! Proceeds from the show are used to fund grants for railroading projects. The DRM Grants Committee has applied for grants, and our Museum has been a recipient of generous grants from Amherst Railway Society.



DRM Welcomes Guests from Near and Far

We volunteers love introducing our Museum to visitors. Thanks to the efforts of our guests to sign our guest book and give us feedback, we realize that the railroading is of international interest, and that our Museum attracts people from local, national, and international locales. It is clear from their comments that, in addition to our collection and artifacts, they appreciate the personal attention of our friendly, knowledgeable staff, and tour guides in particular. The more specific the comments, the better we can understand what makes visitors' experience here pleasurable and memorable. John O'Hern has found that the DRM had guests from 41 different states and 13 foreign countries during 2009. In the months January-June visitors from the following hometowns in the areas outside CT, MA, and NY signed our guest book. Although all our guests are of equal importance to us, it is thought that a listing of locations further afield would be of most interest.

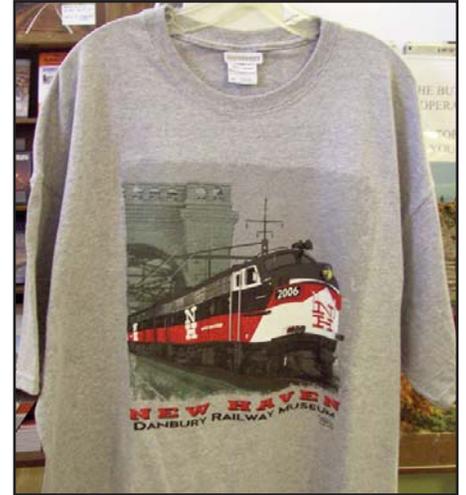


Atizapan, Mexico	Alexandria, NC	Lappeenranta, Finland	Parker, CO
Manassas, VA	Columbia Falls, MT	Herrenberg, Germany	Harrisburg, PA
Charleston, SC	Benton Station, ME	Cambridge, UK	Warner Robins, GA
Troy, MI	Austin, TX	Henderson, NC	Hazleton, PA
Eldon, MO	Bristol, IN	Raleigh, NC	Middletown, PA
Grand Falls, NB, CA	Sunapee, NH	Dekalb, IL	Chandler, AZ
Ashland, NC	Hopedale, MA	Rapid City, SD	W. Richland, WA
Celina, TX	Yulee, FLI	Kalamazoo, MI	Lebanon, OH
Pacific Palisades, CA	Aliquippa, PA	Richmond, VA	Macungie, PA
North Easton, MA	Williamsport, PA	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	Miami, FL
Hamburg, Germany	Beijing, China	Carnegie, PA	Eagleville, PA
Manchester, NH	New London, NH	Louisville, KY	Odenton, MD
Silver Springs, FL	Pembroke, NH	Manchester, MD	Rochester, Kent, UK
Wooster, OH	Ferlens, Switzerland	Wellesley, MA	Orlando, FL
Fairfax, VA	Nashville, TN	Woodbridge, VA	Alum Creek, WV
Perryville, RI	Las Vegas, NV	Moscow, PA	Shavertown, PA
Tucson, AZ	Reading, UK	Ipswich, England	Gardnerville, NV
Ede, Netherlands	Leicester, MA	De Bary, FL	Chichester, NH
Mill Valley, CA	Poulsbo, WA	Lowell, MA	East Lansing, MI
Walpole, MA	Coopersburg, PA	York, PA	St. Augustine, FL
Bethlehem, PA	Hyde Park, MA	Rosharon, TX	Polk City, FL
Great Britain	Kingsville, MD	Fellsmere, FL	Grosse Pointe Park, MI
Neutraubline, Bavaria, Germany		Geneva, Switzerland	New Brighton, MN
East Maitland, NSW, Australia		Weston, FL	Doylestown, PA
Modesto, CA	Rutland, VT	Duernkrut, Austria	Bloomington, IN
Pembroke, MA	Muscatine, IA	Bellefonte, PA	Mesick, MI
Greenville, NH	Crewe, UK	Plymouth, MI	La Paz, Bolivia
Madison, OH	Camano Island, WA	Little Falls, MN	Denver, CO
Rio Rancho, NM	Coventry, RI	Sylvania, OH	Cadillac, MI
Hooksett, NH	Cohasset, MA	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	Winthrop, MA
Butler, ME	Bogota, Colombia	South Hamilton, MA	Howell, MI
Vaiden, MS	Beverly, MA	Lansing, MI	Burien, WA
Knoxville, TN	Catonsville, MD	Oregon, WI	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Easton, PA	Briny Breezes, FL	Kutztown, PA	Jensen Beach, FL
Owasso, OK	Norman, OK	Berea, OH	Krum, TX
Salina, Utah	Big Bear City, CA	Leverkusen, Germany	Clermont, FL
Honesdale, PA	St. Louis, MO	Kingston, PA	Woodridge, IL

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

New for 2010. If you haven't stopped by the Gift Shop lately, now is the time to do so. Several new items have been stocked for 2010; among them, several items bearing a picture of the popular FL-9 engine, NH #2006 (which can be seen in our yard) crossing Hell Gate Bridge. The great-looking design is available on tee shirts, sweat shirts, mugs, and mouse pads. Tees and sweats are available in both child and adult sizes.



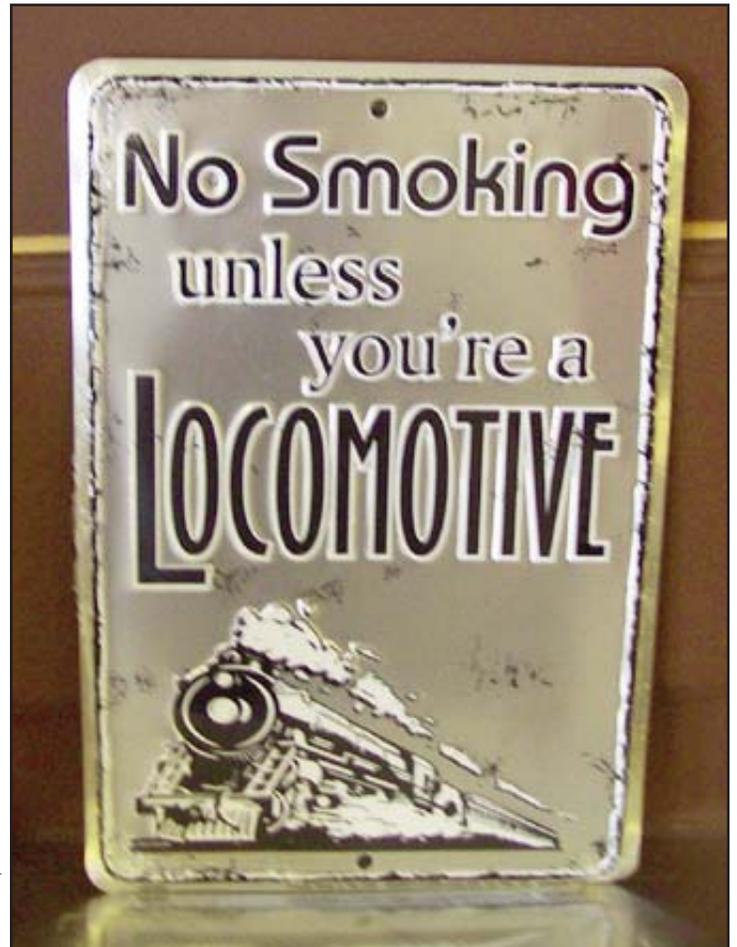
We also have some nice light-weight, lined hooded jackets bearing the NYNH&H script logo and sweat-shirts with the NYNH&H logo back in stock.

Have some fun with family and friends by displaying these signs just unpacked in our Gift Shop! We have quite a variety on hand, including serious ones!



Joe Shciavone's popular book, *More of the Old Put*, is selling fast, and there are only a few cases left. We have plenty of them in stock, but they won't last long. If you haven't gotten your copy, now is the time. We also have a number of copies of Lou Grogan's classic, *The Coming of the New York and Harlem Railroad*. (Photos of these items appeared in the September issue of *The Railyard Local*.)

Several people have asked if we are making a 2010 collectible car? Unfortunately, the answer is "No, not this year". We have to buy these in large quantities in order to make them affordable; that means we have to sell out what we have in order to stock more.



Stop by to see us, or if you want to order by mail, contact us at info@danburyrail.org for price and shipping. Members get 10% off.

Library News

By Stan Madyda

It has been a while since we have acknowledged donations to the Library. Dating back to 2008, a number of individuals have donated trains of all gauges. We'd like to thank Joseph Alves, Vincent Reiner, Jr., Robert C. Roth, John Pecora, Mr. Caiola, Henry Tritter, Bob Crowe, Herbert J. Krug, Charles Herman, Ross Custom Switches, Ellie Sturges, and the Estate of Edward Aarons for their train donations.

Besides model trains we have received a number of other donations ranging from magazines and books to railroad artifacts.

- Christine Talarico – a large collection of railroad books, many of them recently published
- Dawn & Jim Fitzgerald – three photo albums of the Hawaiian Railroad
- David Wilson – 8 years of Narrow Gauge Gazette and 4 looseleaf books on the recent CNE trips
- John Stamatov – railroad map of New York State
- Arthur Azzarito – photos of the Royal Train from the 1939 World's Fair
- Andrew Neilly – air brake gauge, hat badge, ticket punch, telegraph key, railroad tickets, books, prints, map and brochures
- G. Franklin Ackerman – technical books
- Alan Baker – calendars, annual reports, NRHS Bulletins
- Ronald & Ethel Kern – steamer trunk
- Elizabeth Mueller – videos
- Dan Foley – magazines, manuals, locomotive roster, 140 locomotive slides
- Dave McKee – magazines
- Steve Gould – calendars, prints, booklets, magazines
- Sandra Magyar – books, steam whistles, oil can
- Terri Stramiello – videos, slides, DRM buttons, book, DRM papers
- Robert Oliver Souza – 3 photos of the 1455
- Robert S. Payne – annual reports and Howard Fogg print
- Anne Twitty – 3 videos
- Karen V. Brown – caboose lamp, SP oil can and SP car knocker hammer
- David Carson – Model Railroader magazines
- Ed & Suze Blackman – NRHS magazines
- Alan Gruber – two 16 x 20" photos
- Jack Otto – Railroad Man's Magazines, 7 issues from 1910

The Reference & Research Library also purchased eight prints of Danbury Yard buildings and a book, "The Shepaug Railroad." The Library also received an anonymous donation of record albums and trolley and railroad magazines.

Election Time Is Here, Continued from Page 1

Board Reduces Number of Directors

By Don Konen, Chairman of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors, at its January 21, 2010 meeting, reduced the size of the Board by one Director in order to be in compliance with the Museum's bylaws. The Board is composed of the Officers plus the Directors. The Directors are divided into two 'classes' which the bylaws state "are elected to a two (2) year term with as near as 50% of the Directors as possible elected each year." This means that with an even number of Directors on the Board, the two classes should be equal in size, or with an odd number of Directors, the classes should differ by only one Director. Before this action by the Board, the class of 2010 had six Directors and the class of 2011 had only four Directors - a clear violation of the bylaws.

The motion was hotly debated by the Board before being passed, since the effect of this action is that only five Directors will be elected in the upcoming election.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Mar	3(7:30pm)	Chicago-Twin Cities Corr. - Carl Liba
Mar	10(7:30pm)	1970 Happenings - Pete McLachlan
Mar	17(7:30pm)	DRM Annual Meeting and Election Results
		Video;B&M Hist. Soc. - Dave Wilson
Mar	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Mar	24(7:30pm)	Slides; TBA - Al Gruber
Mar	31(7:30pm)	Burn Poughkeepsie Br - John Faluso
Apr	7(7:30pm)	C&NW Power + Trains - Carl Liba

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

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



Contact Information

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Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

