

# The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 15, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

January - February 2016

## Annual Election Issue!



Election time is here for the Danbury Railway Museum! This issue of *The Railyard Dispatch* is devoted to that membership privilege: Voting for candidates for the four Director positions whose terms expire this year. You will see candidate resumes start on Page 5 and extend to Page 6. Please look them over carefully and you will see what their future plans are for the DRM. On Page 7, you will find the official ballot for 2016. Vote for your selections and cut off the portion of the page along the dotted line and use the enclosed envelope to return your ballot to the Museum. If you do not want to mutilate your newsletter copy, you can print off the last page from our website or just photocopy Page 7 and send in the completed ballot.

On Page 2, you will find a donation sheet showing four projects that need more funding. Please consider making a donation to one or all of them using the lower portion of the form. Just fill in the information requested and include the lower section with your check. If you wish, you can include it with your ballot. The same goes for this form; you can also print it out from the website, or just make a photocopy of it to send in.

Thank you for your support with your vote and, we hope, with an included donation!



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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!

Amanda Tarsi  
Sara Arnold

New Fairfield, CT  
Mahopac, NY

### Upcoming Event at the DRM 2016 Easter Bunny Express Trains! March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

Before long, the Easter Bunny will be here! Ride a vintage train through our ten-acre railyard and visit the Easter Bunny in the spring season-decorated RDC #32 and Bunny event car! Every child will receive a small gift from the Bunny!

**Reservations are strongly recommended!** You can reserve online at [Danburyrail.org](http://Danburyrail.org), 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 during the event and/or for setup/takedown, please contact Sue at the Station on Fridays or Saturdays at: 1-203-778-8337. A train ride to see the Easter Bunny is just the event to brighten up the holiday for families' toddlers and small ones! We look forward to this event and hope you support it by helping us get the word out by telling your family, friends, and putting up flyers. Don't forget to come out and enjoy the fun!

**DONATE TO THE DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM!**

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM: WE CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR HELP!**

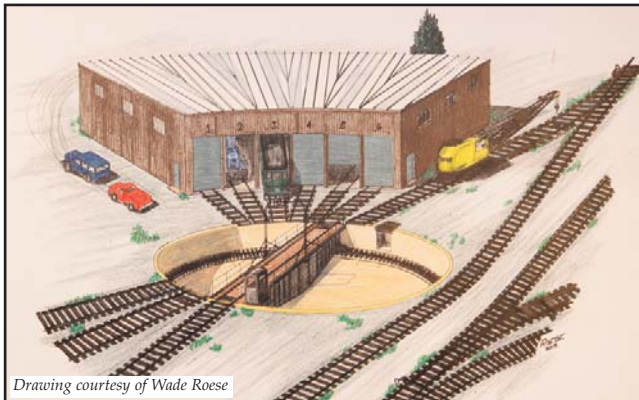
We rely on four sources for funding: Direct admission and special event ticket sales; merchandise sales in the Gift Shop; grants; and donations. It is in the last area where we need your help. Below are four projects that need additional funding. Recently, we have obtained a 1970 bay window caboose, formerly operated by the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, one of ten such cars built for the carrier. It requires a considerable investment to restore it to its former glory. We estimate a total cost of \$6,200 just for the replacement of all the windows.



1947 ex-NYC Burro crane full restoration for yard maintenance and display



1970 EL bay window caboose needs window replacement and other restoration work



*Drawing courtesy of Wade Roese*

6-stall Roundhouse to be built on existing foundation needs to be fully funded



*Photos courtesy of Wade Roese*

Rescue and restoration of two ex-NYC electric locomotives (1904 S1 (above, left) and 1926 T3a (above, right) motors)



*Cut along dotted line and mail bottom portion in the enclosed envelope*

**YES! I WILL HELP!!** Please indicate the amount you wish to donate besides the selected project. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Burro Crane \$ \_\_\_\_\_ EL Bay Window Caboose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Roundhouse \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NYC Electrics \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Trackwork \$ \_\_\_\_\_ NYC Wooden Caboose \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Here is a donation to a project of my choice: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Specify project: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Treasurer, Danbury Railway Museum, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090, or send with your**

**2 ballot! Thank you for your generosity!!**

# DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

## 2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday Evening Meeting and Mini-Events, 7:30 pm.  
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability.

January 30 - 31	Amherst Train Show	See us at the "Big E" Train show, W. Springfield, MA.
<i>March 19, 20, 25, 26</i>	<i>Bunny Trains</i>	<i>Train rides to the Easter Bunny's Special Coach.</i>
May 8	Mother's Day	Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.
May 30	Memorial Day	Summer hours begin. Open 12 - 4.
June 11	Steel & Wheels Car Show	Car show, raffles, prizes. Proceeds to benefit Women's Center of Danbury
June 19	Father's Day	Fathers ride free with child's paid admission. Special Caboose Trains.
June 26	Teacher's Day	Teachers ride free with paid admission.
July 4	Independence Day	Open 12 - 4.
July 16	Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day	Stories, history and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog. Adopt a pet day.
August 6 - 7	Danbury Railway Days	Special Celebration with special activities.
August 13	DRM Picnic	Picnic for members and their families.
September 5	Labor Day	Summer hours end. Open 12 - 4.
September 10	First Responder's Day	Free admission and train rides for First Responders & their families (must present ID card or arrive in uniform).
<i>October 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30</i>	<i>Pumpkin Patch</i>	<i>Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children.</i>
November 12	Military Appreciation Day	Free train ride for past & present military personnel and their families (with ID card or arrive in uniform).
<i>December 4, 10, 11, 17, 18</i>	<i>Santa Trains</i>	<i>Santa's Special Train Rides. Special evening trains on Saturdays.</i>

**Special Fundraising Events in Italics. Discounted admission for Members.  
All events, times and equipment subject to change.**

Please check our web site or call the Museum for up-to-date schedule and information.  
Reservations suggested for Easter Bunny and Santa Trains. Reserve online at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)

### HOURS:

WINTER HOURS (SEP – MAY): WED – SAT 10 - 4, SUNDAY 12 - 4.

SUMMER HOURS (JUN – AUG): MON – FRI 10 - 4; SAT 10 - 5; SUNDAY 12 - 5.

CLOSED HOLIDAYS EXCEPT FOR MEMORIAL DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY & LABOR DAY.

Hours may differ for Special Events.

### DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

120 White Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203.778.8337

[www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)

[info@danburyrail.org](mailto:info@danburyrail.org)



# 2015 Santa Express Trains

By Sue Teer. Photos this page courtesy of Carolyn Taylor.

The popular ride to see Santa was in full force for five days in December and fortunately for all involved, the weather stayed nice and only Mr. Frosty remained chilly each day, with lots of hugs from the kids.

The early and late trains remained the most popular and the new 4:30 evening trains were well received. New yard lighting was well received. A special thanks to Bob and Maryann Booth and their helper, Phil, for lighting and decorating the #1455 1907 steam engine, which was a hit with the members and public alike. We understand they already have plans in mind for an Easter spectacular.

During the five event days we had over 1,500 riders! Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves, crew and staff did a great job of ensuring that every visitor had a personal greeting and enjoyable experience! Thanks to all who helped make this a cheerful, fun winter event!



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## Martin Grossman, for the position of Director

### Past Accomplishments:

Design, construct and maintain electronic control circuits for the operation of the model railroad displays in the Station building. Repaired engines and cars for the Station displays. Working with other Museum members, electronic circuits have been developed for animation of the Solari board. Have provided advice and support for members who operate and maintain cars and engines in the railyard for the solution of electrical problems. While volunteering during the Tuesday night meetings, I have become aware of the needs of long-time members who actively operate and maintain the railyard, cars and engines. These members need a building in which to service railyard equipment. After listening to their wants, I developed a written preliminary description for an appropriate structure. At a DRM Board of Directors meeting, I made a live presentation for a proposed building. During this presentation, I recommended a "Feasibility Study" be made by a professional engineer (not associated with DRM) to determine possible existing physical site and legal problems with an estimate of total project cost. I have a PE (ret) NY State, 20 years experience with NY Tel, 4 years with NYCRR and 10 years with M-N RR.

### Future Goals:

Continue providing support for maintaining and upgrading the operation of the model railroad displays in the Station building. Help in the collection and transport of donated artifacts to the Museum. Electronic circuits for animation of the Solari Board will be tested and installed when the Solari Board is installed at its intended location. Continue to promote the construction of a historically correct building replicating the former engine house appropriate for the existing turntable. This is a major project. Design is complex and requires the approval of a number of government agencies. For project control, implementation should be completed in stages. Following each stage, qualified members of the Museum should evaluate the merits of the project. As the project progresses, written reports should be included in *The Railyard Dispatch*. If done correctly, the early stages of the project can be a rallying point. When constructed, it will be a major achievement for the DRM. For over 10 years, I have been associated with the DRM and have become familiar with the organization of the Museum. Together with my experience working in the engineering departments of one communications company, two railroad companies and volunteering, I am now qualified and would be honored to serve as a Director.

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## Don Konen, for the position of Director

### Past Accomplishments:

I presently volunteer at the Museum at least two days a week doing a wide variety of activities. I might be staffing the front desk or gift shop, or I might be out in the yard with a tour. During the operating season, I am regularly part of the train crew as an Engineer, Conductor, or Car Host. I worked with the track gang this past season on a significant tie-replacement project. I am the Museum's Certified Food Safety Manager and I plan and organize food service at our member's picnic and other events. I've become the Museum Treasurer's Financial Secretary taking daily receipts from the admissions desk and gift shop and preparing financial reports and depositing the income. I have served as Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors since March of 2004.

### Future Goals:

The Museum needs to enhance its sources of revenue. I serve on the Events Committee and am continually searching for ways to improve our present events and to create new ones that will be popular with the public. There are several exhibits and displays in our railyard that can be improved and enhanced, and I plan to take an active role in this activity, including helping to finish rebuilding the Museum's outdoor garden model railroad. I also serve on the Restoration Committee which determines priorities and resources necessary to keep improving our exhibits of historic railroad equipment.

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## Chuck Sager, for the position of Director

### Past Accomplishments:

I have been a volunteer at the Museum for almost 7 years. I have been on the Board for 2 terms and would like to continue for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term. I am at the Museum at least 2 days a week doing anything from opening and working the desk or gift shop to being a crew member. I am presently in charge of crew conductors and head up the Restoration Committee.

### Future Goals:

I would like to see some of our exhibits updated and/or push for better upkeep. We are in dire need of next generation volunteers and we need to find a way to bring them into the Museum. We also need to find more ways to fund our projects so that we don't become stale in our offerings to the public. These are important issues that need to be addressed and I would like to do whatever I can to address them.

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## Jeff Van Wagenen, for the position of Director

### Past Accomplishments:

I am the Superintendent of Operations for the DRM, which involves training, qualifying and scheduling our operating crew members. I also serve on the Restoration Committee, and I am usually at the DRM Tuesday evenings, working with the crew that keeps the model exhibits running. In the last two years, I have also assisted our Chief Mechanical Officer (Justin Chapin) with equipment maintenance, and our Yard Superintendent (Jim Teer) with track maintenance. Without their efforts, we could not run.

### Future Goals:

I plan to continue my current responsibilities as Superintendent of Operations, working with our operating crew to keep us rolling. We have a dedicated core of volunteers who work tirelessly to assure our visitors have an enjoyable and educational experience. I would like to continue serving on the Board, to support the efforts of these individuals. Our future depends on attracting and retaining the next generation of talented and engaged volunteers, and as a Board member, I will work to that end.

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### *2015 Santa Express Trains, Continued from Page 4. Photos this page courtesy of Alan Gruber.*



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**DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM 2016 BALLOT**

TO: DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM MEMBERS  
SUBJECT: BALLOT FOR 2016 ELECTION

Below, please find a ballot for the 2016 elections. Four Director positions are to be filled, each with a two-year term. Resumes for each candidate are printed in this edition of *The Railyard Dispatch* newsletter. Please review them before voting. Submit your ballot using the following procedure:

1. Mark your ballot with your choices, cut off, and return it in the enclosed return envelope to the Danbury Railway Museum, Attention: Secretary Steve Gould, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090. **It must arrive by 7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 16, 2016 (the Annual Meeting). Ballots received after this date and time will not be counted.**

2. The return envelope **must** show your member number and/or your name in the upper left hand corner. You can find your member number on your membership card.

3. Based on what we have learned from a two-year museum consulting program (StEPS-CT), sponsored by Connecticut history and cultural organizations, we are updating our mission statement and have proposed a vision statement. The Board of Directors has approved the changes to the By-Laws, but the membership must vote to approve them, as outlined in the ballot below. Please indicate your vote, marking "yes" or "no" as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact Steve Gould, Secretary, at 203-929-4368, or GouldSL@aol.com.

*Cut along dotted line and mail bottom portion in the enclosed envelope*

Thank You! - Board of Directors

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**DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM OFFICIAL 2016 BALLOT**

**DIRECTORS (VOTE FOR AT MOST FOUR)**

For Director: Don Konen \_\_\_\_\_ For Director: Jeff Van Wagenen \_\_\_\_\_

For Director: Chuck Sager \_\_\_\_\_ For Director: Marty Grossman \_\_\_\_\_

**Article II of the By-Laws, entitled "Purpose and Mission Statement" reads as follows: Section 1: The purpose of the Corporation shall be to operate a railway museum in Danbury, CT, to educate the public as to the history of railroading and the role of the railroads as part of our local and national heritage, and to engage in any and all activities convenient to said purposes.**

**Proposed Article II will be entitled "Mission and Vision Statements" and will read as follows:  
Section 1 – Mission Statement: Preserve railroading history and its influence on America’s growth.  
Section 2 – Vision Statement: Present history and information to further education about railroading through restoration, preservation, exhibition and demonstration.**

Do you approve the By-Law changes above? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No



PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

February	3(7:30pm)	Colorado Visits - Carl Liba
February	10(7:30pm)	Never To Be Seen Again on the HRR - Peter McLachlan
February	17(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
February	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
February	24(7:30pm)	To Be Announced
March	2(7:30pm)	B&O Steam Power - Carl Liba
March	9(7:30pm)	CSX on the West Shore and B&A - Peter McLachlan
March	16(7:30pm)	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
March	17(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
March	23(7:30pm)	To Be Announced

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

See the newsletter in color at:

[www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum

Attention: Newsletter

PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Phone: 203.778.8337; Fax: 203.778.1836

Email: [drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com)

Editor: Michael Madyda

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### **Change of Address:**

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,

Attention: Membership Chairman

PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)