

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 7

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

July 2015

Words from Our President

In April of 2013, the Danbury Railway Museum had the privilege of receiving the membership application of Ridgefield, Connecticut resident Mr. Jeffery A. Scott. Immediately, Jeff jumped into the everyday operations of the Museum. Jeff, a fast learner, quickly was an expert at the front desk welcoming and processing visitors, opening and closing and processing phone reservations for tours and birthday parties as if he had years of experience. Jeff was quoted by Don Konen, BoD Chair, as "being our most accurate desk person" when it came to the finances. Jeff also showed us how to sell cab rides to our visitors which prompted an unpublished contest. Jeff won us over and inspired us all. Sadly, on June 26, 2015, Jeff lost his battle with medical issues that we all hoped he would successfully overcome. Jeff had joined the Danbury Railway Museum as a life member and those of us that had the opportunity to ride and work with him welcomed the trip.

Track work commenced on June 24th with Justin Chapin, Don Konen, Mike Madyda, Jim Teer, Jeff Van Wagenen, Bill Wagner and Philip Beard performing the labors of the heavy work. You can read more about this in next month's newsletter.

The "Yard Inside" has also seen progress as we have rebuilt, revised, relocated and re-carpeted the vertical display boards that prominently display our artwork and photography in the main hall waiting room. This will separate artifact displays from the model railroad and children's play area.

Back in late May and early June, Metro-North had to do repair work on the inside track which curves past our Museum crossing. The track had gone out of gauge in a couple of locations which required rework and the removal of the crossing pads at our pedestrian crossing. The last time work of this nature was undertaken, we waited an extended period of time for a corrected safe passage over this crossing. Fortunately, this time we were able to bring this potential problem to a receptive Metro-North representative, who took a photograph and quickly arranged for the pads to be replaced within a week of notifying him! The pad replacement work finished just 15 minutes before 96 third graders marched over the crossing and into our yard for a tour! Thanks JF!

Finally, decent weather is upon us and work

In This 4 - Page Issue:

~ Upcoming Events at the DRM - Page 2
Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

progresses as new and old projects move forward. Join us, try your hand and share YOUR talents.

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



Rebuilt vertical carpeted display boards.

Photo courtesy of Wade Roese



Metro-North workers replacing the pedestrian crossing pads on June 10th. *Photo courtesy of Jeff Van Wagenen*

Steel and Wheels Car Show

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, more than 35 antique vehicles came to the Danbury Railway Museum to take part in the "Steel and Wheels" car show. Over 90 visitors came to the Museum on that beautiful day and were greeted by vintage cars and trucks spanning several decades. A local radio station broadcasted from the event and raffled off prizes, while a food truck sold food to hungry guests. The DRM trophy went to Ronnie Whitlock for his 1934 Ford Roadster. The event raised \$1,000 for The Women's Center of Danbury.

Continued on Page 3

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!

Paul E. Langston	Naugatuck, CT
Sunny Turner-Rotter	Katonah, NY
Nelson De Nelo	New Fairfield, 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

July 18th - Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day

History, stories and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous Railway Post Office dog.

This month marks the **10th anniversary of the PRR RPO being brought to the DRM**. Please come celebrate with us and see the transformation of this car for yourself! (See *Ten Years Ago* article at right)

August 1st - Danbury Railway Day

Special celebration with special activities! Guided tours of the *Tonawanda Valley* observation car, which is currently undergoing restoration, Budd rail diesel car, #1455 steam engine, Railway Post Office car and the NYC & HRR wooden caboose will be available. Other things going on will be an operating forge, open equipment exhibits, operating model train layouts and children's activities. In addition, the Library will be having a used book sale.

August 15th - First Responders Day & Members Picnic

Free train rides for first responders and their families.

After the day's event, the Museum will hold a members-only picnic where there'll be plenty of great food. A \$5 donation is requested at the picnic. Members can also take a ride on one of our engines or try their hand at the throttle!

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by calling the Station (203-778-8337) to let us know how many will be coming and if you are bringing a salad or dessert.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

The Hammer-In held at the end of May was a success with a number of blacksmiths on hand to work in our newly completed forge. DRM members worked extra hours to get our forge from the New Haven's Cedar Hill yard ready for the weekend. In addition to the blacksmithing demonstrations, members of the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association were on hand with small gas operated and steam powered engines.

The Jeep-Railroad Rendezvous was also a success with owners displaying both vintage and modern jeeps. Trophies were awarded to owners in several categories. The day was arranged by Jeep enthusiasts who did most of the work in bringing this event to fruition.

In the yard, the semaphore building was painted and new windows were installed. New signage was put in the yard identifying some of our equipment, the New Haven box car was being lettered and the yard office became operational.

On July 7th, the Pennsylvania Railroad RPO was at last delivered to the DRM. Originally a baggage car, it was the property of the Housatonic Railroad. A letter was sent to HRR owner Jay Hanlon who agreed to donate and move the car to the DRM. Members made several trips to Canaan, CT to ready the car for movement. Fortunately, most of the interior of the car was untouched making eventual restoration easier.

Volunteers from the Bank of America were in the yard at the end of June to prep and paint the passenger car truck we have on display. This was accomplished due to the bank's community service program.



Left: Hammer-In blacksmith Bill Scheer from Mystic Seaport demonstrates drawing out a piece of steel on an anvil.

Below: The arrival of the PRR RPO to the Danbury yard on July 7, 2005. Photos courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Steel and Wheels Car Show, Continued from Page 1





PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DANBURY, CT
PERMIT NO. 569



MUSEUM CALENDAR

July	8(7:30pm)	New York Central: Part 2 - Pete McLachlan
July	15(7:30pm)	Western Rails - Bob Kessler
July	16(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
July	22(7:30pm)	Locomotive Portraits - Vic Westman
July	29(7:30pm)	Amtrak to Florida - Joe LaPorta
August	5(7:30pm)	2008, Part 2 - Al Baker
August	12(7:30pm)	MD, PA, NY 2006 - 2008 - Pete McLachlan

Summer Museum hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5
See the newsletter in color at: www.danburyrail.org



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: drmmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com
Editor: Michael Madyda
Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

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

