

The Railyard Local

Celebrating 20 Years!

Volume 13, Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum 1994 - 2014

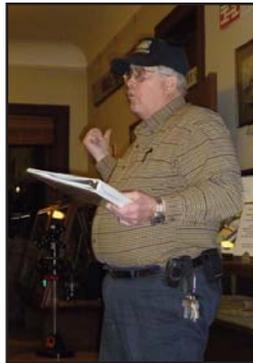
March - April 2014

DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results

Members come out for annual meeting

On the evening of March 19th, 2014, 25 members attended the Museum's annual meeting. Before the meeting got underway, members enjoyed some refreshments provided by Wade Roese (sandwiches and punch) and Don Konen and Patty Osmer (hot hors d'oeuvres). Afterwards, Chairman Don Konen called the meeting to order. He handed it over to President Wade Roese who gave his report.

President Roese thanked Pete McLachlan and Al Baker for their years of service on the Board of Directors. He then went on to describe the structure of the Museum, which consists of the Board of Directors (4 Officers & 8 to 16 Directors), an Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of the Board), and several committees (nominating, events, restoration, building, finance and strategic planning). Most Officers and Directors are in charge of a project or major responsibility, along with several non-BoD members (e.g., Sue Teer - events,



Jim Teer - track, John O'Hern - safety and Gerry Herrmann - library). Additionally, Wade listed the long term (roundhouse, train sheds, tower, water and sand towers) and short term (updating G-gauge layout, improving access to equipment in the yard, enhancing all of our events and stretching our one-day events into two days) goals of the

Continued on Page 4

In This Issue:

- ~ DRM Reports on *Tonawanda Valley* Restoration Progress - Page 5
- ~ DRM Annual Financial Report - Page 7
- Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests

Over the weekends of March 8th & 15th, DRM members took the safety exam and attended training sessions for operating crew and/or car host/tour guide. John O'Hern, DRM Safety Officer, stated that 25 members took the open-book safety exam. On March 8th, thirteen members attended operating crew training and took the crew exam, which was in a new format this year. It was closed-book and short answer, not multiple-choice as it had been in previous years. A minimum score of 80%, or a maximum of four questions wrong out of 23 questions, was needed to pass the test. Chairman Don Konen administered the crew training session and the exam. He spent almost two-and-a-half hours covering the important points of the operating safety rules before giving the exam. Eleven members passed (including yours truly), but unfortunately, two members failed and will have to be retrained and retested in order to qualify and be a part of the operating crew. Car host and tour guide training was held on March 15th at the Museum with 16 members attending. Secretary Steve Gould gave a 15-minute presentation on customer service and then covered the duties and responsibilities of both jobs.



Members take the safety exam on March 8th.

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!

Charles McArthur	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Allon Franklin	Bronx, NY
Chris Straub	Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Gary Kriss	South Salem, NY
James Kessler	South Salem, NY
Jim Doughman	Wilton, CT
Tara DeGiorgio	Holmes, NY
John Kelly	Danbury, CT
Chrissy Bucci	Danbury, CT
Luke Jones	Katonah, NY
Stephen Solley	Washington, CT
Melissa Plank	Watertown, CT
David Palladino	Stamford, CT
Derrick & Aimee Shuhart	Danbury, CT
Caitlin Powers	Brewster, NY

Upcoming Events at the DRM

April 12th & 13th and 18th & 19th

2014 Easter Bunny Express Trains!

Come see the Easter Bunny! Ride a vintage train through our six-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 10th - National Train Day

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

May 11th - Mother's Day

Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.

2

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Our second decade started with several new board members. Joining Dave Lowry, Bill Britt, Steve Gould, Wade Roese, Dan Foley, Ira Pollack, Sue (Thomas) Teer, Patty Osmer, Randy Natale, Andrew McClellan and Geoff Knees were Don Konen, Ed Blackman and Charlie Albanetti. Don was elected Chairman replacing Wade Roese.

Money was very tight and even the smallest of expenditures needed to be discussed at length. The DRM was in discussions with the Housatonic Railroad about running outside our yard as a way to increase revenues.

Staffing during normal business days and for events was at times lacking and a call was made for more members to come out and help.

A membership dinner was held on March 13th and was successful with \$1,400 raised after expenses. Additional plans were in the works for more fundraising events during the year.

It was hoped that exhibits could be opened featuring Pullman Porters, the history of Penn Central and Sperry Rail. No one was rushing to step forward to get these going.

The challenges were many, but little by little they would be overcome.

Danbury Railway Museum 20th Anniversary Dinner!

Yes, we have reached the goal of 20 years in 2014 and are celebrating with a buffet dinner on July 18th, 7:00 p.m., at Armando's Restaurant, 47 Stony Hill Road, (I-84 exit 8 heading East) Bethel. The price is \$35 per person and you can reserve by July 12th by sending your check (made out to Danbury Railway Museum) to: Sue Teer, Danbury Railway Museum, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813.

You can also reserve at the Museum front desk in person, or by telephone with a credit card. This promises to be a fun evening and we hope to see our members come out to celebrate this milestone in our history!

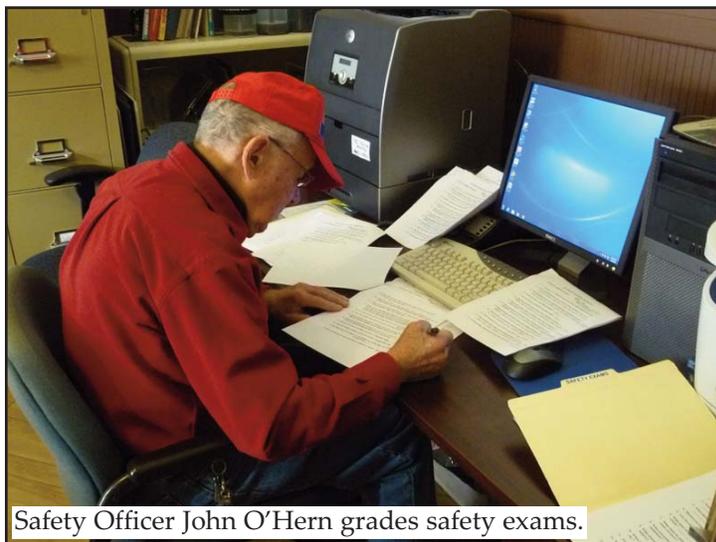
Change of Address?

If you have moved, or if you or someone you know hasn't been receiving their copy of the RYL, please contact our membership chairman via email at: drmmembers@aol.com. If you don't have a computer, please have someone else email the chairman for you, or you can write him (address on page 8). Thank you.

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



Bob & Maryann Boothe taking the safety exam. Bob is the project manager of our B&M 1455 steam locomotive.



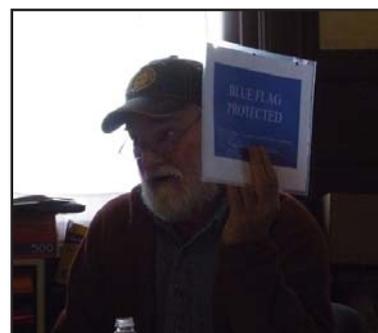
Safety Officer John O'Hern grades safety exams.



Members gathered around the conference room table for the operating crew training session.



Above: Chuck Sager, Mike and Joe LaPorta pay attention to Don Konen who conducted the training session, while Jose Alves reads through the operating rules book.



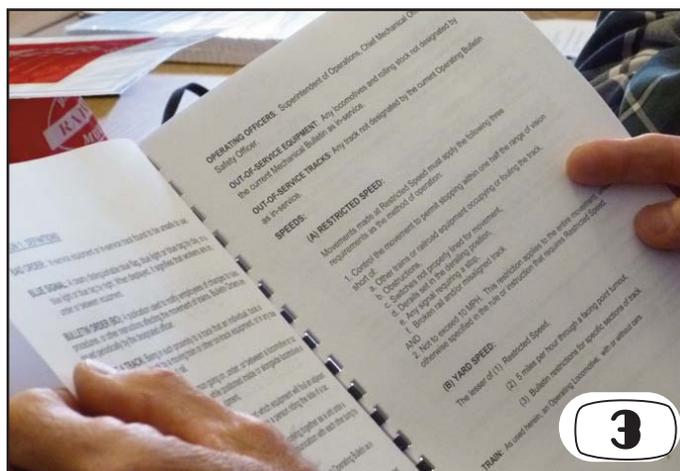
Above right: Don holds up a 'blue flag' card that personnel display when people are on, under, inbetween, or near railcars or locomotives.



Above: Don holds up a 'bad order' card that is displayed when in-service equipment or track is found to be unsafe to use.



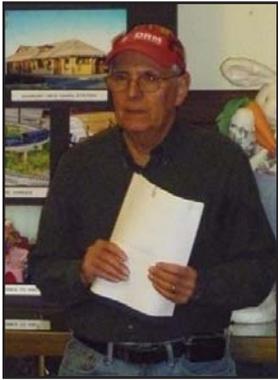
Above: Jim Teer looks through the operating rules book while others pay attention to Chairman Don Konen.
Right: DRM's operating rules book section covering speeds.



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

Museum. Finally, he emphasized that the Museum is in pretty good shape financially, our need for more members and that we need to get more members active by volunteering in Museum activities.

Then, Vice President Stan Madyda gave his report which covered the following five topics: **New York Central Electrics** – we are continuing to work on several different fronts to get them to Danbury. We are looking at options of moving them by truck or possibly by rail. In order for them to move by truck, an access road needs to be built from the state road to the site. Moving them by rail means rehabilitating the track into the site from the Port of Albany. Estimates for the move range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. **Metro-North/CDOT Donations** – we have been promised the baggage car that resides in Grand Central Terminal. We are getting a box car that was to be scrapped and is currently in New Haven. We had hoped for a set of CDOT M-2s, but none are being donated because of PCB and asbestos concerns. However, we will be getting a set of M-4s or M-6s. **Library** – Brian Stevens, archivist at WestConn, came over to see what we have and to offer any help we may need to completely organize and make known to the public the material we have. There are three students from WestConn already helping out on a weekly basis and we should see some great strides made in the coming year. **New York Central System Historical Society** – there is now a collaborative effort between them and the DRM to preserve some of the historical documents we have in our collection. They scanned a number of blueprints for us and produced a DVD that they will sell and send us a royalty. They also introduced us to Tru Line Trains that will be coming out with the New York Central wooden caboose with the 19322 number. **New York Central Caboose #19322** – work resumed last year under the direction of Gerry Herrmann with Franz Gerencir, Dave Roberts and Stan Madyda assisting. The bathroom walls were rebuilt and work was begun on the cupola seats and closets.



Following Stan Madyda, Secretary Steve Gould announced the election results. 79 ballots were received out of 350 that were sent out, or a 22.6% return rate, which was down from 33.1% last year. Don Konen received 70 votes, Chuck Sager received 78 votes and Jeff VanWagenen received 76 votes. Congratulations to all and welcome back Chuck! Then Steve gave his Secretary's report. Car host and tour guide training was conducted on March 15th, 2014. If anyone missed the required training, please let him know and he will go over the material with you. We received a \$2,000 grant from the Amherst Railway Society towards the restoration of the Rutland wooden box car. Steve redid all the Museum files making it easier to find stuff. He also has set up an equipment file where the latest restoration or other details will be kept and available for examination. The electrics and two diesels that are located in Glenmont, NY, were added to our insurance policies since we are now the proud owners of them. We are working with Metro-North to run a 20th anniversary excursion from Danbury to either the Croton-Harmon shops, including a shop tour, or, if that isn't feasible, to Cold Spring, NY. The proposed excursion date would be November 1st. The GCT Parade of Trains, originally scheduled for May, will be put off to October. Steve also arranged for a Boy Scout troop from West Point to do their Railroading Merit Badge work at the Museum last October. Finally, thanks to multiple inputs, the Operations of Equipment Policy was revised to allow 18-year-olds to be trained as operating crew (engineer, conductor, brakemen).

Next, Patty Osmer gave the Treasurer's report, which is posted on page 7 of this issue. She stated that the Museum saw a gain in gross profits and net income and a decrease in total expenses. However, 32% of expenditures were from utilities such as gas and electric. She illustrated the point of donating railroad models to the Museum and selling them in the gift shop. John Ivansco's donations to the Museum raised \$500 for the roundhouse.



Finally, outstanding service awards were presented by Wade Roese to Al Baker (present) and to Harry Burke, Marty Grossman,



Tom McCullough, Dave McKee, Marty Scatola and David Simington (all not present). Gandy Dancer's awards for outstanding service and dedication were awarded to Jim Teer and Justin Chapin.

Danbury Railway Museum Reports on *Tonawanda Valley* Restoration Progress

By Steve Gould, Photos by Art Slothower

In the Second Quarter, 2008 issue of the *Central Headlight*, the New York Central System Historical Society magazine, I reported that the Danbury Railway Museum was getting ready to start the restoration process on the 1929 *Tonawanda Valley* observation-lounge car. Bill Britt, former project manager for the restoration of our Pennsylvania Railroad Railway Post Office car (1910), and his assistant, Art Slothower, were “chomping at the bit” to get started on the *Tonawanda Valley*. Money was raised through a Museum fundraising campaign and with several grants including a \$2,000 grant from the Amherst Railway Society.



Bill and Art attacked the *Tonawanda Valley* the same way they did the RPO. With no enclosed shop area to do the work, they used the warmer weather to work on the external areas of the car. The roof was brushed, primed, patched and painted. Windows in the larger rear lounge of the car were rebuilt, painted and reinstalled. They discovered that the window in the small kitchen was severely damaged and had to be remade, glazed and installed. The damage to this window caused the metal below it to become badly rusted which required a large area below the window outside that had to be patched. Once completed, the sides of the car were wire-brushed, sanded, primed and painted in Pullman green. A huge two-foot square hole in the floor at the diaphragm end of the car was repaired and the diaphragm itself was reinstalled. New steps had to be fabricated and installed at two points on the car. Art checked photos and books in the library and found out what the “drumhead” should look like for the observation platform, and then made it. Interior work commenced with changing the wiring from 30 volt DC to 120 volt AC. Also, the small kitchen area was “de-rusted”, primed and painted.

Sadly, Project Manager Bill Britt became ill and could no longer work on the project; he passed away in 2012. Art picked up the reins and has pretty much been a one-man show, continuing the restoration work in earnest. The two lounge areas were totally restored with carpeting and furniture added. In the larger lounge, new vents had to be fabricated on one side of the clerestory; Art dared visitors to tell him which were original and which were the new ones! In addition, one bedroom has been redone and sports the famous “Pullman” blanket and an official Pullman bar of soap, still in its original wrapper. This holds true for the bathroom at the kitchen end of the car. The photos with this article will clearly demonstrate the quality of the work done thus far. The next task, which will be undertaken this summer, is the restoration of the aisle



Above left: Kitchen area; Left: Middle lounge area looking west; Right: Middle lounge area looking east.



Continued on Page 6



DRM Reports on Tonawanda Valley Restoration Progress, *Continued from Page 5*

hallway and a drawing room, which requires replacement parts.



Bedroom with Pullman blanket & soap.

Early in 2013, Metro-North Railroad operations folks visited the DRM to determine what pieces of equipment could be moved to Grand Central Terminal for the Parade of Trains event planned for May 10-12, 2013, as part of the 100th anniversary of the Terminal. The *Tonawanda Valley* was selected with four other Museum pieces (FL9 #2013, PRR RPO built in 1910, ACMU #1171, and RS3m #605). The Metro-North crew did brake tests and found them suitable for transport. In the wee hours of May 7th, the five pieces were picked up by a Metro-North BL-20 and made a special move first to Stamford, CT, and later in the week, to Grand Central. The 1929 20th *Century Limited* veteran shared Terminal track space with a younger "Hickory Creek" (built in 1947) "Century" observation car.

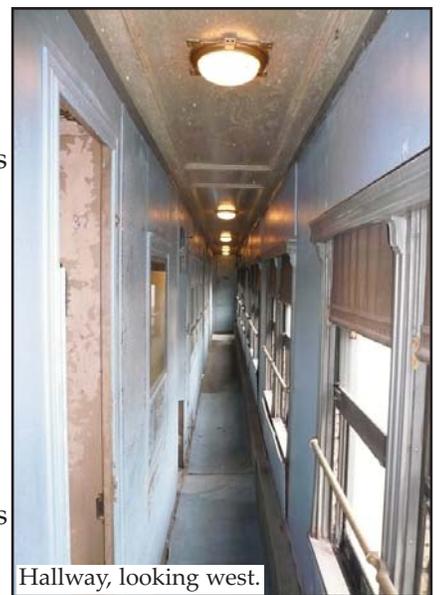
Shortly after the return of the *Tonawanda Valley* to the Museum, a camera crew arrived to do interviews aboard the car for a cable production on private equipment. The crew had ridden on some of the private cars that were featured at the Parade of Trains event. It was probably one of the hottest days we had in Connecticut in 2013 and a portable air conditioner in the car did little to lower the temperature.

We decided to feature the *Tonawanda Valley* during our annual "Danbury Railway Days" event on August 3, 2013, by opening it up for guided tours. Our Rail Yard Local train dropped guests off near our operating turntable. Guests were given a one-half revolution ride on the turntable, stopping at the track where the



Tonawanda Valley was located. Here, passengers walked off the turntable and onto a plywood "red carpet" created by our dedicated volunteers (pictured left), leading to the car where they were greeted by Terrie Roese, dressed in period attire. Terrie is Museum President Wade Roese's wife. Guests were very impressed with the restoration progress.

When the weather warms and the snow disappears, Art will climb aboard this historic piece from the past and continue his efforts to make the *Tonawanda Valley* a showpiece for the Danbury Railway Museum. If you would like to help out with a donation, please mail your check to the Danbury Railway Museum, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. Please make checks payable to: "Tonawanda Valley." Thank you very much!



Hallway, looking west.



6

Rear lounge area, looking east.



Rear lounge area, looking west.

DRM Annual Financial Report

By Patty Osmer, DRM Treasurer

GENERAL OPERATING FUND RESULTS AS OF 12/31/13

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 is budgeted to be put into Asset Restoration/Maintenance, and Improvements.

INCOME:	2013	2012	% of 2013 income
Events	42,824	44,310	29.6%
General Admission	53,719	55,289	37.2%
Sales (less cost of goods)	26,611	19,500	18.4%
Membership	11,670	12,647	8.1%
General Contributions	2,120	4,912	1.5%
Interest Income	1,535	1,953	1.1%
Other	6,050	2,740	4.2%
GROSS PROFIT:	144,529	141,351	

EXPENSES:	2013	2012	% of 2013 expenses
Accounting/Legal	5,544	5,025	5.19%
Advertising	8,982	12,584	8.41%
Asset Restoration/Preserv.	1,807	5,199	1.69%
Credit Card Fees	3,239	3,100	3.03%
Equipment Rental	2,669	2,636	2.50%
Exhibits	1,054	2,437	0.99%
Event Expense	4,523	4,259	4.24%
General Maint. & Supplies	11,710	12,210	10.97%
Insurance	15,898	14,640	14.89%
Locomotive Operations	5,973	5,739	5.59%
Misc (Misc, Fees, etc)	3,002	2,499	2.81%
Printing/Publications/Postage	5,136	5,083	4.81%
Utilities (gas, electric, telephone, refuse)	34,001	32,110	31.84%
Yard & Maintenance Equip	3,256	10,318	3.05%
TOTAL EXPENSES:	106,794	117,839	
NET ORDINARY INCOME	37,735	23,925	

NOTE 1:

Highlighted expenses accounted for 58% of our expenses.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/13

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

INCOME 2013	
Donations & Grants	19,143
TOTAL INCOME	19,143
EXPENSES 2013:	5,445
FUND BALANCES AS OF 12/31/13:	
1402 RS-11 locomotive	13,675
1455 Boston & Maine steam locomotive	9,400
Blackman	400
Britt	75
Burro crane	500
Coach repair - Grant	2,000
Electrics	2,050
FA-1 (0428)	60
FPA/B (Bowers)	5,459
Library	14,525
Model Layouts	1,377
NH box cars	803
NH caboose paint	250
NH caboose roofwalk	1,000
NYCHRR wooden caboose	1,941
RDC	11,302
RPO	334
Rutland Misc.	971
Rutland Boxcar	3,763
Shop	12,582
Tamper	2,475
Tonawanda Valley	7,854
Track	1,180
Turntable	612
BALANCE:	94,588



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- March 26(7:30pm) Video - Rising from the Rails - Chuck Sager
- April 2(7:30pm) Niagaras & Northerns - Carl Liba
- April 9(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- April 16(7:30pm) A Quick Review of the New Haven Railroad - Pete McLachlan
- April 17(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- April 23(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- April 30(7:30pm) To Be Announced

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

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



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Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com

