

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 18, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

May/June 2018



Shortlines



DRM ATTENDS CONNJAM18

ConnJam18 was the name the Boy Scouts of America – Connecticut Yankee Council picked to describe their biggest yearly event, a Council-Wide Camporee, which was held at the Orange Fairgrounds in Orange, CT May 11 – 13, 2018. From 3,000 to 5,000 scouts attended the event.



Secretary Steve Gould and Tom McCullough, the Museum's Railroad Merit Badge Counselor, represented the DRM at the event on May 12. In spite of bad weather,

traffic was plentiful. Steve & Tom spoke to Scout leaders about the Museum in general, and explained DRM's Railroad Merit Badge Program. Upcoming events, like the Car Show, and the new Hands on a Throttle program were outlined. All in all, it provided a great way to get the DRM's message out to a different audience.

GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Robert Frost said "Good fences make good neighbors", and the increasingly bad fence separating the DRM from Metro North's yard has been replaced!



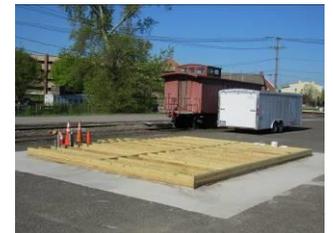
President Stan Madyda's phone calls on the subject hadn't moved Metro North into action.

However, we heard that an inspection by the MN "brass" to Danbury had been scheduled. Coincidence? No matter, the fence has been replaced.



MILL PLAIN STATION UPDATE

The 1881 NY&NE RR's Mill Plain station move to the museum is moving ahead. We now await the availability of the building movers Nicholas Brothers to move the four walls to the platform now constructed on our museum site. Marty Grossman has obtained the necessary permits from the Danbury Building Department, and Jose Alves is arranging permits for the under-the floor wiring.



We had a scare on May 15th, when several tornados hit the Danbury area. In preparation for the move, Dave Gengo of Salem Preservation, had separated the four walls from the sill, and each other. The structural integrity of the station was significantly compromised! Fortunately, the tornados did not hit the station site, and it survived the blow.

MEMBER SAM ABRAM PASSES AWAY

Long-time member Sam Abram passed away suddenly on May 29th. For the last several years, Sam spent Tuesday nights working in the library. His love of trains and books went together well and he helped us bring our database up to date. In addition, he priced most of our duplicate books for sale in the Gift Shop and on Amazon, raising a couple of thousand dollars for the Museum and Archive Fund.

Born in Chicago, Sam had a love of Chicagoland railroads, interurbans and rapid transit as well as the Cubs. Sam was also fortunate to have operated a steam engine in service several years ago in Poland.

RUNNING A NEW HAVEN RAILROAD ALCO-GE, RS-3 LOCOMOTIVE

By Pete McLachlan

Having been promoted to Locomotive Fireman July 3, 1959, and Engineer in August 1965, I had mucho miles and hours on the throttle with them.

They were dual service locomotives – that is, they were good on 1st Class passenger Service, heavy Maybrook line freight, local freight, and yard switching. At 1600hp, they were equipped with a steam generator for passenger service heat. We used them whether it was -10° or 90°! At 90° we needed heat for the diner car as well as hot water for the bathrooms.

As engineer, I loved them! They had the fastest pickup on the throttle of all the engines I ran. Where I ran them on passenger trains was between Danbury and Pittsfield. 50mph was the top speed with them on the Berkshire Line, but I padded those times to 65mph to make up lost time. Can't do that today!

On Cedar Hill, Maybrook freights with a limit of 150 cars fit right in! At certain places on the Maybrook we would regularly get to to about 60mph with no howls from the brass hats in New Haven. Where they really shined on the Maybrook line was in climbing the grades at Shelton, Hopewell, and Towners. At times you would be down to 8 or 9 mph or less, lugging hard sometimes for over an hour, but they would not slip, overheat, or blow up! They just continued to lug!

The cab was a very plain one, no fancy stuff. I felt, and still do, that they were the most comfortable control stand and seat I ever worked. Even running short end fist and me sitting backwards to the controls, it was still very easy and comfortable.

The engine under the hood had every reset, check dipstick gauge, and sight glass within sight or easy reach.

I could go on for pages about the RS-3. We had 45 of them, numbered 517-561; I ran all of them but two.

Photos by Pete.



NH 550 Just off 143 at link. Danbury, CT. Eng. Billy Barnes 6/57



NH-13 (533) meets 526 (Trustee Special Business Cars. Rising, MA, 10/66

STEEL AND WHEELS CAR SHOW

A beautiful day and a worthy cause brought 70 cars and over 160 visitors to the 4th Annual Steel and Wheels Car Show held June 9. Appalachian Service Project of Danbury cooked up plenty of hamburgers and hotdogs. There were numerous raffles, a lot of music and awards to various cars. John Thomas with his 1956 Ford Sunline convertible won the Danbury Railway Museum award. \$1785 was donated to Alzheimer’s Association, Connecticut Chapter. This event is growing more popular by the year, and we are happy to partner with Mark Pierce to continue this fundraiser. (Award winning car photo by Stan Madyda, others by Max Dymerski.)



COMING EVENTS

July 14: Owney Day. Celebrate Owney, the Railroad Post Office Mascot. The US Postal Service will be on hand to cancel a special “Owney Day” envelope. Train ride, tour of the PRR Railway Post Office Car, cachet envelope and hot dog included with admission. Purchase a stamp from the USPS and get your unique souvenir. \$11 for members.

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 or ideas for articles you would like to see:

Mail:

The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Phone: 203-778-8337; **Fax:** 203-778-1836

Email: NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM

**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

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

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS NEEDED

Officer terms (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and some Director terms, will expire in March, 2019. Although this seems like a long time away, if you are interested in shaping the future of the Museum, now is the time to think about running for one of the positions.

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.

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.

KNOW A MEMBER WHO IS NOT GETTING OUR NEWSLETTER?

Send us their email (or snail mail) address and we will add them to our mailing list.



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