

# The Railyard Local

Volume 9, Issue 3

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

April 2010

## DRM Running LEGO Trains

Fun and inspiration headed for Museum

From May 1-23<sup>rd</sup> our Museum's "Great Room" will be the site of an additional gauge of model railroad layout - "L-gauge" for LEGO! We have cleared the way for Elroy Davis, Steve Doerner, and Bill Probert, members of the New England LEGO Users Group (NELUG) to construct an operating layout using only Lego components. They title it "The Connecticut and Vermont LEGO Railway", and we are very privileged to be hosting this unique exhibit. All the rolling stock and elaborate scenery will be created using LEGO. Join us in marveling at this exquisite lay-



*Continued on Page 4*

## DRM Annual Meeting 2010

The DRM's Annual Meetings feature presentations by the Museum's Officers and other volunteers in various responsible positions. They recap the past year and present goals for the coming year from their various perspectives. The culmination of the meeting is the announcement of the results of the election for the Board of Directors. All this is a prelude to our regularly scheduled Wednesday night featured program.



*Continued on Page 6*

## In This Issue

~ Ten Years Ago - Page 2

~ DRM Express Track - Page 3

~ DRM Annual Financial Report ~ Page 5

~ Library News - Page 7

Plus . . . New Members and Upcoming Events

## Safety and Customer Service

Safety and training programs held

Many volunteers turned out on March 13<sup>th</sup> to take the Safety Exam, passing of which is the prerequisite for any volunteering in the railyard. Safety Officer John O'Hern administered this open book test, and the booklet was supplied by the Museum. This year each person also received additional sheets: one detailing the presiding conductor's responsibilities concerning the back gate, and back gate procedures, and one prepared by Ira Pollack entitled "Simple and Safe Operations around Construction Equipment".

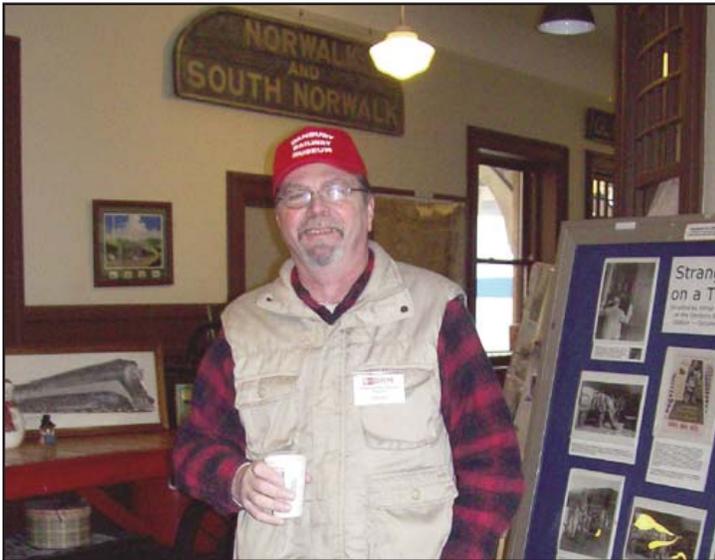


*Continued on Page 6*

## 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!

Lance Erickson	Gilbert, IA
Charles Sager	Danbury, CT
Kristen Burns	Ridgefield, CT
Albert A. Emanuele	Danbury, CT
James C. McGeorge	New Milford, CT
David Hanke	Watertown, CT
Girlene L. Silva	Danbury, CT



New member Chuck Sager takes a brief break from assisting at the DRM's Valentine's Day event. He has been volunteering several days a week, helping wherever needed.

## Upcoming Events at DRM

Our trains will be on a busy schedule

### Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Opening of NELUG's LEGO exhibit;** see article beginning on Page 1 for details

### Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

**National Train Day;** the DRM celebrates with speeder rides, coupling/uncoupling demo, ongoing LEGO exhibit, and other attractions; train rides in our railyard free with paid admission; Special Event ticket pricing due to LEGO exhibit.

### Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Mother's Day;** Mothers ride our Railyard Local

**2**

free when they and their child have paid admission

## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

As the weather got warmer, activities at the Museum increased. Many things were going on inside the station and out in the yard.

The Boston & Maine 2-6-0 #1455 had final preparations completed and was ready to move. Some of the delays the DRM experienced were due to the fact that when we initially began the process, the railroad that would be moving locomotive was Conrail. At the time, Conrail was going through the breakup that would divide the railroad between CSX and Norfolk Southern. Ron Freitag handled the negotiations with the railroads and on March 16, the 1455 left Wareham, MA for the 300 mile trip to Danbury. Accompanying the locomotive was Project Manager Tim Pieplow. A number of other members, too numerous to mention, helped get the locomotive ready and followed the move to Danbury. The 1455 arrived in our yard on March 20th with a large group of members and railfans waiting.



Photo of the Boston & Maine #1455 steam locomotive on the turntable in March shortly after its arrival at the DRM. Photo from the DRM Library collection.

Fundraising efforts continued for the RS-11, and DRM members travelled to Georgia to prepare that locomotive for its movement to Danbury. A number of other pieces of rolling stock were being considered for our growing collection. Some made it, some didn't.

Restoration work out in the yard began to pick up. As always, work continued on the RDC #32 and its #1 engine was started for the first time in 10 years. Much work was being done on the inside with a number of museum members working under the direction or project manager, Nancy Sniffen. Members were back working on the PRR N-5 caboose #477099 with the installation of new side and end panels.

Peter Cornwall announced that he would be retiring from his position on the Board of Directors

*Continued on Page 7*

# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

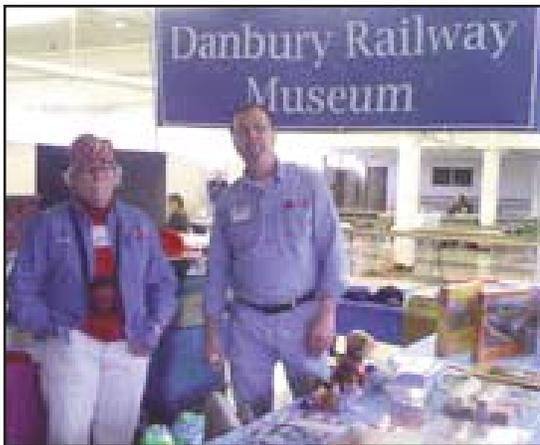
I hope all is well with you this month. I would like to summarize some of the events of our Annual Meeting held on March 17th. This meeting was a status report to the membership on the condition of the Museum and direction in which it is head-



ing. The culmination was our yearly election of new Board members, five in this particular year. First I will thank our exiting members of our Board of Directors for their service to the Museum, and also welcome in the new members to this two-year seat. I will comment that during these past two years we have addressed and solved many new issues that have arisen for our still growing organization. Many new policies were instituted by this Board, and many new ideas and events came to fruition as a result of their actions. The position of Director is important for our continued growth, both financially and for the leadership of our membership. I look forward to working with this new Board, and continuing the progress of the Museum. The new Board members are Stan Madyda and Alan Baker. Reelected incumbents are John O'Hern, Jeff van Wagenen, and Don Konen. I wish them well in their new terms of service.

In closing my segment of this meeting I thanked all of the people who volunteered at the Museum this year. They assisted in many diverse ways - from manning the train crews and yard crews, the Front Desk, the Tuesday night modeling crew, and the Gift Shop, to acting as newsletter editor, membership chairman, tour guides,

and Library staff, to performing their DRM Officer duties (such as Treasurer and Secretary), publicity and advertising, helping out at special events, train shows, restoring our railroad equipment, and so on. Look at our diversity; look at what we can do. I am sure that I have missed many people, people in the background - all doing their thing that makes us function as a working museum.



As the President of the Museum I have many expectations. I look forward to this new season with many of the same projects still awaiting completion. Most of my goals remain the same. In the next several weeks I would like to get a crew together and finish painting our turntable. Unfortunately last year we ran out of time and weather. I will be calling you for help on a Saturday morning to complete this project. Lunch will be served!

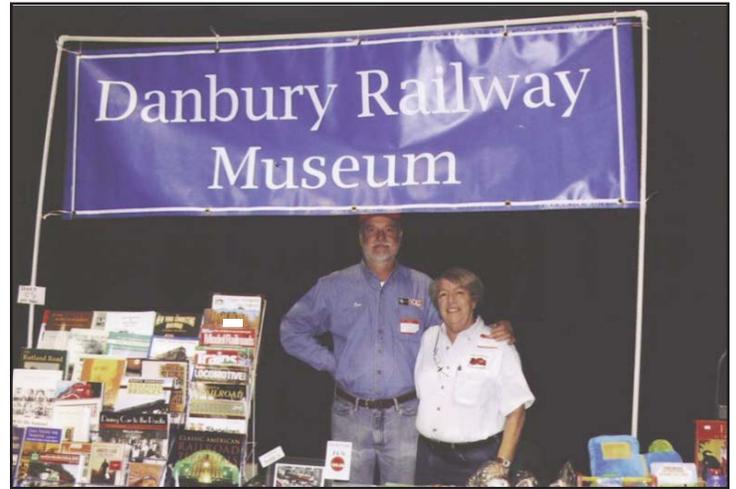


Photo by Dan Pawling, of Don and Patty at the Poughkeepsie Show; left, Dana Laird and Chuck Sager at Greenwich.

I would like to spend time setting up a storage area in the Reading boxcar. Storage at the DRM has always been a major problem. The yard crew has taken all of the space available in the two trailers, and we definitely need a permanent home for our growing overflow of artifacts museum wide. I would like to collaborate with our Library staff and begin setting up shelving in the boxcar and, yes, getting rid of some of the stuff that has been accumulating in it for years.

Listed below are some of my future goals, or maybe dreams. I know that all of these cannot happen this year, but they are always in my mind.

- 1) Create more interactive exhibits; PowerPoint presentations
- 2) Set up sound systems for 1455, RPO car, Sperry car
- 3) Restore and paint the coal loader
- 4) Create a virtual tour of the N-gauge layout
- 5) Professionally paint 1 piece of RR equipment per yr
- 6) Establish a picnic area at the end of Track 42
- 7) Create an exhibit on catenary in the MU car
- 8) Erect catenary piers with wires
- 9) Rebuild Track 32 with a working switch

There is always some project to work on at the Museum; there is never any boredom here. All we can do is keep picking at our project list. It seems that when you finish one, there are another three that surface just to fill that gap. I hope that you can help out this year as a volunteer, and as always, I look forward to seeing you.

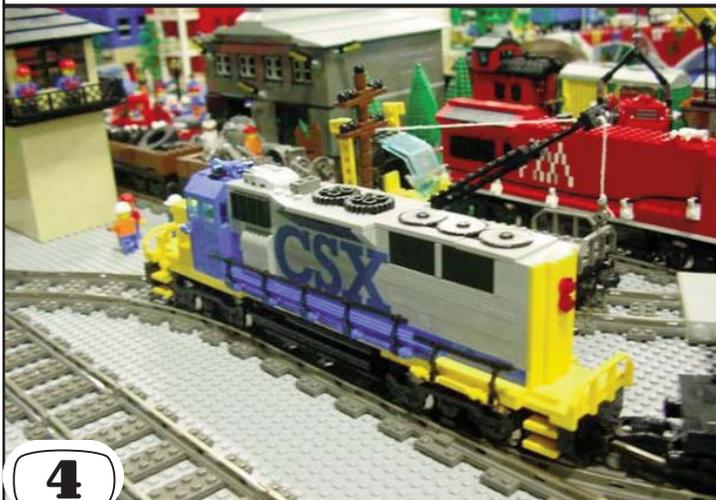
## DRM Running LEGO Trains, *Continued from Page 1*

out. Come be inspired and entertained by this highly creative exhibit! Information will be available for our guests wishing to pursue LEGO building on their own or with a group, and the creators of this layout have supplied the answers to commonly asked questions. These exhibitors are not compensated by LEGO, and do this for their love of using these building bricks. Although the theme of this exhibit and the one at Big E in January was railroading, club members create LEGO exhibits with various other themes. More information and photos may be seen at [www.nelug.org](http://www.nelug.org).

For the duration of this special exhibit the Museum's admission will be \$7 for adults, \$6 for Seniors, and \$5 for ages 3-13. Members and children under 3 will be admitted free. Admission also will include all the other regular attractions. Train rides on the weekends will cost the usual additional amount, except for on National Train Day on May 8th, when the rides will be free for everyone with paid admission.



Bottom photo from a NELUG show and taken from the NELUG website. The other two photos by Carolyn Taylor show part of their immense layout at "Big E" in January.



## Outreach Program Continues to Spread the Railroad Word

By Steve Gould

During the past several months, the DRM was involved in two more outreach efforts that helped people in our area better understand railroads and continued DRM's educational role as specified in the Museum's Mission Statement.

In March, a six week after-school program concluded at Hawley School in Newtown, CT. This was the fourth year the Museum has sponsored this program which was led by DRM Vice President Wade Roesse and member J.R. Mitchell. Youngsters in the third and fourth grade were given a dose of railroad history and operations by guest speakers Steve Gould and Pete McLachlan while Wade, J.R. and others worked with the students on model railroad techniques. They learned how to throw switches and make up a freight train by moving back and forth between several sidings to pick up freight cars. Several were given specific jobs and everyone had a chance to run the trains. The kids learned how to make scenery and construct model buildings. Donated modeling supplies along with DRM supplies and member contributions allowed the students to "do their thing" on the HO layout. Railroad-related gifts were passed out to the participants. This was all done with no cost to the school or the students. The Hawley School PTA made a donation to the DRM as a way of thanking DRM for donating time and materials to this very successful program.

On April 7, Secretary Steve Gould and Director Pete McLachlan participated in the Trumbull (CT) Library's "One Book - One Town" program. This is a "community-wide reading program fostering a connection among . . . residents by bringing people together through literature." The book being celebrated was *The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet* by Reif Larsen. The novel features a young boy who has won an award and "hoboes" to Washington, DC to collect it, hence the connection with railroads. Steve and Peter were the speakers for a program entitled "Railroads Connect the Country". Steve concentrated on CT railroad history, DRM overview, and railroads today and used a 17-minute video to support his talk. Pete talked about his days on the New Haven Railroad as well as the Penn Central, Conrail and Housatonic Railroads. The audience was fascinated with his many anecdotes on railroad operations. The DRM received a generous donation from the Library for its participation in the program.

# DRM Annual Financial Report

By Patty Osmer, DRM Treasurer

## GENERAL OPERATING FUND RESULTS AS OF 12/31/09

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:		%Income;	change
Events	42,921	(27.63%);	-39.0%
General Admission	56,533	(36.39%);	6.4%
Sales(less cost of goods)	31,196	(20.08%);	15.0%
Membership	14,353	( 9.24%);	21.0%
General Contributions	5,554	( 3.57%);	-18.0%
Interest Income	3,609	( 2.32%);	11.5%
Other	1,200	( 0.77%);	-47.0%

**GROSS PROFIT:** 155,366

EXPENSES:		% of Expenses
Accounting/Legal	3,775	( 2.73%)
Advertising	13,589	( 9.82%)
Asset Restoration/Preserv.	9,873	( 7.13%)
Credit Card Fees	2,563	( 1.85%)
Equipment Rental	2,704	( 1.95%)
Exhibits	2,341	( 1.69%)
Event Expense	5,140	( 3.71%)
General Maintenance	18,621	(13.45%)
Insurance	17,579	(12.70%)
Locomotive Operations	5,407	( 3.91%)
Other Miscellaneous	8,380	( 6.05%)
Printing/Publications/Postage	6,529	( 4.72%)
Telephone	2,509	( 1.81%)
Utilities (gas, electric)	35,210	(25.43%)
Yard & Maintenance Equip	4,220	( 3.05%)

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** 138,440

**NET ORDINARY INCOME** 16,926

## TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/09

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 2009:	
Donations	11,925
Grants	2,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13,925</b>
<b>EXPENSES 2009:</b>	<b>5,363</b>
<b>NET TEMP RESTRICTED FUND 2009:</b>	<b>8,562</b>

## FUND BALANCES AS OF 12/31/09:

1402 RS-11 locomotive	11,675
1455 Boston & Maine steam locomotive	11,402
44-Tonners brakes	216
44-Tonners - other	995
CEERM Matching Donation	274
Engine repair	500
HO layout	566
Other layouts	49
Library	10,952
Meserve - N gauge	700
Meserve - Technology	1,057
NH box cars	803
NH caboose roofwalk	1,000
NYCHRR wooden caboose	6,071
RCD	5,967
RPO	1,215
Rutland	3,238
Shop	420
Tamper	2,475
Temporary misc.	175
Tonowanda Valley	6,768
Track	2,292
Turntable	4,042

**BALANCE:** 72,852

*DRM Annual Meeting 2010, Continued from Page 1*

First to speak was DRM President Ira Pollack, and this month his column, DRM Express Track, is devoted mostly to the points mentioned in his presentation at the Annual Meeting.

DRM Vice-President Wade Roese updated us on the interior exhibits. The exhibit area is being redesigned to be more open. Plans are to update the N-gauge layout and add sound to that layout. A storage building will be built outside for G-gauge equipment, plus another one for maintenance equipment.

Patty Osmer, DRM Treasurer, announced a profit of \$17,000 for the past year, with general admissions up 6%, as well as an increase in membership dues and Gift Shop revenue. Utilities represent 25% of our expenses.

CMO Jeff Van Wagenen's goals for 2010 include restoring the RS1 to service and running a 44-tonner on the Railyard Local. He put out a call for volunteers and project leaders for pieces that have funding.

Stan Madyda represented the Library staff. After thanking the Tuesday night volunteers, among others, he mentioned that the Museum has recently received donations from the Estate of Don Ball and slides of New England railroads. An archivist will come to evaluate our Library. The Library has just acquired a photo printer. Members receive a 50% discount on the Library's duplicate books.



Volunteer Coordinator Pete McLachlan welcomes new members and potential volunteers. He asked that those people be referred to him.

Secretary Steve Gould presented highlights of the past year such as the Movie Night with the Danbury Historical Society, our collaboration with the United Way to host the Imagination Library Day at the DRM, and his and Pete McLachlan's outreach presentations. The Grants Committee has succeeded in getting some needed funding for the Museum.

Incumbents Jeff Van Wagenen, John O'Hern, and Don Konen were reelected to the Board of Directors. Stan Madyda and Alan Baker are newly elected members. Of the 404 ballots mailed out, 127 were returned for a 31% return rate.

*Safety and Customer Service, Continued from Page 1*

After passing the Safety Exam, those interested in qualifying for Train Crew assembled at 1:30pm for that open book exam and discussion conducted by Pete McLachlan, with input from other experienced members of the train crew.



A Car Host and Tour Guide training session was added this year. It was prepared and conducted by Steve Gould and Pete McLachlan on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. A folder presented to each attendee included Car Host instructions and script sheets, safety rules and responsibilities for Car Hosts and Tour Guides, and a railyard tour script. There was discussion of these and time for questions.



Those who wish to volunteer in any of the above capacities in the railyard, but could not attend the scheduled sessions, should contact the persons who conducted each session to schedule a time to take the exams or training programs.

---

# Library News

By Stan Madyda

Here are some more donations received by the Library. We thank everyone listed below for their thinking of the DRM.

- Jack Swanberg – New Haven lettering drawings, EF-3 brake system drawings, Penn Central/MTA Region track diagrams, 48 Danbury Branch track and building diagrams and 52 New Haven East end track charts
- Carol Pratt McCauley – photographs of Housatonic Railroad employees and birth records, 1865 Housatonic Railroad timetable, Housatonic Railroad receipts 1877 – 1887
- Chris Deftelsen – EMD builders plate #23223, three photographs and a 1901 New Hampshire Railroad Commissioner's Report
- Marty Grossman – two New York Central rear marker lights, standard gauge trains, side track diagrams and standard plan drawings from the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad and framed prints
- Lauren S. McCready Trust – model trains and railroad books
- Bob Boothe – videos and books
- Peatfield Family – magazines, books, slides, videos, railroad jacket and photos taken at the DRM
- Robert Robertson – calendars, magazines and newsletters
- Geoff Beard – 16 x 24 framed print of the Dickerson Depot
- Paul Zucchini – books
- James Gagliardi – two RDC Budd Car manuals
- Henry B. Pennwell, III – collection of 42 railroad books
- Walkway over the Hudson – two railing posts, four pieces of railing a section of track and one tie plate with a spike from the Poughkeepsie Bridge
- Rose Lockwood – HO and Lionel trains
- Joseph P. Grana – magazines and NMRA Bulletins
- Neale Riely – three New Haven ink drawings and railroad keys
- Stan Madyda – magazines and timetables
- Bette Pauley – six wooden stations signs from the New Haven, two New Haven Railroad fire extinguishers and two metal Penn Central signs
- Cynthia Ferguson – N gauge and HO gauge trains, videos, books and magazines
- Dot Treadwell – two New Haven baggage tags
- Mark Replagle – battery oil bottle
- Warren G. Thompson – Corning battery jar with Edison lid
- Paul R. Bartram – framed print of an Southern Pacific Daylight steam engine

---

## *Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2*

and also as Editor of the newsletter.

The Reference and Research Library and the Bethel Historical Society sponsored a program on the History of the Shepaug Railroad. Speakers were Washington, CT historian Louis Bader and Peter McLachlan.

The Board of Directors approved the idea of re-creating Danbury Yard in N scale as it looked in 1950. A group of modelers headed by Ira Pollack and Randy Natale began work on the project. The trackage and the rolling stock would be easy but all of the structures would have to be scratchbuilt.

The Library was growing at a fast rate with many new donations received. The process of accessioning items and the people involved were highlighted in a two-part article in the newsletters.

The Members Profile section introduced Ira Pollack, Sue (Thomas) Teer and Shirley and Howard Peatfield to the membership.

Past issues of the DRM newsletters are available in the Library for any member wishing to read in more detail the subjects presented in the column.



PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

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

## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Apr	14(7:30pm)	Slides; Steam Yugoslavia 1970 - Pete McLachlan
Apr	15(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Apr	21(7:30pm)	British Preservation - Bill Brett
Apr	28(7:30pm)	Southern Rails & more - Dan Foley
May	5(7:30pm)	AMTRAK + Acellas - Carl Liba
May	12(7:30pm)	TBA - Bob Gambling
May	19(7:30pm)	Slides;New Haven 4 -Pete McLachlan
May	20(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members

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

See the newsletter in color at [www.danburyrail.org](http://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: [drmnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:drmnewslettereditor@gmail.com)

Editor: Carolyn Taylor

Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

### **Change of Address**

If you move, please send your change of address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,

Attention: Membership Chairman

PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

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

