

The Railyard Local

Volume 5, Issue 12

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

December 2006

NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose

2006 Restoration Update on #19322

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

The year 2006 started with the renovation of the last long side of the caboose. A tarp was installed to protect the caboose during restoration. After a heavy rain in April, we patched the roof to prevent further leaks (see Photo 1, Gerry Herrmann and Mike Madyda.) (Editors note: If Gerry is not in the photos here, he took them.)



The exterior siding was removed to expose the framing, which was in bad shape. We turned our attention to the interior, and removed the bench and desk (to be worked on at a later date). 90% of the interior siding was removed.

At the same time, all of the horizontal framing had to be replaced. Of the 17 vertical beams, 7 had to be replaced (see Photo 2, Mike Madyda).

We installed the interior siding (see Photo 3). All this was done by volunteers: Franz Gerencir, Mike Madyda and Gerry Herrmann. The two end window

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Santa Express Arriving Soon

As detailed in the November issue, our special holiday event will be on the weekends of December 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17. Trains will leave every 1/2 hour, 12-4pm, transporting visitors to Santa & Mrs. Claus' special coach in our railyard. Tickets are \$7 for ages 3 & up; children 2 & under free. For information and reservations call the Museum at 203-778-8337. Please call Sue Thomas at the Museum number above if you would like to help out at this very popular event.

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Gift Shop News and DRM Express Track

Official Notice:

Now Accepting Nominations

The 2007 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Bob Boothe, and Joe Ward) is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. The four officer positions, and four Director positions, are up for election next year. Each will serve two year terms. If you are interested in running for any of the positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare a resume that is **no longer than one-half of an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper**, and include information in four sections:

1. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. Your qualifications.
3. Your DRM accomplishments for the previous two years.
4. What you plan to do for the DRM if elected or re-elected.

There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:

1. By e-mail to GouldSL@aol.com.
2. By regular mail to DRM, PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090, attention Steve Gould.
3. Place in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 14, 2007 to be considered a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to help the Museum move forward and to grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings is required, which are held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Committee for help. Also, contact the Committee if you know anyone who might be interested in running and would like further information.

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!

Alexis Boccanfuso	Norwalk, CT
Josiane O. Johnson	Danbury, CT
Konnie & Brian Davis	Danbury, CT
Anne Della Penna	Bedford, NY
Christopher & Anne McCann	Wilton, CT
Spencer Carlson	Ridgefield, CT
Ingred Sutherland	Brewster, NY
Therese Stanis	Bethel, CT
Matthew Breitenbach	Ridgefield, CT
Kristina Lawton	Waccabuc, NY



Thanks from the Editor

What may not be evident to many readers is that production and distribution of *The Railyard Local* each month is a team effort. We have members who take the time to contribute articles on a regular basis, and others who write articles and contribute information or photographs during the year. Our Webmaster and the Membership Chairman both work behind the scenes to bring the newsletter to members and the public. Others from time to time have picked up the freshly printed issues from the printers, who do a great job, or cart the trays of bundled newsletters to the bulk mailing facility. Feedback and suggestions from readers have been a help and also a source of encouragement. More than that, each issue of *The Railyard Local* can only happen because the Museum has a dedicated core of volunteers on a daily basis,

2 and interested, enthusiastic members and guests. Thank you all!

Ten Years Ago

by Stan Madyda

The November and December 1996 newsletters were combined as there was not a lot of new information. In fact, the four page newsletter featured a full page photo of Connecticut Valley Railroad #97 in Danbury. The date was October 17, 1968 and the Consolidated was to depart Danbury for a trip to Canaan, CT. Peter McLachlan was in the engineer's seat. The question was posed, would we see a live steam engine in Danbury again?

The station itself was beginning to see more activity inside. There were members readying the station for the Holidays with model train layouts being erected under the direction of Don Silberbauer. Donated artifacts were also being put on display as showcases became available. Gerry Herrmann and Peter McLachlan headed up this project.

Volunteers were still needed to man the station and give yard tours. Up until December 1, we asked the public for a suggested donation. Now as the Museum became more organized, an admission charge of \$2.00 was put into effect.

The two Holiday Express trains which were run on a Saturday and Sunday from Danbury to New York City were deemed successful. Over 900 tickets were sold and at least 40 members contributed their time to the operation. In addition to Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, the trains featured magicians and musicians as entertainment.

Funding was a major issue addressed in the newsletter. It was announced that a new committee was to be formed that would look at news ways to bring money into the Museum. At the time the Museum was looking for additional funds to help pay off the RS-1 bank loan and to help with the restoration



The RS-1 after restoration.

of RDC #32. The Museum was also asking all project leaders and committees to submit budgets for 1997 so that we would have an idea of what was needed in

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DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I would like to wish you all a healthy, pleasant, and safe holiday season. By the time that you read this we will be fast approaching New Year's Eve. We'll be once again participating in the City of Danbury First Night Celebration, culminating with the fireworks display in the rail yard. Time certainly moves quickly at the DRM. It seems like we were just getting ready to celebrate the last New Year's Eve fireworks display in the yard.



We now know what any barber could tell us - that a good trim makes all the difference! Stan Madyda, Mike Madyda, and Gerry Herrmann are inspecting the NYC wooden caboose immediately after the excess siding has been cut off. Windows on this north side, another coat of paint, the heard, and numerals will have to wait until warm weather in the spring. It's amazing what the dedicated volunteers have managed to accomplish this year!

Overall we've had a successful year at the Museum with many great achievements both in the building and in the yard. Compared to previous years our membership numbers are up, along with our admissions at the front door. The birthday parties, too, have been successful, and bookings have increased to the point that we have parties almost every weekend. Attendance has increased at our Wednesday night slide and video presentations. We now have a group of members on Tuesday nights building the model train layouts and expanding our exhibits. The Library and archives have grown to the point of running out of room in the building. This necessitated opening a storage annex in one of our passenger cars in the yard. These are certainly successes. Our Gift Shop, too, has grown, with an ever-increasing variety of merchandise. There is something for everyone within its walls.

Outside in the yard we have many challenges to overcome, but they, too, are success stories. We have several major projects going on with the equipment, and there is constant progress with them. The wooden NYC caboose, the RPO, and the CN passenger car will

be show pieces for the Museum – more examples of progress at the Museum.

I always like to look back and review some of these events and try to praise them and the people responsible for these successes. Of course, there is always so much going on it is hard to note them all and to acknowledge everyone involved. We are a dedicated group, a passionate group, with a commitment level to our cause that is truly unsurpassed. I honestly wish I could thank you all personally for what you have all done for the growth of the Museum on a daily basis, but of course that is almost impossible. I am



Several of these combination light/fan ceiling fixtures have been installed in the CN party car. Through a concerted effort by many volunteers, it has also now been painted inside and equipped with heaters. Unlike the coach of previous years, this car does not have rows of seats, so there was plenty of space which DRM people enthusiastically filled with decorations in preparation for the Santa's arrival. No sneak previews in the newsletter! Afterward, the car will be available to use for other DRM events.

sure that there are also people working behind the scenes who don't get the acknowledgement for what they might do for our growth. They, of course, also are included in my gratitude.

In closing this month's article, I wish you all well. And of course, thank you again for your commitment to our Museum's growth during this last year. I am very proud of what you have all done, working together for this common goal.

First Night at the DRM

Once again the DRM will be joining in Danbury's First Night festivities. There is special entertainment scheduled within the Museum that evening, and fireworks in the railyard to start at 11pm. If you remember other First Nights at the Museum, it has been a wonderful way to welcome in another year. Last year's fireworks were spectacular! More details will be available as the event approaches, so call the Museum at 203-778-8337.

DRM Museum Outreach Active Representing DRM and Railroading

We would like to acknowledge ways that many of our members are representing our Museum, and furthering our mission of educating the public about railroading with the larger community. Steve Gould has agreed to be the contact here (GouldSL@aol.com or 203-778-8337) for these activities, and has provided much of the following information concerning member outreach.



Thoroughout the year the DRM has been represented at train shows in various locations by a couple of our members. Sue Thomas and Jerry Lawlor have attended on our behalf, including fall shows in Orange and in Cheshire, CT. Patty Osmer teamed with Sue for the recent show in Poughkeepsie, NY. We register for table space for selling Gift Shop merchandise, distributing flyers and brochures, and answering questions about our Museum. There is a significant amount of work involved before and afterward concerning the Gift Shop items, in addition to the time expended for transportation and the shows. It is a very important way of promoting our Museum, as well as producing revenue.

Dave Lowry and Peter McLachlan were interviewed for Comcast cable TV show called Retirement Living, which aired Monday, October 16th. The person conducting the interview on September 9th was Chip Cronkite, the son of famed CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite.

Steve Gould gave a video presentation on railroads at the Sterling Glen retirement home in Darien, CT on September 18th.

Peter McLachlan spoke about his career as a New Haven Railroad engineer at the Southern Connecticut Mensa dinner meeting in Bethel, CT on October 21th.

On October 31st Steve Gould covered

three topics in his presentation at the New Britain, CT Lions Club luncheon: the Museum, the unique railcar fleet at Standard Brands Inc. during the 1970s, and the rail fan adventures of Steve and three others.

DRM President Ira Pollack was interviewed by the Danbury News-Times for an article which appeared in that paper on October 21st. He discussed his life-long passion for trains and his involvement with the Danbury Railway Museum starting from its inception. He also talked about the Museum's dramatic growth, and the direction he has worked for the



Pete McLachlan entertained with slides of Danbury branch and Bethel (photo at left) on October 19th at the 1842 Second Meeting House in Bethel. The crowd had cleared by the time this shot was taken of Gerry Herrmann conversing with another attendee in front of the DRM's display table.

Museum to pursue for the present and future.

Peter McLachlan was as entertaining and informative as always in presenting *Railroading around Bethel* at the Bethel Historical Society and Danbury Railway Museum's jointly sponsored event on November 19th. The Museum displayed uniforms, timetables, brochures, newsletters, and other information about the Museum.

DRM Will Be at "Big E"

The dates for Amherst Railway Society's big 2007 Railroad Hobby Show will be **Saturday, January 27th from 9-5, and Sunday, January 28th from 10-5** at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds in West Springfield, MA. For many this is an annual trek. Many train enthusiasts spend a full two days there among the three buildings full of booths, railroad layouts and displays. Watch for the listing of model railroading clinics being held. Once again our booth will be featuring Gift Shop items, displays and information about our Museum! The show is a great way to network with others of similar interests, and learn a lot, too. Come visit us at our booth!

RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

As we write this report the car exterior lettering is about 90% complete thanks to Ira and Carolyn.



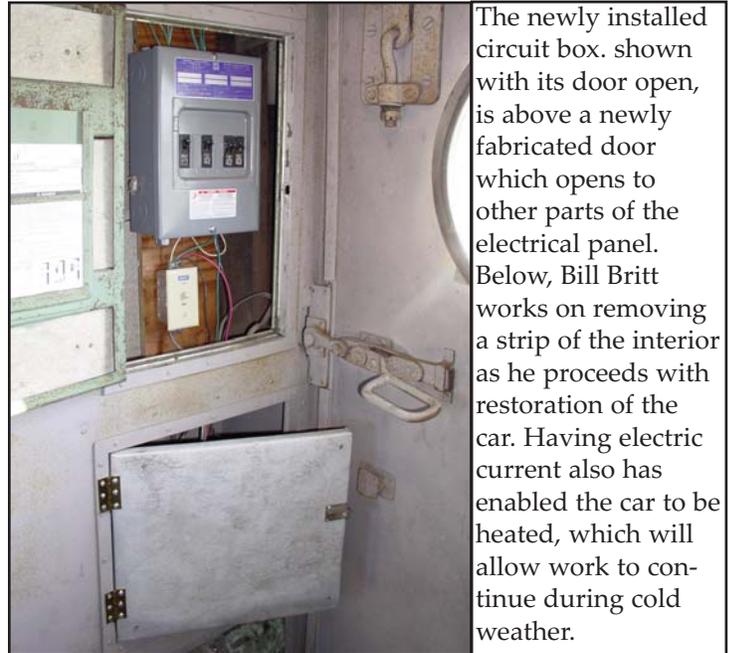
Ira Pollack, DRM President, lettering the RPO car (top), and the car with lettering complete (below). The numerals 6563 will be added shortly if weather permits.



It looks terrific! Lighting is complete with the exception of the motion detector switch, which needs some minor adjustment. We still need globes for the fixtures,



The RPO with lighting. The motion detector switch will save energy by turning on the lights when needed, and automatically shut off the lights when no one is in the car.



The newly installed circuit box, shown with its door open, is above a newly fabricated door which opens to other parts of the electrical panel. Below, Bill Britt works on removing a strip of the interior as he proceeds with restoration of the car. Having electric current also has enabled the car to be heated, which will allow work to continue during cold weather.



however. The metal cabinet doors that were left for us by the prior owner have been refitted, and where missing we have made new ones. Closet doors have been reworked for ease of operation.

The National Park Service - "STEAMTOWN" - has lent us a mail bag retrieval hook. Bob Pitcher intends to make a copy of it, and we must return it by 6/1/07.

Currently we are working on the interior walls to prepare them for painting. We are also working on the lavatory.

RPO cars were equipped with a stool and a small ladder; if anyone has a stool about 30 inches high, or a three-step ladder that they don't need, please keep us in mind (any condition - we can repair them).

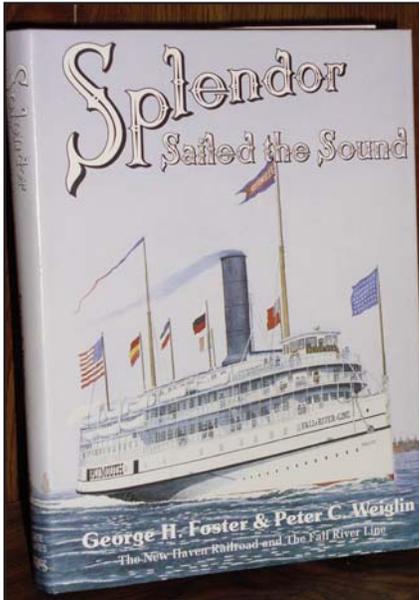
DID YOU KNOW? that the New Haven was one of the last major railroads to have contracts for RPO cars, and bought several from other lines such as the Santa Fe after those lines lost their mail contracts.

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We are offering the following new book selections beginning this month.

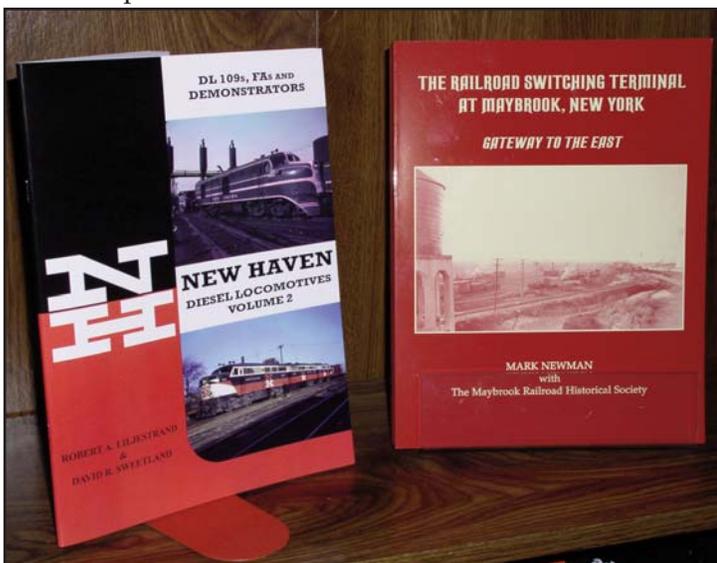
1. *Splendor Sailed the Sound* by Foster & Weiglin



is the story of the The New Haven Railroad and the Fall River Line. It details the history of the New Haven Railroad's maritime operations on the Long Island Sound. 384 pages, 450 B&W and illustrations; hardcover. Although not a new book, it is the first time we have carried it, and is must for the New Haven fan!
Member price: \$49.50

2. *The Railway Switching Switching Yard at Maybrook, New York - Gateway to the East*

is the long-awaited book by Marc Newman and the Maybrook Railroad Historical Society. Included are approximately 200 photos, which follow the path of rail cars into the yards, and show how they were repaired and classified. This book examines the rail system rather than specific railroad companies, and is an important segment toward understanding the process of rail transportation. 88 pages, heavily illustrated, paperback.
Member price: \$11.25.



3. *New Haven Diesel Locomotives Volume 2* by

Robert Liljestrand & David Sweetland contains 47 pages of photos of DL109, FA units, and Demonstrators. Member price: \$18.00.

Library News, Continued from Page 2



We use the RDC #32 Budd car for colder-weather holiday-time Santa Train rides.

order to keep the doors open. Event planning was also taking place with the first ever Easter Trains to be run, another Spring Train Show, Holiday Express trains and Santa Trains.

A reminder was made that the elections for the four officers and a full slate of directors was coming up in March and that anyone interested in running for a position should present their resume to the Nominating Committee.

Bill Guider had been handling publicity for the Museum and the job was continuing to grow. A request was made for assistance from anyone interested in helping out on a continuing basis.

On a sad note, the passing of Bill Schlichtig was announced. Bill had become very involved in many aspects of the Museum and was an invaluable member in our early growth.



Donations

Donations have been received from: Dan Carleton, Dave Roberts, Dave Lowry, Marjorie Flower, J.R. Mitchell, Mary Pape, Darrell Shahin, Gerhard Grahl, John Svehlak, and Ira Pollack.

The Danbury Railway Museum sincerely appreciates each and every donation, in any amount, be it for Special Projects or for General Operations. If you have made a donation which has inadvertently gone unacknowledged, please contact the Treasurer. Thank you, everyone, for your continued support. We could not continue to operate the Museum without it!



frames were fabricated by John Fegley, and installed in the window openings. A photo and explanation of the difficulties in completing the center window are in the "Little Red Caboose" article in the September 2006 issue of *The Railyard Local*.



While all this was happening, Ilarie Giurgescu was quietly working in the carpenter shop/box car on the grab irons and steps. All of the metal was stripped and primed. All of these will be installed upon completion of the caboose restoration.

It was necessary to prime the 70 exterior siding boards prior to their installation. On a warm July Saturday, the paint crew (Bob Andriola, Ilarie Giurgescu, Gerry Herrmann, Pete McLachlan, Mike Madyda, Stan Madyda, Jim Teer, and Sue Thomas) completed the job in 5 hours.



Photo 4 shows Jim Teer, Pete McLachlan, and Mike Madyda getting ready to install exterior siding. Photo 5 shows Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann and Bob Andriola installing the exterior siding (not in photo: Mike Madyda and John Fegley). Exterior siding completed (see Photo 6).



The bottom of the siding was cut even after Photo 6. With the changing of the season, minor work can be done on mild days. It will soon be time to button up the caboose for the winter, during which time some interior work will be done.



The total volunteer time for 2006 through November was 731 hours. The caboose project was started in 2003, and to date, a total of 2423 volunteer hours have been logged.

All donations to this project are greatly appreciated. Checks made out the the Danbury Railway Museum with the memo NYC/HRR #19322 will be used specifically for restoration of this historic caboose. They should be sent to: Danbury Railway Museum, NYC/HRR #19322 Project, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Dec 21(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- Dec 27(7:30pm) Videos from Collection -DRM Library
- Jan 3(7:30pm) Video of So. Steam - Dick Shubar
- Jan 10(7:30pm) Georgia; Mixed Trains 1985 - Pete McLachlan
- Jan 14(4:00pm) **Deadline; resumes of nominees for positions on DRM Bd of Directors**
- Jan 17(7:30pm) 40s & 50s Passenger Trains -Carl Riba

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: www.danbury.org/drm/



Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:
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 Attention: Newsletter
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 Fax: 203.778.1836
 Email: newsletter@danburyrail.org
 Editor: Carolyn Taylor

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Change of Address

If you move, please send your change of address to:
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 Attention: Membership Chairman
 PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
 Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

