

# The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

February 2007

## A Lot to Love at the DRM

### Celebrate Valentine's Day with a train ride

Join us for a sweetheart of a train ride on the weekend of February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> on the decorated Budd car! Our conductor will be handing out candy to passengers. **Train rides will be held providing the weather permits them.** Our Museum building also will be decorated for the occasion.

## Salute to Maintenance Crew

The DRM has a number of members who, generally without any fanfare, maintain and repair our mechanical equipment. They are the ones who enable our locomotives, other rolling stock, backhoe, garden tractor, and other mechanical items to function. They deal with dirt and grease, oftentimes work in the railyard maintenance pit, struggle in awkward positions and confined spaces. They do jobs that most other people would not have the expertise to do, as well as unglamorous but necessary ones such as oil changes and filter replacements, often enduring unenviable weather conditions. They also help in other ways at the Museum, but much of their volunteer time is spent out of the public eye. Thank you Chief Mechanical Officer Justin Chapin, Dan Carleton, J.R. Mitchell, Randy Natale, and also Bob Pitcher, Ira Pollack, Bob Andrews, Dave Roberts, and Bill Britt.



Dan Carleton was in a railyard pit, working over his head to remove a traction motor gear case from the SW-8 Pfizer locomotive during December. Photo by Geoff Knees.

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plus . . .

Gift Shop News and DRM Express Track

## DRM Awarded Meserve Grant

### Funds needed for Museum computers

The Albert Wadsworth & Helen Clark Meserve Memorial Fund presented the Danbury Railway Museum with a grant of \$4,800 in December 2006. The money will be used to acquire a new computer and upgrades for three other existing computers. We will purchase PastPerfect software for the Museum Library to use in keeping track of artifacts, books, photos, blueprints and other historical railroad material. After gathering material and costs, the DRM Grant Committee consisting of Mike Salata, Jerry Lawlor and Steve Gould, submitted the grant request in September. The DRM thanks the Meserve Memorial Fund personnel for once again showing their support of the Museum's goals and objectives by awarding us this grant.



## Ballot Enclosed!

### Take a peek inside; please respond!

It's election time again at the Danbury Railway Museum. Just as we did last year, we have enclosed the resumes, ballot, and return envelope with the newsletter. Please take the time to read the cover page and resumes of those running for office, then return your marked ballot before the deadline. Thanks go to Nominating Committee members Steve Gould, Joe Ward, and Bob Boothe, to all of those who helped include the election materials with the newsletters, and to Patty Osmer for the inserts preparation.

## 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!

James Kaufman  
Raymond Rohn

Glen Head, NY  
Yorktown Heights, NY



This headlight is on display in the Museum alongside the model train layouts. The informational caption states: "Headlight #4077 - This came off of an electric commuter car which was numbered 4077. The commuter car was built in 1907 and the headlight was built approximately in 1920."

## Watch for Us on TV

By Steve Gould

Joe Hine, a Danbury-based freelance videographer, visited the Museum on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to begin taping a documentary about the Danbury Railway Museum. Multiple visits will be required by Mr. Hine to get enough material. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, he taped Dave Lowry, John O'Hern and Steve Gould. All three gave him facts, figures, and anecdotes about the Museum. Steve walked around with Mr. Hine pointing out various displays and the model train layouts while Mr. Hine taped. He plans to be back in better weather to do taping outside including the turntable. The tape will be edited and previewed by Museum staff before it is released by Mr. Hines to local access

Channel 21 of Charter Communications. Stay tuned for more details concerning the taping.

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## Ten Years Ago

by Stan Madyda

The February 1997 newsletter again was a short one (4 pages) since activities at the Museum were limited. There was a reminder that hours of operation had been cut back to Thursday through Sunday. Wednesday nights were put aside for a short members' meeting and entertainment.

Exhibits were being set up inside the Station, largely with materials received from the Hudson River Museum exhibit on railroading in Westchester. Peter McLachlan was in charge of all exhibits. There were three coach cutaways that were put on display. It was hoped that mannequins could be obtained and dressed in period costumes. A racing game was also set up, also from the Hudson River Museum. The game pitted a train against a horse and a boat.



In a new case near the G-gauge layout, our Museum finally has a fine display of conductor's uniforms.

Easter Bunny Train plans were proceeding on schedule. Members were asked to help with the event and with flyer distribution.

The Birthday Parties were proving to be very successful. They were only being offered on Saturdays and parties were booked through June. Additional volunteers were needed to assist with the parties because we always had several members host the parties along with the parents.

There was a progress report on the RDC-1 #32 car. Member Annette Kaufman was working on removing graffiti from the sides of the car. It was found that Bar Keepers Friend was the best cleaner for this job. Joe Ward became an expert on replacing the windows in the car. Each window averaged 10 hours for full replacement. Don Reventlow undertook the job of removing the diaphragms that were added during its life as an Amtrak RDC. Parts were being donated but money was needed and a fundraising campaign was underway. Many donations were received for the windows.

New equipment was on its way to Danbury. The New York Central E-8 (#4096) needed a new home after being stored at the Valley Railroad in Essex. The

*Continued on Page 6*

# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I'd like to share with you some of my plans and expectations for the upcoming season. As always, we have many projects before us both in the building and in the yard.

This year I would like to concentrate on projects for which we already have funds allocated, in particular the #1455, #1402, trackwork to the turntable and track #42.



## 1. #1455 Boston & Maine steam locomotive

This year we'll mark the 100th anniversary of the manufacture of the #1455, and we would like to have a celebration noting the history of the locomotive. I would like to see a general cleanup of the engine and painting where necessary. Although we aren't restoring the #1455 to operating condition at this time, we must continue to stabilize its car body and protect it from the environment as much as possible. Carolyn Taylor has volunteered to be project leader to coordinate the work involved. I wish Carolyn well in this grand endeavor. She is going to need your support and help on this very popular Museum artifact.

2. #1402 RS11 locomotive (shown below as 7589) Work on this project is continuing under J.R. Mitchell. He has meticulously been working on the car body, but obviously with such a large project he needs as much help as can be provided. Please join his team and help in this grand project.



3. Trackwork to the turntable lead switch and beyond This is and will be a hard project to undertake and succeed with, but it is vital to replace these integral parts for our operation. I plan to begin this work this spring and need all able bodied help on the weekends. The more hands the better for this project.

As I mentioned earlier on, we have an abundance of projects before us at the Museum. I feel that this would be an appropriate time to list additional projects along with their group leaders. Also we want you to be involved, more now than ever before.

Listed below are all the different projects and departments at the Museum with their group leaders:

## DRM Projects

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. RPO 6563            | Bill Britt     |
| 2. NYC wooden caboose  | Gerry Herrmann |
| 3. #1402               | J.R. Mitchell  |
| 4. Yard and track work | Ira Pollack    |
| 5. Yard maintenance    | Ira Pollack    |
| 6. #1455               | Carolyn Taylor |
| 7. CN 660              | Jim Teer       |

## DRM Departments

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mechanical          | Justin Chapin                  |
| 2. Front Desk          | Dave Lowry                     |
| 3. Safety and Training | John O'Hern                    |
| 4. Gift Shop           | Patty Osmer                    |
| 5. Interior Exhibits   | Wade Roes                      |
| 6. Library             | Gerry Herrmann and Stan Madyda |
| 7. Wed. Night Features | Dan Foley                      |

We have a lot on our plate, but many of these projects can succeed with your help. I'm hoping that you can contribute to our cause with your time and energy. Please contact these people and help us grow. We are looking at a new season, and before you know it, it will be here. Be part of our growth and success!



Thanks to J.R. Mitchell, our garden tractor was ready to go again with its regular operator Dave Roberts at the controls.

# Where Do They Come From?

## Many DRM guests travel from a distance

We are delighted when our DRM guests care enough to sign our guest book, indicate where they live, how they heard about us, how many are in their party, whether they would like to be kept informed about DRM events, and any additional comments. The feedback from our visitors is very helpful to us in trying to get the word out about our special Museum, and in our continuing efforts to improve our guests' railroading experience here. The positive comments give us volunteers great satisfaction. Below is a sampling of the home towns and countries of guests who visited from beyond the CT, NY, and NJ areas during June through September 2006.

McLean, VA  
Middleburg, FL  
Peabody, MA  
Avellino, Italy  
Cupertino, CA  
Sublimity, OR  
Orefield, PA  
Duncansville, PA  
Gloucester, England  
Green Bay, WI  
Orange, MA  
Brainerd, MN

Salem, MA  
Newbury Park, CA  
Southern Pines, NC  
N. FT. Myers, FL  
Phoenix, AZ  
Largo, FL  
Kunkletown, PA  
Jefferson City, MO  
Ronks, PA  
Americus, GA  
Sun River, OR  
Goleta, CA



Vernon, VT  
Hume, IL  
Ware, MA  
Rossville, IN  
Jamaica Plain, MA  
Torrance, CA  
Lynn, MA  
Yeronga, Queensland, Australia  
Port Orange, FL  
Aitkin, MN  
Kaiserslautern, Germany  
Amory, MS  
Montgomery Village, MD  
Falls Church, VA  
Marion, SC

Ellecott City, MD  
Brockton, MA  
Tucson, AZ  
Hartwell, GA  
Gt. Barrington, MA  
Seattle, WA  
Sedona, AZ  
McDonald, TN  
Annapolis, MD  
Worcester, MA  
Plymouth, NH  
Chippenham, Wills., UK  
Solingen, Germany  
Bloomingdale, OH

Heyburn, ID  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Falmouth, Nova Scotia  
W. Kingston, RI  
Spokane, WA  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Hollywood, FL  
New Market, MD  
Portage, MI  
Orlando, FL  
San Diego, CA  
Uhrichsville, OH  
Miami, FL  
Golden, CO  
Bethlehem, PA  
Chillicothe, OH  
Belmont, MA  
Manassas, VA  
Valdosta, VA

Millis, MA  
West Chester, PA  
Hingham, MA  
Lunenburg, MA  
Williamsburg, VA  
Orland, CA  
Chicago, IL  
Barrie, Ontario, Canada  
Cumberland, RI  
Trevorton, PA  
Adams, MA  
Pittsfield, ME  
Draper, VT  
Dendermonde, Belgium  
Augusta, MI  
Alexandria, VA  
Evanston, IL  
Sheffield, UK  
London, UK



Jupiter, FL  
Blue Ridge, GA  
Palmyra, PA  
Bryn Athyn, PA  
Waterloo, IA  
Hastings, PA  
Tomahawk, WI  
Brecksville, OH  
Plymouth, IN  
Zlin, Czech Republic  
Greensburg, PA  
Hiran, OH  
Oriental, NC  
St. Joseph, MO  
Ladson, SC  
Dunnville, Ontario, Canada  
Clayton, NC  
Cantanhede, Portugal  
Duluth, MN  
Columbus, IN  
San Mateo, CA  
Acworth, GA

Boston, MA  
Kent, WA  
Lehighton, PA  
Loxahatchee, FL  
Norfolk, VA  
Independence, OH  
Cranberry, PA  
Auburn, MA  
Wellington, FL  
Hudson, OH  
Exeter, NH  
Pembroke, MA  
Lebanon, PA  
Santa Clara, CA  
Flat Rock, NC  
Concord, NC  
San Francisco, CA  
Bluffton, SC  
Belfast, N. Ireland  
Pinehurst, NC  
Galway, Ireland  
Katy, TX

# RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Manager and DRM Vice-President

Since our last report, we have finished the floor, and have replicated and installed the ten “bolsters” that are used to store the filled mail sacks.



Bill Britt holds one of the “bolsters”, showing the beveling on the 5-quarters thick piece of wood. He had to create the angle on the end by hand because of the unusual thickness. The new ones are evident in the lower photo. The third original one has the circular holes with the broken off ends of two missing tubes which extended to the ceiling. They helped keep the filled mail sacks from shifting. The “bolsters” apparently were used to keep the mail sacks off the RPO car floor.



Currently we are working (off premises) on the forty-five “Paper Box” doors. This will take some time. Each door is composed of ten individual pieces which have to be made before the door can be assembled. After assembly, each door has to be routed, sanded, stained, stenciled and polyurethaned. So you can see we have our work cut out for us here. We have started

on this and have a number of the components completed.

We will also be working on the missing “Registered Mail” door.



In the time between Bill’s writing of this article and its inclusion in the newsletter, he finished creating the missing door for the registered mail “cage” from scratch. This special class of mail was locked in these “cages”. The new one is the dark one. In doing restoration of the RPO car, Bill has found that sometimes it is difficult to locate materials to match the original ones.



This appears to be a drawer for the personal effects of one of the crew of postal workers. It has the capability of being locked. Fortunately this drawer still remains as an example so that the remaining eight drawers are being fabricated using this one as an example. Elsewhere in the car there are hooks and space for hanging up the crew’s outerwear.

**DID YOU KNOW** that during the highlight time of the Railway Post Office service, it used more than 10,000 trains daily and traveled an aggregate distance of around 1,250,000 miles a day?

Thank you for your continued interest in our RPO. We look forward to hearing from you.

# The Yard Inside

By Wade Roese

The holiday displays have been packed away, but rumor has it that Valentines Day is on the horizon . . . hearts, flowers, candy!!!; and, of course "the love of trains"

## Layout Status:

**Z Gauge:** Thanks to Rich Shubar, we have finally found some Z gauge which will be on display in the Museum as you read this article.

**N Gauge:** It appears we need some new motive power for the N gauge. Donation of any spare locomotives would be appreciated.

**HO Gauge:** Progress on the HO gauge continues. We should be seeing operation in the near future . . . stay tuned.



Scenes from the HO layout, which is nearing completion.



**S Gauge:** Not much new to report.

**O Gauge:** We have approached a number of materials dealers in an attempt to secure donations toward the construction of the new O gauge layout. If any of our members know of possible donors please contact Rich Shubar or myself.

New exhibits and displays are in place and additional ones are in the works. Please stop in the Museum; take a look around, leave your comments about what you like, don't like, and/or any suggestions

**6** you would enjoy seeing on display here. The Tuesday night work group will be going

on the road to the Hawley Elementary School in Newtown to put on an after school program. It will consist of six hour and a half presentations to interested students as an introduction to railroading and model railroading, including information regarding the nationally recognized "Worlds Greatest Hobby". If anyone is interested in participating, please contact me. 203-938-3611.

*Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2*



owner decided to move it to Danbury. Don Reventlow and Geoff Knees readied the engine for the move. Next, the Town of Yorktown asked if we would be interested in the Pennsylvania caboose that had been on display in a park for many years. We said "Yes" and our members worked on the move. Geoff Knees decided that his Pullman sleeper, the Stratford Point, would be safer in Danbury than on a siding in New Milford. The last piece of equipment scheduled for delivery was the privately owned Tonawanda Valley, also from Essex.

An update was given on the progress of the by-laws committee. It had been decided by the board that the original by-laws should be reviewed and revised. The committee made recommendations to the Board. One of the changes was how the Board of Directors was to be made up, and it was decided that there would be a total of 17 directors, all to be voted on in the March 1997 election.

Lastly the newsletter had a photo of Leahy's, circa 1930, showing their fleet of trucks parked in front of the former station, now on their property.



# Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

Now that inventory is completed, Patty and Kathie are on an ordering frenzy! Two new books are on order, and should be in by the end of January: **New Haven Color Pictorial - Volume Three** by **David R. Sweetland** is an all-color photo album of the New Haven Railroad's eastern section, focusing on central and eastern Massachusetts as it was in the 1950s and 1960s. Hardcover, 128 pages, profusely illustrated. Member cost, \$54.00, and **New Haven Diesel Locomotives Volume 2 - DL 109s, FAs and Demonstrators** by **Robert A. Liljestrand and David R. Sweetland**. This is a photo album of the New Haven's ALCO/GE DL-109s and ALCO FAs/FBs, as well as Diesel-electric demonstrators used on the New Haven during the period 1945 - 1953. Soft cover, 48 pages, profusely illustrated. Member cost, \$18.00. Several other books are on order; either books which we haven't carried before, or replacements for books we are out of. Please stop in and see our new selection.



## DONATIONS

Donations for special projects, or to the General Fund have recently been made by:

Martin Margulis, Bruce Pennino, Dave Roberts, John & Annette Ambler, Jay Ballard, Richard Moreton, James Stevenson, Daniel Carleton, Julius Brooks, Robert Starkweather, Jim Teer, Paul Bartrum, Carolyn Taylor, John Arents, Franz Gerencir, Nels Anderson, Peter McLachlan, Clarence Gardner, Theodore Cleveland, Edward Shahin, Randy Natale, Michael Roche, George Berger, Joe Ward.

The Museum sincerely appreciates each and every donation, whether for special projects or to the General Fund. We would not be able to keep our equipment running and restored without the help of our friends and members.

## Reminder of Membership Changes

As you know, DRM membership changes took effect on October 1, 2006. We would like to remind you what they are:

Individual	\$40 per year
Family	\$50 per year
Lifetime	\$400
Retired Railroader	\$20 per year
Patron	\$200 per year
Corporate	\$500 per year

Individual, Lifetime, Retired Railroader, and Patron are all single-person memberships for one individual.

### Benefits include:

- Free admission to the Museum and Railyard.
- 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases and discounts on most events or excursions.
- A one year subscription to our monthly newsletter, *The Railyard Local*.
- A membership card.
- An annual report.
- A window sticker/decal.
- One vote in membership voting matters.

Patron membership includes all of the above benefits plus one ride in the locomotive cab.

Family membership includes all of the individual membership benefits mentioned above and admission to the Museum and Railyard for your spouse and all children living at home. In member voting matters, there is one vote per family.

Corporate members receive a membership certificate suitable for framing; \$1 off admission and 10% off Gift Shop purchases for employees with valid employee IDs; a subscription to our monthly newsletter, *The Railyard Local*; one membership card; and one vote in member voting matters.

If there are any questions, please contact our Membership Chairman in care of the Museum or at [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com).

**Give a gift of membership** - a gift that keeps on giving all year long! If you pay for an individual or family membership, we will give you a certificate good for a year's membership, which you can give to the recipient to redeem. This is a great idea for Grab Bags, Donations, or other difficult to shop for occasions. Stop in at the Museum for more details.



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**ATTENTION:  
OPEN  
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ENCLOSED**

## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Feb 14(7:30pm) | Slides; His and T.J.'s - John Garafola  |
| Feb 15(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members)   |
| Feb 21(7:30pm) | White Pass and Yukon - Bill Brett   |
| Feb 28(7:30pm) | Slides; New Haven - Bob Gambling  |
| Mar 7(7:30pm)  | Video; Twilight of Steam- Dick Shubar   |
| Mar 14(7:30pm) | <b>7:30pm ballot deadline; Annual Meeting; Modeling Techniques - Steve Mayerson</b> |
| Mar 15(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members)   |

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: [www.danbury.org/drm/](http://www.danbury.org/drm/)!



### Contact Information

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### **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)

