

The Railyard Local

Volume 5, Issue 11

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

November 2006

The Santa Express Is Coming All aboard!

Take a ride with Frosty on a vintage train and visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus in their special coach! They will be at the DRM on the weekend days of December 3, 9, 10, 16, & 17. Trains will leave every 1/2 hour, 12:00 - 4:00pm. The Museum always has festive decorations within and outside. Photos will be available, and children will receive a small gift from Santa. Our fully stocked Gift Shop will be open. There will be several gauges of model trains operating on layouts in the building. Tickets will be \$7 for ages 3 & up; children 2 & under free. We go all out so that our guests have a very special visit! Reservations are suggested for this very popular event, and can be made either in person, or by calling 203-778-8337 with a credit card handy.

If you can help at the event, or with decorating beforehand, please call Sue Thomas at the Museum number above. We will need extra assistance and there will be many different ways to help.



DRM Hours Change with Season

The days become shorter, clocks are set back to Eastern Standard Time, and the DRM's schedule changes to winter hours. For the months of November through March, the Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday from 10am to 4pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 4pm. The Museum will be closed on December 24th. Our vintage trains do not respond well to cold weather, therefore train rides will not be held after the last Santa train on December 17th until our Easter Bunny event in the spring of 2007.

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Pumpkin Patch Trains

The weather cooperated much better this year for guests on our Pumpkin Patch Trains. It was a great success all around because we drew many participants who enjoyed the many attractions of the DRM and the event. Many thanks to the volunteers who made the extra effort to enable this event to take place. Sue Thomas was the event coordinator. Our newly formed Event Committee met several times beforehand to plan many of the details of the event, and afterward each weekend of the event.



Our Pumpkin Patch guests were busy finding the perfect pumpkins, and filling up on refreshments.

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Members' Discount Weekend

20% off at DRM Gift Shop Nov 24-26th

Once again our Gift Shop will hold its Annual Member Appreciation Weekend. What a great time to purchase holiday gifts and everything you've been eyeing for a while! Sorry, we cannot apply the discount to special orders, used books, or other items already on sale. This is a very popular event, so shop early so as not to be disappointed. We will not be able to hold items for you during this event.

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!

Eric Keller	Livermore, CA
Gary & Barbara Bentley	Southbury, CT
Morris W. Badoud	Brookfield, CT
Tracy & Matthew Day	Bethel, CT
Bart Flaherty	New Fairfield, CT
Karen Beckenstein	Danbury, CT
Wayne Covill	Newtown, CT
Joseph Keller	Ridgefield, CT
Peter Matouseh	Weston, CT
Wendy Wolfert	Sherman, CT
Charles Edelman	New York, NY
Francisco Hernandez	Danbury, CT
Chris Greene	Redding, CT
Will Crowley	Ridgefield, CT
Brian Holtz	Southbury, CT
Beth Reagle	Darien, CT
Bradley Marcus	Weston, CT
Charles Dangio	Carmel, NY
Colleen Summer	Danbury, CT
Kate Thibodeau	New Milford, CT
Diane Ouchter Reynolds	Chappaqua, NY
Christian Nast IV	Danbury, CT
Sperry Rail Service	Danbury, CT

DRM Members Reaching Out

Many of our members are giving presentations, setting up exhibits, giving interviews, or in other ways representing our DRM and furthering our mission with the larger community. We would like to acknowledge recent past, and near future, activities of this sort in this newsletter. Please contact Steve Gould by putting details into his mail slot in the Museum Office, or emailing him at GouldSL@aol.com. You also can make use of our Museum Office bulletin board.

We just received notice of an event on **Sunday, November 19th, from 2-4pm**, which will feature DRM member **Peter McLachlan**. He will be presenting a program *Railroading around Bethel* for the Bethel Historical Society and Danbury Railway Museum. It will be held at the 1842 Second Meeting House, 40 Main Street, Bethel, CT. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 203-743-5893. It is hoped that

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many of our members will receive this newsletter announcement in time to attend.

Library News

by Stan Madyda

It has been awhile since we last acknowledged donations received by the Library. Here are some from 2006:

- John Stamatov- 17 issues of the Narrow Gauge Gazette
- Marty Grossman - Track charts for Brewster Yard (1910) and Selkirk Yard (1916)
- The Office of Mayor Mark Boughton - four sterling silver locomotive silhouettes
- Jesse Meeker - the book "Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Varnish"
- Marty Scatola - Classic Trains magazines, Model Railroad News and New York Central Historical Society's "Central Headlight"
- John J. Farrell- various hand tools used on the railroad
- Bob Westerfield - Lionel NW-2 Coca-Cola switcher
- New England Toy Train Exchange - cardboard steam locomotive front
- John Babina, Jr. - two lanterns, lenses and a 1956 PRR calendar
- Relay Book House - an original edition of "Little Engine that Could"



Accessioning items for the DRM's Reference and Research Library is a continuous process, which Stan Madyda does on a consistent basis. Here he is putting time tables into protective wrappers. They will be listed in the computer and also organized so that interested railroad fans can have access to them in our Library.

Nelson Rivera - blueprints of the South Norwalk and Stamford stations circa 1895

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DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month, as always, I'd like to thank you for your time volunteered at the Museum. We are now in the season of thankfulness and giving, but as you know, this is a year-round job for our volunteers. It's truly an amazing total of hours devoted by our staff to keep our facility running on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. I really cannot express my gratitude enough to their dedication toward our Museum's growth. It still gives me very proud feelings to see our Museum in operation during the week, on weekends, or during our events. Here are these people at work, and they, too, are proud of what we are and what we've done.



Gerry Herrmann, Project Manager, nailing siding on the NYC caboose. Photo courtesy of Bob Boothe.

Every month I try to keep you informed of what is going on at the Museum. I always try to keep you updated with the various projects that are being worked on and hopefully completed. Many of the things we do are very time consuming and extensive, and therefore cannot be finished in a short amount of time. I want you to be aware of our continued progress with them. The sheathing on the north side of the New York Central wooden caboose has now been replaced completely, with new window frames installed. This is one of those extensive projects that has taken great dedication from the volunteers working on it. When it's finished, it will be a showpiece for the Museum. The PRR RPO car, too, will be a showpiece when it is eventually finished. These projects show the level of commitment and perseverance that our membership has. No project is too big or out of our realm. We now have crews of volunteers working on the interior of the CN #660 passenger car. It is our intent to eventually use this car for events in the yard such as the Santa Train, or for birthday parties on the weekends. Once again there is that dedication from the volunteers. This is what keeps us growing and moving forward.

At this time I would also like you to know that

I have appointed Justin Chapin as our Chief Mechanical Officer. Justin's mechanical knowledge and time spent at the Museum will be an asset to this position. I am looking forward to working with him and his mechanical staff in the near future.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank you all for your outstanding dedication to our Museum's well being and growth. Once again never forget who we are and what we can do when we work together as a team. I also wish you a pleasant Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing you this holiday season.

RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Vice-President and Project Manager

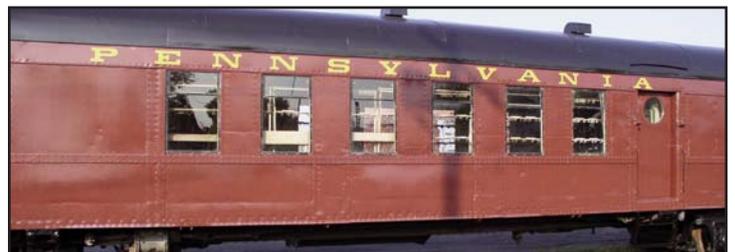
The exterior of the car is now complete with the exception of the lettering, the diaphragms and a few very small details. The lettering will probably have to wait until the spring when the weather clears, unless we can get someone that can work on it full-time for a day or so.

We have had a bit of a problem coming up with a suitable material to make the diaphragms. Heavy canvas is not readily available; we have found a vinyl material that has UV inhibitors so it should last, but it does not have the "hand" or "drape" of the original. We are still looking.

Work has begun on the lighting inside the car. Substitute fixtures have been made and installed; the wiring however may take time to sort out, since the original wiring was just cut out without regard to any replacement. The remainder of the interior work carpentry, sheet metal, pipe work, painting, etc. depend on budget constrictions and our ability to work as temperatures fall.

DID YOU KNOW that the Post Office contracts with the railroads permitted Postal Superintendents at transfer stations of mail to delay any train up to 28 minutes to complete mail transfers? This included passenger trains such as the Twentieth Century Limited, etc., however this was not done very often.

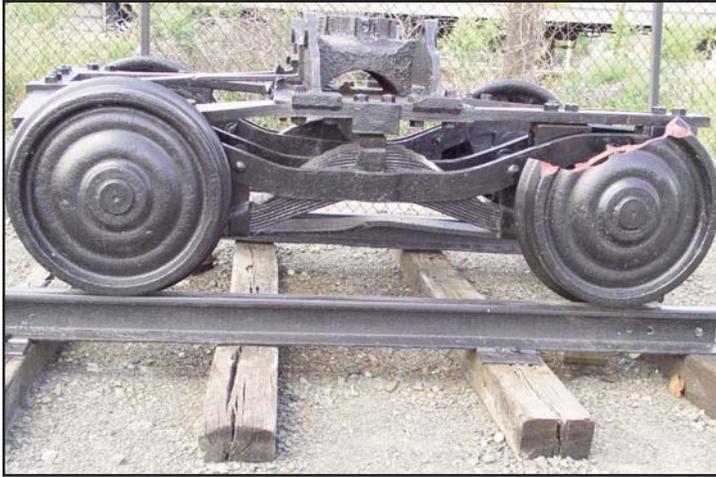
Thank you again for your interest in our car; any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated. We always enjoy hearing from you.



The *Pennsylvania* lettering is on both sides of the RPO, with thanks to Wade Roese for creating the stencils, and Ira Pollack and Carolyn Taylor for lettering.

Pilot Truck with Broken Wheel

The Danbury Railway Museum received a steam locomotive's lead truck from Metro-North several years ago when it was removed from the mud near the Hudson River. One of the wheels is broken. It has been cleaned up and painted as a display piece in the DRM's railyard. However, we did not have details about the history of this historic piece.



Just recently an article appeared on the Internet. A couple of DRM members excitedly forwarded this item this editor, thinking it would be of interest to the membership. The article's author, Tommy Meehan, has graciously given permission for it to be printed in this newsletter. If anyone reading this has further information, photos of the locomotive mentioned in the article, or comment, please email the newsletter@danburyrail.org. Following is the article:

Someone had mentioned to me that MNCW workers found an old engine truck buried in the mud of Annsville Creek when they were installing the new bridge (non-movable) and causeway there, northwest of Peekskill. It was the lead truck off a New York Central & Hudson River Buchanan-designed locomotive. (William Buchanan being Central's chief engineer back in the 19th century when the road designed and even built a lot of its own power.) I mentioned having seen a news article about an accident there. This weekend I found the news clippings.

According to both the NY Herald and Peekskill's Highland Democrat, the accident took place just before 2 PM on Friday 4-7-1882. It involved a northbound way freight, working from the West Side to Poughkeepsie. Both papers reported the engine was NYC&HR 74, which was a 4-4-0 built by Danforth Cooke in 1864 and bore the name L.W. Jerome. Apparently 74 survived the wreck since a roster shows it being renumbered 130 in 1890.

The train had left W. 30th St at 5 AM and reached Peekskill about 1:25. After working the station area it departed north with 23 cars about 1:50

PM. Meantime, the Annsville draw - which was a swing span at that time - had opened to pass a lumber schooner. (There was a lot of commercial activity up along Annsville Creek back then. A wire foundry consisted of over 20 buildings!) The draw was just beginning to close when the freight came along. Witnesses all agreed that the engineer did not brake until he was a few car lengths from the draw. However, the engineer and fireman (who both jumped clear of the wreck, along with the head brakeman) swore the signals showed clear. As the engine went off the rails and into the opening, witnesses said it actually hit the draw span. They said it made a very loud clanging or metal-on-metal noise. The engine, tender and three or four cars all went in the water. In order to get the main line open (apparently the swing span was not damaged) the wrecking crew only removed the equipment they could reach above the water line. Service was restored by 5 PM. In the meantime, local boaters carried passengers from at least one train around the wreck in small boats.

The rest of the equipment was fished out over the next couple of weeks. Though I can't say for sure NYC&HR 74 was the locomotive whose engine truck was found over 100 years later, I'd say the odds are pretty good.

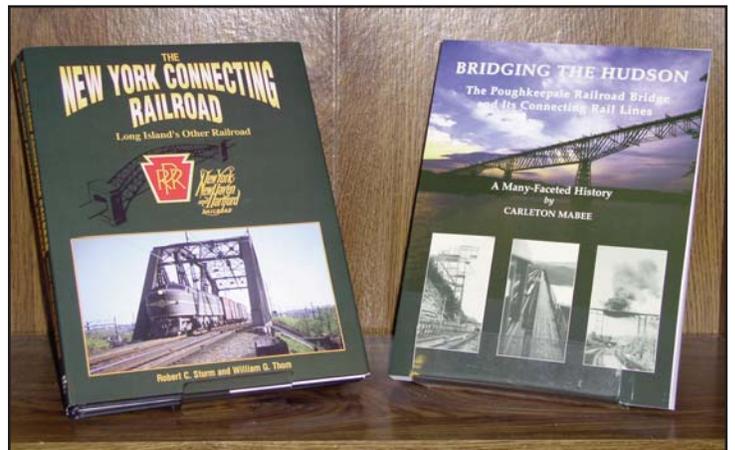
tommy meehan

Thank you, Tommy!

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

Two new books have come in: First, The New York Connecting Railroad, by Robert Sturm and William Thom. This book details the little-known NYCH, which served as a bridge line between the Pennsylvania and New Haven Railroads. Hardcover; lots of pictures; 126 pages. Member price is \$32.35. Also new is Alcos Northeast by Mike Confalone and Joe Posik. 60 Alco-powered railroads are photographically presented in the 176-page, hardcover book. Price is \$53.95 for members.



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Birthday Parties at the DRM

Some additional information and changes

Parties are available January - November (not in December because of the Santa Event).

Parties are held on Saturdays from 11am-1pm, and 2-4pm. Sunday parties are from 2-4pm.



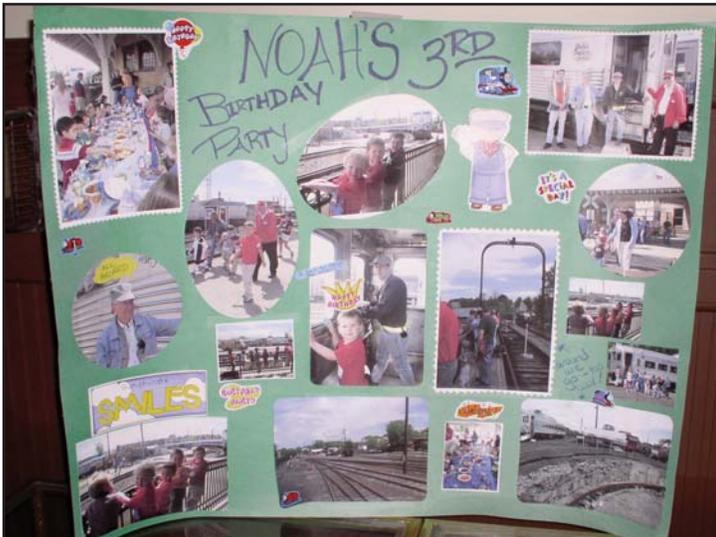
January - March parties include:

Admission to Museum & Railyard, use of private party room, Locomotive Cab Ride Pass* for birthday child & 1 adult, 10% off in the Gift Shop for all party purchases. Party fee: \$125

April - November parties include:

Admission to Museum & Railyard, vintage train ride, turntable ride, locomotive cab ride for birthday child & 1 adult, 10% off in the Gift Shop for all party purchases. Party fee: \$175.

The party fee provides for up to 12 children and up to 12 adults, for a maximum of 24 attendees. Additional attendees will receive \$1 off admission and train ride (when available). A \$50 non-refundable reservation fee is required at time of reservation. Museum members receive \$10 off regular party prices.



One family delighted us with a photographic remembrance of their son Noah's birthday party at the Museum.

Train, turntable, and cab ride subject to availability. Weather permitting, the party will be held outdoors under the canopy of our 1903 station. The Cab Ride Pass does not include Museum admission. \$25 surcharge for parties held during Special Events.

*The Cab Ride Pass is good from April - Nov. and does not include Museum admission.

Often our party accommodations are booked up months ahead, so in order to avoid disappointment, please allow for that when calling for reservations. Call the Danbury Railway Museum at (203)778-8337 for reservations, or visit us during Museum hours at 120 White St., Danbury, CT 06810, or online at www.danbury.org/drm or info@danburyrail.org.

We love to see party guests filling our Museum with happy energy!



Jack Mullen, his family and friends celebrated his 3rd birthday with a party at the Museum. Jack came dressed as if ready to be part of a train crew wearing his cap, matching overalls and red patterned neckerchief, with a train whistle in hand!

DRM Name Badges

Based on recent interest in obtaining DRM name badges, we will be placing another order very shortly. Anyone wanting a DRM name tag may order one by sending \$6 to John O'Hern or Patty Osmer, Danbury Railway Museum, Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. The order also may be placed in either John O'Hern's or Patty Osmer's mail slot in the Museum Office. If the order is brought in person, payment in cash, rather than a check, would expedite the order. Make sure to include the name you want printed on the name badge. If you need to have the name badge mailed to you, please include your mailing address and add a \$2 shipping charge. The name tags are 3" long, 1.5" high, and are made of heavy plastic with 2 tie-tack type snaps on the back. The DRM logo is printed in maroon, with your name below in black.

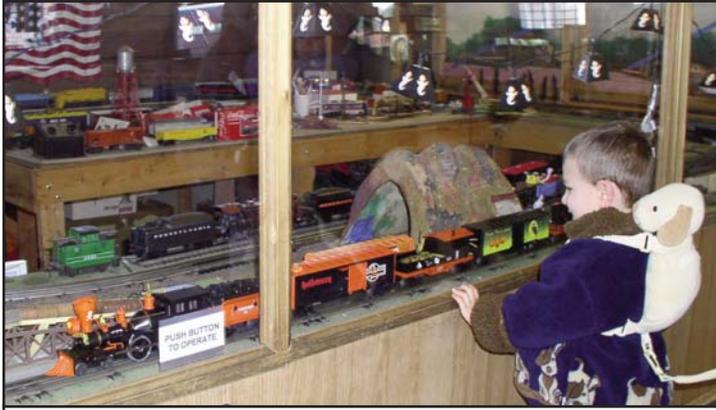
The Yard Inside

By Wade Roese

Layout Status:

Z gauge: Does anyone have any Z gauge they would be willing to donate or loan to the Museum?

N gauge: I have recently constructed a model of our sand tower and forwarded it to the paint shop (Steve Mayerson) for some weathering magic!



One of our young guests is delighted by the Halloween train and decorations on the O gauge layout, courtesy of Rich Shubar. The colors can be seen in the photos of the web version of the newsletter at www.danbury.org/drm.

HO gauge: Progress on the HO gauge. Gary Bentley and Steve Mayerson have started tree planting; as the evergreen and deciduous plantings climb up the hillside, the layout seems to spring alive. Train operation is only a short time away.

S gauge: New and old S gauge pieces ("S Helper Service" donations and "American Flyer" collector items are currently displayed in our new static display cases.

O gauge: Additional new Ross O gauge track and switches have been received, which will further enhance our newly planned O gauge layout. Again we invite anyone interested in getting in on the ground floor of this project to contact me or Rich Shubar, Project Leader, or come to our Tuesday evening work sessions (7:00-10pm).

Standard gauge: More "new" old standard gauge pieces have been donated and added to the exhibit in our new display cases.

We have recently been contacted by a philanthropic foundation (www.wilkinsontrains.com) that makes significant donations of model equipment to museums and other historical organizations. Yours truly is providing the required information for sponsorship, and we are hopeful of receiving a representative model appropriate to the DRM. Check out their website to see what they have and/or already have placed around the country. Stay tuned; better yet, stop in and visit your Museum.

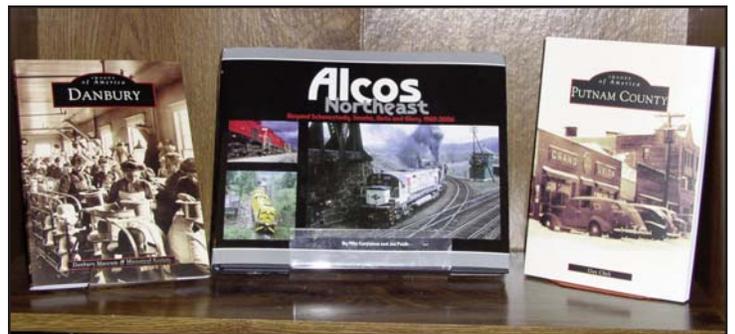
Library News, Continued from Page 2

- George Geer - Scenic Train Trips sign
Upper Room Thrift Shop - landscape material to be used on the stations model railroads
Dolores Dowling - Lionel track, also to be used on the layouts
Stephen Merto - postcard of the Danbury Train Station, postmarked 1919
Chris Sheridan - issues of Trains Magazine, Railpace and Model Railroader
Barbara B. Wall - two Pullman Chairs & two handrails
Bill Guider - a collection of books, timetables and Official Guides
Estate of Woodrow Devine - bound volumes of Trains Magazine, Shoreliners and calendars
Robert Underwood - nine photos of Sperry Rail Car #135 and a building plate from one of the buildings in New Haven yard.
Susan Sarrazin - toy trains
Howard Peatfield - various magazine and newsletters
Robert Leavitt - a collection of eight books
Donald Miller - a copy of the "Unofficial History of the 711th Military Railroad Battalion"
Anonymous Donor - four manuals for the NYC ACMU's and a calendar
John W. Denz - Lionel train set, track and transformer
There will be more next month. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far this year.

Editor's Note: The November and December issues of the DRM's newsletter in 1996 were combined. Stan's column, *Ten Years Ago*, will return again in the December issue of *The Railyard Local*.

Gift Shop News, Continued from Page 4

Back in stock are Danbury, and Putnam County, both from the Arcadia *Images of America* series. Also back in stock is the very popular book, Bridging the Hudson by Carleton Mabee. This book is being sold to support Walkway Over the Hudson, a group which is working hard to provide public access to the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge by 2009, and therefore we cannot offer a member discount on the \$24 cost of this softcover book.



The Museum and railyard were specially decorated for Halloween. Even the O-gauge layout joined in the spirit of the occasion, complete with sound-effects! The face painting proved to be as popular as usual. Our Halloween Special ran down the track to our historic turntable, where passengers took a 360 degree ride, then chose pumpkins from a varied assortment, paused for refreshments, and rode back down the yard. Once there, G-gauge trains in Halloween livery were an inviting attraction.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov 16(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members) |
| Nov 22(7:30pm) | CN Western Canada -Pete McLachlan |
| Nov 29(7:30pm) | Selection of Slides - Ed Blackman |
| Dec 6(7:30pm) | Western Rails - Bob Gambling |
| Dec 13(7:30pm) | Video: Colorado Steam - Dick Shubar |
| Dec 20(7:30pm) | Video; Balt/Roanoke Rails - Steve Gould |

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:
 Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
 Attention: Newsletter
 PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
 Phone: 203.778.8337
 Fax: 203.778.1836
 Email: newsletter@danburyrail.org
 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

