

The Railyard Local

Volume 10, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January-February 2011

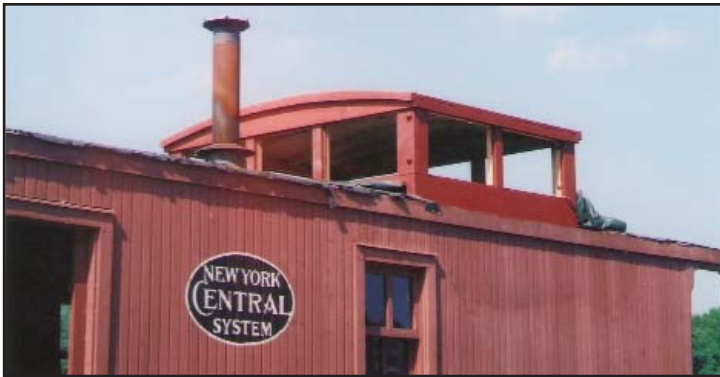
NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose

2010 Restoration update of #19322

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

Bill Nicholson fabricated the 10 window frames for the cupola over the winter of 2009/2010. Starting in April 2010, we installed the glass and painted the window frames. We decided not to install the windows to prevent the possibility of breaking the glass while working in and around the cupola.

The cupola was finished by installing the fascia boards and soffits. The entire cupola was primed (see Photo 1).



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Santa Greets Museum Guests

The Danbury Railway Museum's annual Santa Express event attracted many railway car loads of holiday celebrants during the three weekends of the event. Once again Sue Teer and a crew of volunteers enhanced the Museum with decorations, many new since last year, and staffed the event. Dressing up



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DRM Training Program - 2011

By John O'Hern, Safety Officer, and Steve Gould

The following DRM Training and Qualifying Exam sessions are offered to our volunteers, who also must be DRM members, for 2011:

Safety Exam:

for ALL volunteers working in our yard

Crew Exam:

for all current and potential DRM crew members.

Car Host & Tour Guide Training:

for all car hosts and tour guides before working on our trains or giving tours

Saturday, March 12th

Safety Exam: 10:30am

Questions? See John O'Hern

Crew Exam: 1:30pm

Questions? See Peter McLachlan

Saturday, March 19th

Car Host & Tour Guide Training: 10:30am

This training program will last about an hour.
Questions? See Peter McLachlan or Steve Gould

These exams must be taken annually to qualify for each position. Any members unable to attend these scheduled times must make their own arrangements with the designated leaders in order to qualify before working.

We have these qualifying tests and training programs annually because we take safety very seriously, but do not let the word "exam" discourage you from volunteering here. The exams are not difficult and are open book, so save the dates, and we hope to see you then!

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!

Our Membership Chairman requests that all those renewing their membership **PLEASE return the paperwork with your check.**

Stephen Gordon
Erik Smith
Barry Baines

Harwinton, CT
Cos Cob, CT
Westborough, MA



Election Ballots Mailed

By Steve Gould, Chairman of Nominating Committee
Has your ballot arrived?

Ballots have been mailed for the 2011 Board of Directors elections. If you have not received yours yet, please contact the Museum immediately! There are four two-year term Director positions to fill this year, as well as the three two-year term Officer positions. We are fortunate to have three incumbents and two new candidates running for the Director positions. Your vote will make a difference! Included with the letter of instructions will be the resumes for all candidates, so please take the time to read them. Just make your selections on the ballot, tear it off, place it in the return envelope provided, add a stamp and mail it. **Be sure to fill out the return address on the envelope and add your membership number**, which you can find on your membership card. Ballots received without a return address or membership number cannot be counted. The deadline to receive your ballot is 7:30pm on Wednesday, March 16, and the results will be announced that evening at the Annual Meeting.

Thanks go out to all the candidates running for

2 office and their interest in helping the Museum achieve its goals.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

During the Fall and Winter of 2000-2001, restoration work continued whenever possible. The main project was the New Haven RDC #32. The air brakes were tested and they were found to be in good working order. Work continued on one of the engines. Our other New Haven RDC, #47, was used for parts, and an exhaust pipe was installed. Inside the car, the lighting was being repaired and a new section of wooden flooring was installed. More parts were taken from the 47 to be used on the inside walls.

Another restoration taking was that of the Rutland flat car # 2762. The car, donated to the DRM by the Green Mountain Railroad, was being worked on by a group interested in preserving Rutland Railroad equipment. Old wood was stripped off the deck of the car and rust was removed from the sides.

The Boston & Maine steam locomotive 1455 was beginning to see work done on it. The Cape Cod Railroad lettering was removed.

Negotiations were ongoing with the owner of the RS-11 in Georgia. The engine needed to be prepared for movement and as work progressed, additional problems were uncovered that would have to be corrected. It was hoped that the owner would lower the price of the locomotive.

A new arrival in the yard was the former Rutland box car #8085. This car also was donated to the DRM by the Green Mountain Railroad. It was built in 1924 by the Youngstown Steel Car Company to New York Central specifications as part of a 30 car order. Many of these cars were later lettered for the Rutland's "Route of the Whippet" service. As one of the last remaining wooden box cars of this era, it was felt that it would be an important addition to our collection. The car could not be moved on "as is" since it was of wooden construction and had friction bearing trucks. The decision was made to move it on a flat car. However, the structural integrity of the car was not

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The Rutland boxcar in DRM's railyard.

Calendar of Events 2011

Free programs and DRM weekly update, open to the public, every Wednesday, 7:30pm at the Museum
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability

Sweetheart Trains - Take your sweetheart for a train ride, weather permitting	February 12 & 13
Bunny Trains - Trains rides to the Easter Bunny's special coach	April 10, 16, 17, 22, 23
National Train Day - Free train rides & other activities to be announced	May 7
Mother's Day - Moms ride free with child's paid admission	May 8
Memorial Day - Summer hours begin. Open 12-4pm with train rides.	May 30
Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day - Stories, history, and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog	June 11
Father's Day - Fathers ride free w/child's paid admission. Special caboose trains	June 19
July 4- CLOSED	
Hobo Day - Tentative. Visit with a real railroad hobo and enjoy free hot dogs at the hobo camp	July 16
Danbury Railway Day & Member Picnic - Special Celebration with special activities	August 13
Labor Day - Summer hours end. Open 12-4 with train rides	September 5
Antique Wheels - Tentative. Antique vehicle show	September 24
Pumpkin Patch - Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children	October 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30
Railfan Trip - Tentative. Check our web site www.danburyrail.org for developing information.	Fall
Santa Trains - Train rides and visit Santa in his Special Coach	December 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18

Please note: Bunny Trains, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa Trains are special events, so pricing and scheduling may differ from regular events. All other events are attractions in addition to our regular weekend schedule of train rides. Visit us at www.danburyrail.org or contact the Museum at 203-778-8337 for an up-to-date schedule and information. Reservations are suggested for Bunny Trains and Santa Trains, and are available through our web site. All events are subject to change.

Museum Hours

Memorial Day - Labor Day: Monday - Saturday, 10-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm

Labor Day - Memorial Day: Wednesday - Saturday, 10-4pm, Sunday 12-4pm

Closed holidays except Memorial Day and Labor Day

Open 12-4pm Memorial Day and Labor Day

Hours may differ for special events

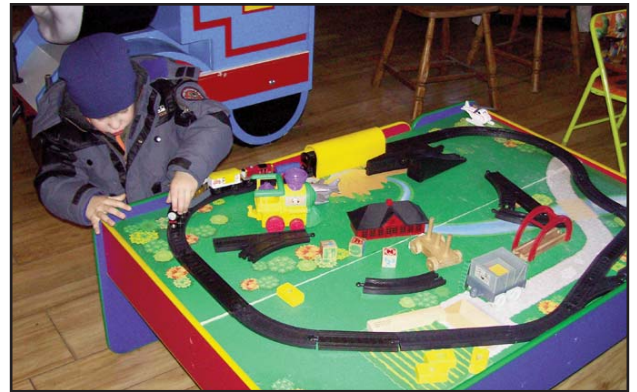
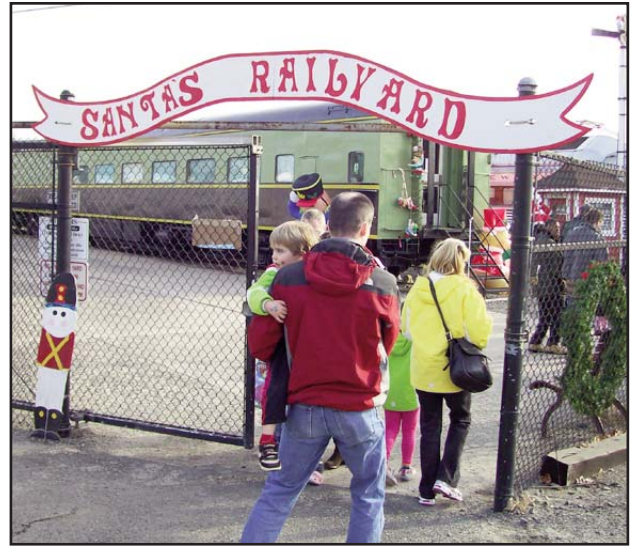
Santa Greets Museum Guests, Continued from Page 1

Santa's special coach alone is a tremendous undertaking. The working elf and Santa's Workshop, set up by Dave Roberts, have become an increasingly popular attraction. For the most part the weather cooperated. Advance ticket sales have smoothed the way for both Museum volunteers and our guests to enjoy this popular event. Ticket and Gift Shop sales were very good. We appreciate the event publicity from local newspaper articles.



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Santa Greets Museum Guests, Continued from Page 4



NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose, *Continued from Page 1*

It was time to tackle the roof. Scaffolding and walkways were placed around the entire caboose (see Photo 2). We had a crew of 7 erecting the scaffolding



(see Photo 3). Pictured left to right: Al Gruber, Pete McLachlan, Dave Roberts and Franz Gerencir (missing: Bob Wolken, Dave McKee, Gerry Herrmann).

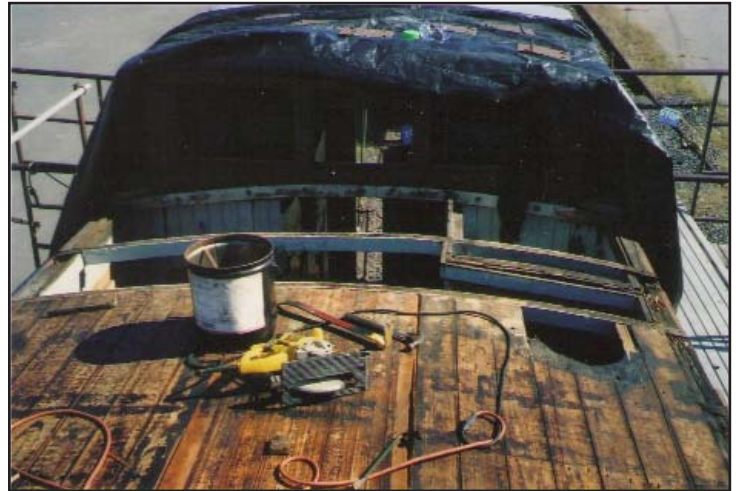


Before starting the roof, we decided to mill all of the roof boards. These were tongue-and-groove boards that had to be chamfered 45 degrees on each side, which was a very time-consuming process (3290 linear feet).

Photo 4 shows Franz Gerencir removing the roofing to expose the wooden roof.



We then started to remove portions of the roof to expose two trusses at a time (see Photo 5). The



trusses were removed and either restored or replaced before reinstallation. The opening was covered by tempered hardboard. This process was done for the entire length of the roof (20 trusses) to prevent the tarp from collapsing during inclement weather.

Photo 6 shows two of the twenty trusses (foreground: restored and background: new).



Photo 7 shows the installation of the tempered hardboard.



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NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose,

Continued from Page 6

Photo 8 shows the caboose buttoned up for the winter.



Volunteers for 2010 are: Harry Burke, Franz Gerencir, Al Gruber, Gerry Herrmann, Dave McKee, Pete McLachlan, Stan Madyda, Bill Nicholson, Dave Roberts and Bob Wolken.

To continue this restoration, the DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum and a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax-deductible contributions 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.

All photos by Gerry Herrmann.



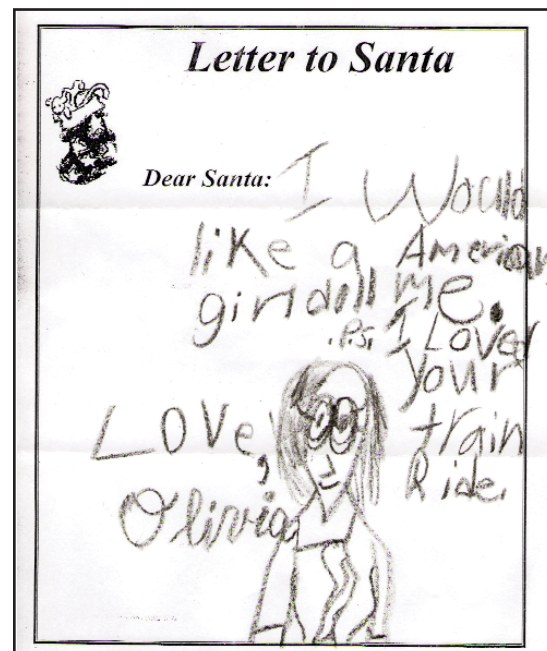
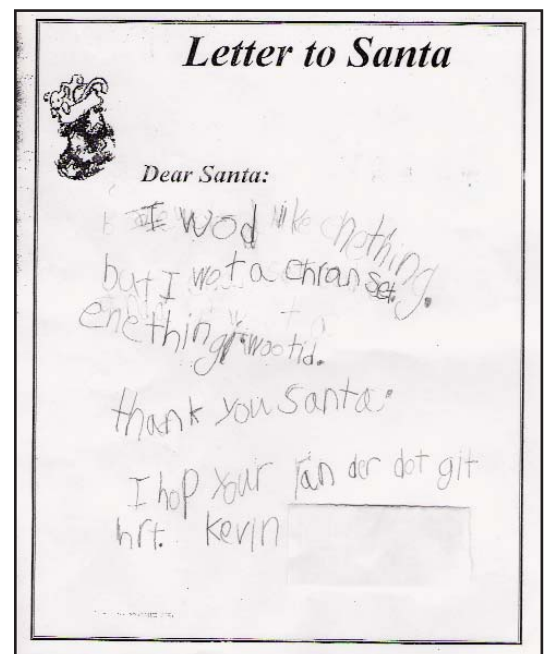
Chuck Sager was a major participant in doing restoration work on our historic turntable. He added top rails, and used many gallons of stain to paint the rails and deck. The results of these improvements are shown in this photo. He also worked in the turntable pit toward its restoration.

Ten Years Ago, *Continued from Page 2*

good. Members devised and constructed an interior cross bracing system that would allow it to be lifted on to the flat car with a crane. Some of the outside sheathing needed to be replaced before it could start on its journey. Once the car and trucks were safely secured to the flat car, it left Bellows Falls, VT and traveled to Danbury by way of the New England Central and Providence & Worcester railroads.

Letters to Santa

Numerous letters to Santa were deposited in the special mailbox at the Museum. We promptly delivered all of them to him, and hope he was able to fulfill their requests.





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Address Correction Requested

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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Jan	26(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Al Baker
Feb	2(7:30pm)	Atlantic Coastline Trains - Carl Liba
Feb	9(7:30pm)	T.B.A. - Gary Gurske
Feb	16(7:30pm)	1966 Home from California Pt 1 - Pete McLachlan
Feb	17(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Feb	23(7:30pm)	Railway Stations - Dan Foley
Mar	2(7:30pm)	NYC Hudson Story - Carl Liba

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm; Sun 12-4pm
See the newsletter in color at www.danburyrail.org!



Contact Information

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