

# The Railyard Local

Volume 8, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

April 2009

## Reaching Out to Young Train Enthusiasts

By Wade Roese

On March 10<sup>th</sup> the DRM completed its third year of outreach programs at the Hawley School in Newtown, CT. In the three years of this program, initiated by Wade Roese and the late Richard Schubar at the request of the after-school sponsors at the Hawley School, twenty students have participated. The six-week program focuses on railroads, history of railroads, and model railroading. Wade, Richard, J.R. Mitchell, Gary Bentley, Peter McLachlan, Steve Gould and others have been active in educating mostly third and fourth graders in general railroading and in the construction of an HO model layout. Guided by DRM



Top, operating the completed layout; Below, participants from left to right: Tyler, Riley, Ellis, Max, Ryan, Daniel, John (Matthew not pictured) Photos at school by Wade Roese.



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## Annual Meeting and Election Results

Our March 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday night program was preceded by the DRM's Annual Meeting. Ira Pollack, DRM President, addressed the assembled members and interested guests with an update and goals for the coming year. Our Treasurer, Patty Osmer, delivered a financial report, and DRM Vice-President Wade Roese, Chief Mechanical Officer, Jeff van Wagenen, and a number of Project Leaders reported on the status of their areas of responsibility. This was followed by the election results, reported by Don Konen. In all, 120 members returned ballots, which is a significant percentage of our membership, and we thank all of you for your interest and effort. Incumbent officers were reelected to two-year terms as follows: President, Ira Pollack; Vice-President, Wade Roese; Treasurer, Patty Osmer; Secretary, Steve Gould. Four Directors were elected to two-year terms, with incumbents Dan Foley, Mike Salata, and Carolyn Taylor reelected, and new member Peter McLachlan joining the Board of Directors. Congratulations to all. We appreciate your commitment to the DRM.

## DRM Railyard Springs to Life

April and May feature numerous activities

**April** opening of exhibit featuring Dan Foley's photos.

**April 4, 5, 10 & 11** - Easter Bunny Express event

**May 9** - National Train Day - special activities

**May 10** - Mother's Day train rides

**May 25** - Memorial Day - Open with train rides.

Summer hours begin.

Spring track and mechanical maintenance has begun, along with cleanup of the railyard and Museum property. The G-gauge layout in the yard is being readied for operation. Our Project Leaders are gearing up for work on equipment in the railyard, and progress continues on layouts within the Museum.

## 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!

Andrea Leva	Cold Spring, NY
Andrew S. Confortini	Danbury, CT
Dr. Diana Beardsley	Hamden, CT
Chris Beardsley	New York, NY
Chris & Linda Westlake	Bethel, CT
John A. Couri	Ridgefield, CT
Elle Aryeh	Newtown, CT
Jens Haerter	Ridgefield, CT
Kyle Bitting	Trumbull, CT
Jennifer Lambbright	Monroe, CT
Christopher Hauser	Mamaroneck, NY
Melissa Taylor	New Fairfield, CT
Michael Lyons	Yonkers, NY
John Casey	Norwalk, CT

## Mass Bay RRE's Trip to DRM

### Rare Mileage Excursion Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Danbury Railway Museum will be the featured destination of this excursion originating in Canaan, CT, traveling over Housatonic Railroad trackage, then returning to Canaan. This scenic trip will depart from historic, restored Canaan Union Depot at 10:00am, follow the Housatonic River south to Danbury, with several photo opportunities planned along the way, subject to schedule and operating considerations. After a brief stop at the DRM, the diesel locomotives and vintage coaches provided by Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum will head north, expecting to reach Canaan by 6:00pm. MBRRE and DRM members are eligible for a \$10 discount off the \$79 ticket cost, but membership is not a requirement for purchasing tickets. Box lunches are available for advance purchase, and passengers may bring their own food. Bus transportation from Boston and Newton, MA to and from Canaan will be available. Flyers with additional details and order form are available at the DRM Front Desk, and on-line at [www.massbayrre.org](http://www.massbayrre.org). All sales are final and tickets are not refundable. Tickets will be mailed about two weeks prior to the trip. More information also is available by calling Mass Bay RRE at (978)470-2066 or by email to: [trips@massbayrre.org](mailto:trips@massbayrre.org). We look forward to welcoming all the passengers arriving on the

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"Housatonic Flyer" excursion train!

## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The 1999 elections results were announced. Ed Blackman was elected President, replacing Peter Cornwall who decided not to run for that office. The other officers elected were Ron Freitag as Vice-President, Mike Salata as Secretary and Tony White as Treasurer. In addition to the officers, elected to the Board of Directors were Chris Blackman, Peter Cornwall, Dan Foley, Geoff Knees, Tom McCullough, Peter McLachlan, Randy Natale, Tim Pipelow, Ira Pollack, John Silbert and Sue Thomas. Dan Foley was elected Chairman of the Board at the first meeting of this new board. This was the last year of the format of electing all board members at one time. Six members of the board would serve for one year while the other six would serve for two years.

The other big new item was the purchase of Boston & Maine 2-6-0 #1455 on March 4, 1999. Completed in November 1907, the engine served



The #1455 flying white Special Train flags on Danbury Railway Day in August 2007.

many years on the Fitchburg Division as both a freight and passenger engine. Its last assignment on the B&M was powering commuter trains into Boston's North Station. Upon retirement, it was sold to Nelson Blount who put it on display on the Edaville Railroad in Carver, Massachusetts. Later it was sold to and restored by the Cape Cod Railroad. When that railroad fell on hard times it was put up for sale. At the time of the purchase by the DRM, it was hoped that the engine could be restored to service. The cost of the engine and the move to Danbury was in excess of \$50,000.

The monthly restoration column reported on the ongoing work on the New Haven gondola. Fabricated panels were welded into place on the ends to patch the holes where the Housatonic had cut for

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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's newsletter article I would like to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for their service to the Museum for the past two years. The Board has had many new challenges before it with many different decisions to make, all for the growth and benefit of the DRM. At this time I would like to also welcome in the new Board members to their two-year term. As usual all have much work ahead of us, and there are not enough volunteers to cover everything that we do or need to do. We have shortages of volunteers everywhere - at the Front Desk, on the train crews, in the railyard - take your pick. The Museum needs your help; it needs you to come forward to help sustain us through these lean volunteer times. The weak economy has also affected the DRM, but I am hoping that local people will come to see us instead of traveling long distances. We must be able to market our product and reach out to the Greater Fairfield County regions by offering a fun, inexpensive getaway.

I would like to announce that Pete McLachlan has come forward to fill the Volunteer Coordinator position. Peter will be responsible for meeting the new volunteers, then steering them toward areas of their interests, and integrating them into our system. I wish Pete well with this very important position, and will help him in any way that I can for its success.

In other news, I am in the process of negotiating with the City of Danbury and State Department of Transportation to extend our lease in the yard. I feel that we need a better time buffer than what exists now with our lease. Time will tell, but last week we did meet with the City Attorney to help us expedite this extension of time with the State.

We also have received a material or coal conveyor from Mr. Bill Ratajack of Brewster, NY. This typical type of railroad artifact was delivered during March, and will fit very nicely next to our coal pile. It was originally used along the Maybrook Line in Brewster to load trucks with material dumped from hopper cars. My thanks go to Mr. Ratajack for this



unique donation to our collection of railroadania.



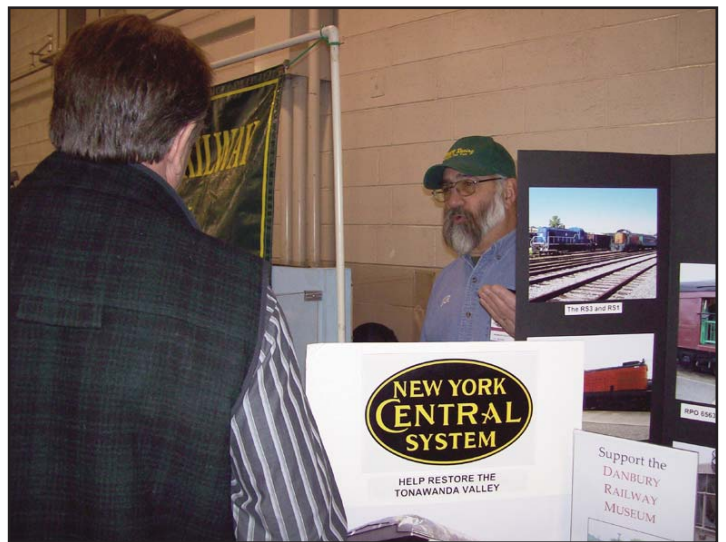
In closing my report, I am very proud to say that the DRM is 15 years old as of March this year. What a story it has been, from its early beginnings on Ives Street, to occupying the station, to receiving our first piece of rolling stock. I was there in the beginning, with all of those great expectations of what was to come and what a rail museum would mean to me, my family and friends, the city, and of course, the railyard. I could not believe that Danbury was going to have a Museum, and I had to be part of it. So much has happened in these years. Look at what we have become. Look at all the hard work that was done to get us to this point. It is truly amazing what has happened here. My only regret is that some of those early members are not here to experience what we have today. Those people had that strong passion for our success, and I guess it is that same love that keeps us all going today. We must remember back to those early days, but always look ahead to our future, to what we must do to continue the legacy of our founders and success of our Museum.

Happy Birthday, DRM!

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Museum is in need of **Car Hosts** for our Railyard Local train rides on **Saturdays**. Even if you can do one Saturday a month that would be great! Please sign up at the Museum's Front Desk if you already are an experienced Car Host. If you would like to broaden your volunteering experiences by becoming a Car Host, please contact Peter McLachlan, our Volunteer Coordinator, who is pictured on this page in the DRM Express Track article. He can be reached at (203)426-4977, or a message can be left for him at the Front Desk, or in his box in the Museum Office. Also, Pete is frequently at the Museum on the weekends and Tuesday evenings.

# Photos from Big E



Many thanks to those DRM members who assisted at our booth at "Big E". Sue Teer, Jim Teer, Patty Osmer, J.R. Mitchell, Wade Roese, and Suze Blackman are shown helping customers. Also participating, but not pictured, were Dave Roberts, Don Konen, and Ed Blackman.

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# Calendar of Events 2009

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



- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Bunny Trains</b> - Trains rides to the Easter Bunny's special coach  | <b>April 4, 5, 10 &amp; 11</b>        |
| <b>National Train Day</b> - Speeder rides & other activities to be announced  | <b>May 9</b>                          |
| <b>Mother's Day</b> - Moms free with child's paid admission   | <b>May 10</b>                         |
| <b>Memorial Day</b> - Summer hours begin. Open 10-5pm with train rides.   | <b>May 25</b>                         |
| <b>Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day</b> - Stories, history, and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog              | <b>June 13</b>                        |
| <b>Father's Day</b> - Fathers ride free w/child's paid admission. Special caboose trains  | <b>June 21</b>                        |
| <b>July 4</b> - Open 10-5pm with train rides  | <b>July 4</b>                         |
| <b>Danbury Railway Day &amp; Member Picnic</b> - Celebrate the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NYC&HRR caboose with special activities | <b>August 8</b>                       |
| <b>Labor Day</b> - Summer hours end. Open 10-5 with train rides   | <b>September 7</b>                    |
| <b>Pumpkin Patch</b> - Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children  | <b>October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25</b> |
| <b>Santa Trains</b> - Train rides and visit Santa in his Special Coach  | <b>December 6, 12, 13, 19, 20</b>     |
| <b>First Night</b> - Danbury's New Year's Eve celebration (Pending)   | <b>December 31</b>                    |

**Please note:** Bunny 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](http://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, July 4, and Labor Day

Hours may differ for special events

# DRM Has Local, National and International Appeal

We appreciate the effort our guests have made to give us feedback through our guest book. We love sharing our Museum. Seeing that it is a local, national and international attraction, and reading the comments from our guests, help us realize what is important to DRM visitors, and encourage us. We all are volunteers here, and nothing pleases us more than knowing that our guests enjoy their experience at the DRM. Although due to space limitations only the hometowns outside the CT, MA, and NY area are listed, our guests from these states are equally important to us. Thank you all for sharing! Hometowns below are from January - July 2008.



Bethlehem, PA  
 Port Austin, MI  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Larson, CA  
 Oley, PA  
 Boyce, VA  
 Bainbridge, PA  
 Bedford, NH  
 Boca Raton, FL  
 Davison, MI  
 Elmira, Ont., Canada  
 Gahanna, OH  
 Charleston, SC  
 Pottsville, PA  
 Conovanes, Puerto Rico

Marina del Rey, CA  
 Balmain, NSW, Australia  
 Mill Creek, WA  
 Lincoln, NE  
 Scottsdale, AZ  
 Lakeview, NC  
 Topsham, ME  
 Rolla, MO  
 Colleville Montgomery, FR  
 York, ME  
 Soest, Germany  
 Purcellville, VA  
 Montreal, Que., Canada  
 Hoogerheide, Netherlands  
 St. Paul, MN  
 Dos Palos, CA  
 Cochin, India  
 North Wilkesboro, NC  
 Germansville, PA  
 Vernon, VT  
 Newark, DE  
 Garner, NC  
 Mason, OH  
 Houston, TX  
 Strasburg, VA  
 Wind Gap, PA  
 Novato, CA  
 Golden, CO

Windsor, U.K.  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 Methuen, MA  
 Durham, NH  
 Emporia, VA  
 Columbus, OH  
 Detour, MD  
 Stocksund, Sweden  
 Portsmouth, NH  
 Arnfels, Austria  
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
 Chantilly, VA  
 Wickham Bishops, UK  
 Bangalore, India  
 Munith, MI  
 Scituate, MA  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
 Livermore, CA  
 Lunenburg, MA  
 Springboro, OH  
 Carlisle, PA  
 Dublin, Ireland  
 Lebanon, NH  
 Ludlow, VT  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 Durham, NC  
 Youngsville, NC

Marne-Kostheim, Germany  
 Bradfield Manningtree, England



Belleville, Ont., Canada  
 Poland, OH  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Tewksbury, MA  
 Naples, FL  
 Hernando, FL  
 Powell, OH  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID  
 Williamsburg, VA  
 Robins AFB, GA  
 Tulla, Ireland  
 Clarion, PA  
 Southbridge, MA  
 Ruther, Glen, VA  
 Utrecht, Netherlands  
 Spring Hill, FL  
 Charleston, IL  
 Melbourne, Australia  
 Martinsville, IN  
 Dacula, GA  
 Renton, WA  
 Manzanilla, Spain  
 Harleysville, PA  
 Rio Rancho, NM  
 Brandon, MS  
 Oxford, MA  
 Trenton, Ontario, Canada  
 North Tazewell, VA  
 Homosassa, FL  
 Albion, PA  
 Marshalltown, IA  
 Antwerp, OH  
 Kerns, Switzerland  
 Marietta, GA  
 San Jose, CA  
 Wrightsville, PA

Sioux Falls, SD  
 Manchester, OH  
 Hillcrest, South Africa  
 Kittery, ME  
 Hannaford, UK  
 Bensalem, PA  
 Lake Worth, FL  
 Enkhuisen, Netherlands  
 Hennessey, OK  
 Manchester, NH  
 Solingen, Germany  
 McHenry, IL  
 Hampton, NH  
 Tucson, AZ  
 Chesterfield, MO  
 Venice, FL  
 Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Ormond Beach, FL  
 Bloomington, IN  
 Seattle, WA  
 Lincoln, CA  
 Batavia, IA  
 Spencer, MA  
 Andover, UK  
 San Bruno, CA  
 Concord, CA  
 Ashton, ID  
 Buffalo Grove, IL  
 Edmonton, AB, Canada  
 Falmouth, MA  
 Spruce Pines, NC  
 North Adams, MI  
 Oil City, PA  
 San Leandro, CA  
 Newcastle, UK  
 Evans, GA

## Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

installation of their snow plow. Warmer weather would see the car fully painted and lettered. The



The New Haven gondola in the DRM rail-yard before being lettered. Photo by Ira Pollack.

Pennsylvania box car, #45924, was being wired for lights so that it could be turned into our carpenter shop. The double ended crane was being prepped for painting. A crew was also working on drilling holes in the Pennsylvania caboose #477099 so that the side panels could later be hot riveted on. Down at the turntable, new parts were installed and final tune-ups performed by the Andrews brothers, getting it ready to be used once again. A number of spare parts for existing



The DRM turntable being dedicated as an historic landmark in August 2007.

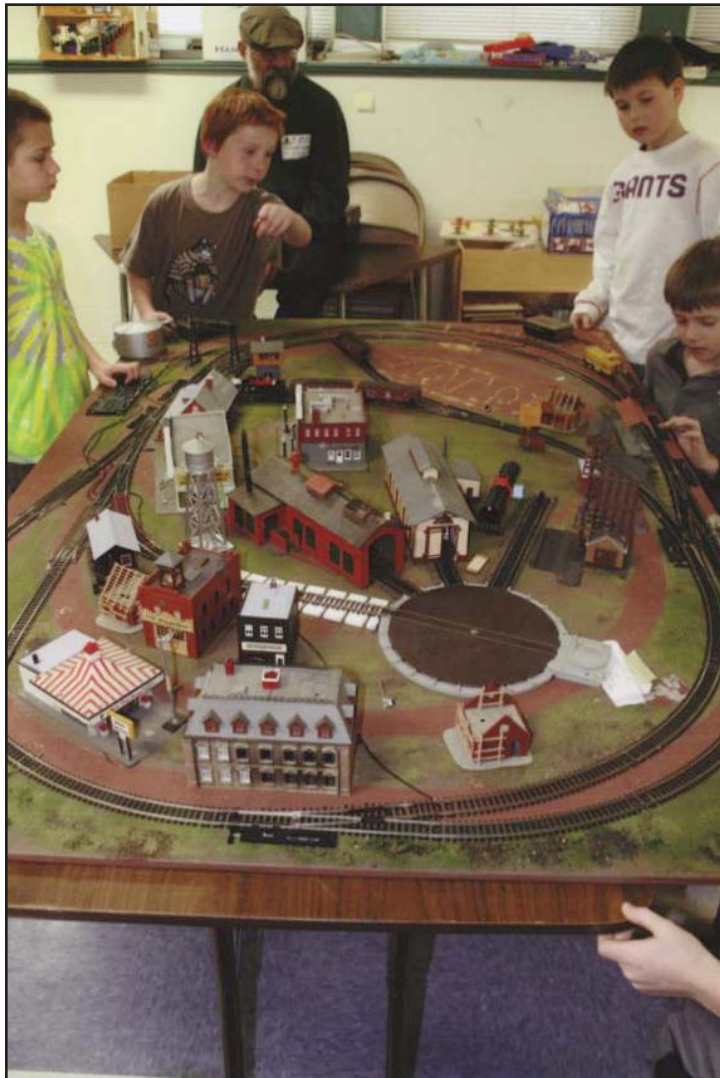
rolling stock restorations were located in Altoona, PA and brought back to Danbury by Ron Freitag.

The upcoming Spring Show scheduled in May would have a special postal cover available. The cover was designed by Terry McCullough and showed our New Haven caboose C-627. The final design had to be approved by local and regional post offices as well as the main post office in Washington. Availability of the cover was to be mentioned in various stamp collecting publications as well as the USPS Bulletin.

Members highlighted in the April newsletter were Dave Lowry and Rubin Thomas.

## Outreach, Continued from Page 1

members, and utilizing donated modeling supplies and models, along with DRM supplies and DRM member contributions, the students have constructed, scenicked, and operated their layout. The students have been given "stuff" related to railroading and modeling. All this has been done at no cost to the school or students, but the after-school program sponsors have made donations to the DRM.



## The DRM Celebrates 15 Years

By Stan Madyda

In early 1994, plans by the Railroad Museum of New England to relocate to Danbury failed to materialize. A group of local rail enthusiasts concluded that the city would make a good home for a railroad museum and presented their own plan to the City of Danbury. Thus, on March 8, 1994 the Danbury Railway Museum was incorporated. Beginning next month, we'll look at the formation of the DRM and its early activities as well as our first home on Ives Street.



PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- |       |            |   |
|-------|------------|---|
| April | 15(7:30pm) | Video; Maybrook Line Pt 2 - Joe Schiavone |
| April | 16(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members           |
| April | 22(7:30pm) | Slides; CNJ/NY & Long Br - Pete Brill     |
| April | 29(7:30pm) | Video; VT railfanning - Gary Gurske       |
| May   | 6(7:30pm)  | NY, NH & H Classics - Carl Liba           |
| May   | 13(7:30pm) | Beech Grove Shops - Gary Gurske           |
| May   | 20(7:30pm) | Lehigh Hudson River - Pete Brill          |

**Museum hours:** Wednesday-Saturday 10-4pm; Sunday 12-4pm  
See the newsletter in color at [www.danbury.org/drm!](http://www.danbury.org/drm!)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:

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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)

