

# The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 5

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

May 2007

## Bunny Trains a Big Success

Volunteers were kept hopping to accommodate trains full of guests

Our Bunny Trains event was the most successful yet, with over 1750 guests attending over the four days. We ran extra trains and added more seats to scheduled trains. The CN 660 was creatively decorated as home to the Easter Bunny. More decorations for the event abounded in the Museum building and railyard. A G-gauge layout outside attracted admirers.

A BIG thanks to the many who volunteered, and especially to Sue Thomas, the Events Committee and train crews for the decorating and the enabling smooth running of this wonderful event that our guests love so much!



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## Track Work Has Started!

We started tie replacement beginning on April 7<sup>th</sup> with Track 34. First dirt and stone had to be shoveled off of the ties so that we could assess their condi-



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The Yard Inside and DRM Express Track

## *Little Engine That Could* Event

Join us at the DRM June 23, 24, 30, July 1!

Our Events Committee has been concentrating on this BIG occasion. A full-size replica of the Little Engine featured in the book by Watty Piper will be arriving at our Museum yard next month, for its only appearance in Connecticut. The engine, which will head up the train ride consist, is the focal point of the event, but there also will be numerous special activities and attractions. We will be taking ticket reservations on-line at [www.danbury.org/drm](http://www.danbury.org/drm), and by phone at 203-778-8337. Tickets are \$15 for ages 1 and over, and reservations are strongly recommended. Flyers are available for distribution, so please pick up a few to leave at places in your local area. This kind of advertising is practically free and makes a big difference!



We need extra volunteers for an event of this magnitude. The excitement in the air and joy of seeing our happy guests make volunteering at an event such as this very satisfying. Please contact Sue Thomas at the Museum (203-778-8337), leave word at the Front Desk, or email us at [info@danburyrail.org](mailto:info@danburyrail.org) if you can help the Museum out at any time during the event. Helping in any capacity, even for just a few hours on any of the days will make a difference. Proceeds from events like this are critical to our Museum's ability to operate throughout the year and fulfill our mission.

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## 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!

Chuck and Lori Czajkowski Naugatuck, CT  
Seth Alterman South Salem, NY  
Toni Anne Spinelli Redding, CT

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## RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Manager

Well with the change in the weather, activity in the car has picked up. Outside is pretty much the same. Paint stripping and wood filling of various sections has been going on to get ready to stain and coat the paper boxes.

Wire brushing of the multitude of rusted areas and old screw holes has also been going on as well. Each area has to be wire brushed, then epoxyed over, then wire brushed or sanded again. Now this may not seem as much of a deal, but please consider that in the small men's room alone, we had over 50 small drilled holes that had to be corrected; it does take time.

Three sections of pipe were purchased and installed where the originals had been cut out and were missing.

Bob Pitcher has been working on the Mail Bag Retrieval hook and he has told me he will be assembling the pieces before long.

**DID YOU KNOW?** that in many instances a full car was not required by the Post Office Dept., so in those cases the cars they leased were also partially used for baggage by the railroad. In these cases the cars had a designation "BM" meaning Baggage Mail. Our car is such a car. The Post Office used about 60 ft. of the car and a locker partition separates the baggage section. A Notice, posted by the door read "RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS will allow no person to enter the offices unless duly authorized. In all cases the conductor must be notified of the presence of the person not actually on duty. NO excuse will be accepted for a violation of this order." Signed by the General Supt.

Again we must ask for your assistance. Please direct any checks to the Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810, and please mark them to the attention of the RPO. Thank you for anything you can do to help.

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Thanks again for taking the time to read this; we always look forward to hearing from you.

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## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Highlights of the May 1997 "Danbury Rail News" included an announcement that more equipment was expected to be delivered to the yard. The white Conrail reefer (owned by the Conrail Historical and Technical Society) was expected along with Geoff Knees' New Haven sleeping car. The wire train ex-New Haven combines were also en route from Metro North. A former New Haven caboose was also donated. This caboose had modifications done during its time under ownership of Penn Central and Conrail. It



would be restored as Penn Central. The former PRR caboose from Yorktown had not yet arrived.

The Train Show held in April was very successful with an attendance of 3000 people. The turntable was in operation for the event.

A number of tasks both inside the station and out in the yard were described. Inside, volunteers were needed for Front Desk, Yard Tours, Exhibits, Library and Train Layouts. In the yard, work needed to be done on the Reading coaches, mostly mechanical. Ira Pollack was looking for help for the Mack Rail Bus. Mechanical work was needed on RDC-1 #32. The New Haven caboose needed some mechanical work performed. RS-1 #0679 needed to be lettered as well as have some maintenance and electrical work done. Painters were needed for the PRR box car. The New Haven gondola was in need of a project manager. A general clean up of the yard was needed with tie plates, ties, rail and spikes gathered and sorted. Also, the pit track was to be reconnected to the turntable.

A large scale model train was donated to the Museum and three members, Ira Pollack, Wade Gradia and Tony Muffati began work on the engine, cars and track so that the Museum would have a permanent ride for children.

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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's issue I'd like first to welcome our new members to the Museum. Every month I see your names printed, and I wonder who you are and what your interests might be. We have many different activities going on at the Museum which I am sure you read about, but still I'd like to meet you sometime and have you become part of our ever growing volunteer staff. There is an incredible variety of ways people can help out. A few examples are helping with restoration, maintenance of the facility, running our events, training to be part of our train crew, and car hosting. Listed below are our ongoing restoration projects in the yard along with their project leaders, if you have an interest in becoming involved:

NYC wooden caboose	Gerry Herrmann
PRR Rail Post Office car	Bill Britt
Track and railyard work	Ira Pollack
NH #1402 RS11 locomotive	J.R. Mitchell
Boston & Maine steam locomotive	Carolyn Taylor
CN #660 party car	Jim Teer
Equipment Maintenance	Justin Chapin



On April 14<sup>th</sup> Bob Pitcher, Ira Pollack, James Powell, and Jeremy Rice were digging around a tie as preparation for its being pulled out.

We also have many volunteer needs in the station building as listed below:

Gift Shop	Patty Osmer
Front Desk	Dave Lowry
Exhibits & Model RR layouts	Wade Roese
Train Crew Training	Don Konen

Volunteers are what make our Museum what it is today. If you would like to help continue our growth and be part of our future, please contact one of these volunteers and join our team.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who were involved in this year's Easter Bunny Trains. This year's event was the most successful one to date, with full trains both weekends, with

many, many happy visitors. Once again look at what our volunteers can and always do when they set their minds to it. This event continues to grow every year.

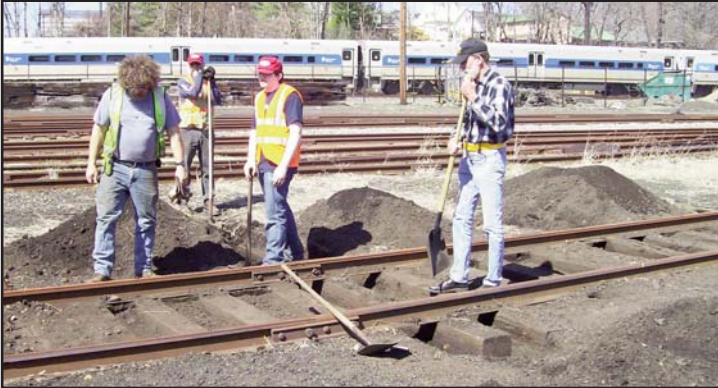
We have begun working on the restoration of Track 34. Our crew has been digging out ties that need replacing in several locations along the track. This is one of those necessary maintenance projects that must be done. We are trying to replace these ties and put the track back in service to extend our running area in the yard. Once done, our crews will be moving over to the turntable lead switch for more tie replacement. We, of course, welcome your help with this project, and we will meet every Saturday at 10am to continue its progress. If you cannot do this heavy type of construction work, but still want to help, the Museum has a track fund raiser. A donation of \$35 will buy a railroad tie for our track. Once the project is completed, we will affix a metal plaque on the tie purchased indicating the name of the donor, or a name chosen by the donor.

Once again, there is a lot going on at the Museum. Please come out, volunteer, and help us grow.

## Signal Tower Number Info

We were delighted to receive DRM member Dana Laird's information concerning the former location of the signal tower number. She emailed a photo of the Rowayton Station (looking east) taken after 1914 "but it seems to me to be in the 20's or 30's. This image is from a real photo postcard lent to me by Richard Casey. The building closest is the eastbound station which was removed in 1955. Opposite is the westbound station (still in use) and farther east is what appears to be a freight house. The catenary tower which these numbers would have been on is a few yards to the west (behind the photographer) of this photo. The signals for the westbound trains were removed sometime in the 80's or 90's." Thanks Dana!





tion and to help preserve the good ones. The area around the track had to be re-graded to allow for proper drainage. Ties needing replacement were dug around enough that a chain could be attached for the backhoe to drag them out. The area vacated by the ties had to be dug out to a level of about an inch below the remaining ties, a layer of ballast added, then replacement ties carried and dragged into place using tie tongs. More stone will need to be added, tamping, regauging track, and spiking of tie plates. More of all of the above still needs to be done, but most of the ties in the crucial area of Track 34 now at least have been uncovered. Several members have helped in this endeavor, including train crew who



have spent time between train runs. New ties and spikes have been ordered. We will need more ballast. More people have joined in, but we need more help. Please come if you can!

After Track 34, work on the lead to the turntable and Track 42 lie ahead.



# 2006 VOLUNTEERS

By Patty Osmer

As we mark the 13th year of the Danbury Railway Museum, we would like to give each and every one of our volunteers a huge THANK YOU! By far, our volunteers are our most valuable asset, and we could not maintain the Museum without each and every one of you. Whether you can give 2 or 2,000 hours, every one of you makes a difference. The recorded hours for 2006 showed that 78 volunteers donated a little over 14,000 hours to the Museum.



This smiling group of volunteers shows up regularly on Fridays to greet our visitors at the Front Desk and Gift Shop, and to provide tours of the railyard. From r. to l. are Dave Wilson, Carol Wilson, Dave Rist, and Richard Shaboo.

Volunteers for whom we have recorded hours were: Bob Andrews, John Andrews, Bob Andriola, Peirce Behrendt, Ed Blackman, Suze Blackman, Bill Britt, Harry Burke, Dan Carleton, Ronny Castillo, Justin Chapin, Barbara D' Agostino, Corey Eaton, Kathie Fay, John Fegley, Dan Foley, Ryan Gallagher, Franz Gerencir, Ilarie Giurgescu, Patricia Giurgescu, Sofia Giurgescu, Steve Gould, Brendan Gourley, Eric Gourley, Sean Harte, Francisco Hernandez, Gerry Herrmann, Ed Holowinko, Ronald Huppert, Don Konen, Dana Laird, Ken Landsiedel, Jerry Lawlor, Dave Lowry, Michael Madyda, Stan Madyda, Matthias Manske, Steve Mayerson, Desmond McCann, Fred McKenna, Peter McLachlan, J.R. Mitchell, Randy Natale, Janet Nicholas, John O'Hern, Patty Osmer, Howard Peatfield, Shirley Peatfield, Carlos Peguero, Ira Pollack, Bradford Porter, James Powell, Bob Pritchitt, Jeremy Rice, Laura Rice, Dave Rist, Dave Roberts, Wade Roese, Steven Ros, Marty Scatola, Stan Schoonmaker, Richard Shaboo, Ann Marie Shannon, Dave Simington, David Stavans, Judyth Stavans, Carolyn Taylor, Sue Thomas, Jim Teer, Patrick Vedder, Al Vieira, Joe Ward, Bob Westerfield, Kenn Williams, Carol Wilson, Dave Wilson, and Tom Zummo

We know that there are other volunteers and more hours which we would like to include if we are

given the paperwork.

In order to keep track of volunteer hours (which are often required for grants) the Board of Directors is asking everyone who volunteers to fill out a volunteer log, either at the Front Desk, the Library, the Office, the Crew Trailer, or with the Project Manager. Or, you can keep track of your hours in a pocket calendar (the Museum will even BUY the calendar - just leave a note for Patty Osmer or Jerry Lawlor), or just write your hours on a sheet of paper. However you record your time, just leave a copy of your hours for the month in the Volunteer Hour Mail Box in the Office. Please note the project you worked on, or if you worked on the restoration of a specific piece of equipment, please note that, also. Your transportation time to and from the Museum counts. If you have any questions, Patty or Jerry will be happy to answer them.

Again, thank you all for helping us to restore and maintain a vital part of our history. We couldn't do it without you! And PLEASE, PLEASE ... help us out by recording your hours!

## Carl Liba on Wed. May 30<sup>th</sup> Slides of Southern Pacific Locos and trains

One of our newer presenters of the DRM's Wednesday evening programs is member Carl Liba, who lives in Westport with his wife Bernice. His college degree was in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He worked for the New York Central during its final years, then was employed in the transportation management consulting field for many years. At Reebie Associates he developed computer programs and models which helped clients transport materials efficiently, and shippers plan efficient flow of traffic. That chiefly included North American railroads.

Carl has a deep interest in railroad history and is a member of several railroad historical societies. He has an extensive slide collection of rail carriers, ships, and airplanes. He also is actively involved in the NMRA, particularly concerning its forthcoming 2009 National Meeting in Hartford, CT. Carl's love of history shows in his participation on the Finance Board of the Westport Historical Society.

We welcome you to join us Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm for DRM President Ira Pollack's weekly update on DRM activities, followed immediately by our very interesting programs. There usually is some time to talk personally with the presenter after the program. Please consult the Museum Calendar on the back page of each newsletter issue for upcoming programs.

# The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roes

## Layout Status:

**N Gauge:** The N Gauge still needs volunteers to build some buildings. Please give one a shot.

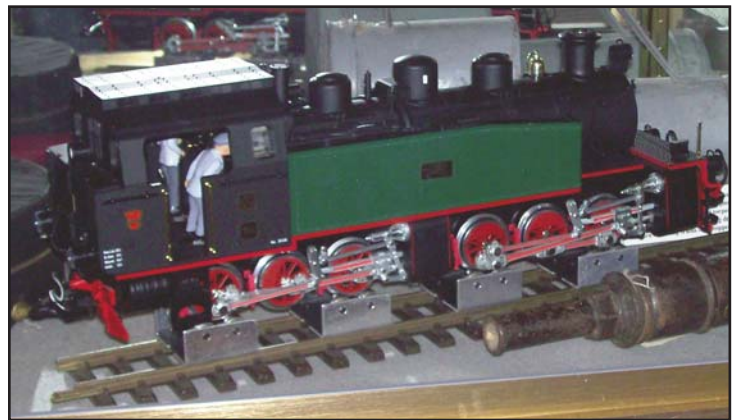
**HO Gauge:** Steve and Gary have moved landscaping operations to the East side. Painting of the walls, platforms and roadbed is also done, along with most of the yard ballasting on the East side of the layout. J.R. and yours truly have built and installed arches and retaining walls on the East side. Cosmetic work on the HO is almost complete. Electronic control and operation has been going through testing, and we are beginning our playing! Come down and join us on any Tuesday 7-10pm.

**O Gauge:** New construction imminent. A while ago we received a donation of a Genesis 103 locomotive and car set painted in the McGinnis paint scheme. In order to qualify for this donation, we were required to

submit photographs of the inside and outside of the Museum. The day I took the pictures, the real thing sat on the Metro-North storage track outside of the Museum. How appropriate!



**G Gauge:** Within a display case in front of the O-gauge layout sits an LGB articulated 0-6-6-0 #25851 set on test rollers which operates when the O gauge is activated. This is an interesting presentation which allows viewing rod and valve gear operation.



As soon as the weather is favorable, we should be working on the proposed new G gauge setup outside. Please consider joining us.

The vertical glass display case to the left of the fireplace has again been updated with commemorative dishware thanks to the efforts of Gerry Herrmann and the Library staff. Neat stuff! The Library has also provided new artifacts which will be placed on display very shortly, or possibly as you read this article.



Above, Wade's shot of a New Haven Genesis locomotive in McGinnis livery as it lay over outside the Museum; Below, a front view of another Genesis in the same paint scheme; above right, a photo of the O gauge model locomotive that was donated to the DRM.

*Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2*

Rhoda Guider was in charge of the "Model Railroader Widow's Tea" to be held in June. It was designed to attract more women to the Museum. A slide presentation on the DRM was to be given. There would also be several female volunteers attending to speak about their involvement.

Upcoming events were announced. The Hudson Highland Special would traverse the Beacon line letting passengers off in Cold Spring for those wishing to shop and dine. Any passengers not wishing to do this could travel to Peekskill to take a river cruise on the MV Commander and a tour of West Point. Another notable event was the Clinton Corners, New York Historical Society's exhibit on Hudson River Railroads.





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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- May 16(7:30pm) Slides; 1970's St. Louis & Kansas City  
Bob Kessler
- May 17(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- May 23(7:30pm) Nevada 1992 Steam & Diesel - Pete  
McLachlan
- May 30(7:30pm) Slides; S.P. Locos & Trains - Carl Liba
- June 6(7:30pm) More Fabulous Slides -Bob Gambling
- June 13(7:30pm) Videos; Loops of North Carolina -  
Steve Gould

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

Please contact us with submissions:  
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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)

