

# The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January 2008

## Santa Express Arrived on Time

### Many DRM helpers assisted Santa

Once again our volunteers joined together to create a festive, magical experience for our many guests for this popular annual event. Our members ranged in age from "we won't tell" to teens. We owe the success of this children's event to them and the wonderful, enthusiastic visitors to our Museum and Santa's Express. The preparations began long before



*Continued on Page 4*

## Entries for Your 2008 Calendar

### January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Visit us at our booth and revel in the atmosphere at the "Big E" on Saturday 9-5pm and Sunday 10-5pm at Amherst Railway Society's **Railroad Hobby Show** in West Springfield, MA!

### February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

We'll be ready for some mid-winter festivities when **Valentine's Day** arrives. Our Budd car and Museum will be decorated in anticipation of your joining us. **Train rides will be held providing the weather permits them**, with our conductor handing out candy treats to the passengers.

## In This Issue

~Follow Me, RRE! - page 2

~Ten Years Ago - page 2

~Gift Shop News - page 6

plus . . .

Reminders and New Members

## DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

### Dear Membership,

Hope your holidays have been good to you over these past years.

I've been trying to keep you posted on a weekly and monthly basis of what we are doing here at the Museum. I have always been very strong on communicating with the membership on what our goals will be and what has happened or what direction we should move in. That is why you elected me as President five years ago – to lead this organization in both the present and looking forward to planning our future. I feel that we have



*Continued on Page 3*

## Reminder:

### Resume deadline for BOD positions

The 2008 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Jerry Lawlor and John O'Hern, members) is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. Five Director Positions are up for election this year.

Each will serve a two year term. If you are interested in running for any of the Director positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare your resume (**requirements detailed in the December newsletter issue**). There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:

1. By e-mail to GouldSL@aol.com.
2. By regular mail to DRM, 120 White St., Danbury, CT 06810, Attention Steve Gould.
3. By placing the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

**All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 13, 2008 and must be in the format described in the December issue to be considered a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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# Follow Me, RRE

By Dave Wilson

Contrary to expectations, the first RRE member (that's Railroad Enthusiasts, in this instance, the New York Chapter) that arrived at our Museum for the December 8<sup>th</sup> Santa rides was a woman who walked in and said to Carol, "Where is Two Steps?" By luck, she had asked the only person on duty at that time who know what was going on. Carol collared me and I quickly escorted this lady to Two Steps (the local restaurant). She explained that she was part of the RRE group coming from Grand Central Terminal on the Harlem Division (scheduled train to Southeast, then chartered bus to Two Steps for lunch). Just as she was leaving to go by train to GCT from Yonkers, her cat got sick, so she missed the train, and decided to arrive by auto.

The rest of the RRE was met at Two Steps by our elite tour guides Steve Gould, Dave Rist, Gerry Herrmann, and Dave (& Carol) Wilson. Before we left, we were offered birthday cake, since one of their members was celebrating.

Our first stop after leaving Two Steps was the downtown post office on Main Street, because that was the site of the original Danbury & Norwalk Station (end of the line). Our handouts included a map of the area (in the 1870's) and photos of that time.

After walking through this ex-D & N railyard, we went to the top of the Patriot Garage, with a marvelous panoramic view of our railyard. All present thought it was impressive.

Stop three was the Danbury Railway Museum's 1909 New York Central caboose restoration site (south gate) where Gerry Herrmann was giving us its history. The caboose was nice and warm because Stan Madyda had stoked up the stove for our guests.

Stop four was the 1910 Pennsylvania RPO car, complete with mail hook demonstrations. Then the RRE group of 25 was split into small groups for more touring of our facility, until the Santa rides at 3:30pm.

Their return to New York City was scheduled on the 4:43pm out of Danbury. However, their train ride turned out to be a bus ride. The driver indicated that track work caused the annulment.

## Editors's Note:

Dave informs me that the Railroad Enthusiasts is a non-profit organization which has different regional chapters. It sponsors well-organized excursions. The trip to the Danbury and the DRM was the New York Chapter's holiday one. It advertises in some railfan magazines, and has a library in Grand Central Terminal.

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# Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The January 1998 newsletter started out with a brief reminder of the hours for the winter months. Page 1 also featured some titles of duplicate books for sale – 21 in total (This number has now grown into the hundreds. Titles of the more expensive books can be found on our website; the less expensive ones are available in the Gift Shop).

The 1997 Holiday Express trips to New York City and the Santa Trains made some money but were not as profitable as 1996. This prompted a call for members with interesting ideas to please share them with the marketing group. It was felt that more effective flyers were needed, with greater circulation to advertise the events. Also pricing adjustments were being considered, along with trying to secure a greater number of group sales.

One full page of the newsletter presented an update of the organizational chart with changes noted.

There was an extensive report by Ron Freitag on the acquisition of three freight cars owned by Conrail that were destined to be scrapped. Ron was able to make contact with the right people within Conrail and soon found himself visiting the scrap line in Hollidaysburg, PA. While being escorted around the yard Ron, found three freight cars that would eventually arrive in Danbury.

The first car was Pennsylvania Railroad box car #45924. This is a class X38L 50 foot car built in November 1941. The car was donated by Conrail and delivered to Danbury on December 4, 1997. The car almost did not make it. Its friction bearing trucks were in very bad shape and could not be moved by rail. Conrail was willing to sell the DRM a set of roller bearing trucks to move the car. A quick fundraising effort was made, so the trucks were purchased. As Ron said, "The car was literally one day from being cut up and would have been lost without these donations." The box car now serves as the carpentry shop.

The DRM wanted an Erie Lackawanna hopper car for the collection and one was found. The signifi-



## DRM Express Track, Continued from Page 1

moved with great momentum and speed over these years. Many great things have happened as a result of our focus, both individually and as a group or team effort. We must try to continue this focus on our direction and planning. It seems to me that we can lose this direction easily with all of the different things going on at the Museum.

I'd like to show you my goals as President for this upcoming year. I had hoped to talk to you at the last Open Membership Meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, but either bad weather or the holiday season got in the way. To my great disappointment only five people showed up to this meeting. This is my reality, my goal, as it always has been as President of this organization – to plan for and work toward our future, and to communicate it to you.

### YARD –

- 1) Continue track maintenance program; replacement with new ties – joint bars – retamping areas from 2007 season; keep up a maintenance program
- 2) CV flat car turned into a RYL open air riding car
- 3) Raise a temporary building in the yard for maintenance and repair
- 4) Finish the roof on the NYC caboose



- 5) Do cosmetic restoration on #1402 RS11 locomotive
- 6) Continue cosmetic restoration and stabilization of #1455 steam locomotive and tender
- 7) Continue cleanup of the railyard – scrap old vehicles and metal, turning scrap metal into cash for the railyard
- 8) Stabilize the turntable – replace outrigger bearing, paint the bridge girder

### MUSEUM OVERVIEW –

- 1) Continue looking at new events – antique cars, hobo convention, concert series at turntable, caboose or Budd car day, Metro-North excursion to Kent, CT
- 2) More interaction with our city, state, Metro-North, Housatonic RR, local organizations
- 3) Get the yard lease extended by CDOT

- 4) Resolve equipment ownership in the railyard (Tonawanda Valley, etc.)
- 5) Pursue ownership and transport of S1, T2 electric locomotives



### ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS –

- 1) Advertising and Marketing Manager – We have a dire need for promoting our Museum's growth and publicity
- 2) Bigger and better fundraising
- 3) Hire a grant writer who will collaborate with our group
- 4) More bus tours – group tours, school groups (under marketing)
- 5) Volunteer coordinator (needed to integrate new members into our workforce)
- 6) Enhanced training programs for i.e. Gift Shop, Front Desk, train crew

These are but a few of my goals, but I want to know what are yours? In what direction do you think the Museum should go? What is your vision of this Museum five years or ten years from now? The time for our planning is now. What do you plan on, and what are your ideas of goals for the future of this Museum? Would you let me know? Thank you, and have a Happy New Year!

## 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!

Allison & Eugene Butler-Kublanov	Ridgefield, CT
Ralph Glogower	Roslyn, NY
John Avallone	Brookfield, CT
Joseph Bonsignore	Sandy Hook, CT

*Santa Express Arrived on Time, Continued from Page 1*

the three weekends of the event. Jim Teer stained the interior of Santa's special car. Sue Teer shops year-round for decorations, and probably has already picked up some new ones for next year! Beginning right after Thanksgiving, both of them, with some assistance, spent many hours decorating Museum, its exterior and railyard, and the CN car. Seeing the enjoyment of guests here makes our staff's work worthwhile. The success of such events, including the publicity about our Museum, helps our Museum stay open year-round.

Sue Thomas Teer would like to thank everyone who helped with the children's events in 2007. The Museum has become a source of fun and knowledge for all the children through all our events. The families are very happy when they leave and express complimentary comments to the Museum and all our volunteers. A very BIG thank you to you all, and a have a happy 2008!



*Santa Express Arrived on Time, Continued from Page 4*

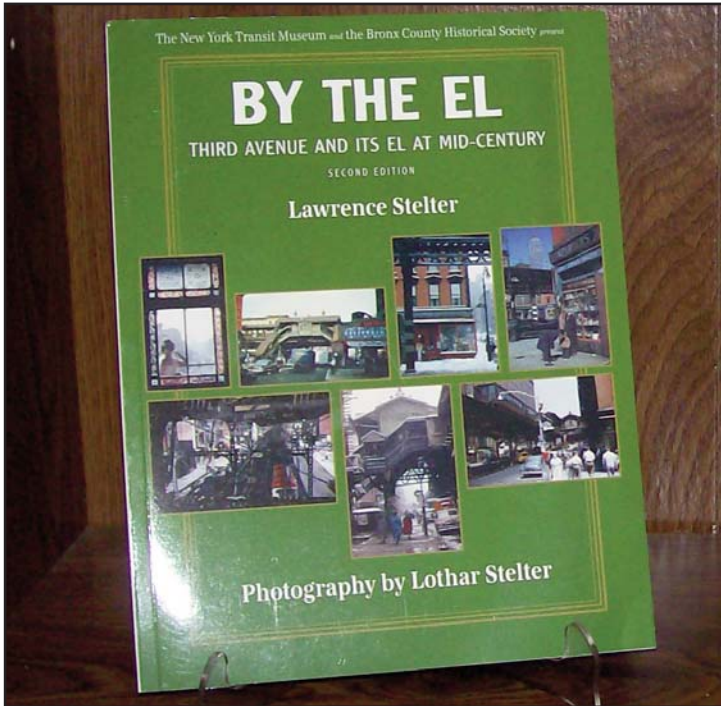


# Gift Shop News

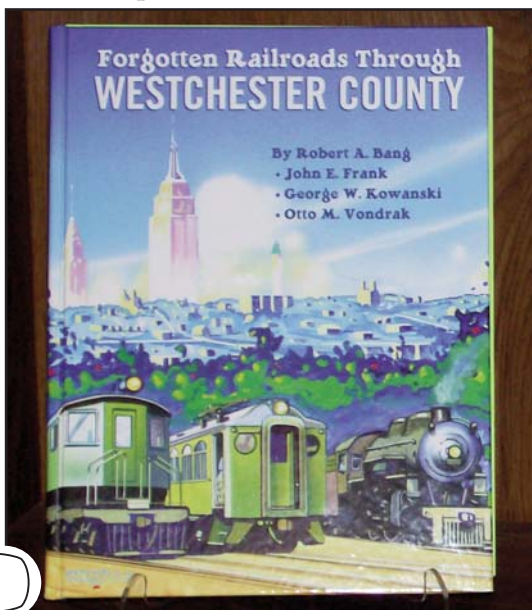
By Patty Osmer

A number of new (or restocks of previously sold out) books have arrived!

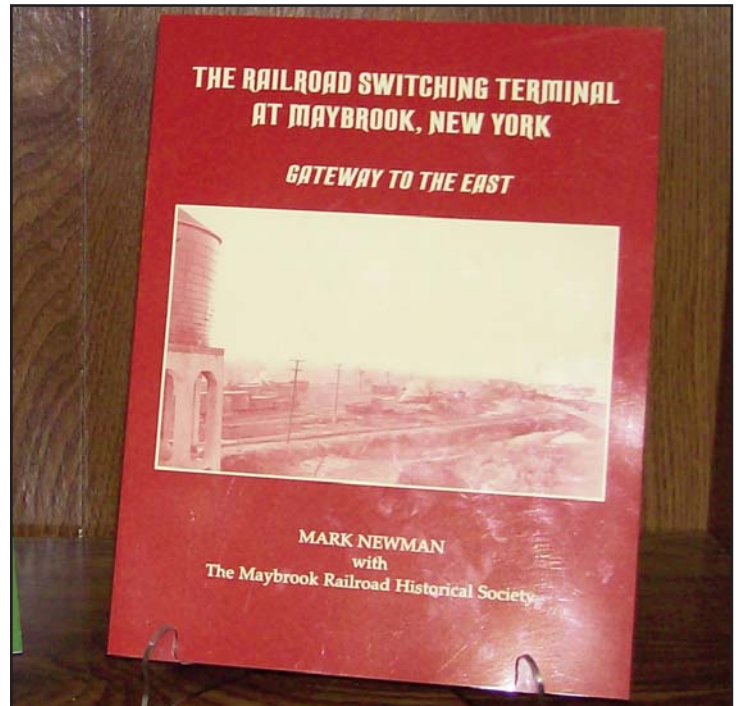
**By the EL**, Second Edition, contains a new section on the EL in The Bronx, additional illustrations, and every vintage photo has been individually restored to its original vivid color. Member price, \$18.



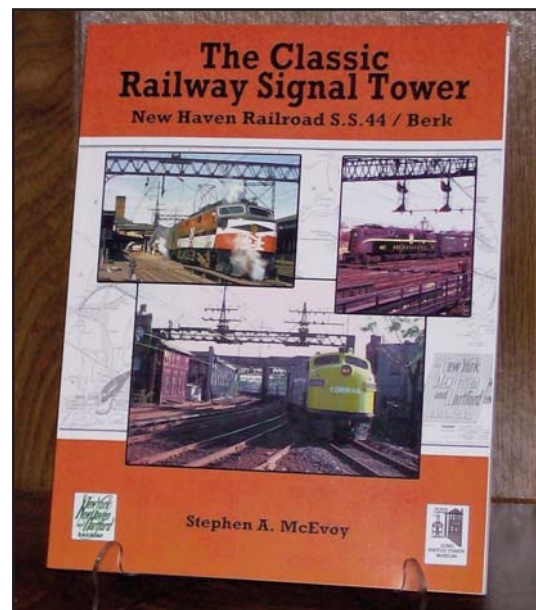
**Forgotten Railroads through Westchester County**, by Robert Bang examines the steam, diesel and electric locomotives and freight and passenger trains of suburban New York, covering New Haven's early electrification efforts; New York Central's Putnam Division and Getty Square Branch; the New York, Westchester & Boston; and trolley and bus companies. Member price: \$45.



**The Railroad Switching Terminal at Maybrook, New York -- Gateway to the East** by Mark Newman with the Maybrook Railroad Historical Society, is back in stock. This book describes the history, structures and people of the New Haven's western freight terminal in Maybrook, New York. Soft cover, 85 pages, with maps and illustrations. Member price: \$11.25

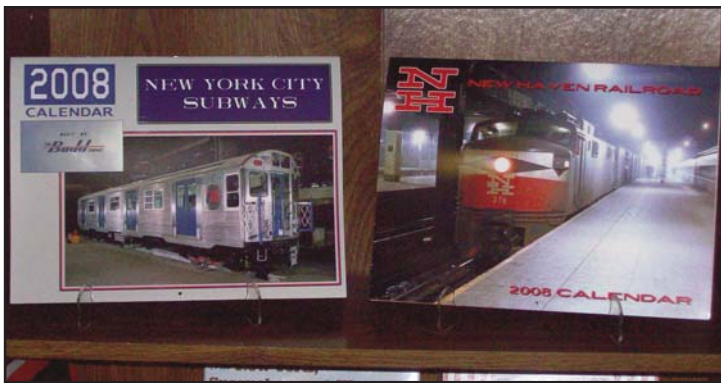


**The Classic Railway Signal Tower - New Haven Railroad S.S.44 / Berk** by Stephen A. McEvoy is about the New Haven, Penn Central and successor railroads, and the role that S.S.44 / Berk (SoNo Switch Tower) and the other signal towers played in train operations, dispatching and control. The book is fully illustrated with approximately 76 color photos, 36 black and white photos, and 30 other graphics. Great train photos, including many by well-known New Haven Railroad photographer T. J. Donahue. Member price, \$36.



Member price, \$36.

Gift Shop News  
Continued on Page 7



New Haven 2008 Calendars are back in stock.

For the Thomas fan, we now have Madge and Whiff, both new in late 2007.

We also have most of the New Haven Color Pictorial books in stock, as well as a number of other New Haven books, and many railfan books of general interest. Stop by, and check out our sale books, starting at \$1. There is something for everyone in our Gift Shop!

#### TRAIN SLIDES WANTED!

As mentioned previously, the Gift Shop has an outlet for selling slides. The railfan is looking for older slides of trains in movement, not shots of stationary vintage trains at a Museum. If you have slides, perhaps duplicates, that you would like to donate to the Museum, please let Patty Osmer know. She will send the slides to the contact; he will pay the Museum for the ones he is interested in, and return any unwanted slides (which will then be offered for sale in the Gift Shop, or returned to you, as you prefer). To date, he has wanted most of the slides sent to him. All proceeds from the sale will go toward offsetting the cost of the the 44-tonner move to the DRM, and you will get a tax deduction for your donation. Professional photography is not required. This is a good way to raise money for the DRM! Please write the subject of the photograph on the slide. Patty will take care of the rest.



cance of this car was that many like it ran through Danbury enroute to the CL&P power plant in Devon. EL33941, built in May 1974, is a 3 bay 70 ton hopper. As larger capacity hopper cars were purchased the car became expendable. The DRM purchased this car and it was delivered to Danbury on December 4, 1997.

A Pennsylvania H39 70 ton hopper was also available but it was not in the DRM's acquisition plan. The car was built in March 1960. Ron personally liked the car and decided to purchase it with his own funds. Like the box car it almost did not make it to Danbury. The car traveled with the other two to Altoona where it needed to be shopped. It then made it to Conrail's yard in Selkirk where it was shopped again and tagged "Home shop to Hollidaysburg for scrap." Fortunately the mistake was discovered and it was delivered to Danbury on December 10, 1997.



A complete report was written about the history and restoration of Pennsylvania box car #112432. The car arrived in Danbury in fairly good condition, with paint and rust needing the most attention. Work on it began in April 1997, and by October 1997 it was complete except for the lettering on one side.

## Have You Received Credit?

If you have spent time volunteering at the DRM and have not filled out a sheet recording the hours and how you have helped the Museum, then neither you nor the Museum have received credit for the efforts you have made. Please help us with the credit crunch! Sheets and recording books are in several places at the Museum, including at the Front Desk, Gift Shop, and Yard Trailer. Even information jotted down in an appointment book, copied, then put into the Volunteer Hours box in the Office will do. Knowing the time devoted by volunteers on specific projects helps with grants, and information on the number of volunteers and total hours helps with getting other funding and publicity. So even if you do not want acknowledgement, please submit your volunteer hours for the Museum's benefit!



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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Jan	16(7:30pm)	Slides; Florida '59; misc New Haven '59 - Pete McLachlan
Jan	17(7:00pm)	Board meeting (Open to Members)
Jan	23(7:30pm)	Soldering techniques - Wade Roesse
Jan 26 & 27		DRM at "Big E"; RR Hobby Show
Jan	30(7:30pm)	Slides; B & A west end - Ron Smith
Feb	6(7:30pm)	Slides; Northern Pacific; No. Coast Limited - Carl Liba
Feb	13(7:30pm)	Slides; NYC Putnam Division - Joe Schiavone

Visit 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)

