

# The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 6

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

June 2008

## RS-1 Is Back on Track

Our members were overjoyed to have our beloved locomotive back in service on May 10<sup>th</sup>, heading up a consist for the first time in a few years. The Museum had recently engaged a professional mechanic to assess its condition. One of the problems was that a faulty water pump had caused water to mix into the oil, so we replaced the pump, drained out the fouled oil, and kept replacing filters to rid the new oil of remaining water contamination. We were wearing big smiles the day it ran again, and this Alco engine with its orange and dark green livery is a crowd pleaser, for sure! The Museum will address any remaining mechanical issues that crop up in order to keep it in service.



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## Our Dog Day Was in Spring

Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup>

The DRM celebrated "Owney", the rail-riding mascot of the U.S. Post Office, and our restoration of the PRR Rail Post Office car in a special way. Martha Bishop entertained our *Railyard Local* passengers with the amazing, true story of this remarkable dog, which lived a century



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- New Members and Museum Calendar

## John Fleming Gould Exhibit

Renowned artist's works on display

The artist's three sons, Robert, Paul, and William, gave a presentation at the DRM Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, just prior to the opening reception on May 10<sup>th</sup>. They showed examples of his work, discussed his life, his artistry and techniques, and what it was like growing up with him. All three were used as his models from

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DRM Vice-President Wade Roese, who is charge of the Museum building and exhibits, shakes hands with Robert Gould at the opening reception.

## Little Engine Arriving Soon!

Weekends of June 21-22, 28-29

The DRM needs your help on these dates, for the Little Engine That Could's only visit to Connecticut this year. This will be a very special family oriented event, with many added attractions, and we are hoping for a good response attendance-wise from the public. Please contact Sue Teer at the Museum or 203-792-1981 if you can help during any part of the 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!

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Anthony Jacozzi         | Monroe, CT     |
| Jeanne Marie Loewengart | Brookfield, CT |
| Kim Schild              | Katonah, NY    |



Tues. night modelers working on the O-gauge this spring.

# Attention New Members!

By Pete McLachlan

As the New Member Coordinator, I would like to have a meeting with all of you at the DRM on **Saturday, June 14th at 10am**. It will be a meeting to acquaint you with most aspects of the Museum, including a tour, and to answer questions.



For those interested in volunteering, I will help guide you to any projects you might be interested in. The meeting's intent is to welcome you, to help you, and thank you for joining the DRM. We will meet inside the Museum building. Please wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes for touring the railyard and equipment. If this date is not convenient, there will be future opportunities scheduled as new members join. These dates will be announced in the newsletter. All DRM members are welcome! If you have any questions, contact me at 203-426-4977. Looking forward to

meeting you, and thanks,  
Pete

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# Our Dog Day Was in Spring, Continued from Page 1



ago. "Owney" stamped postcards, with "Owney"'s life story on the back were given to guests touring our restored RPO car. We were pleased that there were four pet adoptions from the North Shore Animal League's "Adoption Bus", and those guests were eligible to receive a refund of their admission! Steve Gould is shown giving a tour of the RPO car. At left, guests are discussing an adoption. The animals are screened beforehand to gain information which will help in placing them in a suitable home.



# DRM Express Track

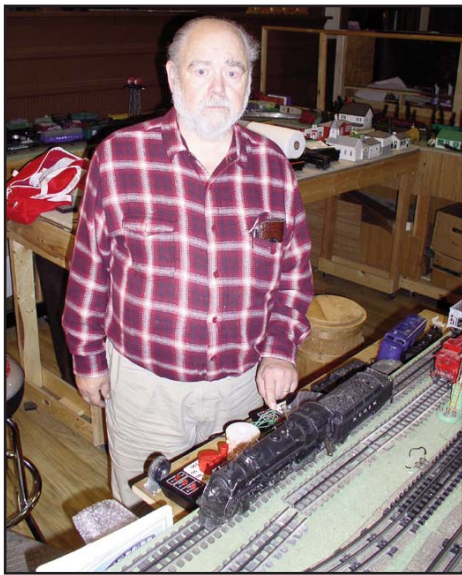
By Ira Pollack, President

Hope all is well with you at the beginning of this summer season. I would like to update you on some of the events happening in and around the Museum. As usual time flies very quickly and news and things can change quickly.



First I will share some of the very sad and unfortunate things that have happened to some of our members over this last month. To begin with, Clarence Gardner, an original member, #25, passed away in Florida. Clarence, also known as Jim, was a walking history of railroading. He worked for the New York Central, and was one of the last engineers running on the Putnam Division. Jim was a soft-spoken, pleasant man with a wealth of knowledge and always willing to share his experiences on the railroad with me or anyone who had an interest or passion as he did. He will be sorely missed by all who were touched by him.

Our Museum also suffered a great loss in the passing of Rich Shubar, a life member, a Director on the DRM Board, and a true lover of trains of all sizes.



Rich became a regular fixture on Tuesday night modeling sessions, and was influential in designing and building our

Rich working on the O-gauge layout, and below, one example of the many times Rich displayed decorations and special holiday equipment from his own collection, which he shared with all of us.



O-gauge layout. He was always impressed at the way he was accepted by everyone at the Museum, and that he was able to pursue his love of railroading. The Museum will be acknowledging Rich by dedicating this layout to him, including a plaque. I will miss him dearly, but still feel that he is there and watching over us.

Our condolences go out to the families of both Clarence and Rich.

Unfortunately two more members suffered great losses over this last month. Both Mike Salata and J.R. Mitchell's houses burned within weeks of each other. Fortunately, there was no loss of life in either incident. My heart goes out to them and their families. We hope for a full recovery and rebuilding, and offer any help we can give them in this terrible time.

We must bond together during these times and support our friends for we are one big family. We may not agree with each other from time to time, but must work and care for each other during these low moments.

In better news, we have been very busy over these last weeks, scrapping much of the steel and rail



Can you believe this is a view of part of the east end of our railyard! As a result of movement of some equipment, consolidation of scrap material, its scrapping, and subsequent grading of the area, there has been a remarkable transformation. The now uncovered concrete platform formerly was the base for the sand tower in Danbury railyard. Historical photos of the railyard taken by Pete McLachlan in 1958, and on display in the Museum, show that structure.

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# What's Happening at the DRM



1)Readying track for pulling the NYC caboose forward, and placing a bumper at track's end. 2) Mission accomplished! 3) A scrapping machine. 4) An area at the south end of the yard with most of the scrap cleared away. 5) Stephan Beule and Wade Roese constructing a second tier on the outdoor G-gauge layout. 6) Progress on the second tier. 7) Stephan planting donated shrubs and plants into the center of the same G-gauge. **On facing Page 5, 8)** a bench for seating by the semaphore, reconstructed by Gerry Herrmann and Bill Britt. 9) A mail crane, newly erected. Bags hung from it could be retrieved by moving Rail Post Office cars by using the hook. 10) The pantographs are raised once more on a New Haven M.U. combine.



# What's Happening at the DRM, Continued from Page 4



## DRM Express Track, Continued from Page 3

that has accumulated throughout the yard. To date we have greatly benefited financially from this process, with almost \$60,000 in profit, and hopefully more to follow. These monies will be a firmer buffer for our financial stability this year, and hopefully we will be able to pursue some of the projects that were lacking financial support in the past. The yard also has never looked this good, which is very pleasing to me. This has been one of my intentions right from the beginning. I would also like to thank Jim Poor for persevering with this project.

Beginning on May 10th, the Museum opened its fifth exhibit in the building. This is a collection of beautiful art work by the late John Fleming Gould, noted graphic illustrator and artist. Please come to the Museum to see this exhibit first hand.



Perhaps the most notable painting by John Fleming Gould is his spectacular rendering of "Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge 1888", which graces the only place which could hope to it justice - over the fireplace in our Great Room. Even color photos cannot properly represent this glorious piece of art. We are honored to display it, as well as numerous other works of this noted artist. Come see it! This original of "Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge 1888" is for sale, and prints of various sizes may be ordered. All prints reproduce the vibrant colors and incredible detail of the original.

By the time you read this we will be well along in the preparations for The Little Engine That Could event. This is one of our big events for the year, and I am hoping for a good turnout, both with our guests and, of course, our volunteers.

Well that is about all I can relate for now. A lot has gone on this last month and I am sure more will happen in these weeks to come, both inside and out at the Museum. As always I look forward to seeing you.



*John Fleming Gould Exhibit, Continued from Page 1*

time to time. They explained that their father was very attentive to detail and historical accuracy. For his painting "The Statue of Liberty", he researched the weather for that day, and the plumage of the bald eagles flying over West Point for that painting. They explained that all his renderings are in such detail and clarity that they can be enlarged or reduced and still maintain the same quality. Our exhibit focuses on railroading, but it was clear from that evening that his artistry had a very wide scope. Numerous notebooks containing prints and originals were available for viewing on that evening and at the reception. John Fleming Gould not only was an artist; he taught art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, lectured, established an art gallery, and was an art consultant for General Electric. His whimsical and unique creations from railroad spikes, which are titled "Spike Happenings" evolved from requests by that company for appropriate and unique gifts that could be presented to the railroad industry. He also created illustrated and colorful ceramic tiles. Some of the originals of paintings, prints, "Spike Happenings" and ceramic tiles which are on display are for sale through our Gift Shop at list price. Others may be ordered, including prints of various sizes. Price lists and information sheets are displayed along with the exhibit through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Our Museum will receive a percentage of any sales or orders made through our Gift Shop. More information and examples of other works by John Fleming Gould for sale may be viewed at [www.bethlehemartgallery.com](http://www.bethlehemartgallery.com) and by calling the Bethlehem Art Gallery in Salisbury Mills, NY at (845) 496-4785.



Above, Robert Gould at the Wednesday night program. Below, "Taming the Tiger", one of the "Spike Happenings". Bottom, Ira Pollack addressing guests gathered for the opening reception.



Top, Robert and Paul Gould describing how their father went about composing this painting. Middle, William Gould explaining the research involved prior to painting "The Statue of Liberty". Bottom, some of notebooks.





# DRM Hosts NMRA

## Metro-North Div. of modeling group visits

We opened at 9am on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to accommodate a large group of over 30 enthusiasts, and they proved to be model guests. Several clinics were featured at the Museum, including a slide show on John Allen's *Gorre and Daphetid Railroad* presented by Stan Madyda.

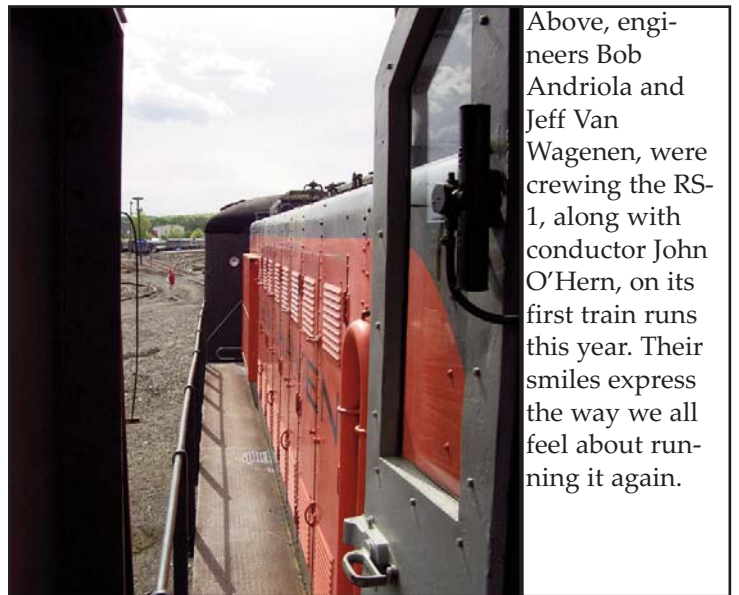


Using today's technology of computer projection, it was possible for the entire audience to see a close-up view of the demonstrations on a screen. Stan Madyda shot the photos shown here. Following a train ride

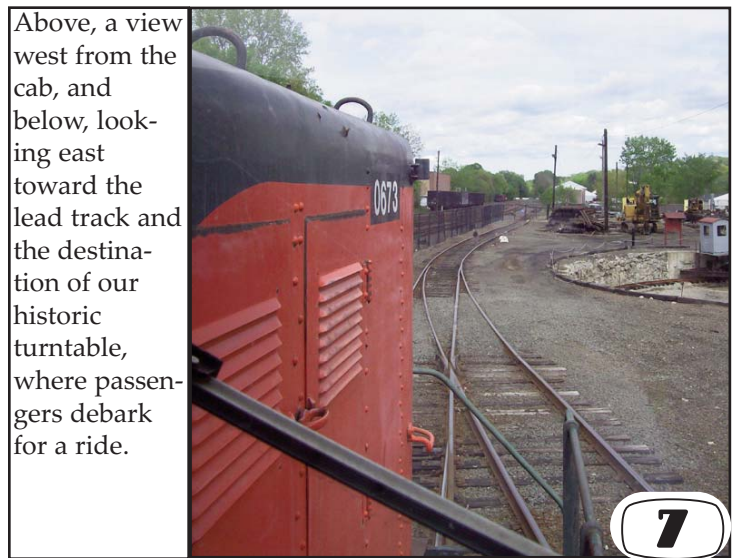


and tour of our railyard, many of the modelers availed themselves of the opportunity to visit model layouts at nearby home locations. DRM President Ira Pollack and member Dave McKee felt honored to be chosen to display their layouts .

## RS-1 is Back on Track, Continued from Page 1



Above, engineers Bob Andriola and Jeff Van Wagenen, were crewing the RS-1, along with conductor John O'Hern, on its first train runs this year. Their smiles express the way we all feel about running it again.



Above, a view west from the cab, and below, looking east toward the lead track and the destination of our historic turntable, where passengers disembark for a ride.



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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- June 18(7:30pm) Video; Day Trip to Duck End - Dave Wilson
- June 19(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- June 25(7:30pm) Films; Putnam Division & More - Joe Schiavone
- July 2(7:30pm) Selection of Slides - Pete McLachlan
- July 9(7:30pm) Videos; T.B.A. - Gary Gurske
- July 16(7:30pm) Slides; Long Island RR - Bob Gambling

**Museum hours:** Tuesday-Saturday 10-5pm; Sunday 12-5pm  
See the newsletter in color at [www.danbury.org/drm!](http://www.danbury.org/drm!)



### Contact Information

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### **Change of Address**

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