

# The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 12

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

December 2008

## DRM Excursion to Kent

### Success of trip encourages future ones

Our Museum volunteers welcomed almost 500 enthusiastic railfans early on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> for the first rail excursion we have conducted in several years. Due to requests that we agree to wait for the arrival of the 9:58am Metro-North train, we



departed somewhat later than originally planned, and this unfortunately reduced the time at our destination. Informational sheets and a list of Kent businesses providing discounts to ticket holders were distributed during the trip. As we enjoyed the passing scenery

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## John Fleming Gould Exhibit

This month will be your last chance to view this outstanding exhibit at the DRM. We have appreciated the privilege to display this reknowned artist's works for most of 2007, but it will be ending shortly. Come enjoy it while you still have the opportunity!

## Santa Express Trains

Event held December 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>

Museum hours will be from Noon-4:30pm. Santa Express trains will run every 1/2 hour from 12:30-4:00pm. Tickets are \$8 for ages 2 and up, with under 2 free. Reservations are strongly suggested for this popular annual event. We are already filling reservation requests. If you can help, please contact Sue and Jim Teer at (203) 792-1981.

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## Official Notice: Now Accepting Nominations

The 2009 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Dave Lowry; John O'Hern members) is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. All four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and four Director Positions are up for election this year. Each will serve a two year term. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare your resume that is **no longer than 1/2 of an 8 1/2 x 11" sheet**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address.
2. Your DRM accomplishments over the last two years. Keep to 150 words or less.
3. Your plans and goals for DRM over your two year term. Include a project or area where you would contribute your time. Keep to 150 words or less.

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 the DRM at PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813, Attention Nominating Committee.
3. By placing the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

**All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 11, 2009, and must be in the format described above to be considered as a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Serving on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment to the Museum and its vision and goals. Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to move the Museum forward and help it grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum, is a requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Committee for help; all three of the members are present at the Museum every Thursday. Also, if you know of someone who wants to be contacted, please let the Committee know for follow up.

# New Members

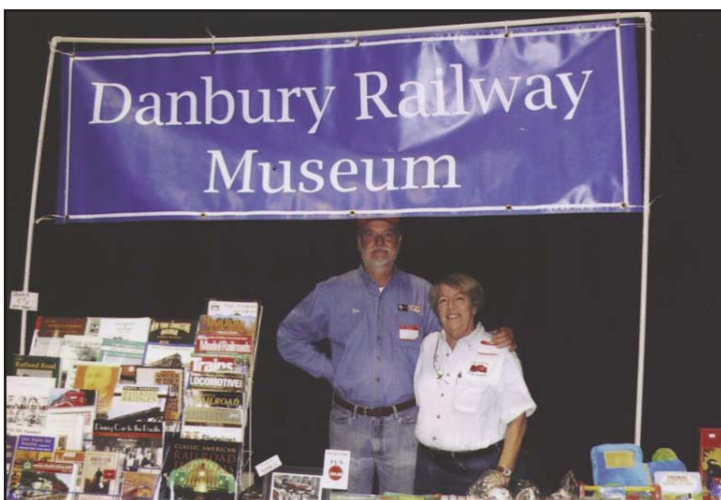
We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

Jonathan Kora	Middletown, NY
Diane & Bill Croce	Dover Plains, NY
Thomas F. McGrath	Brewster, NY
Chris Geier	New Milford, CT
Joan Boehm	Danbury, CT
Robert J. Dyer	Newtown, CT

# Last Issue for Editor?

This will be the last issue of *The Railyard Local* which this editor can make a commitment to publish because of the lack of adequate heat in the DRM Office, where I have needed to work for prolonged periods of time. I feel I have no other choice in consideration of my health and well-being. As of the time of publication there is no resolution in sight to the continuing problems in the Office of lack of heat in winter and lack of air conditioning in summer - conditions which have persisted for more than the past two years. I will no longer attempt to endure these adverse working conditions.

It has been a privilege to create this publication for the past four years for such a unique and special museum, which is staffed entirely by volunteers. I have appreciated the article and photo contributions, feedback, and encouragement from DRM members during my tenure as editor.



DRM Board Chairman Don Konen and Treasurer Patty Osmer distributed flyers and sold merchandise at the Poughkeepsie Train Show on November 9<sup>th</sup>. D.W. Pawling shot this photo of them at our booth.

# Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The newsletter ten years ago was a combined issue with January 1999 and full of interesting articles.

The first page contained an article written by then Chairman of the Board Bill Guider announcing the formation of the Nominating Committee. I had the privilege to serve along with Tom McCullough and Peter Cornwall. At the time all four officer positions and all of the Board of Directors positions were to be voted on. Bill explained that our role was to seek out and recruit interested candidates for all of the positions and to certify their eligibility to run. He also supplied a brief biography on each of us.

The Monthly Restoration Report mentioned that the PRR 50 foot box car #112432 was being cleaned out to be used for much needed workshop



space for the PRR N5 caboose #477099 project. Panels were to be stored inside and prepped for installation when the weather allowed. To date, three side panels, one roof panel, sub floor and two original window frames had been installed. Continuing work also included the removal of old rivets.

Another piece of equipment under restoration was the New Haven gondola #60521. The car had been used as a snowplow on the Housatonic Railroad and



The gondola and PRR boxcar (top) in the railyard today.

was donated to the DRM at the time they delivered the five Reading coaches. Some of the brake system parts needed to be replaced and quite a bit of rusted areas needed prepping. A target date for completion

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# Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

Need some last minute gift ideas for this holiday season? How about a puzzle? We have lots of puzzles this year for train fans of all ages, ranging from wooden puzzles with 12 pieces to interlocking jigsaw puzzles with 1500 pieces, from square shapes to round shapes, and with prices starting at \$5.



We have two new items for the kids, both from Melissa & Doug: First, Train Engineer Costume which contains a blue and white striped overall smock and engineer cap, a hammer and wrench, and a battery-operated walkie talkie. This set is recommended for ages 3 - 6, and is \$35. Next we have a "Decorate Your Own Train" set for ages 4+.



All you have to do is insert the axles, attach the wheels and decorate this wooden train engine. Everything needed to complete the project is included. When complete, the engine is ready to roll! \$12.

The ever popular classic Figure 8 Train Set for ages 3+ is a great 22 piece beginner set made of durable wood, and compatible with other

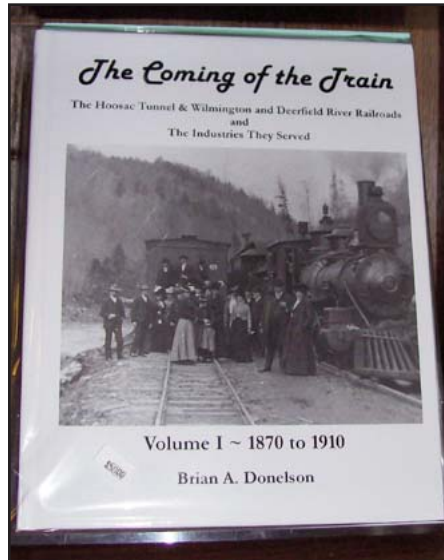


wooden railway sets. Pieces include an engine and tender, bridge, and a variety of pieces. Member price: \$27.

For ages 3+, check out the Thomas Wood Tool Box, which comes with a wooden wrench, screwdriver, hammer, and ruler as well as bolts and screws, for \$15.

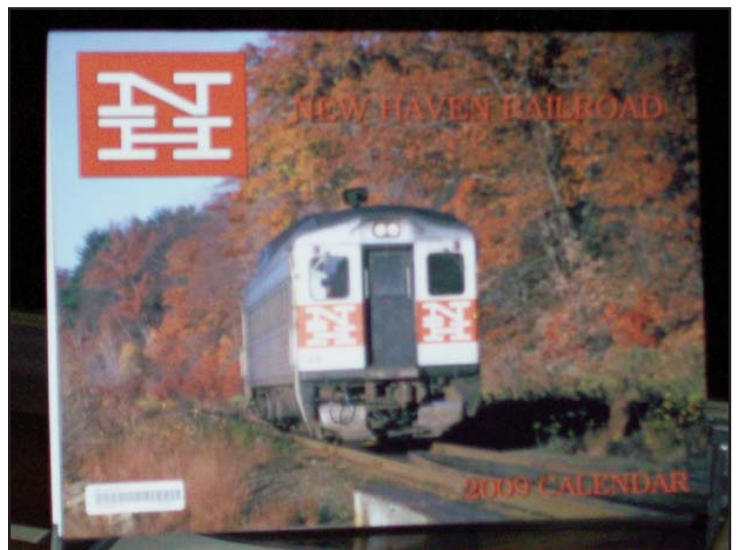


For the adults, we have a new book by Brian Donelson: COMING OF THE TRAIN: HOOSAC TUNNEL & WILMINGTON & DEERFIELD RAILROADS, Vol 1, 1870 - 1910.



This hard cover, 384 page book with numerous pictures covers the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel, the mills of Sadawga, Jacksonville, Heartwellville, Searsburg & Somerset, the industries of Readsboro, logging of the virgin forests in Searsburg and more. \$50.

The ever-popular New Haven Calendar is now in stock, so stop in soon to finish up your shopping!



Remember, members receive 10% off on most items. Happy Holidays to everyone, from the Gift Shop Staff! Thank you for your support in 2008.

# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to wish you all a pleasant holiday season. I also would like to thank our volunteers for all of the hours that they have given to our Museum.

Overall we have had a good, busy year with many people coming through the Museum seeing and enjoying what we have to offer. What makes the Museum unique is all the diversity both in the yard and the building. I still get a great feeling watching our guests and seeing their excitement as they walk through our facility, discovering a piece of equipment or looking at one of the displays in the building. It makes all the hard work worth it to see those reactions from our guests.



every year, but try to head different directions to avoid boredom or excursion burnout. Unfortunately this is what happened to us years ago with our New York City trips. I also think that collaborating with other rail museums might be feasible for an event, and use Metro-North for the vehicle to get us to that location. Surprisingly I have been approached by officials in several towns because they would like us to come to their town by rail, and have this kind of event again. We also gave out a questionnaire to ticket holders on the November 1<sup>st</sup> trip. The majority of the people responding would love to do this again. Virtually the only complaint was that we did not spend enough time in Kent, and the day went by too quickly. I think that in the future we will try to leave Danbury a lot earlier in order to allow that extra time at our destination point. This is part of our learning experience from doing this kind of event. We appreciate the feedback from those who took the time to fill out the questionnaire.

Every month I talk about our work load and the need for volunteers to help in the yard with vary-



On November 1st we sponsored our first railfan excursion in many years. Our trip to Kent, CT was a grand success, with many different people attending this unique event. This excursion took over six months of planning and much communication among Metro-North, the Housatonic Railroad, and me. Way back in April I began the collaborations and proceedings with these two entities with the hope of making this turn to a reality. Although it started very slowly, we had almost 500 people signed up by the end of October. I would like to thank all the people who helped pull this event together: within the two railroads, people in Kent, and, of course, our own organization. My thanks also goes out to Pete McLachlan for delivering his informative narrative during the trip. I think we should look at these kinds of excursions

ing projects. I would like to list some of the things that are going on to give you an idea of our challenges and what we must do to keep our yard safe, neat, and clean for both our guests and our members who walk through it. Some of these projects are top priorities, some are general maintenance, and some are continued progress in keeping up our exhibit areas. Of course we can always use your help on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. Some of these things will get done, but the list is ever growing and there are only just so many people around who are able to assist. There is no priority listed with these items. It is just for your information and to let you know what it takes to keep things running in the yard.

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*DRM Express Track, Continued from Page 4*

1. Move picnic tables into protected area
2. Fold up inflatable and put into trailer
3. Move E-9 grills into the E-9
4. Move RS-11 steps off platform to east end of yard
5. Put tamper in boxcar
6. Secure speeder's front door and replace zippers
7. Spike two small sections of rail together for display
8. Replace CN caboose cloudy window
9. New window for #1455
10. Rebuild gas shed
11. Stack 107 lb. rail
12. Stack frogs and points
13. Install highway posts and reflectors next to switches 18 and 20
14. Dig out two ties next to the turntable unload area
15. Grease the backhoe
16. Finish burning at the east end of the yard
17. Pump old fuel oil out of the New Haven MU's and RS-11
18. Properly dispose of 12 batteries
19. Properly dispose of 10 old propane tanks
20. Paint door to trailer
21. Put away tarps for the winter
22. Mount dwarf signals on tie-wire for display
23. Fix flat tire on Chevy plow
24. Clean work area near turntable
25. Weld door hinge on ballast regulator
26. Weld wheel stops for new displays
27. Start new metal scrap pile
28. Clean old seats out of New Haven gondola
29. Take wood cribbing indoors
30. Put wheel stops at end of Track 18



At left, item #22, the dwarf signals. Below, the #18 switch



This is just a general list of things to do. It is an ongoing list. What ever help you can give the Museum is always appreciated. Just give me call.

Once again, Happy Holidays!

## Come See Us at "Big E"!

January 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> in W. Springfield, MA

Our volunteers at Danbury Railway Museum are already preparing displays, and deciding which merchandise we will be marketing at our booth at Amherst Railway Society's immensely popular Railroad Hobby Show. Apparently last year's expansion to include four buildings worked out so well that the same locations will be part of the show this year also. Saturday's hours will be 9-5, Sunday's 10-5. Daily admission will be \$10.00, but children 15 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Many railroad fans begin longing for the next year's show as soon as the current one comes to a close! The show provides great shopping opportunities and a chance to socialize with fellow railroading enthusiasts. More info is at [www.AmherstRail.org](http://www.AmherstRail.org).

Amherst Railway Society has selected our Museum for very generous grants in the past. The funds for these grants are raised using proceeds from this annual train show. Our members of the Grants Committee deserve credit for submitting the grant applications so that our Museum can be considered.

## Pumpkin Patch Photos

These views through Bob Boothe's camera lens depict our guests at the Patch, and members of our train crew on that day: Sean Harte, Jim Teer, Pete McLachlan, and Tom McCoullough.



*DRM Excursion to Kent, Continued from Page 1*

and landmarks, Pete McLachlan provided historical background and personal commentary in his colorful style. The Kent businesses, and especially Julie Butler of the Kent Caboose Gallery, went out of their way to publicize, welcome and accommodate this dramatic influx of visitors. Yes, we spied train chasers during this rare mileage excursion! Many thanks to those who provided the important feedback which will help us with future rail trips. We also appreciate the willingness of Metro-North and the Housatonic RR to work with us to make this trip a reality. Our volunteers who planned and staffed this trip were wonderful! Thank you!



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# Library News

By Stan Madyda

It is time to do some catching up on acknowledging individuals and organizations who have donated items to the DRM. Below are just some of the many donations the Reference and Research Library has accepted in the last 18 months:

- Carla Troy – two MTA conductor jackets.
- Robert Underwood – 85 canceled RPO covers
- Chris Sheridan – books
- Louis Bogues – a New Haven Railroad bridge ledger and a New Haven Rule Book
- Electric City Trolley Museum Association – two number boards off of New Haven steam engines, #'s 3202 and 3227 and slides.
- Richard Locke – New Haven Railroad and Penn Central manuals and a monthly locomotive inspection report
- Richard & Margaret Costello – HO gauge and Lionel trains, videos and magazines.
- Neale Riely – Western Union office sign, New Haven Railroad lock, a torpedo, a history of the D&H Railroad, New York Central Horse Car Brochure and Pullman Diagram cards
- Gary George – an O gauge locomotive (circa 1950), a brass tank car kit and 15 books
- Amos Hewitt – brass flag holders, books and a scanner for the Library
- Connecticut Department of Transportation – two copies of the book “Where Water Meets Land,” a history on moveable bridges in Connecticut
- Thomas Hourican – magazines
- Gene Martin – 30 books
- Sue Teer – Housatonic Railroad accounting ledgers (circa 1880's)
- Wanda Issell – a large anvil
- Steven Sabia – two large models of a Metro North 1100 series ACMU and an M1 car given to his father and now on display in the Museum.
- Cecil Ashdown – a Canadian National soup spoon
- Bob Westerfield – “The Classic Railway Signal Tower” book
- Judith Budweiser – a photo album and two boxes of slides
- Brain Schofield Bodt – N gauge rolling stock
- John Manley – a New Haven, Middletown and Willimantic Railroad pass
- Mark Farley – four hats, a ticket punch and calendars
- Raymond Miranda – a transformer and O gauge track
- Steve Vazquez – five electric meters
- John Stamatov – “Cable Car Carnival” book
- Howard Peatfield – various newspaper articles, magazines, books and newsletters

Next month, we'll continue looking at the many donations received.

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## *Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2*

was for the Spring Train Show.

The 1998 Holiday Express had an extra car added to the consist - New York Central #3, an observation car, owned by Lovett Smith, and built in 1928 by Pullman as an office car for Harold Vanderbilt.

The Galleria Train Layout crew was thanked with a reminder that members could still had a chance to view it. It opened on November 27th during the annual Tree Lighting ceremony in downtown Danbury. Led by project leader Al Mion, over 230 hours were needed to bring the layout to full operation. Also working in the layout were Gerry Herrmann, Dave McKee, Jack Wochek, John Ivansco, Stan Madyda, Al Mion, Jr., Harry Burke, Rich Tomanio

and Bernie Balon.

Members were reminded that if they donate any item(s) to the Museum, they need to fill out a receipt so that the item(s) can be properly accessioned. A case in point was that a chrome plated spike hammer and a New Haven shovel were dropped off, and the Library had no idea where they came from (we eventually found out).

As I said the newsletter had quite a bit of information in it. Next month we'll feature Geoff Knees' Stratford point, the donation of the test weight car and a trip to Maine by several members to prepare two privately owned Alco locomotives for their move to Danbury.



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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Dec	18(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Dec	24	MERRY CHRISTMAS
Dec	31	HAPPY NEW YEAR
Jan	7(7:30pm)	D&RGW Chama Line - Carl Liba
Jan	14(7:30pm)	Slides; Alaska RR, WP&Y 1981 - Pete McLachlan
Jan	15(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Jan	21(7:30pm)	Video;East Broad Top - Joe Schiavone

**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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Attention: Newsletter  
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Fax: 203.778.1836

Email: [newsletter@danburyrail.org](mailto:newsletter@danburyrail.org)

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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)

