

# The Railyard Local

Celebrating 20 Years!

Volume 13, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum 1994 - 2014

January - February 2014

## Santa Express Trains Arrived at DRM for Annual Event

Families come to have fun and see Santa

Over the weekends of December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Danbury Railway Museum held its annual Santa Express trains where visitors were able to take a vintage train ride and visit Santa in his special coach. There was also a special evening train on December 21<sup>st</sup> which made its way through our railyard lit-up with holiday lights. Children met with Santa and received a small gift. Before and after their visit with Santa, children were able to view operating model railroad layouts, get free temporary tattoos and indulge in free cookies and hot chocolate. A special thanks goes out to all who decorated the railyard, Santa's special coach and Station, and those who helped out with the event. Without you, events such as this wouldn't be possible to have. You definitely made the 'nice' list!

*Santa train photos (unless otherwise noted) courtesy of: Carolyn Taylor.*



Photo Courtesy of: Alan Gruber

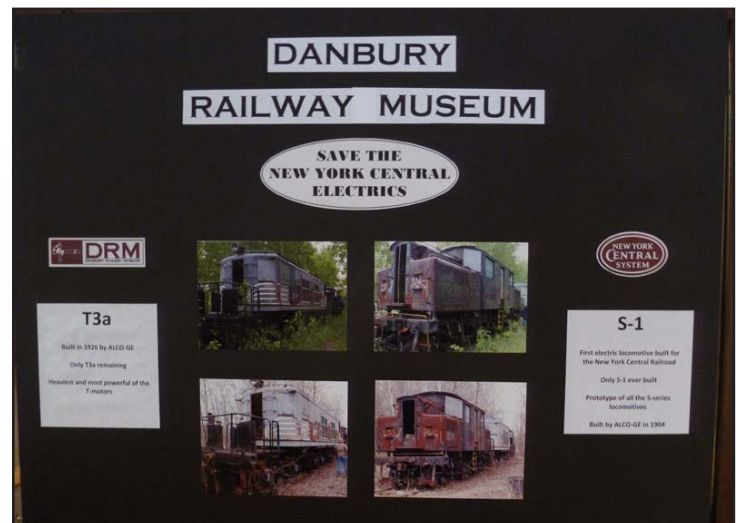


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## Save The New York Central Electric Locomotives!



In June 2013, the Danbury Railway Museum took ownership of two historic electric locomotives located in the town of Glenmont, NY, near Albany – an S-1 and a T3a. Both were built by ALCO and GE in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and are representative of early American third-rail electric motive power.

The S-1 is the first electric locomotive built for the New York Central Railroad in 1904; it was a prototype of all the S-series locomotives and is the only S-1 ever built.

The T3a was built in 1926 for the New York Central and is the only one remaining. Both locomotives handled trains in and out of Grand Central Terminal in New York City.

Both locomotives are land-locked on private property. A road must be built in order to retrieve them, and adds to the overall cost of transportation to the Museum and restoration.

Please donate whatever you can to help us save these historical pieces and move them to Danbury! Please mail donations to: Treasurer, Danbury Railway Museum, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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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!

**Have you noticed?** The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date.

Danielle Spino	Wolcott, CT
Matt Seidel	Redding, CT
Denesh Gunasekaramulle	Bethel, CT
John J. Walton, Jr.	Lincolndale, NY
Janet Evans-Scanlon	Norwalk, CT
Michael J. Herrmann	Monroe, CT
Michael Zacchea	Brookfield, CT
John F. Hawkins	Bethel, CT
Nelson DeMelo	New Fairfield, CT

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## Upcoming Event at the DRM

April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

### 2014 Easter Bunny Express Trains!

Come see the Easter Bunny! Ride a vintage train through our six-acre railyard and visit the Easter Bunny in a specially decorated coach! Every child will receive a small gift from the Bunny!

**Reservations are strongly recommended!** You can reserve online at our website or you can call 1-203-778-8337. The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. There will also be a coloring station, play area, operating model layouts, temporary tattoos and more!

Trains will be running every **half-hour from 12:30pm - 3:30pm**. The Museum will be open Friday & Saturday 10am - 4:30pm and Sunday 12noon - 4:30pm.

If you are a Member and would like to help out with this event, which would be very much appreciated, please contact Sue Teer at 203-778-8337.



Photo Courtesy of: Carolyn Taylor

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## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The Museum was getting ready to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with events planned throughout the year. From a store front on Ives Street and no equipment to a restored train station and equipment in the yard, the Museum made a lot of progress in its first ten years. The first event being planned was a fundraising banquet to be held at the Stony Hill Inn located in Bethel. Jack Swanberg graciously agreed to be the after dinner speaker.

It was becoming more and more obvious that a building was needed for storage of equipment and restoration work. At the time a three stall structure was envisioned that would allow members to work year round in maintaining the collection of rolling stock.

Sperry Rail Car #135 arrived in the yard following its donation by Sperry. In excellent shape, it was envisioned as being a permanent display on Sperry.

A marketing plan was put in place with Metro-North Railroad that would include the Museum in their brochures for One Day Getaways. This highly successful venture by Metro-North features places of interest in New York and Connecticut that are accessible by train. By taking part, the Museum was looking to more visitors to Danbury that do not necessarily have automobile transportation.

Final figures were in for the Santa Trains from December. Although bad weather forced the cancellation of a little over two days of running, the Museum was pleased with the days we were able to operate. Those days saw good attendance along with good sales in the gift shop.

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## 2014 Ballots Mailed Out

The ballots and resumes for the Board of Directors positions have been mailed out (with a special RYL newsletter included). If you haven't received one, please contact Steve Gould at: GouldSL@aol.com.

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## Help Wanted for Front Desk

The Danbury Railway Museum is run entirely by dedicated volunteers, but right now we really need front desk volunteers. In the past few months we have lost three dedicated people, Carol Wilson, Don Collier and Dave Lowery. All of these folks gave many hours to the desk in the past.

However, if you are a people-person and like meeting and greeting people, can accurately handle money and sell tickets, we need you! Please contact Sue Teer at 203-792-1981. Thank you!

*Santa Express Trains Arrived at DRM For Annual Event, Continued from Page 1*



Photo Courtesy of: Alan Gruber

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## Words from Our President

Happy holiday greetings have been passed around the DRM and it is now time to extend those same greetings to our extended membership family out of convenient commuting range. 2013 has left us with the stipulation that we make great New Year's resolutions! If you did, have you broken them yet? The truth! Unfortunately, we lost too many active members in 2013 including long time member Dave Wilson.

In 2013, we were successful with many projects - some new and others with great progress and historical significance. Our trip to Grand Central Terminal in May including the sharing of five pieces of our displayed locomotive and cars were probably the highlight of the year. Work continued on the New York Central caboose, the *Tonawanda Valley* Observation car, which was also to be featured in an upcoming Travel Channel video, the 1455 steam Locomotive, Rutland ride-on flat car, and the turntable. Work continued with progress and funding on the Burro Crane and the initiation of painting of two Canadian National locomotives. We continued participation in numerous outreach programs such as hosting the visits of 700 elementary school students and their teachers, and enhanced our Easter, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa events. The Museum made numerous acquisitions through donations and gifts. The Museum was the site of movie, wedding and engagement shoots, CD cover shoots, music videos, tours, new and expanded Wednesday night programs, and birthday parties. We continued the active pursuit of the two sequestered electric locomotives in Albany (stay tuned on these). Unfortunately, a few projects did not come to fruition in 2013, but we'll continue. We did focus on the new Round House funding and planning in 2013 and hope 2014 will bring us closer to a work facility.

Even in a marginal economy the Danbury Railway Museum has continued to grow economically through innovative programming, careful and frugal spending, and efficient project management. Because of you, our members and volunteers! The sharing of our members' talents, knowledge, expertise and cooperation is the main factor which contributed to a reasonable and respectable 2013. We thank all the volunteers who have helped this past year. We also thank all our volunteer spouses who relinquish the time that our volunteers are assisting the DRM. Apologies if I have missed acknowledging anyone:

Joseph Alves  
Roberta Ballard  
Gary Bentley  
Suze Blackman  
Bill Brett  
Dan Carleton  
Don Collier  
Nancy Cuniff  
Mike Eddy  
Dan Foley  
Paul Gassner  
Greg Grice  
Jack Hawkins  
Josh Herman  
Bob Kessler  
Dave Kopycinski  
Dana Laird  
Jerry Lawlor  
Gil Letellier  
Dave Lowry  
Joe Mato  
Dave McKee  
Dan Milone  
Bill Nicholson  
Shirley Peatfield  
Bob Powell

Bob Andriola  
John Bartow  
Martha Bishop  
Bob Boothe  
Chip Brown  
Peter Celona  
Dan Cordoso  
Bob Detlefsen  
Max Enis  
Dave Fuller  
Franz Gerencir  
Marty Grossman  
Fiona Herrmann  
John Ivansco  
Geoff Knees  
Hans Dieter Krauter  
Joe LaPorta  
Harry Leeds  
Bernice Liba  
Mike Madyda  
Tom McCullough  
Pete McLachlan  
J.R. Mitchell  
John O'Hern  
Andre Perez  
Jeremy Rice

Alan Baker  
Bob Bell  
Tim Bishop  
Mary Ann Boothe  
Harry Burke  
Justin Chapin  
Katie Corwin  
Al Emanuele  
Nick Ernst  
Bob Gambling  
Steve Gould  
Al Gruber  
Gerry Herrmann  
Ian Jenner  
Don Konen  
Mike LaGue  
Mike LaPorta  
Tom Lenhart  
Carl Liba  
Stan Madyda  
Jim McGeorge  
Glenn Miller  
Elaine Mitchell  
Patty Osmer  
Bob Pitcher  
Dave Rist

# Danbury Railway Museum at Annual Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show

Over the weekend of January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Danbury Railway Museum took part in the annual railroad hobby show put on by the Amherst Railway Society held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield Massachusetts. This year, over 21,000 people attended the show! This is the biggest railroad hobby show held in the northeast, which includes vendors and dealers from all over the country selling all sorts of railroad hobby equipment, photos, memorabilia and more. In addition, the show features several large model railroad layouts of all scales and numerous railway historical societies and museums.

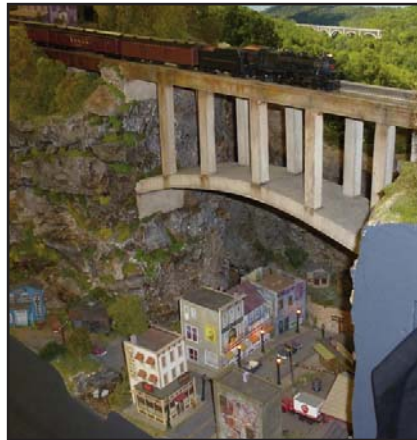
Several DRM members made the trek up to West Springfield, MA to see this excellent show. You missed out if you didn't, but I hope you get the chance next year! Visitors to the DRM's booth were pleased with our display and bought several items that were for sale, including models, literature, and other things. People also were able to take home a special four-page color issue of the Railyard Local newsletter specifically printed for the show. It contained articles on who we are, a sampling of some member bios, current restoration projects and our 2014 schedule of events. If you didn't get one, that's okay. There's some left over in the Museum and a similar issue being mailed out with the ballots that is a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue.

A special thanks goes out to some of our members who helped make the DRM's presence possible: Sue and Jim Teer, Patty Osmer, Don Konen, Joe and Mike LaPorta, Chuck Sager, Wade Roese, and any others who I may have left out. You guys did a terrific job transporting, setting up and manning our booth at the show!



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## Member Profile - Sue Teer



"I always liked trains and have visited numerous tourist railroads, including the Valley RR as a teenager when they first occupied the station. It was full of hoops for train orders, cans of date nails, a scissors pull-out telephone on the wall and lots of

other good stuff. My friend donated a hi-rail car and that's when I thought about the changes to railroads and the disappearance of steam.

I had heard about the DRM in an early newspaper article and attended a meeting at city hall about it. I sat next to Peter Cornwall (the first President of the DRM), who told me about the new Ives St. location and the second Sunday open house held every month for more than a year.

What I like about volunteering at the DRM is the reaction of the kids and visitors when things are going well. They have fun, ride an old train, have great birthday parties, etc. Many people have told me they enjoy the museum because our people will talk to them, explain a locomotive or Danbury history, interact with the children and talk about RR history. The one-on-one interactions we have with visitors are great!"

## Safety, Crew Exams, Car Host and Tour Guide Training Scheduled

The following 2014 DRM qualifying exams and training sessions are offered to our volunteers, who must be DRM members, as follows:

### Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Safety Exam: 10:30 AM. For ALL volunteers working in the yard.**

**Crew Exam: 1:30 PM. For ALL current and potential crew members.**

### Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Car Host/Tour Guide Training: 10:30 AM. For ALL current and potential car hosts and tour guides before working on DRM trains or giving tours. Will cover duties of each position.**

These exams or training sessions are given annually to qualify for each position. Safety of our guests is "Job 1" and the exams or training sessions reinforce the things we need to keep in mind. Please plan to attend.

Questions? For Safety Exam, see John O'Hern, Safety Officer. For Crew Exam, see Peter McLachlan. For Car Host and Tour Guide Training, see Chuck Sager or Steve Gould.

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## President's Report, *Continued from Page 4*

Dave Roberts  
Luis Roman  
Mike Salata  
Jeff Scott  
John Silbert  
Lovett Smith  
David Stavans  
Frank Sullivan  
Sue Teer  
Joe Ward  
Tony White  
Kristina Maceira  
Sam Steinbrook

Terrie Roese  
Dana Rosenbergen  
Marty Scatola  
Richard Shaboo  
Dave Simington  
Nancy Sniffen  
Judith Stavans  
Carolyn Taylor  
Jeff Van Wagenen  
Matt Wuensch  
Carol Wilson  
Victoria Maceira

Wade Roese  
Chuck Sager  
Adam Schwartz  
Elyse Shapiro  
Art Slothower  
Danielle Spino  
Terrie Stramiello  
Jim Teer  
Bill Waggoner  
Roger Whitcomb  
David Wilson\*  
Ashley Norkowski

An \* following a volunteer's name indicates that sadly, the person has passed away.

As a member of any volunteer organization our rewards are proportional to that which we put forth. All the volunteers above should be proud to have exhibited the utmost of commitment and dedication to their/our own Danbury Railway Museum.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, we thank everyone for the sharing of their time, talents and expertise.

Wade W. Roese



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Address Correction Requested

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- |          |            |  |
|----------|------------|--|
| February | 12(7:30pm) | Video - Durango & Silverton - Timothy Bishop   |
| February | 19(7:30pm) | To Be Announced - Bob Gambling   |
| February | 20(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members  |
| February | 26(7:30pm) | To Be Announced - Al Baker   |
| March    | 5(7:30pm)  | NYC Freight Service - Carl Liba  |
| March    | 12(7:30pm) | Old Danbury Rails - Vic Westman  |
| March    | 19(7:30pm) | <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> - Deadline for Ballots!<br>Video - Grand Canyon Railway - Wayne Karnes |
| March    | 20(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members  |
| March    | 26(7:30pm) | Video - Rising from the Rails - Chuck Sager  |
| April    | 2(7:30pm)  | Niagaras & Northerns - Carl Liba   |

**Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4**

See the newsletter in color at [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)!



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:  
Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum  
Attention: Newsletter  
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Phone: 203.778.8337  
Fax: 203.778.1836  
Email: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)  
Editor: Michael Madyda  
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)