
What is the National Railway Historical Society?



A group of rail historians with an interest in preserving what had passed and what lay ahead, formed the National Railway Historical Society in 1935. From fewer than 40 persons, the NRHS has grown to include thousands of men and women of all ages and professions in every state and many foreign countries, making it the nation's largest rail historical society.

The NRHS founders recognized the need to preserve and promote railroading nationwide. This need still exists. You can be a part of the efforts by joining the Connecticut Eastern Chapter.

What is the Connecticut Eastern Chapter?

Connecticut Eastern is a chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, dedicated to preserving historical materials of railway transportation.

We are a non-profit organization interested in collecting railroad memorabilia researching the history of local railroads, establishing a railroad museum, preserving railroad artifacts, railroad modeling, and educating the public about railroads and railroad safety.



What Does the Connecticut Eastern Chapter Do?

Our chapter operates the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum in Willimantic, CT at the site identified as Columbia Junction by the New Haven Railroad. The museum consists of 45 acres of land running west from Bridge Street for one mile along the Willimantic River.

On weekends and some weekdays our members and friends get together to preserve, operate, restore, and interpret the museum's collection for our visitors. Ongoing projects may include restoring rolling stock, installing a 60-ft turntable, replacing railroad ties, installing new track and switches, overhauling engines and motors, cutting brush and grass, carpentry or painting. The list goes on and on. If you are interested in something less physically challenging, we have fundraising, marketing, administrative, newsletter staffing, historical research, public relations, and museum interpreter jobs all needing attention.

The chapter holds two meetings each month. The first monthly meeting is a business meeting that concentrates on specific concerns while the second monthly meeting is more general in nature. At the meetings, we discuss our current projects, future plans and the direction of our museum. All members are encouraged to participate in the discussions since our chapter is governed by our members. We usually enjoy a railroad film, video, slide show or possibly a guest speaker during the general meeting.

What are the Benefits of Connecticut Eastern Chapter Membership?

As a member of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter you will get the *National Railway Bulletin* mailed to your home. With articles, photos, and news of railroading past and present, the '*Bulletin*' is recognized as a leading rail historical publication. You will learn about special trains that you can ride and be invited to NRHS conventions across the country! But

the best benefit is the enjoyment you will receive being part of America's leader in rail history and preservation.

Since the Connecticut Eastern Chapter owns and operates the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum, chapter members have direct voting control over all facets of development and operation at the museum. Those members who wish to assume additional responsibilities in guiding the museum may also seek election as chapter officers.

Becoming a Friend or Sponsor of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Friends and Sponsors of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum are people who support the educational and preservation efforts of the museum as a positive force in the Eastern Connecticut community. They fully understand the value of raising public awareness concerning the central role played by railroading in the development of Willimantic and the Eastern Connecticut area. Friends and Sponsors are not eligible to vote during meetings or to become an officer but are encouraged to volunteer at the museum and to serve on committees.

Basic Benefits for Chapter Members, Friends, and Sponsors

Members, friends and sponsors receive:

- Appropriate membership card
- Periodic newsletter, *The Ghost Train Journal*
- Discount on museum clothing in the gift shop
- Free admission to the museum during weekend hours

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS (Choose One)

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS

Note: Chapter members must also be members of the NRHS. Applications for NRHS membership can be obtained on-line at www.nrhs.com/membership, or by phoning 215-557-6606. If you are already a member of NRHS, please write your member number here: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please list additional family members:

DUES: \$25 (primary) + \$5 (family members)

I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Railway Historical Society and the Connecticut Eastern Chapter:

Signed: _____

Friend of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Support Levels (circle one):

Friend \$25

Friend & Family \$30

[Spouse and Children under 18 years]

Sponsor \$50

Sponsor & Family \$55

[Spouse and Children under 18 years]

Sponsors receive the basic benefits of a 'Friend' (see preceding page) plus free admission to the museum for up to 6 guests and free admission to museum train shows.

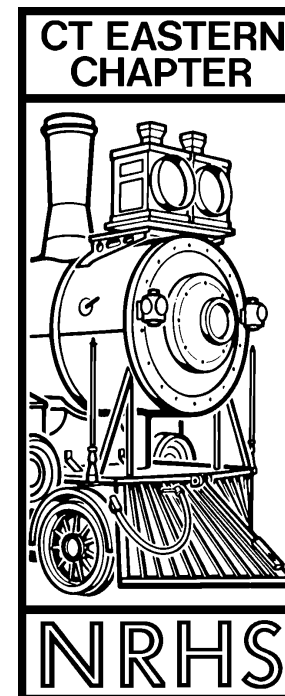
After September 1, applicants become members until December of the following year. Please make checks payable to "CERM" and

mail to:

**Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
Membership Application
P. O. Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226-0665**

Come Aboard

**Connecticut Eastern
Railroad Museum**



*The Connecticut Eastern Chapter,
National Railway Historical Society, Inc.*

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