

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Interior View of Roundhouse



Special scaffolding was set up to take down the 5' large window for repairs. Here is a photo taken from that location. Note eight different pieces of railroad equipment. In the lower section of the photo the restoration of Pit #2 can be seen. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Gallows Signal Almost Completed



This recent photo shows the recently constructed 'Gallows Signal' about 90% complete. Primer needs to be added and a final coat. A special dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 21, 2011 at High Noon. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

4/17/11 - Spring Train Show - Windham High School - Watch for details

Note: No membership meeting will be held on this date.

5/1/11 - Monthly business meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM

5/7/11 - 2011 Opening Day of Museum - Heritage Metal Fest (Watch for Details)

5/14/11 - Rescheduled Night Photo Shoot for Shooter's Gallery Photo Group

5/15/11 - Monthly membership meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM

Note! A Vote to Amend the By-Laws WILL take place - please be present.

05/21/11 - Gallows Signal Dedication Ceremony - Starts at High-Noon

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
PO Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226

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A membership meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on **Sunday, May 14, 2011 @ 7:00 PM**

Please note! If you have photos, short articles, or just want to make a comment – please forward them to: Robert A. LaMay - Editor @cermf19@comcast.net

Gallows Signal Dedication Ceremony to be Held By Janet Atkins

Plans for the dedication of the two-armed signal replica known as the 'Gallows Signal' have been set for Saturday, May 21, 2011 at noon. This is a unique signal and the original one stood at the Bridge St. crossing for over 100 years. It was photographed often and we have been able to secure some of these historic photos. There will be photos showing the many steps during the construction. A demonstration of the signal will be done by museum members. Dick Arnold and Janet Atkins are coordinating the activities with Mrs. Doris Johnson who contributed the funds to build this unique signal. Mrs. Johnson's late husband, Frank, was a model railroader who specialized in constructing signals. Therefore this will be a fitting tribute to his hobby. Others have also contributed to this project's success along with the many volunteer hours of members. So please be sure to put this date on your calendar and we look forward to your celebrating this new addition to the museum grounds and program.

Don't forget the Model Train and Die Cast Toy Show on Sunday April 17, 2011 at Windham High School at 355 High St. in Willimantic, CT. from 10:00AM to 3:00PM Layouts, Dealer Tables, Model Exhibits and more>>>

Winter 2010-11

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Museum Website -

www.cteastrrmuseum.org

Pit Number 2 – Update

Adrian Atkins

Work on Pit #2 in the roundhouse is coming along nicely with the installation of a secondary liner along the bottom. Now a finished brick layer needs to be added. Hopefully we'll never have a spill but in this day and age it is better to be safe than sorry. We were fortunate to have the high density polyethylene sheeting donated. This is the same material used in large landfills such as the one on the east side of I-91 in the north end of Hartford, CT.

The brick walls that were rebuilt last year are founded on heavy brownstone walls that start just under the pit floor. When we took up the remains of the old brick floor we excavated down to the old stone foundations. The old floor drain piping was sealed. The backfill sand was compacted up to where we placed the liner in order to give the liner protection from sharp objects.

The liner was bent up on the brick side walls. This is why we had to wait for warmer weather to get back to this project again. Steel grips with anchors secure the liner to the wall. The top of the liner was caulked to the brick to complete the sealing process. If we should

lose 1000 gallons of diesel fuel into the pit we would end up with a gigantic lap pool.

We have concreted the frame for the new drainage grate in the pit. This is strictly for looks as all the outlet piping has been sealed off. We are now placing sand back into the pit to cover the liner and make a bed for the new brick floor. Then all that remains to be done is place the heavy timbers on top of the pit wall and spike down the rail.



Bill Voorvaart completes the sealing process of the liner in Pit number 2. (Adrian Atkins Photo)



This photo shows the new liner installed in Pit number 2. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Bill Voorvaart (R) along with his son Tucker are making brick dust which will be used along with sand to form a bed on which the brick floor will be placed in the bottom of Pit number 2. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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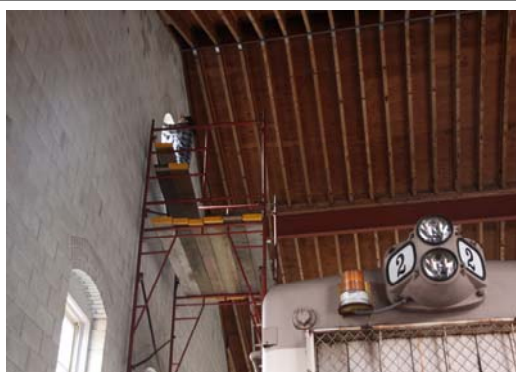
Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Another major project under way will involve the replacement of the 5' round window in the southwest end of the roundhouse. This is the last item from the 2009 vandalism spree that needs repair. The entire window weighs 600 pounds and will be removed, lowered and taken to glass shop where the custom built window will be rebuilt. Then in reverse the window returns to the museum, and will be raised up to the opening and reinstalled. Public support has been fantastic – morally, financially, and bodily – allowing the museum to move forward with its goal of promoting railroad history in Eastern Connecticut.

While the roundhouse work continues another project continues inside stall number 5. Here the Central Vermont Railway Center Cupola number 4052 is going through a complete ground up restoration. This will end of being a Multi-year project.



Adrian Adkins smooths the sand area base around the drainage grate before he applies a layer of bricks. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



If you look real close you will see Rolf Johnson inspecting the circular window to see how it will be removed. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



In this photo Duke York can be seen assuring each piece has its place during this massive restoration project. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Adrian Atkins inspects each brick to make sure it is clean will make a proper fit in Pit #2. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



In this photo Adrian Adkins can be seen giving the circular window a close look to determine how it will be removed. (Photo by Andy Fisher)



Electrical engineer Jim Smart discusses how the roundhouse electrical system should be designed. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Opening Day – May 7, 2011

This is the day we open for our 2011 season. We will be opening with our annual Metal Fest. What does this mean? Music, fun, and festivities. Blacksmiths from all over southern New England will be here demonstrating their techniques which have been going on from early in history. Railroads found they needed the special skills of the blacksmith to make those hard to get tools and to apply their skills in keeping trains along with its infrastructure going. So come on May 7th at 10:00 AM and watch all the action take place and be a part of what takes place!



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



New England Central Train 608 moves south with Train 608 after cars dropped off the night before on the DeVivo siding. I heard the train crew referring to their as 'at the Gallows'. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Dick Arnold installs lantern hangers as Carol Stanich looks on. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Dick Arnold checks lanterns when the black sign board was in the vertical position. Both the upper and lower lantern was visible from the tracks. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Dick Arnold checks clearances with lanterns on the Gallows Signal's moveable arms. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Town Pride – Town-wide Clean-Up

Janet Atkins

Saturday, April 16th is the day we will be expecting several students from UCONN and Eastern Conn. State University to volunteer for Some pre-determined projects at the Museum. The students help at this time is perfect timing for the opening of the museum 2011 season. Jeff Laverty has volunteered

to oversee the work of cleaning up debris along the dirt drive-way. Mark Granville will supervise the leaf raking and Adrian Atkins the trimming of shrubs along the fence line. A group of people are already signed up with Janet Atkins to help in the gardens in the parking lot area. If you are able to work from 9:30AM to 11:30AM on any of these projects it would be wonderful to have more than just students working. For more information please call Janet Atkins 860-423-5930.