



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## New Addition for Museum



Adrian Atkins measures new addition. – J. Atkins Photo

## Completing Track Work before May 3, 2014



A large track crew works on the Air Line Route replacing numerous railroad ties. Keeping tracks safe for train rides is a necessity. It must be done prior to opening day. (LaMay Photo)

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 05/03/2014 – Museum Opens 2014 Season with ‘Metalfest’. - Watch for more details.
- 05/04/2014 – Monthly Business Meeting – 7PM – Windham Hospital
- 05/18/2014 – Monthly Membership Meeting – Windham Hospital
- 06/01/2014 – Monthly Business Meeting – 7PM – Windham Hospital
- 06/15/2014 – New Event – Railroad Faire & Flee Market – Details Coming!
- 08/30/2014 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Railroad day- Watch for more details.

Vol. 39 - Number 4- April 2014

## Monthly Membership Meetings Held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month.

**Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Windham Hospital**

**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**

## 2014 Season to Open!

Saturday, May 3, 2014 the museum will once again be hosting its Annual Opening Day along with Metal Fest. From 9:00AM to 4:00PM visitors will be able to tour the museum buildings and rolling stock, observe Connecticut Blacksmith Guild member blacksmiths demonstrating their skills, take a train ride to Bridge Street and back (Extra Fare), help turn our 16 ton 60 foot Armstrong Turntable Bridge, ride our hand powered pump car, or listen to music throughout the day. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 8-12 years, and FREE for those less than 8 years. So, if you have time and want it with us – please stop by and leave as a friend. For more information, check out our website.

## HELP NEEDED

During the museum's 2013 season it became quite clear that some serious help was needed, especially on Sundays. Please everyone please check your schedules, especially on Sundays. So please dig deep and check your schedules and volunteer to help YOUR museum in this time of need. We will open Saturday May 3, 2014. Please contact the Chapter leadership to set up time when you can volunteer.

Spring -2014

## Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville  
mfgranville@charter.net  
860-456-3956  
Vice President Duke York  
860-423-1878  
Treasurer Jeff Laverty  
jeffrr@cshore.com  
860-429-7961  
Asst-Treasurer Jean Lambert  
860- 455-0268  
Secretary Bill Robinson  
wer384@charter.net  
860-456-4903  
National Director Ray Axelrod  
860-228-3197  
Newsletter Editor – Bob LaMay  
860-530-1278  
Cermf19@comcast.net  
**Museum Website -**  
[www.cteastrmmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrmmuseum.org).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Railroad Day being Planned

Saturday August 30, 2014 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Railroad Day at the museum. We are currently working on the specifics and this should prove to be just as exciting as last year. So please look for more details both on our website and in the GTJ.

## New Event being planned

Sunday June 15, 2014 a new event is being planned. It's called Railroad Faire & Flee Market. Basically the museum will be the grounds for hopefully a giant flea market with all other museum activities going on around it. Once all the details are in place I will report it to you in an upcoming GTJ.

## 15 Minutes Could Save 15 Months!!

Whenever you are at the museum please stop by Pit 1 of the roundhouse and ask for Duke York. Spend 15 minutes and you will save 15 months in restoration time. No matter your skill level, ask for Duke York.

## E-mailing Newsletter?

We are considering having the Ghost Train Journal newsletter being sent out via e-mail rather than via the post office. Currently each newsletter costs about \$.79 for paper, printing, and postage. This equates to \$118.50 per month or \$1,422.00 per year. I would like to cut that cost by at least \$1,000.00 per year. If you would like getting your newsletter e-mailed to you, please send your e-mail to Bill Robinson at **wer384@charter.net**. If you still would like a hard copy each month please let Bill know that too. It would save us time and you would then get your newsletter in living color. If this works favorably a certain amount of newsletters will be mailed and also placed at key locations to pick-up.

## 2014 Opening Season Flyer

**2014 Season Opening Day at the**  
**CONNECTICUT EASTERN**  
**RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
55 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT  
**SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00AM-4:00PM**

Featuring 9th ANNUAL HERITAGE METAL FESTIVAL  
with demonstrations of various metal working techniques by members of the Connecticut Blacksmith Guild

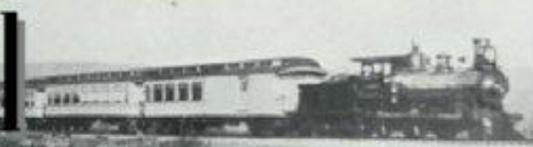


**Enjoy:**

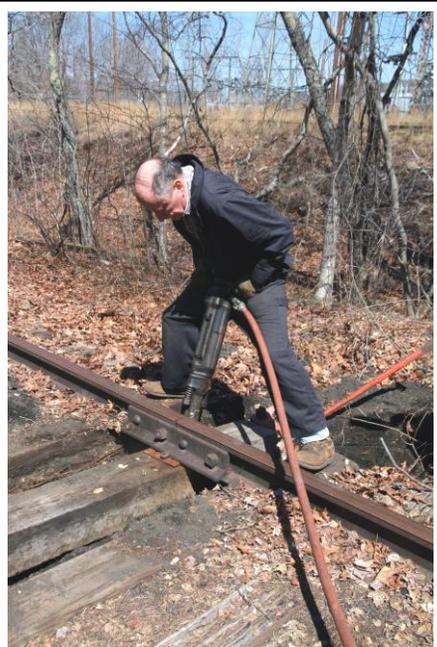
- 1½ mile TRAIN RIDE (\$3 adults, \$2 kids & children)
- Museum displays
- Photo opportunities
- Hand car rides
- Turntable demonstrations
- Gallows signal demonstrations
- Musical entertainment
- Food available

Admission:  
Adults \$5  
Kids (8-12) \$1  
Children (under 8) free

[www.cteastrmmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrmmuseum.org)  
[conn.abana-chapter.com](http://conn.abana-chapter.com)



Art Hall Jr. doing his 15 minute time in the CV 4052 Caboose. (LaMay Photo)



Dan Ditullio earns his stripes on the air spiker. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

## From the Desk of Adrian Atkins

### Junk Tie Pile Vanishes

Ever since I can remember there was a huge pile of junk ties behind the roundhouse. Not only was it an eyesore, but it was useless, home to many critters, and taking up valuable space.

During the early spring this pile has been relocated to an area between our mainline and the P&W siding east of our parking lot. It looks just like the piles of ties along the G&W (NECR) right-of-way. I keep telling myself that is an early formation of railroad memorabilia.

More clean-up work needs to be done but the lion's share is now behind us. This was dirty and heavy to say nothing about how back-breaking it was. Thanks go to especially Steve Melady, Mark Granville, Jim Poor, Art Hall Jr., and Bill Voorvaart.

### Strumming & Gumming

On March 16, 2014 Ray Axelrod and Duke York did a presentation for the Columbia Historical Society. Ray elaborated on the local railroad history while Duke York along with Ray Spencer provided some railroad music and singing.

Do you think our museum might have garnered a little publicity here? All of us need to do everything we can to promote the railroad museum. What did you do this week? Excellent job Ray and Duke!

### Jacobsen 7 Gang Mower Set – Gone!

The museum took a \$50 deposit on the Jacobsen Gang Mower set last winter and the purchaser was to come by and get it this spring. Well, the customer called and Steve Melady and I loaded it and collected another \$250 which was due on the sale. The museum coffers are now

\$300 richer and we have gained some more space!

### New Locomotive – Comes to Museum!

G&L Christmas Barn is going out of business and having an auction. They had a children's play-scape locomotive out in front of the store. Mary-Lou DiVivo, always thinking of the children, decided it would make a nice addition to our museum. She purchased the locomotive and donated it to the railroad museum.

Next Rolf Johnson, Steve Melady, and I went out and loaded it onto Adrian's trailer and delivered it to the museum. A sight was cleared and graded just east of our picnic area across from the Chaplin Station. The locomotive needs some dressing up and Jan McCullum is making some new signs.

While this locomotive won't pull a string of Willimantic Waste Paper high sided trash cars it will certainly make many children visiting our museum very happy. If we sit quietly at one of our picnic tables we can hear the locomotive saying 'I think I can. I think I can...'" Thank you Mary-Lou for a very generous donation.



Steve Melady gives an assuring smile while loading locomotive onto trailer. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



This photo show left to right, Steve Melady, Rolf Johnson, and Adrian Atkins loading wooden playscape locomotive onto trailer. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Rolf Johnson does his balancing act while air blowing the leaves in the Columbia Jct. Village area. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Walt Dumas and Art Hall, Jr. are taking down the fence around the compound near Bridge St. to make way for the future rail trail. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Close up of how to burn a rusted nut when removing old tie plates. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Duke York applies copper flashing on cupola of Central Vermont Railway Center Cupola Caboose #4052. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Spring -2014