#### **Clearing For Opening Day**



Shown here Rolf Johnson on left along with Cliff Lund is clearing Columbia Junction Pass so the museum can open on Saturday May 2, 2015. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### **New Conduit and Lumber Storage Area**



This photo shows Adrian Atkins repairing a section of floor inside coach. Note the conduit rack on the left from Bob Hassett. Getting all the materials out of the roundhouse will make it easier to move about and see displays in the roundhouse. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

04/19/2015 - Combined Monthly Business & Membership Meeting - Windham Hospital

05/02/2015 – Metal Fest 2015 – Museum Opens for 2015 Season

05/03/2015 - Monthly Business Meeting – 7PM – Windham Hospital

05/17/2015 - Monthly Membership Meeting - Windham Hospital - 7:00PM

# The Good Train Journal Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection Connecticut Historical Society

Vol. 40 - Number 4- March 2015

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

Sunday, May 17, 2015 @ 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

### Museum Opens 05/02/2015

While we are thinking about where to put all this snow please remember opening day is less than two months away.

Two big events are planned so far this year with others in the works. Please keep and an eye on our Face Book page for all the updated photos and announcements. No, you don't need to a member to see Facebook – just Google 'Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum' and it will direct you to the right place. Keep checking for photo updates and other info.

Also please remember our museum is only as good as its members. If you have any special skills you'd like to share please contact us. The more help we get the smoother our events will go. So, when you want to be a part of railroad history in any capacity, stop by, check us out, and get on track to give us your expertise. — Editor

This is it – we are less than a month away from opening day. We will everyone to help us to another successful opening day. This starts our 2015 season – let's try to make it better than last year. Food and drink available for purchase, a music venue is being planned as I write this. The blacksmiths will be coming to show us and demonstrate what they can make and do. The Rutland Caboose #40 will be open so all can see what railroading was like when the caboose was the command post on every long haul and way freight that travelled the rails all over the US. Come and see the great progress on the CV #4052 caboose, it is nearing completion. Train rides

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will once again be making tracks to Bridge St. and back. So come on down and volunteer some time, come share your special skills with us, no matter the level. The museum is only as good as its members. Please come on down, be a part of railroad history. We'd love to see you.

#### Town Pride – Town Wide Returns to CERM

Janet Atkins

Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 9A.M. we will be working on general spring clean-up projects in the parking lot area. We anticipate several students from ECSU participating, as they have for the past several years. They should be arriving shortly after 9AM and than leaving around noon to join all the others in a joint community gathering.

Steve Melady (860-690-6248) will be cocoordinating the activities at the site along with Patty Jurovaty. Both are loyal supporters of the beautification of the parking lot. We expect to find some snow damage but also some greening of the perennials.

There will be pruning, raking and spreading of mulch to mention a few items. If you are able to participate in any of these activities please show up and lend a hand, or

keep track of the equipment and encourage the workers. There may need to walk the driveway and pick up trash. We can provide some equipment but if you are coming by please bring what tools you have to help with the particular project.

Opening day at the museum will be Saturday May 2, 2015. We need to look our best!! Remember we have a new exhibit to show – The Rutland #40 Caboose.



Shown here some of the ECSU Town Pride – Town Wide students assist with the making loam which will be used in the museum parking lot gardens. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### New Materials Storage Area In Old Wooden New Haven Railroad Coach

**Adrian Atkins** 

Work continues on the new lumber storage area and the electrical supply distribution center in the old wooden New Haven Coach.

The temporary rubber roof we put on the coach a couple years ago is holding up quite well and is doing its job. The soggy mess of a coach has dried out. Due to years of neglect the floor was so rotted that it was unsafe to walk on. We used scraps of plywood to lie down to make it safe again.

Bob Hassett came up with 2 steel window sashes which we have turned into an electrical conduit storage rack. We have used all the old manufactured (I joist) floor joist to make two shelving racks for electrical boxes, etc. At this time we are completing three lumber storage racks.

Spring 2015

## The Ghost Train Journal

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Hopefully, this project will allow us to remove all the electrical supplies and lumber out of the round-house. By opening day this needed space in the round-house will make it easier to work and view rolling stock inside the roundhouse. Thanks go to Bob Hassett, and Rolf Johnson for assisting in this project.



Adrian Atkins looks over the ne storage area recently installed to see how things should be stacked. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### Special Guest – April 19, 2015 Meeting Robert A. LaMay

At our next membership meeting Laura Smith, Curator for the Railroad History Collection in the Archives & Special Collections will be giving a talk about this collection which is housed at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut. Some of these collections have been digitized so individuals can do research on line. A note of interested is that Robert A. LaMay Railroad collection is located here. Special interests are the complete

Spring 2015

photo history of various turbo trains, an extensive SPV2000 photo collection and a very complete from beginning to end of the FL9 dual mode locomotive.

### Rail Trail Work Starting Soon Adrian Atkins

In March, the Willimantic Town Council approved a contract with Trademark Contractors to construct a multi-purpose asphalt trail along the Willimantic River. This \$1,441,291 project starts at Mackay's on Route 66. The route crosses the Route 66 river bridge than takes a pigtail turn and goes under the bridge following the high spots of the land until it reaches our museum.

The museum will lose the piece of land we have connecting to the existing river bridge as a cut will be made through this area for the Hop River Trail. Meanwhile, the bridge deck will be redone to accommodate the Airline Trail coming from Columbia. The Hop River and the Air Line Trails will join near the east end of the bridge and head east on lowland outside of our fence line.

The original plans would have caused quite a bit of damage to museum property and much thanks goes to Art Hall Jr. who basically redesigned this portion of the trail to make it favorable to all parties. Art put a great deal of time and effort into convincing the consulting engineers to make the necessary changes. It was frustrating at times and even discouraging at best, but Art did prevail.

Behind the MU Car (museum sales room) our fence line will redirect to our main driveway gate as the trail will climb up to our driveway elevation at the gate. There will be some rearranging of the gates.

The trail will continue on the woods side of the driveway going through the middle of our parking lot and gardens and then continue along the side of our driveway on the riverside until it reaches Mickey's parking. In some areas our driveway will have to move towards the railroad tracks to accommodate the trail.

Work is expected to start mid-April and run for six months. When the work is completed we should end up with an eighteen foot wide driveway with a 3 inch processed stone topping. Our greatest concern to the museum will be security as fencing will be changed and the contractor's personnel will be traversing museum property. We will be doing our best to have a working relationship

with the Town and the contractor during this interruption in our area.

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This photo shows the proposed route of the new Air Line Rail Trail as it passes through our parking and garden area along the museum road



While Spring Cleaning – Rolf Johnson uncovered, you guessed it – SPRING SNOW! Need I say more? (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

## The Chost Train Journal

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



Getting ready for opening day Carolyn is shown here de-leaving the round-house. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Nothing slows this guy down. Cliff Lund wants to be sure these leaves are ready to pick up no matter the weather. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### Tourism Marketing Boot Camp Robert A. LaMay

Janet Atkins and I attended the above named conference held at Quinebaug Community College in Danielson, CT. It was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. It was pretty intensive but very rewarding. Janet and I looked over the program which involved 11 workshops and decided which ones would benefit the museum the most. Janet picked 2 and I picked another 2. Since I am the manager for the museum's Facebook page I attended Facebook 101 and Facebook 201. These gave me a better insight as how to read and interpret the numbers and what they mean when people 'like' us and leave comments. Each week I get a report that shows me how we reach our public and how to interpret the various results. For example we currently have 631 'Likes', while our 'Fans' are split 72% Male and 28% female. Our reaches people we reach is split 54% male and 46% female. Most people find us from 7PM to 9PM each day. As time goes I will report on these numbers. Janet and I had a chance to talk directly with individuals from both the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut and Mystic Country. We both came away with a better understanding of how to work with both these groups.

Spring 2015



The Auto-racks are now passing through Willimantic. Shown here are 16 loaded auto-racks (with German cars) delivered by the P&W. G&W pick them up in the afternoon and take them north for delivery to CPR and CN. (Robert A. LaMav Photo)



Steve Melady tends the wheel barrow as John Burke picks up leaves and debris from a very harsh and cold winter. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)