



How do I get my story in the Members Own Words section?

Well, it's quite simple! Just put together a story about anything railroad related, and send it to Tom Nanos or Bob LaMay (info inside). Then we'll be sure to put it in a future issue!

Railfan Day?

Yep, we're planning a railfan day, which will feature photo runbys, and other events, all geared at the railfan. It's in the early planning stages, so stay tuned for more details soon. Just keep Saturday June 12, 2004 open on your calendars...



Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Presents
The Spring 2004

Model Train And Die Cast Toy Show

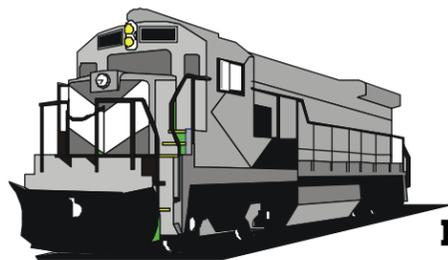


Windham High School
355 High Street - Willimantic, CT

April 18, 2004
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Operating
Layouts

Dealer
Tables



Model
Exhibits

Railroadiana

Free Parking - Wide Aisles - Handicapped Accessible

Admission:

Adults - \$5 - Senior Citizens (62+) - \$4
Children (8-12) - \$1 - Children Under 8 FREE

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum &
Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
P.O. Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226

The Monthly Newsletter for the members of The Connecticut Eastern Chapter of the NRHS & the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
Tom Nanos - Editor in Chief | Bob LaMay - Editor
Volume 12, Number 5 April 2004



From The Editor's Desk

Another spring is underway, and things have already started at the museum! As you saw last month, the CV 4052 has been moved inside the gate, work in the Roundhouse has begun, and hopefully we'll begin work on the turntable pit soon. There's tons to do, and we can use all the help we can get. There's many jobs to do, from light to heavy, so whatever suits you, come on down!

Time to clean up the leaves!

Here's a quick note from Jeff Laverty about the need for volunteers to come down & help out with the leaf cleanup this year: "The museum is covered with leaves and the Town of Windham has generously offered to remove them with its vacuum truck some time after the middle of April. Our job, as members, is to move the leaves to the edges of the museum roadways so that they can be sucked up. We plan to rake and blow leaves during the first 2 Saturdays of April, the 3rd & the 10th (& optionally the 17th). So please come with rakes and hopefully some leaf blowers!"

Membership Services Committee

A new committee has been formed - the Membership Services Committee. This committee is charged with exploring the "Friends of the Museum" idea, as well as putting on a membership drive. If anyone would like to volunteer to participate on this committee, contact Mark Granville.

NRHS Membership Cancellation Notices

Due to an error in sending out this year's renewal notices for the NRHS, you may have

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noticed that you got them a bit late. Well, because of this, the NRHS has sent out some cancellation notices. It has been straightened out with the national, but not until after they sent out the notices. But they can be safely disregarded.

Train Show is Coming!

The Spring Model Train & Die Cast Toy Show is upon us! Sunday April 18th is the date. Since this is on the normal date of the Membership Meeting, we'll be holding the Membership Meeting on the following Sunday - April 25th. This meeting will feature a slideshow by Bob LaMay about the progress of the museum in recent years.

Turntable Update

At the last membership meeting, Adrian Atkins brought in a welding contractor that he knows to discuss the turntable cone's crack and how to repair it. He will try to get a State Certified Bridge Inspector to look at the cone and turntable bridge, and give us his recommendations on how to fix it so it can be operable. He expected to get this done in the next few weeks.

Roundhouse Paver Sales

Now that the roundhouse is essentially fully enclosed, the next step would be use the protection from the elements to work on restoring some of our rolling stock. But to provide a suitable working surface, we need more than a dirt floor - that's where the pavers come in. We really need to start selling some Roundhouse Floor pavers to finish off the floor. If you know of anyone who would want their, or a friend's or relative's name inscribed on a brick, suggest a paver to them!

Ghost Train Journal - Submissions

Thanks to everyone who has been volunteering to write some material for the newsletter - every little bit helps! This issue you'll see a story by Bob LaMay, some tips from Ray Axelrod, and you already saw some of Jeff Laverty's words in this column. Let's keep it coming - we've still got 8 more issues to do this year!

Thanks for reading!
-Tom Nanos & Bob LaMay

The M.O.W. The Member's Own Words

FL9 #2023 - It's Story

Article and photos by Bob LaMay

FL9 #2023 was originally built by the Electro-Motive Division (EMD) of General Motors located at LaGrange, Ill. It was built in November of 1960 carrying serial number 22003 and its original road number assigned to the New Haven Railroad was #2057. It was the 3rd to the last FL9 built for the new Haven Railroad and was the railroads second order of thirty units (2030 - 2059).

It was delivered to the new Haven sporting the full McGinness scheme which consisted of the high profile red, white, and black in bold patterns along with the now famous block "NH" design. It would be another 17 years after the New Haven was taken over by the marriage of the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads to become part of the Penn Central family. It would return once again sporting a similar version of the scheme that would become the standard for the Connecticut Department of Transportation - Office of Rail.

The #2057 would receive a new number when the New Haven became part of the Penn Central System. The entire fleet of FL9's were renumbered from the 2000 series to the 5000 series, thus #2057 became #5057. The #5057 survived the Penn Central bankruptcy which took place on 6/21/70. A short time later the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York took over the reins of running the commuter operations. For the most part FL9's were assigned to the Harlem and Hudson Lines in eastern New York state. The first major exterior change to the #5057 was a new image in hopes of attracting new patrons. The carbody was some variation of blue-green with a bright yellow nose and roofline. Emblazoned on the flanks was a large yellow PC.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 3 Work Day at the museum
- Apr 4 Buisness Meeting
- Apr 10 Work Day at the museum
- Apr 17 Work Day at the museum
- Apr 18 Die Cast & Train Show
- Apr 24 Work Day at the museum
- Apr 25 Membership Meeting with Bob LaMay slideshow

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M.O.W Story Continued

April 1, 1976 was the next important date in the life of the #5057. Conrail was formed and as such it inherited a fleet of very tired FL9's, including the #5057. Conrail operated and maintained the fleet while the states of New York and Conn. footed the bill. FL9 #5057 worn its tired and tattered MTA scheme through the entire Conrail era without any noticeable change. Conrail continued to operate the commuter operations until January 1, 1983 when the US Congress mandated Conrail's exit from the commuter rail business.



It was at this point of FL9 #5057 that things really started to happen. The 33 FL9's in Conrail's FL9 fleet were transferred to the Metro-North Commuter Railroad and another 4 were transferred to the Connecticut Department of Transportation -

Office of Rail. A note of interest here is that just prior to the transfer; Metro-North renumbered its fleet of FL9's back to the 2000 series due to a conflict with its passenger train numbers. None of the FL9's received its original number. The #5057 became the 2023.

Since all of the FL9's, both Metro-North and ConnDot, were cycled through the Harmon Shop, it would be common to see these units operating in both Eastern New York or Western Connecticut. The #2023 continued to operate system wide until October 2002 when it was retired from service. It then went to the storage or deadline located near the Harmon Shop at Harmon, New York. Early in 2003 the #2023 was moved to New Haven, Conn. where it was prepared for yet another new owner. During a Nor'easter it arrived at Willimantic, Conn. where it was delivered to the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum.

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Ten Things You Can Do When You Railfan

By Ray Axelrod

1. Take your photos from a safe location.
2. If you meet their railfans, give out brochures or information on the museum.
3. Carry an extra map and old magazines that you can share or give to aspiring railfans.
4. Remember that you are an ambassador - for our hobby, for the museum and for Eastern Connecticut tourism.
5. If you keep some plastic bags and gloves in your trunk - pick up a little litter in between trains, your favorite spot will look more welcoming and other railfans and people may take your cue (they may look at you weird at first, just ask them to help)
6. Promote safety in what you do near the tracks. If you see damage or vandalism of railroad property - please call the railroad police.
7. Encourage other fans to build Amtrak rides and tourist line rides into their trip and railfanning plans.
8. If you talk to railroad employees, compliment and thank them for their information and help.
9. Please note any locations that you go by, where we might sell some calendars.
10. Write down your *Ghost Train Journal* story ideas while you are waiting for that train,

Some Recent Work At The Museum

so that Bob & Tom will have more time to go railfanning.

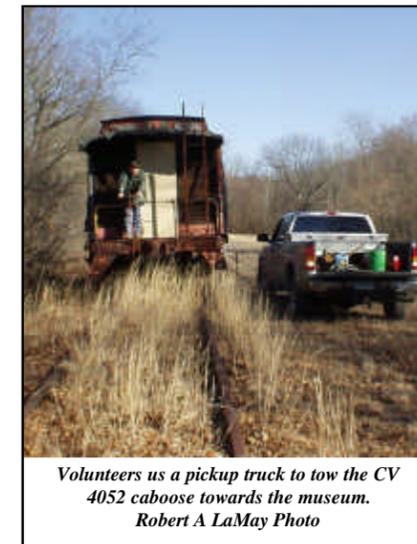
11. (See I can't count) Have a great railfanning/museum promoting season!
12. To save your gas money, think what railfanning you've wanted to do here in Eastern Connecticut and remember that any Saturday you work down at the museum site, you can do all these:
 - A) You help with the sites' development
 - B) You have a very good chance of seeing New England Central in one or two directions, sometimes with an exchange of consist.
 - C) You are railroading and railfanning at the same time.
 - D) You are getting exercise outdoors, and working off that winter build up.

See you trackside!
Ray

PS: If you want to see P&W in the Middletown Portland area, you can usually catch them (CT-1) between 10:30am and 12:15pm each weekday. At Old Saybrook, figure between 11am and 1pm to catch P&W - the train from New Haven (NH-1) and from Plainfield (NR-2) meet at the station and exchange consists.



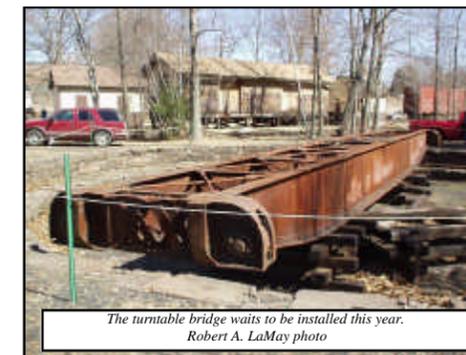
Volunteers use prybar and brute force to begin moving the CV 4052
Robert A. LaMay photo



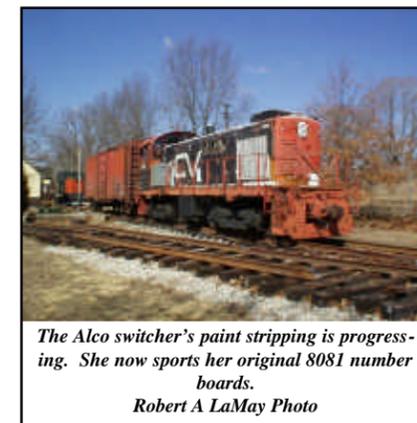
Volunteers us a pickup truck to tow the CV 4052 caboose towards the museum.
Robert A LaMay Photo



Chapter President Mark Granville works on one of the roundhouse pits.
Robert A. LaMay photo



The turntable bridge waits to be installed this year.
Robert A. LaMay photo



The Alco switcher's paint stripping is progressing. She now sports her original 8081 number boards.
Robert A LaMay Photo



Museum Membership Meeting Entertainment

April 2004 - Rescheduled Show - Slide show by Bob LaMay - "Building a Railroad Museum - Part One 1991 to 2000" Bob will be showing the progress of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum's working members over this 9 year span in a series of photos. Bob will be showing the multitude of members that helped to take the museum from an idea to a reality.

May 2004 - Some armchair railfanning with a showing of Broken Knuckle Video Production's DVD *Northeast Rails 2000-2002*. This program covers three more years of great railroad action in the Northeast, with most of the focus going to the lines in Southern New England & Eastern New York State. We'll be playing a portion of the 2 hour DVD. Many other railroad videos (in both DVD and VHS format) can be purchased at the Broken Knuckle website - www.bkvp.com. Thanks to Ken Buckman, owner of BKVP, for allowing us to show this video.

June 2004 - TBA

Have any suggestions for entertainment at the Membership Meetings? Drop us a line and let us know, we'll look into it and try to arrange it!

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be at Windham Community Memorial Hospital 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT on Sunday, Apr 25th @ 7:00 PM.

Please note: The monthly business meeting will be held at the same location on the first Sunday of the month.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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Ghost Train Journal Publication Schedule

Committee & Department News Deadline:
Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)

Member's Submissions:
Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)

Mailing to Members:
First Thursday after the next Business Meeting