

# The Ghost Train Journal

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

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 11, Number 3 August 2003



Tom Nanos Photo

## What's New at the Museum

This is where you can find up to date news about what's happened the past month at the Museum, as well as tid-bits about future activities.

### Buildings and Restorations:

- \* Painting on the inside of the Roundhouse windows has begun, help needed.
- \* Dick Arnold announced that two of the Roundhouse windows are now trimmed.
- \* Clapboard and shingles have been added to the west end of the Groton Freight House.
- \* Duke said there will be a lot of painting to do this fall.

### Mechanical Department:

- \* Maintenance has been done on the pump car, the blue tractor, and the ballast car.
- \* Rich Cizik said the freight house switch is about 90% done. Track is now 3 lengths past the switch. Parts for #15 switch should arrive soon.
- \* Paul Shamonis reconditioned 2 switch stands.

### Acquisitions:

- \* Bob LaMay is pursuing a lead with Delaware Car Company for parts and windows for our SPV.
- \* Rich Cizik showed photographs of a Conrail Transfer Caboose, currently located in Cedar Hill. Discussion followed and Rich will look into this matter further.
- \* Dick Arnold is continuing to pursue leads for a low-boy dolly to help facilitate equipment moves

### Visiting Groups:

The Central Vermont Historical Society will be visiting the Museum on October 11th as a part of their weekend long activities around southern New England.

## Welcome To The New Ghost Train Journal

Hello fellow Museum & Chapter members! Welcome to the new look of the *Ghost Train Journal*, your monthly newsletter from the Connecticut Eastern Chapter of the NRHS and the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. First off, we'd like to take a moment to introduce ourselves as the new editorial team for the *Journal*. Both of us, Bob LaMay and myself, Tom Nanos, are involved in the museum, and decided to get together and help make the *Journal* a great source for information for the members of the Museum. Our mission quite straightforward - to produce an informative newsletter each month that will keep the membership in touch with what's going on at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum and about it's members.

Now, I guess you're wondering about the last part of that statement, about it's members. That's where it involves you! Yep, we're looking for submissions from you, the members of the Museum. We'll be having a monthly column, titled *The M.O.W. - The Member's Own Words* where you can write about your railfanning experiences, railroad stories, or just about anything railroad related. And you can also include photos with your story! For more information, or to send submissions, contact either of us (our emails and phone numbers are in the Contacts section), and we'll go from there. Deadline for submissions is at the monthly Membership Meetings, so get your stories together!

We hope you enjoy the new look of the *Journal*, and of course if you have any ideas, feedback, or even complaints, contact either of us.

### Thank You!

Tom Nanos and Bob LaMay  
Editors, *The Ghost Train Journal*

## The Fall Foliage Excursion

Saturday October 18, 2003



### On The Providence & Worcester

Article by Tom Nanos, Photos by Bob LaMay



Coming up on October 18, 2003 is the Museum's annual rail excursion on the Providence & Worcester Railroad. This fall the P&W will be taking us on a scenic journey through eastern Connecticut and central Massachusetts. Our trip will begin at the P&W shops in Plainfield, CT and head north through Worcester, MA where we will pass the newly restored Union Station. After Worcester, we will continue on north to Gardner, MA, which will be our northernmost terminus. Then we will head back South into Connecticut. Traveling on the Old Norwich and Worcester Line, we will pass through Taft's Tunnel, the oldest railroad tunnel in the United States. Further south we will skirt along the scenic Thames River to just north of Groton, at Red Top, our southernmost terminus.

Finally, we'll head back north and conclude our trip by returning to Plainfield. For the photographers out there, weather and conditions permitting, there is a photo run planned on the trip. But either way, the excursion will run rain or shine - but let's hope for a nice sunny day!

You can bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the train, or you can join us in the dining car for hamburgers and hot dogs. Also, coffee and donuts will be offered.

Now for the nitty-gritty details of the excursion. Tickets are \$50 per person, and Observation Car

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### Calendar of Events

- Aug 9 Work Day at the Museum
- Aug 12 Golden Spike Committee Meeting
- Aug 14 Train Show Committee Meeting
- Aug 16 Work Day at the Museum
- Aug 17 Membership Meeting
- Aug 21 *Third Thursday* on Main Street in Willimantic.
- Sept 7 Business Meeting
- Sept 21 Membership Meeting
- Oct 5 Business Meeting
- Oct 10-12 Walking Weekend
- Oct 11 CV Historical Society visits Museum
- Oct 18 Fall Foliage Excursion
- Oct 19 Membership Meeting
- Oct 26 *Our Golden Spike Ceremony*
- Nov 14 Goods & Services Auction.

## Fall Excursion Continued

tickets are \$70 each (while they last). If you're coming with a group, be sure you order your tickets all at the same time to assure seating together. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the excursion.

Boarding will begin at 8:00 am in Plainfield, CT. The train will be leaving Plainfield at 8:30am. The entire trip from Plainfield to Gardner, Groton and back will take approximately 8 hours.



Payments for tickets should be by check or money order only, and can be made out to **Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum or CERRM**. Mail your payment to:

Veronica Trudeau  
2421 Putman Pike  
Chepachet, RI 02814

Please enclose a large self-addressed stamped envelope for return of tickets and information about the trip. For more information, call Veronica at 401-568-6202 before 6:00 pm.

All donations to benefit the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum.

## Walking Weekend 2003

Sunday October 12, 2003 will be the day that the Museum will have displays and activities to participate in Walking Weekend. Walks will be at 11am and 2pm with displays and activities by Museum members. Also, the Willimantic Fire Department will have a display of some of their fire trucks, as well as a safety trailer. For more information on the event, or how you can help out, contact Ray Axelrod at 860-228-3197.

## 2003 Goods and Services Auction

We will be co-sponsoring the 2003 Goods and Services auction with the Connecticut Textile Museum again this year. The auction will take place on November 14, 2003, and we are starting to look for donations from area businesses. If you know of any possible businesses, please contact Ray Axelrod at 860-228-3197 for more information.

## Museum Projects

by Jerry Griffin

There are some small projects and maintenance jobs that I need help with at the Museum. Feel free to dig in or contact me at (860) 228-9703 if you have any questions.

1. Clean leaves out of ash pit
2. Clean leaves out of turntable pit
3. Mow grass in village area
4. Mow grass out to bridge over Willimantic River
5. Mow grass in visitors parking lot
6. Pull weeds in islands in visitors parking lot
7. Remove loose rocks and stones along sides of our gravel access road so we can mow
8. Cut down trees along west side of access road from Bridge Street to village area up to edge of banking
9. Spread bark mulch around bases of trees in village area
10. Cut brush along chain link fence line
11. Grade side of track behind freight house
12. Build railroad tie flower box around base of museum sign at Bridge Street
13. Empty trash barrels (bag up trash)

Any and all help will be appreciated. Just come on down to the Museum to help out!

## New Tamper Arrives!

On Friday July 25, 2003 our new motorized ballast tamper arrived on site. The Museum purchased the McWilliams Spot Tamper Model F from the U.S. Military and picked it up from the Sub Base in Groton, CT. It was built by the Railway Maintenance Corp. and originally purchased by the Military in 1959. The purchase will make track laying, maintenance and repair much easier and more efficient.



Bob LaMay Photo

## Member Feedback Requested

By Tom Nanos

Now that we've got a new format for the *Ghost Train Journal*, we've got a couple questions for all of you. You can email your answers to Tom Nanos at [webmaster@railfanzone.com](mailto:webmaster@railfanzone.com). If you don't have Internet access, or access to a computer, please see the last paragraph to give us your feedback - we're looking for feedback from all the members of

the museum, whether or not you're computer savvy or not!

**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, August 17th at 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!**

1 Would you be interested in receiving your copy of *The Ghost Train Journal* electronically instead of through the U.S. Mail? There are two benefits to this - first, the Museum would save some money on publication and postage costs, and second you'd get the *Journal* in full color instead of black & white!

2 Would you like to see frequent updates on the museum website, not only for public consumption, but in a special area for members of the Museum only? What other kinds of information do you think should appear on the Museum's website

3 If you currently don't get a chance to come down to the museum to lend a hand (and that's perfectly OK), do you have any ideas how you can help out the museum? What do you enjoy doing? No matter how seemingly small, anything can help! Let us know how you want to help out the museum!

For those who don't have access to a computer and/or the Internet, you can phone in your answers to the questions you'd like to answer. Just contact Tom at 860-729-0955. Thank you for your time and we're looking forward to your input!

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Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## Photos From Around The Museum

### This Month - Working on the Groton Freight House Siding Switch



R. Calk and another member align rail during switch installation on the Groton Freight House Siding at Conn. Eastern Railroad Museum - R.A. LaMay Photo



Work continues on the Groton freight house siding at the Conn. Eastern Railroad Museum - R.A. LaMay Photo



Almost complete - members are laying the final rails on the Groton Freight House siding switch. Tom Nanos Photo



Progress on the switch as of 7/12/03 R.A. LaMay photo

## Museum & Chapter Contact Information

### Chapter Leadership

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### Ghost Train Journal

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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

## Town Fairs

The museum will have booths at these fairs. If you want to help man the booth, contact Mark Granville.

Sep 4-7 Hebron Harvest Fair  
 Sep 6 Mansfield's Know Your Town Fair

## New Members

Welcome to these newly voted-in members!

Joseph Apadula	Galveston, TX
Owen Travis	Groton, CT
Rowan de la Batte	Florence, MA

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Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

**Don't forget to visit the Museum's official Website! Up to the minute information on what's going on and how you can help out at the museum, photos, membership applications and other great stuff!**

**<http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org>**



## **Railroad Memorabilia Auction**

*The Estate of Melvin H. Clark*

Two day Estate Auction

Friday & Saturday Sept 5 & 6

9:30 am - Bangor, ME

Trucks, Antique Vehicles, Railroad

Memorabilia, Toys & Collectables

For more information, contact Petrowsky

Auctioneers at 860-642-4200

**On the Internet?**

**Stay in Touch!**

**Join the**

**Connecticut Eastern  
Railroad Museum**

**Yahoo Discussion Group**

Email Tom Nanos ([webmaster@railfanzone.com](mailto:webmaster@railfanzone.com))

for more information on how to join!

**It's FREE!**

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