

The Ghost Train Journal

The Monthly Newsletter for the members of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum,

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

The Ghost Train Journal

Tom Nanos Photo

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

**Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Presents
The Spring 2004
Model Train
And
Die Cast Toy Show**



Windham High School
355 High Street - Willimantic, CT

**Operating
Layouts**

**Model
Exhibits**



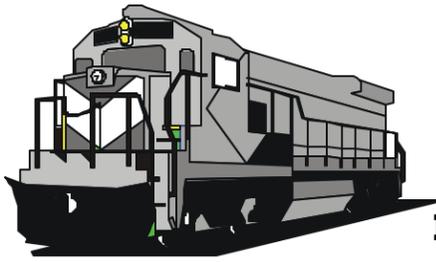
April 18, 2004
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Dealer
Tables**

Railrodiana

Free Parking - Wide Aisles - Handicapped Accessible

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



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 2 February 2004



From The Editor's Desk

Sorry this edition was late this month. With Bob LaMay's injury, my vacation in Florida (shooting slides of Tri-Rail and Florida East Coast, of course), and my wife & daughter getting sick, time was a bit tight. But never fear, the show will go on! Better late than never, they say...

Bob LaMay Slideshow Postponed
Due to a large snowstorm and Bob's ruptured Achilles's Tendon and matching crutches, he decided to postpone his slideshow featuring the progress at the Museum from 1991 to 2000. He will present this slideshow at the April membership meeting.

Banquet Wrap Up
The Annual Banquet was a great success this year! Bob LaMay has put together a short article in this issue about what happened at the banquet.

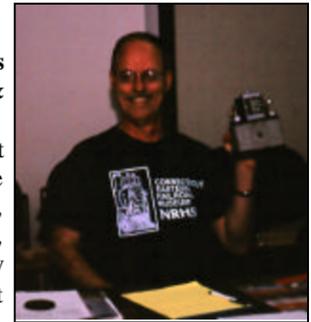
Call For Stories!
Well, as you all can pretty much see, Bob & I have been doing the bulk of the writing & reporting here in the Ghost Train Journal. Just to mix things up a bit, and to get some of your input, we'd like to solicit some of your talents - we know there's at least a few of you out there that have a flair for writing. So if this is you, please let either Bob or I know and we'll let you know how you can pitch in! We're looking for anything from short stories, to multi part accounts of your travels. So long

Continued Next Column

as it has to do with railroads or railroading, we're looking for it!

Members Donate FL-9 & SW-8 Parts

As pictures at the right, at the December 21, 2003 meeting, Bob LaMay presented a gift that he and fellow CERM member Dick Sobielo purchased and donated a couple of parts needed for two of our locomotives - the FL-9 and the SW-8. The SW-8 needed a battery charging regulator, and the FL-9 needed a set of starting contactors. Bob inquired around about pricing, and after finding out how much it cost, decided with Dick to purchase the parts and just donate them. This will enable us to keep the SW-8 running, and also get on the road to starting the FL-9. Thank you guys!!!



New Committees and Departments

At the previous few meetings, a listing of this year's committee & departments was passed around looking for volunteers to serve on them. If you're interested in working with a committee and missed the meetings, you can contact Mark Granville for more information on joining a committee or department.

Calendar of Events	
Mar 6	Work Day at the museum
Mar 7	Buisness Meeting
Mar 13	Work Day at the museum
Mar 20	Work Day at the museum
Mar 21	Membership Meeting with Dave Jodoin slideshow
Mar 27	Work Day at the museum
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	Membership Meeting with Bob LaMay slideshow
Apr 24	Work Day at the museum

Upcoming Springtime Jobs

Now that springtime is upon us, it's time to start talking about workdays at the museum! Stay tuned to the next issue of the *Ghost Train Journal* for a listing of jobs, from small to large, that need to be done at the museum this spring. This will be discussed at the March buisness meeting.

Thanks for reading!
-Tom Nanos & Bob LaMay

The Museum's Annual Banquet

Article and photos by Robert A. LaMay

Our annual banquet was held on February 1, 2004 at lavinti's Resturant in Columbia, Conn. 28 individuals attended and were served their choice which consisted of Prime Rib of Beef, Baked Stuff Chicken, and baked Schrod.

After the meal President Mark Granville presented a short speech about the year in review. He also presented our 2004 goals for the museum. These consisted of;

- 1 - Install the turntable bridge
- 2 - Restore the Central Vermont #4052 caboose

A slide show followed which was made up of 63 images taken in the immediate Willimantic area from 1955 to 1960 by Maris Slakens, who used to live in the building right behind where the Willimantic Railroad station used to be located.

These images were a donation to the museum and will be used in future calendars.



President Mark Granville conducts the slide show at the banquet.

Your Text Here!

Turn the page to find out how!

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

The 2004 Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Color Brochure

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Preserving Railroad History In Eastern Connecticut

Hours of Operation

Saturdays and Sundays
First Weekend In May to
Last Weekend In October
10:00AM - 4:00PM

Admission
Adults - \$5.00
Children Under 12 - FREE!

Weekday Group Tours
Call (860)456-9999 to set up a weekday group tour at the museum. Great for school field trips, group outings, etc.

What else does the Museum do?

- Model Train Shows
- Excursions on the Providence & Worcester Railroad
- Museum open to the public weekends during spring, summer & fall

Museum Membership Benefits:

- Subscription to the monthly newsletter, *The Ghost Train Journal*
- Free entry into the Museum
- Entertainment (slide shows, videos, speakers, etc.) at monthly membership meetings
- And much, much more!

Visit www.CTEastRRMuseum.org or call us at 860-456-9999 for information on how to become a member!

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Where We Are & How To Get Here
55 Bridge Street (Route 32) - Willimantic, CT 06226
(860)456-9999 - www.CTEastRRMuseum.org

From Hartford & West:
Rt 64 East to Exit 55. Follow Rt 384 East to the end. Bear right onto Rt 6 East. Follow Rt 6 to junction of Rt 66. Continue straight onto Rt 66 East/Main Street in Willimantic. At the intersection of 66 and 32, continue East on Rt 32 & 66 for about 7/10 of a mile. At the Willimantic Chamber of Commerce building (on your right), take the next right onto Bridge Street (Rt. 289 South). Take first right after railroad crossing and follow 1/2 mile to the museum.

From Boston, Providence & East:
I-395 to Rt 6 West towards North Windham. Follow Route 6 on to Route 86 West. Take Rt 86 West until it merges with Rt 32 (Main Street, Willimantic), follow Rt 32 & 66 West for 6/10 mile. Take a left onto Bridge Street (Rt 32 South). Take first right after railroad crossing and follow 1/2 mile to the museum.

From Norwich & South:
From Norwich or Rt 395, take Rt 2 West to Exit 25. Follow Rt 32 North into Willimantic. At the intersection of Jackson Street (at the "Frog Bridge"), take a right. At the bottom of the bridge take a left on to Rt 66. Follow Rt 66 West for 6/10 mile. Take a left onto Bridge Street, (Rt 32 South). Take a quick right after crossing the railroad track (just before a small shopping center). Follow the railroad tracks down a dirt road for about 1/2 mile to the museum.

Photos by: Robert LaMay and Tom Nasse - Layout Design by: Tom Nasse

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Preserving Railroad History In Eastern Connecticut
On The Line Of The Ghost Train - Willimantic, CT

55 Bridge Street (Route 32)
Willimantic, CT 06226
(860) 456-9999
www.CTEastRRMuseum.org

Here's the final layout of the 2004 Museum brochure. Well, it's black & white if you're reading this in print, and in color if you've downloaded the GTJ off of the website. If you want to see the real thing, come on down to a meeting, or to the museum, and pick some up! We had them ready for the Amherst Rail Society's Big Train Show at the Big E, so many were passed out there.

If you know of any place that would put out a stack of our brochures, either let an officer know, or come down to the museum or a meeting and pick up a stack!

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

Preserving Railroad History In Eastern Connecticut

Museum's Locomotives & Rolling Stock

The museum's collection of locomotives and rolling stock consists of equipment that had been used around the New England region on railroads such as the New York New Haven & Hartford, Long Island Railroad, Central Vermont Railway, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. They are all in various states of repair - ranging from operable units, to pieces needing complete restoration. If you're interested in helping to preserve these historic New England pieces, visit the museum and ask how you can help!

Museum Buildings and Grounds

Located at a key junction of the local rail lines is the six stall Columbia Junction Roundhouse along with a Boston Bridge Works 60' turntable. The roundhouse has been reconstructed and phase one is complete. The remaining phases will be completed as funding occurs. The original Chaplin Station, built around 1872, was moved to the museum in 1991 and is fully restored. The Groton Freight House once stood next to the mainline opposite the Groton Tower in Groton, CT. Dismantled in February 1998, it was brought to the museum. A new roof was added before the building was moved to its current location near the turntable in late 1999. This year we should see it fully restored.

Museum Trackwork

The museum is situated on the original site of the New York, New Haven & Hartford's Columbia Junction, where the Air Line, Midland Route and Central Vermont Southern Division all met. Currently volunteers have reconstructed approximately 1.25 miles of trackage over the original Air Line route. Below is a map of the grounds showing the current locations of the restored buildings on the museum grounds.

Photos of some of the museum's collection (clockwise from left): CERM 25 locomotive, ex-Pfizer SW-8, ex-LIRR 44 tonner & ex-CDOT FL-8, and the reconstructed Columbia Junction Roundhouse.

Labels on map: New England Central Railroad, 1892 Columbia Junction Roundhouse, c.1900 Willimantic Section House, c.1900 Groton Freight House, 1873 Chaplin Station, Groton Freight House Siding Switch, Former "Hartford Line", Air Line Track To Bridge Street, Versailles Operator's Shanty, Seasonal & Gift Shop, #15 Switch To The Air Line Main, 60' Arriving Turntable, C.T. Eastern RR Museum, Willimantic, Connecticut.

CERM volunteers working on the #15 Switch which is a part of the historic New York, New Haven & Hartford Air Line. The Air Line is one of the lines that run through the museum. Want to help out? Come down to the museum and ask how you can!

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, Mar 21st @ 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!

Museum Membership Meeting Entertainment

March 2004 - David Jodoin will be presenting some of his slides of the Providence & Worcester Railroad. Dave will be presenting a mostly contemporary look at the P&W, but he will also include some earlier slides of the P&W railroad.

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.

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!

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 below). Then we'll be sure to put it in a future issue!

CERM 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...

Museum & Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Leadership		Ghost Train Journal	
President	Mark Granville mgranville@charter.net 860-456-3956	Editor in Chief	Tom Nanos webmaster@railfanzone.com 860-729-0955
Vice President	Duke York 860-423-1878	Editor	Bob LaMay cermf19@aol.com 860-228-9671
Treasurer	Jeff Laverty jeffr@cshore.com 860-429-7961	Ghost Train Journal Publication Schedule Committee & Department News Deadline: Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)	
Secretary	Bill Robinson billrobinson@charter.net 860-456-4903	Member's Submissions: Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)	
National Director	Ray Axelrod 860-228-3197	Mailing to Members: First Thursday after the next Business Meeting	