#### Come to Railroad Day – 8/31/13



Saturday August 31, 2013 – Railroad Day at the Museum. Come one and Come All – to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Railroad Day. From 11AM to 4PM – Train rides (Extra Cost), Gallows Signal and Turntable Demos, Blacksmith Demos, Food & Beverage can be purchased, and live music. Save this Date! (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### **Gathering Covering Material**



East Windsor, CT - Left to Right – Andy Fischer, Adrian Atkins, and Rolf Johnson survey the material to see how to cut seams to salvage material to cover museum rolling stock. See story inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

08/18/2013 - Monthly General Membership Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM

08/31/2013 – Railroad Day at the Museum – Details Inside

09/15/2013 - Combined Business & general Membership Meeting - 7:00PM

10/6/2013 - Monthly Business Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital

10/12/2013 - Night Photo Shoot - Details Coming

10/13/2013 – Mass Bay RRE Willimantic Special Coming to Willimantic – Details Coming

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

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Monthly Membership meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society is scheduled

### Sunday, August 18, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Windham Memorial Hospital –
Please join us at this meeting.
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

#### Joseph F. Sokol 1938-2013

With sadness we note the passing of Joe Sokol. Joe's interest in trains was long standing. He was a life member in the National Model Railroad Assoc. In 1980 he started a business - Sokol's Structures, selling model railroad structure kits in both HO and N scale. In his quiet way he was greatly involved in numerous museum activities and always willing to help where needed. He will be best known for managing both the Chapter's spring and fall train shows for a number of years. These shows proved to be successful and helped raise needed funds each year. Replacing Joe will be tough since Joe, himself was a vendor and this fact proved invaluable when looking for vendors to come to our future shows. Our next train show later this year will honor Joe and his service to the Chapter and museum.

Another duty Joe handled was the collecting and filing member's volunteer timesheets. Keeping and properly recording and filing these timesheets are very crucial when the Chapter applies for grants. This is another void that will need to be filled. Joe Summer -2013

also helped at the museum by manning our ticket booth and gift shop. You would also see him at a separate table selling refreshments and drinks.

As a tribute to Joe, his family asked that donations be made to the museum in his name. Joe was a great member and volunteer in every sense of the word. Thank You Joe – We will miss you!



I had a chance to snap this photo of Joe at the museum's opening day last year. He always had a quiet smile on his face.

#### Parking Lot Flowers Bloom throughout the Seasons Janet Atkins

After several years of diligent work, the payoff is flowers in bloom throughout the entire museum season. In the early spring the daffodils bring great cheerfulness to an otherwise bleak scene. At another area the forsythia burst forward. It is struggling to compete with

the deer damage with the lilac bushes. Than follows the purple and white iris bed that is really stunning when in full bloom. The catnip is very happy and apparently the deer haven't taken a liking to it. The small lavender flowers are overflowing in the main bed. We continually divide these plants with great results. You can witness the results of the beginning 4 plants and we will divide again come spring. Then up come the charming chive bells of purple. The spirea comes forth in its pink color and is joined by the variety of colors of the bee balm and the yellow accent of the primroses. The day lilies have had deer problems so we are questioning the value of them in the gardens. With the shortening of daylight and colder weather we expect to see the burning bushes to be brilliant red. All of these flowers have brought numerous humming birds, butterflies, and bees to the gardens. This is a great reward.

Maintenance is a real challenge. We need wood chips badly and if you know where we can get some nice clean chips at no expense we would be very happy to receive it. Remember we are a 501c3 organization and its tax deductible. The railroad cross tie designation of the lot has been moved, and moved again. When we really know where the Rail Trail pathway will be through our parking lot we will be very happy campers! Presently this makes the beds less defined than we would like. Weeding is a continual battle since we have no chips. The summer heat has kept us away but the beds are in pretty good condition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Railroad Day on August 31, 2013.

The true trooper in this entire project is Pat Jurovaty, who has not only given her time but her valuable knowledge of plants. We enjoy her company and her invaluable support.

### The Chost Train Journal

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

#### Quick Thinking = Covers for Rolling Stock Adrian Atkins

Recently a tornado touched down in the Town of Warehouse Point, CT.
Extensive damage was incurred at Sports World, an air supported fabric structure that housed many indoor athletic fields. An alert news watcher, Howard Raphaelson, called me and asked if there was anything we could use. We discussed covers for some of our older rolling stock to keep the water out. I thought this could be a possibility. Three hours later Howard showed up with fabric samples and permission to get whatever we wanted.

This led to mobilization phone calls to get a field team together. End result – working several very hot days to gather material. We ended up getting many large pieces of material, some as large as 20' x 80'. Enough to cover our wooded passenger cars, baggage car, and the Yankee Silversmith car. These covers were quite heavy and may last 20 years.

Along with many pieces of tarp material we also salvaged aluminum doors, electric extension cords, wire rope and numerous fittings. 1 and 25 hp electric fan motors, and a Honda City gas powered engine. We hope to convert this engine over to propane and use it to run the hydraulic pump on the new ballast car we are constructing.

For Howard's quick thinking he just might qualify for the 'Scrounge of the Month Award'. Thank you everyone who suffered through the heat to retrieve the materials and brought them back to the museum.



This photo shows Rolf Johnson moving the 20 hp electric motor onto his trailer. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



This photo shows Gerry getting his hands dirty working on Vanguard 18 hp motor. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Shown here on left William Bouchelle along with Rolf Johnson are weaving the steel wire from the numerous nets that were destroyed during the tornado. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



A lighter moment on those hot days. Paul S. Shamonis II decides to get a tan using some of the reflective material salvaged. Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Summer -2013

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



Paul Shamonis II, Jim Poor, Bob Hassett, and Gerry Roy work during the pre-lube of the FL9 to turn the prime-mover over. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



From left to right, Rich Cizik, Howard Raphaelson, Walt Dumas, Paul Shamonis II, and Rolf Johnson are spreading the material so it can be cut into the right size pieces. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

#### **RAILROAD DAY -8/31/2013**

Saturday – August 31, 2013, from 11AM to 4PM, the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum will be hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Railroad Day at the railroad museum. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. Turntable and Gallows Signal demos, Blacksmith demos, museum tours throughout the day, Equipment displays, pump car rides, Live music from Noon on, Train rides along the Air Line to Bridge St. and back will take place for an extra fare.

Summer -2013

Remember all the fun starts at 11:00AM and gates open at 10:00AM. So come on down and spend a hour or two, or even spend the entire day. (Please note – extra volunteer help is needed, so no matter what your expertise is please come down and join in the fun.)

Admission - \$5.00 for Adults, \$1.00 – Ages 8-12 years, and under 8 is FREE. Also NRHS and Museum Friends get in FREE!



Master Inventor at work – Rolf Johnson poses during the pre-lube of the FL9, which hopefully will make it easier to start. (Robert A. LaMay