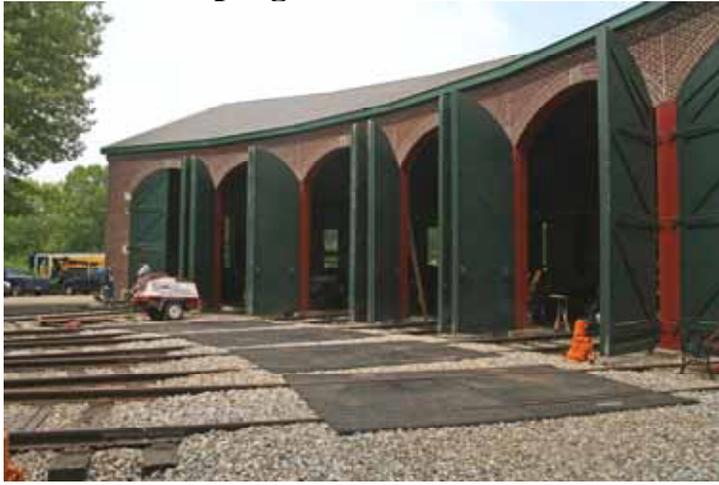




Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Great progress at Round House



Four tracks into the roundhouse are completed. Work on Pit Track number 1 is under way. As of this writing it's now complete. Pit Track number 2 completion is on hold until pit has been rebuilt. Crossing pads are also in place. (Photo by Robert A. LaMay)

Railroad Songs Fill the Air



The Sunshine Singers from the Russell Mercier Senior Center of Hebron, CT sang a few railroad song favorites just prior to Robert A. LaMay's Railroad Museum and History talk to the Hebron Historical Society Meeting held in May 2009. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 6/4 - 6/7/09 - Victoria Days in Williamantic - Call 860-456-4476 for Info
- 6/7/09 - Combined Business and Membership Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 6/13/09 - Night Photo Shoot
- 7/5/09 - Monthly business meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital 7PM
- 7/19/09 - Monthly membership meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital 7PM

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

Vol. 30 Number 5 – June 2009

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on **Sunday, July 19, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**

The next monthly business will be at the Windham Memorial Hospital at 7:00 PM on July 5, 2009. Bob LaMay will present a slide show – **Following P&W trains in and around Willimantic.**

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

Parking Lot Looking Real Nice

By Bob LaMay

I drove by the parking lot on Saturday May 23, 2009. What beautiful it was to see all the flowers blooming. Many more of the surrounding area is also going to look pretty nice over the next few weeks. I also saw Pat Jurovaty busily doing that never ending job of weeding.



Notice all the pretty flowers as you drive by the parking lot when ever you're at the museum. (Robert A. LaMay Photo).

Summer 2009

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Museum Website -
www.cteastrrmuseum.org

NRHS Grand Central and SONO Tower Tour - Part 2

By Ray Axelrod

We gathered back by the by that famous concourse clock at GCT at about 12:15PM. We than headed off by subway to the Subway Signal training Center which was located at 8th Ave. and 14th St. Our host was Manny, who is involved with the SONO Tower Museum in South Norwalk, CT. Manny is a 25 year veteran and is a trainer and signal maintainer within the Safety & Signal Dept. He showed us the meaning and operation of signals currently in use on the subway system. He also told and showed us with various demonstrations as to how the signals work. Also noted is the fact there are redundant safety features built into the signal system to make it safer with the short headways that make up the

subway system. Due to our tight schedule the Q&A session had to be cut short so we could be at our next location on time, this being the SONO Tower Museum for a guided tour. Upon arrival we were given an excellent tour and explanation as to how this tower operated during its hay day. I am willing to be that Bob LaMay was here to grab a few photos during his visit. It was a hard job shuttling our group of 75-80 individuals from the SONO station to the Milford Garden Inn and the van was slow in coming back to get us. Tired and happy we finally made it safely home.

I wish to thank those museum members who made this trip and wish more could have come along to appreciate and enjoy touring a couple of America's railroad treasures.



During one of my visits to the SONO Tower Museum I got this photo of an Acela passing by the tower. (Bob LaMay Photo)



When I first saw this photo – I thought it was some sort of circus act. Or was it Adrian doing a tight rope act. It's the hoops for our water tower being loaded onto a trailer. (Bob Hassett Photo)

By Joseph Socol

Well, another train show has come and gone. We had 465 people attend this show and according to our treasurer we were able to show a profit of approximately \$2,500.

I got quite a surprise when I arrived at the show Friday around 2:30PM, I found that the dining tables were still set up and the floor had to be swept and mopped. I asked the janitor about this and he told me that a 3:00PM crew would take care of this situation. At 3:05PM, a janitorial crew of 7 men and 1 woman showed up and in less than 1 hour the cafeteria was ready for use. What a relief.

I would like to thank the following for their help they gave in putting on this train show;

Friday Night Table Set-up – Howard Raphalson, Art Hall, Jr., Jeff Laverty, Bob Nassett, Walt Dumas, Duke York, Mark Granville.

Sunday Night Take Down – Don't have all the names, but you know who you are.

Sunday Unloading Duties – Bill Bouchelle, Art Hall, Jr., Bob Hassett, and Duke York.

Admissions & Door Table – Don't have all the names, but you know who you are.

White Elephant Table – Jean Lambert

Café & Coffee Duties – Bob & Ruth Pingree, Jeff & Carol Laverty

Direction Signs – Duke York

Table lay-Out Drawing – Art Hall, Jr.

OOOOOPS

I made an error last month – I said both pump car and cab rides are available at the museum – Sorry only pump car rides at this time. Please come and check out our Armstrong Turntable – see how easy it turns!

GTJ Editor

Sterling Train Wreck

By Phyllis Qualls (Mortimer) – Resident

I heard this story when I was presenting a slide show on railroad history and the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. I received a copy of it after the show and would like to share this story with our readers.

I remember my dad telling me a story about a train wreck that took place in Sterling, CT back when he was a small boy. I'm not sure of the year, but must have been in the 1920's or early 1930's. I don't remember much about it but the words, **Touring Car on its way to Rocky Point**, always stuck in my Summer 2009

mind. I know that there was a family with children travelling on that train, as the mother was killed in the wreck. My grandmother lived next to the railroad tracks in Sterling, CT, where the accident took place. She took the children into her home and cared for them while they cleaned the accident scene and took the Mother's body to the funeral home.

Fast forward about 70 years and I'm working in Summerville, SC when we have a new patient admitted. She was a lady in her 70's who had recently moved to SC to be with her daughter. We developed an instant friendship when she learned I was from Oneco and she was from Norwich, CT. She visited the doctor often as she was older and had numerous health issues. She always made a point of finding me and speaking to me when she was there. One day she told me that she had been raised by nuns in Canada from the time she was a small child until about the age of 8 or 9 when she returned to her Father who lived in Plainfield, CT. I casually asked what happened to her Mom. She said she had been killed in a train accident. 'We were in a **Touring Car on our way to Rocky Point.**'

My heart stopped for a second, I asked her if this happened in Sterling and she said yes. I then proceeded to tell her the story about my grandmother who had taken a little girl into her home. She hugged me and cried and told me that she knew there was more to our relationship than just nurse and patient. **She knew we met for a reason?**

She died a few years after our meeting, but I often think of meeting each other. Coincidence? I think not!



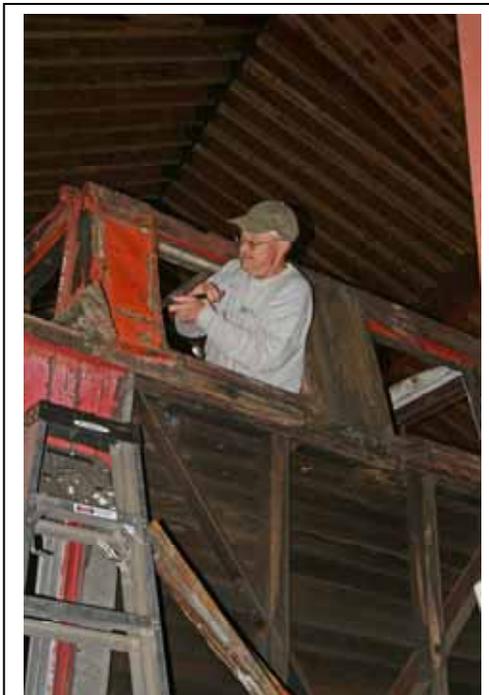
Dick Arnold and Rolf Johnson try out the newly restored and rebuilt bench. Dick Arnold made the new replacement wood parts and put it back together.

(Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Around the Museum



Carol Stanich puts the finishing touches to a set of wheels from a baggage cart recently rebuilt at the museum. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



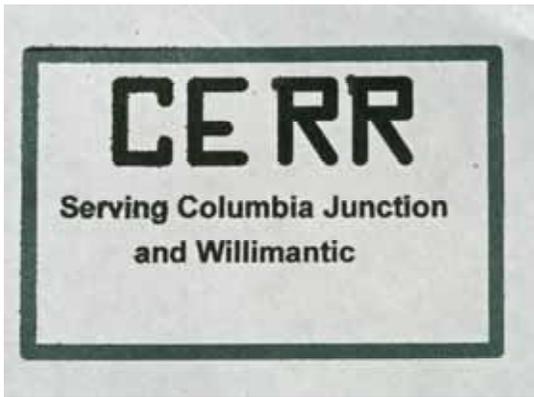
Duke York works on the restoration of the museum's Central Vermont Center Cupola caboose No. 4052. Now that we can work indoors the work is progressing very well. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

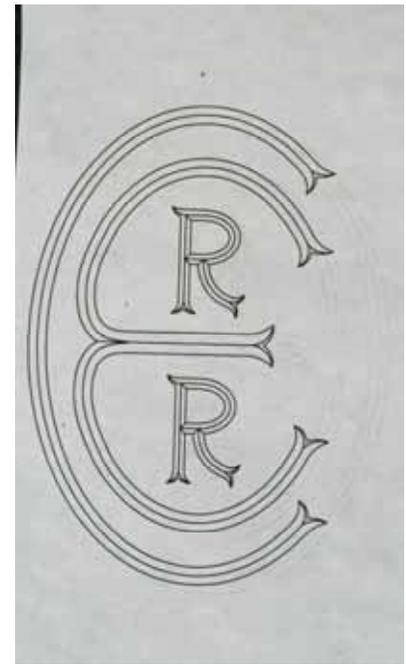
Here are six selections of possible logos for The museum's railroad. Please let us know which one you vote for. Select one - numbers 1 - 6. Please send all your comments and votes to our e-mail.



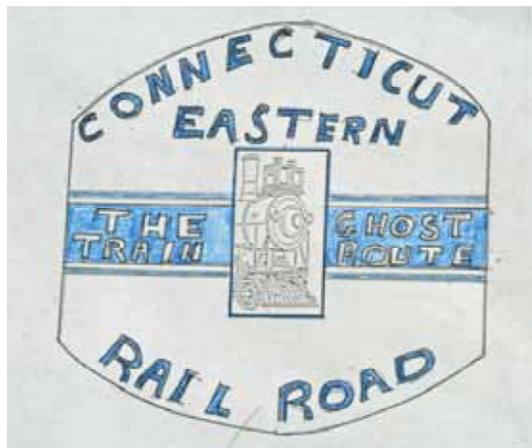
SELECTION - 1



Selection - 3



Selection - 4

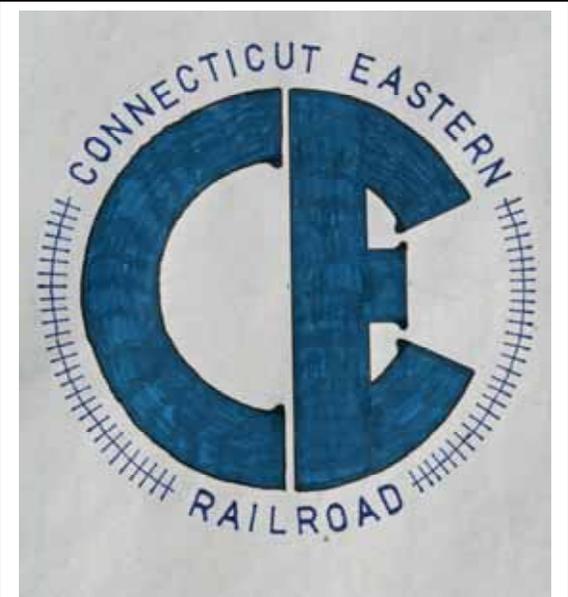


SELECTION - 5

COMING!
SPECIAL ISSUE
ON NIGHT PHOTO
SHOOT



SELECTION - 2



SELECTION - 6