



Repainting the Train Show Signs

Museum volunteers work on repainting the train show signs in preparation for the Fall Train Show. The signs will be repainted for the Spring Show, so if you'd like to help with the repainting, come on down! *Tom Nanos Photos*



Tom Nanos Photo

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 1 January 2004



From The Editor's Desk

Happy holidays from the Editors of the Ghost Train Journal! We hope you've all had a safe and healthy holiday, and wish you all a prosperous New Year! .

Train Show - Cancelled!

Due to a large snowstorm that lasted from Friday December 5, until the morning of December 7th, it was decided to cancel the Train Show. This was unfortunate due to the amount of promotion that went into trying to make this the best train show yet. Treasurer Jeff Laverty reports that the costs associated with the cancelled train show were around \$500, which was mostly promotional related (fliers, advertising, postage, etc.). Also, Joe Sokol, chair of the Train Show Committee, reported that Arrow Paper, the suppliers of the rented tables, did not charge us for the rental, despite delivering them on Friday and picking them up on Monday.

Train Show Date Set!

Yep, you read right - after the cancellation, we've set the date for the Spring Train Show! It will be Sunday April 18, 2004 at Windham High School. Stay tuned for more details!

2004 Goals Set

At the January 4, 2004 Buisness Meeting, Chapter President Mark Granville announced the Museum's major goals for 2004. These are: 1) The installation of the turntable bridge and 2) The restoration of the CV 4052 caboos. Yep, you heard it here that rolling stock restoration is returning as a focus area at the Museum this year! So if this is something that interests you,

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make it a point to come on down & lend a hand! We do plan on bringing the caboos within the fence to make it easier to work on it. Trackwork, which was a large focus of the membership in preparation for the Golden Spike Ceremony, will now take more of a back seat to the Roundhouse & rolling stock work.

Annual Museum Banquet

It's that time of year again - time for the annual banquet! Some of the details have been set, like the place, menu & price, but some other details, such as the speaker, are still in flux. The banquet will happen at Leventi's on Route 6 in Columbia on Sunday February 1, 2004 at 2pm. The menu will be a choice of Prime Rib, Stuffed Chicken or Baked Scrod. All this for only \$22 per person, which includes tax & tip. If you'll be attending, please call Jeff Laverty and let him know. You can reach Jeff at 860-429-7961.

Member's Meeting Entertainment is Back!

As you will see later in this issue, we'd like to start having regular entertainment again at each Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday of the month). For January, Bob LaMay will be presenting a retrospective of work as it was progressing at the Museum. Bob will be covering 1991 to 2000 in his presentation (see Bob's story for details). For February, Tom Nanos will be presenting some of his color and black & white photography, showing the more artistic side of New England Railroad. For March, we are currently working on another slide show - stay tuned for details. Be sure to come down to the Membership Meeting and enjoy the shows! Remember, this is open to the public, so if you know someone who would enjoy these shows, be sure to bring them down!

Ghost Train Journal Printing Schedule

As you can probably tell, we're still tweaking the printing & mailing schedule for the Ghost Train Journal. We'd like to adjust it so that you have the most current issue in time for the Buisness Meetings each month. Hopefully in the next few months, we'll make this a reality. Watch your mailbox!

Thanks for reading!
-Tom Nanos & Bob LaMay

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

Building a Railroad Museum 1991 to October 2000 Part 1

Article and photos by Robert A. LaMay

The work of building the railroad museum at the Columbia Junction site goes back to 1991. It was late 1991 and early 1992 that countless hours were spent literally

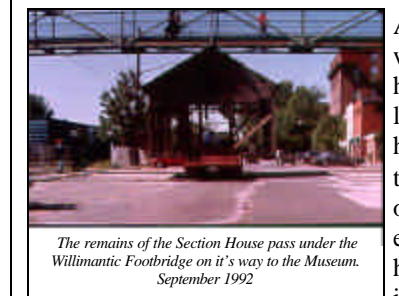


The re-construction of the Columbia Junction Roundhouse begins. May 2000

climbing through thick brush uncovering various evidence that some sort of railroad building or buildings existed. This took place on the site of what makes up the Columbia Junction Village area at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum today.

Since those early beginnings I've been involved in doing lots of photography. This consisted of various activities and events that took place. Other

members were also involved in this process. For the past few weeks I've been reviewing and sorting all these photos and color slides to put in some sort of historical order.



The remains of the Section House pass under the Willimantic Footbridge on it's way to the Museum. September 1992

At first it was very hard to really comprehend what this group of dedicated members had to face in those early formative years. What started as the Railroad Museum of New England evaporated

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All Roundhouse Windows Have Been Sold!!!

Well, I guess that's pretty much it - all the Roundhouse Windows have been sold - even the two round windows in the gable ends! Thanks to everyone who either found people to purchase the windows, or actually purchased windows themselves! And also, thanks to Adrian Atkins for arranging the sale of the two round windows - one to Savings Institute and the other to O.L. Willards. Of course, a huge thank you goes out to those two local businesses for stepping up and purchasing the final two windows!

All of the remaining windows have been ordered from the manufacturer, and once they come in, we'll be looking for volunteers to help in the installation, trim-out, and painting of the windows and jambs. Keep checking the *Ghost Train Journal* for more details when that happens!

2004 Museum Brochures

Haven't been to a meeting in a while? If you have, you've seen what next year's color brochure will look like! If not, below is a view of the cover of the new 2004 Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum color brochure. They will be going to the printers the week of January 12, 2004, and will be done in time for the Amherst Railway Society's Big Train Show at the Big E on February 7th and 8th.



M.O.W Story Continued

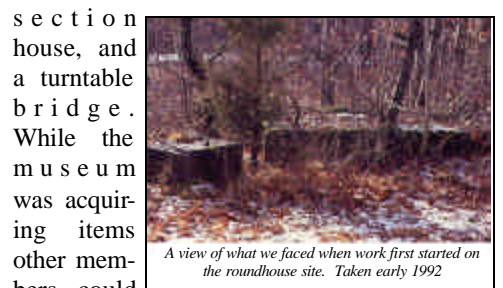
quickly due to numerous reasons and the infant footings of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society were born shortly there after?



The Groton Freight House prior to it's move to the Museum. The Gold Star Bridge is visible in the back ground. November 1997

It was during these early years the museum started to build its rolling stock inventory and got various his-

torical buildings moved to the museum. Examples of acquisition items would be a 45 ton locomotive, a box car, a flat car, a wooden baggage car, a wooden passenger car, a dilapidated



A view of what we faced when work first started on the roundhouse site. Taken early 1992

section house, and a turntable bridge. While the museum was acquiring items other members could be found spending weekends for the next eight years clearing brush, cutting down trees, cleaning debris out of the six inspection pits of what used to be the Columbia Junction Roundhouse site.

I've recently prepared a two part slide show which shows the chronological history of what took place at the museum site. Part 1 will cover the time frame 1992 to October 2000. Part two to be shown at a later date will cover the time frame Nov 2000 to October 2003.

Please attend to see this show which will literally show us where our roots come from.



Trackwork along the Air Line. As you can see, there was nothing when we got here. Fall 1994

Museum Membership Meeting Entertainment

January 2004 - 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.

February 2004 - Slide show by Tom Nanos - "An Artistic Look at Southern New England Railroad" Tom will explore the artistic side of railfan photography, ranging from roster shots to different angles and sightlines, showing railroading around New England in a different light. Tom will present his photography, consisting of both color and black & white slides, to the members.

March 2004 - Entertainment is to be announced in the next issue of the *GTJ*.

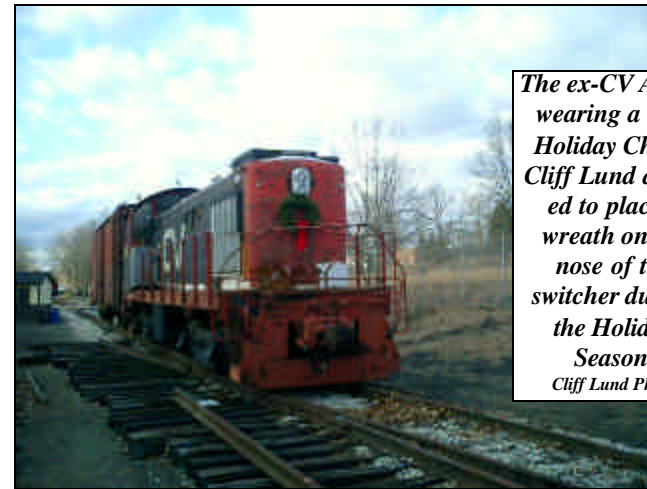
Have any suggestions for entertainment at the Membership Meetings? Drop us a line and let us know, we'll look into it and try to arrange it!



Photos From Around The Museum

Misc. Members' Photos

Photos from around the Museum taken by some of the members



The ex-CV Alco is wearing a little Holiday Cheer! Cliff Lund decided to place a wreath on the nose of the switcher during the Holiday Season. Cliff Lund Photo



A later view of the Alco after Cliff has been doing some more paint stripping and some repainting. Rich Cizik Photo

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!

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...



The museum's ex-Pfizer SW-8 during one of the snow storms we've been hit with this winter. Rich Cizik Photo

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, Jan 18th @ 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