

More From The 2nd Annual CERM Night Photo Shoot

Photo by Robert A. LaMay



Tom Nanos Photo



From The Editor's Desk

This issue will have, for a change of pace, more text than photos. Yep, the writing fingers of our members have been quite busy, and we've got a bunch of articles for your enjoyment! Here's some quick notes of what's been going on around the museum, but be sure to check out the articles!

2nd Annual Night Photo Shoot

This year's installment of the Night Photo Shoot was a huge success! We built on last year's success and learnings to bring some new and different scenes to the participating photographers. This year we were sold out with 12 paid photographers (only 11 attended - the 12th was home sick with a mild case of heat stroke), and thanks again to Mark Player of Tyngsboro, MA for providing the lighting for the evening. We ended up shooting eight different scenes around the museum that included the 25 tonner, 44 tonner, S-4, FL-9, SW-8, Railbus & speeder. Thanks to all the museum volunteers, both in costume and working behind the scenes, that made this evening possible, and also go off without a hitch. Thanks!! Also, watch the pages of *Railpace Newsmagazine* for some photos from the shoot. We're also working on getting coverage in *Railfan & Railroad* as well as *CTC Board Railroads Illustrated*. Stay tuned for more details.

CERM Concert Series

Yep, you read that right, the museum will be hosting a number of concerts this summer! They will be held on Thursday and Saturday evenings during July. Don't worry, we won't conflict with the hugely successful Third Thursday Street Festival. Some tentative bands

include Tara's Thistle and The Screwdrivers. Thanks to Ray Axelrod for pulling this together! Contact Ray directly for more information on the concerts, or if you'd like to help out in any way.

Next Month's Ghost Train Journal

Watch for coverage of the NERCA speeder ride from three different perspectives - Bob LaMay presents them arriving at the museum Saturday night (along with coverage of the *Ghosts of Windham*), Jeff Laverty pens his experience riding in one of the speeders on Sunday, and Tom Nanos provides the perspective from a Sunday morning chase between Willimantic and New London.

Thanks for reading & enjoy the issue!
-Tom Nanos & Bob LaMay

Museum Opens for 2005 Season

By Robert A. LaMay

The Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum opened its gates at 10AM for its 2005 season on Saturday May 7, 2005. Weather didn't favor our opening, as it was overcast, cloudy, rainy, and cold. However this didn't dampen the spirits of members who had some indoor work to do in the roundhouse. Railroad ties were put in place at the entrance to Inspection Pit number 5. Through the efforts of Adrian Atkins, MacClains Trucking of Glastonbury, Conn. donated numerous rubber railroad crossing plates and various other timbers. Adrian Atkins delivered them to the museum on May 7, 2005.

Around noon time the museums first visitors of the 2005 season arrived. They were Mr. Doue LaVoie and his wife Terry, both from Windham Center. I escorted both around the museum grounds. Doue told me that they had been to the museum approximately six years earlier and could believe how much progress had been achieved. He also told me that when he was

younger he used to play in the area close by but doesn't recall seeing the roundhouse. After an informative tour Doue and Terry left the museum very happy.

Boston Bridge Turntable's Journey

By Jean Lambert

The turntable bridge located at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum has quite a history and has been on a journey of its' own. When I learned that the turntable located at our museum might have been in Dudley, Mass., it peaked my interest. I had lived in Dudley, Mass. until the age of 11.

Since the summer of 2004 I visited the old B&A Depot site numerous times. Ray Axelrod was invited to go along on one of my trips. While in Dudley we walked the entire site. We also took numerous photos and found the probable location where our turntable bridge came from. It was what used to be a turntable pit complete with stones still in place. Later that same summer the president of the P&W Fan Club visited our museum and was given a complete tour.

Calendar of Events

- Jun 26** Membership Meeting
- Jul 10** Buisness Meeting
- Jul 24** Membership Meeting
- Aug 7** Buisness Meeting
- Aug 21** Membership Meeting

The P&W Fan Club president had been tracing the history of the two turntables that used to be in service in Massachusetts. One was sixty feet and the other was a one hundred feet. The one hundred foot was scrapped with her identification numbers.

Since than we have been in contact with each other and this is what we've able to find out about our turntable. The Boston Bridge Works built the sixty-foot turntable around the turn of the century. The turntable left Dudley, Mass. sometime in 1952 and was moved to Bellows Falls, Vermont. It remained there from 1952 to 1955. A private collector from Rutland, Vermont purchased the turntable. A short time

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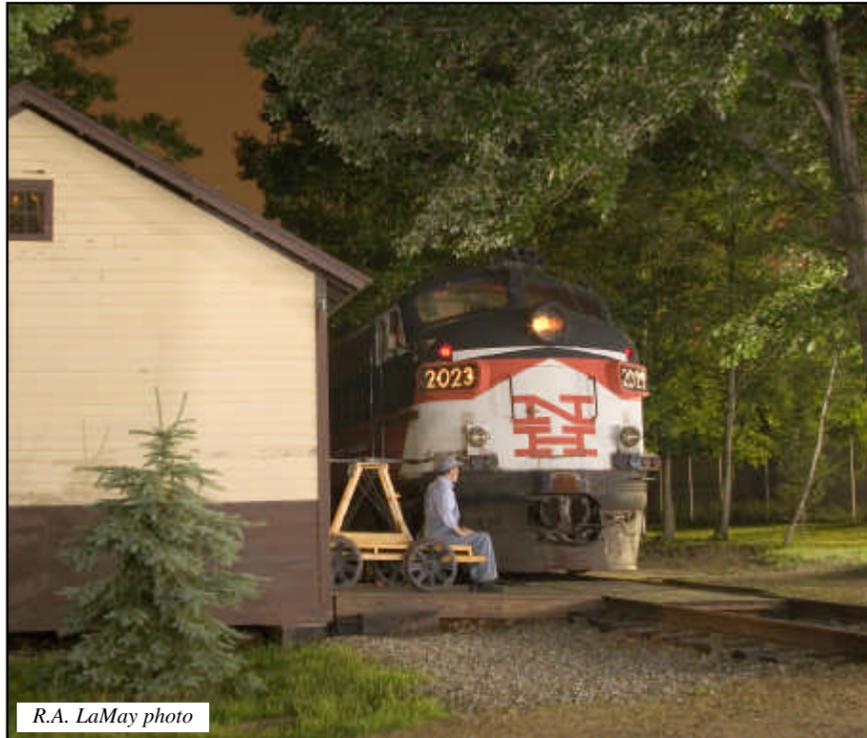


Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

2nd Annual Night Photo Shoot



Thomas J. Nanos photo



R.A. LaMay photo



Thomas J. Nanos photo



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

later this new owner died. At some undetermined time the turntable ended up at the Edaville Railroad in South Carver, Massachusetts. It sat here for about fifteen years and was finally sold when Edaville was selling off much of its rolling stock and equipment. It was purchased and transported to our museum in 1994.

The museum's 2005 goals call for the restoration and installation of this manually operated wrought iron turntable bridge.

Connecticut Eastern Assists Hebron Lions

By Robert A. LaMay
Photos by author

Sometime in January 2005 a serious vandalism event destroyed and seriously damaged a number of buildings at the Hebron Lions Park located in Hebron, Connecticut. For those familiar with Lions Park, it is the home for the famed Hebron Harvest Fair held in early September each year. Much of the proceeds received are turned back to numerous charitable organiza-



tions each year. This will have a serious impact on that goal. The Hebron Lions is looking for help in anyway from anyone who has any skill that can be used to help rebuild.

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, June 26th @ 7:00 PM. Please note: The monthly business meeting will be held on July 10th at the same location. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Since the Hebron Lions has helped us by providing us a booth at the Hebron Harvest Fair, it was fitting for us to help them by showing our appreciation. So, on a very cold and windy May 25th evening eleven members from the Connecticut Eastern Museum gathered at Lions Park. We were given various tasks, which were completed proficiently. We applied two coats of white paint inside the newly constructed crafts building. Our next assignment consisted of moving numerous pieces of furniture from a building that will be rebuilt.

After we completed what had to be done we were treated to an excellent sit down dinner inside one of the tents on the premises. The meal consisted of pasta salad, hot dog and roll, splendid homemade chili, beverage, and dessert



Members who attended this work session were; Jean Lambert, Stu Coleman, Bob LaMay, Jerry Griffin, Mark Granville, Dick Arnold, Bill Mahanchi, Jeff Laverty, Adrian Atkins, Bob Hassett, and Howard Raphaelson.



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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