



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Security Enhancements Discussed



Dean Johnson (l) and Bob Hassett discuss upcoming security enhancements at the museum inside a warm section-house by the warm pot bellied stove. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Ground Hogs Make their Appearance



Local ground hogs Bob Hassett (L) and Rolf Johnson make their appearance to see their shadows. Also notice how much snow has left the scene (See photo Center Page 2). (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

04/19/2015 – Combined Monthly Business & Membership Meeting – Windham Hospital
05/02/2015 – Metal Fest 2015 – Museum Opens for 2015 Season
05/03/2015 - Monthly Business Meeting – 7PM – Windham Hospital
05/17/2015 – Monthly Membership Meeting – Windham Hospital – 7:00PM

The Ghost Train Journal

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Monthly Membership Meetings
3rd Sunday each month.
NOTE – Combined Meeting
Sunday, April 19, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Windham Hospital
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

Museum Opens 05/02/2015

While we are thinking about where to put all this snow please remember opening day is less than two months away.

Two big events are planned so far this year with others in the works. Please keep an eye on our Face Book page for all the updated photos and announcements. No, you don't need to a member to see Facebook – just Google 'Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum' and it will direct you to the right place. Keep checking for photo updates and other info.

Also please remember our museum is only as good as its members. If you have any special skills you'd like to share please contact us. The more help we get the smoother our events will go. So, when you want to be a part of railroad history in any capacity, stop by, check us out, and get on track to give us your expertise. – Editor

This is it – we are less than 2 months away from opening day. We will everyone to help us to another successful opening day. This starts our 2015 season – let's try to make it better than last year. Food and drink available for purchase, a music venue is being planned as I write this. The blacksmiths will be coming to show us and demonstrate what they can make and do. The Rutland Caboose #40 will be open so all can see what railroading was like when the caboose was the command post on every long haul and way freight that travelled the rails all over the US. Come and see the great progress on the CV #4052 caboose, it is nearing completion. Trains will

Spring 2015

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rides will once again be making tracks to Bridge St. and back. So come on down and volunteer some time, come share your special skills with us, no matter the level. The museum is only as good as its members. Please come on down, be a part of railroad history. We'd love to see you.



Think we had enough snow?? Here Bob Hassett is digging a path for the 25 Ton Locomotive. He may make it by opening day! (R.A. LaMay Photo)



During the days we couldn't get to the museum we worked on reviewing & sorting through a donated collection. Shown left to right – Bob LaMay, Cliff Lund, Bob Hassett, Adrian Atkins, Rolf Johnson, and Jean-Paul Violette... See article in this issue. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Anybody seen the Air Line tracks recently? Remember to stop by Opening Day – May 2nd and you should see these tracks for yourself. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Remember – Metalfest – Saturday May 2, 2015. The snow will be gone. The coals will be hot! The blacksmiths will be busy. Come see the work! (R.A. LaMay Photo)

The Ghost Train Journal



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Would you believe this is the first day of Spring??? Who would have think? (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Look at Rolf Johnson's lips – you can almost hear him say under his breath – A Happy Fine Spring to You Too!!! (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Ok, Now I see where our turntable went! At least we can see it now. Think the snow will be gone by opening day? (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



To the left – this photo Shows the progress on our Central Vermont caboose number 4052.

Robert A. LaMay Photo



'Lil Tigger' waits for warmer days. In a few more weeks I'll be taking museum visitors for train rides. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

Spring 2015

The Ghost Train Journal



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Historic Paperwork

By Adrian Atkins

One of the Chapter's objectives is to 'Preserve Railroad History.' While we are doing pretty well at this in some areas, we have not been doing much with the old musty paperwork trail. Through the years we have received many donations of old records, photos, and other historic documentation. They are coming out of damp and musty attics, basements, and garages with the appropriate odors. We do not have them in a climate controlled facility to properly safeguard the artifacts and we will not have these at any time in the foreseeable future. This means we are going to permit them to self destruct while in our possession.

While many of us have tried to do something in the past, Bob Hassett decided this situation needed to be managed now! He also decided that with the weather being what was (this) winter; it might be good idea to have the week-day crew tackle this project. Cliff Lund made arrangements that we could utilize the warm conference room at Sumner & Sumner to work on this project.

Bob Hassett arranged to have Laura Smith, Archivist with the UCONN Library, meet with us for a crash course on preserving historical records. She suggested starting a CERM Collection at the Dodd Research Center. She would sort out what we gave her and preserve those items and return the unwanted material to us. We could add to this collection as time goes on, but we could not take anything back once it was donated. At the time, we had 3 trunkfuls of old paperwork from the Plainfield area.

The topic was discussed at our General Business Meeting on March 3, 2015, and it was decided to follow the suggestions laid out by Laura Smith, regarding the subject of starting a CERM Collection. This way the material will be preserved for all interested parties.

We are now preparing the material for the initial donation. This is from materials we have at the museum. In the future we will examine materials stored at the Windham Textile & History Museum. We also have materials graciously stored in member's homes, attics, cellars and other outbuildings. If you have materials please contact Bob Hassett at 860-989-6029. We need to preserve the material but also make it readily available

Spring 2015

for the public who maybe be working on various research projects involving our museum.

Laura has offered to attend one of our meetings and describe the Dodd Research Center operation and discuss how we can best match our areas of expertise. Bob is arranging this schedule.



Museum Opens
Saturday – May 2, 2015
10AM – 4PM
Come One – Come ALL
Be a Part of Railroading History



Here is an interesting angle inside the New Haven Railroad Section-house. Here we see Dean Johnson (L) discussing security system enhancements with Bob Hassett (R), and Rolf Johnson (Center). (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



I purchased a 35mm slide at the Jersey Central Railroad show – it shows Rutland RR Caboose #28 at Steamtown at Scranton, PA. Built in 1920 and is 3" shorter than the number 40. Also note the truss rods and the logo 'Route of the Whippet'.