

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

New Look at Bridge St. Entrance



On the right is Paula Stahl, Chairwoman of the Windham Planning Commission, along with Mark Granville and Duke York look on as a new garden is installed at the museum's Bridge St. entrance. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

National NRHS Pres. & VP Visit CERM



National NRHS President Greg Molloy and Dr. Barry Smith Senior Vice President visited our museum on 4/18/09.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 5/17/09 - Monthly membership meeting Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 5/28/09 - State Show to Hebrew Historical Soc. 7:30PM - Old Town Hall
- 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 - details inside

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

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The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on

**Sunday, May 17, 2009 @
7:00 PM**

Please note this will be a combined business and membership meeting at the Windham Memorial Hospital at 7:00 PM.

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 Showing Signs of Improvement

By Janet Atkins

When you come to the museum please be sure to look carefully at the parking lot when you park your vehicle. This spring we are really beginning to see signs of the work of the last two years. The deer are still a problem with some of the plants and are safe in other locations but we are determined and will pursue.

We are still in need of some plants. If you know anyone with excess Russian Sage we would really like to add this colorful and spreading plant. Contact Janet Atkins (860-423-5930) with ideas and plant stock materials. There may be some loss of the evergreens brought in from a construction site but we will give them more time. The euonymus seems to have wintered well and should bring us some brilliant color in the fall. Special thanks to Patricia Jurovaty for all the time and talent she has shared with us. The last few weeks she, Walt Dumas, and Adrian Atkins have spruced up the area. Enjoy!

Train Show Door Prize Winner

Robert Winkler of Vernon, CT won the family pass to the Valley Railroad in Essex, CT.

Spring 2009

Chapter Leadership

President	Mark Granville mfgranville@charter.net 860-456-3956
Vice President	Duke York 860-423-1878
Treasurer	Jeff Laverty jeffr@cshore.com 860-429-7961
Asst-Treasurer	Gordon Key 860-642-7886
Secretary	Bill Robinson wer384@att.net 860-456-4903
National Director	Ray Axelrod 860-228-3197
Newsletter Editor –	Robert A. LaMay Cermf19@comcast.net 860-228-9671

Museum Website -
www.cteastrrmuseum.org.



Pat Jurovaty works in one of the many gardens in our parking lot. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

NRHS Visits Museum

By Jean Lambert

On April 17, 2009 a Peter Pan bus pulled into the village area of the museum. This was part of the Spring 2009 Board of Directors Meeting held in Norwalk, CT. In the group that toured our museum were National NRHS President Greg Molloy, Dr. Barry Smith, Senior Vice-

President, and Connecticut Western Chapter President Buck Neulinger and his wife. Other people in the group were from New Jersey, PA, and WA. Mr. Edward M. Berntsen, North-Western Regional Vice-President from Gig Harbor, WA. was also with the group.



Western Connecticut Chapter President Buck Neulinger and his wife, Janet visited our museum. (Jean Lambert Photo)



Member Jeff Laverty gives a talk to our NRHS visitors during the tour. (Photo by Jean Lambert)



Members Jamie Key and Bob Hassett sell museum items to NRHS visitors. (Photo by Jean Lambert)



Our two Central Vermont cabooses are now inside the roundhouse. The 4052 is being restored while the 4029 awaits its turn. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Recently a few members visited the Connecticut Electric Railway at Warehouse Point, CT. Shown here inside one of their trolley cars. (CER Photo by Frank Rossano)



Dick Arnold operates the interlock levers inside the South Norwalk Tower Museum on a recent NRHS trip. (Photo by Bill Kronis)



One of the visiting blacksmiths did some demonstrations on the making of horseshoes. (Thomas Nanos Photo)



Carolyn Stanich is applying the final coat to our baggage cart inside the Groton Freight House. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Opening Day 5/2/09

Museum Opening Day turned to be a real success with numerous blacksmiths attending, strolling musicians, pump car and diesel cab rides were offered. There was a large turnout making this a real success.



To help with safety at the museum, rubber crossing pads are being installed in front of the roundhouse. (Photo by Thomas Nanos.)

Night Photo Shoot

June 13, 2009 in museum village area – please see website for more details or Tom Nanos at tomnanos@sbcglobal.net for further information. Each year as the museum expands there are many new photo opportunities.

Spring 2009



Carol Laverty takes care of the snack and beverage table opening day at the museum. (Jean Lambert Photo)



And the band played on the platform of the Groton Freight House. (Jean Lambert Photo)

NRHS Grand Central Terminal Tour – Part 1

By Ray Axelrod

Saturday, April 18, 2009, Chapter members Bob Hassett, Dick Arnold, Bill Kronis, and Ray Axelrod went on the NRHS Spring Board of Directors Meeting trip to Grand Central terminal in New York City. Setting out at 5:20AM, we drove down to Norwalk to catch a train at the MNR Merritt-7 railroad station, which is on the Danbury Line.

After a short ride on the Danbury Line behind a new Brookville BL20 #130 we transferred to a GCT Express at South Norwalk (SONO). After arriving at GCT around 10:00AM we were met by our tour guide. He went on to tell us about the history of the three stations that resided on this site. Grand Central which is the third certainly is the grandest of all.

We went on to learn that the Vanderbilts liked to build things for the ages, which is why this grand depot was built in large part of Tennessee Marble and handles hundreds of trains on a total of 67 tracks (41 on the upper level and 26 on the lower level.) Today this terminal handles hundreds of commuter trains every day. Long distance trains used to operate here at one time. We got a good idea as to what this station was before it was redeveloped for its air rights. Our guide shared many of the details of the extensive renovation that took place 12-15 years ago. The 100 foot high ceiling that features the night sky as God would have seen it from his vantage point, was not visible for over 50 years or more because it was blackened by what, when chemically analyzed, turned out to be the buildup of tar and nicotine.

We then walked around and got a brief view of the Campbell Vanderbilt apartment that had been a drinking salon for a rich friend of the Vanderbilt's to entertain and do business in. It contained two wine cellars during prohibition. Then going to the upper level we crossed the glass lined catwalk (this allowed more light into the concourse area. We were also given a tour of the Williamson Library, which is an archive of railroad publications, NYC memorabilia, etc. collected during the 1930's by New York Central President Williamson. Today it continues with the help of the MTA and is run/hosted by the New York Railroad Enthusiasts group. After this it was time to break for lunch. (Read Part 2 in the next GTJ)

Spring 2009



Our annual Metal Fest which featured many local blacksmiths was again held opening day of our 2009 season. Visitors saw many of these 'Smithys' demonstrate their skills. Seeing this event made it feel like what was like back in the 1800's. (Jean Lambert Photo)

New Acquisition....



A Model 14 Fairmont Speeder, from the Narragansett Pier Railroad, built around 1939 was donated to the museum by Mr. Stuart Sherman of Wakefield, RI. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Notice of Interest

Come on down – we now offer pump car rides and diesel cab rides! Come down and get an engineers view from the cab!



Robert A. Lamoureux, Scoutmaster, along with 5 other chaperons, brought 11 Boy Scouts to the museum to earn credit towards their Railroading merit badge. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Work continues on the installation of the rubber crossing pads in front of roundhouse. (Robert A. laMay Photo)