

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Photo Shoot – A Success



During the night photo shoot member Rich Cizik got the sparks so hot they began to really dance during the exposure. Lighting by Steve Berry-Editor R&R Magazine. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

## Mass Bay RRE Excursion Arrives



Mass Bay RRE 'Willimantic Special' led by P&W number 2011 crosses Bridge St. as it arrives at Willimantic, CT. The trip proved so popular another section operated on Sunday 10/14/12. (Jim Poor Photo)

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 11/4/2012 – Monthly business meeting 7PM Windham Memorial Hospital
- 11/17/2012 – Fall Train show at Windham – details inside
- 11/18/2012 – Monthly membership meeting 7PM Windham memorial Hospital
- 12/2/2012 – Monthly business meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital – 7:00PM
- 12/16/2012 – Monthly membership meeting – Windham Memorial Hospital – 7:00PM



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A combined business & membership meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on **Sunday, November 18, 2012 @ 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 @cermf9@comcast.net**

## Main Street Comes to the Museum By Adrian Atkins

Main Street in Willimantic is State Highway Route 32, so the State DOT handles the maintenance of it. Recently, in two different evenings, 2” of asphalt was milled off Main St. from the Frog Bridge to City Hall. This was all resurfaced two nights later.

Joe Gardner, Windham Town Engineer, knew CERM was looking for the millings to improve the museum’s driveway. He made arrangements with the CONNDOT for the museum to receive some of the millings. One recent night the milling operation took place with work starting at sunset, and by dawn we had received 25 tri-axle truck loads of millings dumped along our driveway from Bridge St. to the blue gate. It was a long night for both me and Jeff Laverty because we had to direct the trucks and sign receipts for each load delivered.

Art Hall, Jr. provided the details on the drive-way layout and work has started on spreading the millings. With a little luck this will ultimately upgrade our driveway into an entrance boulevard to the museum. A great THANK YOU goes to Joe Gardner, Town Engineer. Hopefully, next spring we may be able

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## Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville  
mfgranville@charter.net  
860-456-3956

Vice President Duke York  
860-423-1878

Treasurer Jeff Laverty  
jeffrr@cshore.com  
860-429-7961

Asst-Treasurer Jean Lambert

Secretary Bill Robinson  
wer384@att.net  
860-456-4903

National Director Ray Axelrod  
860-228-3197

Newsletter Editor – Bob LaMay  
860-530-1278

[Cermf9@comcast.net](mailto:Cermf9@comcast.net)

## Museum Website -

[www.cteastrrmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org)

to get some more millings when the next phase takes place from City Hall to Friendly’s at the junction of Routes 32 and 66.



IN this photo we see Adrian Atkins working on a section where the ‘Main St. Millings’ are being spread. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

## Update – Niantic River Draw-Bridge By Adrian Atkins

Years ago member Rich Cizik discovered that Amtrak was going to replace the famous Niantic River Draw-bridge. It was found that we could apply for salvage rights to selected items under the State Historic preservation Program. This was a cause for a ‘road trip to Niantic.’

We selected several items such as the builder’s plate, drive sprocket and some chain links from the lifting mechanism. Why not think bigger? We asked for the operators control room and its structural sub-structure. The building measures 14’ x 28’ which should prove to be an exciting moving job. The roof will need to be removed during the move for clearance reasons.

Peter Finch of Amtrak along with personnel from General Contractor, Cianbro Middlesex, has been very cooperative. They will take the roof off, transport the building to the museum and provide a crane to unload materials. The good news – at no cost to the museum.

We will re-erect this structure on site within view of the Gallows Signal. The delivery is planned to be somewhere between the end of October and the beginning of November.

During my many visits to Niantic we discussed the track and ties on the old bridge. Net result is that the contractor donated all track, guard rails and ties to us. They have provided trucks, personnel and even cranes to unload this material at the museum. We now have all the approach span materials. The materials on the actual bascule section of the bridge have not been removed yet. Since we cannot get the materials into the museum the sections have been removed outside the gate along our right-of-way. Check out the mountain of materials along our drive the next time you visit the museum. The bridge ties are 10” x 13” and are 10’

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long. While the rail is 140lb and the guard rail is 107lb. More to come!



Personnel from Cianbro Middlesex unload Niantic Draw-bridge track panels along our driveway. More material will be arriving soon. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

## 2013 Dues Renewals

**Mark Granville**

If you have looked at your NRHS membership renewals, you may have noticed that the space for a charter donation is missing. There are two lines for 'Rail Camp Scholarships' instead. I am sure you are planning to join me in making a generous donation to the chapter and are wondering how to do it.

- 1 – Write a separate check, or
- 2 - Write the amount of your chapter donation in the box labeled- "This box intentionally left blank" or
- 3 – Cross out one of the boxes labeled 'Rail Camp Scholarships' and put your chapter donation amount in that box.



Full Train at bridge St. Now to take the bus!  
(Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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44 ton number 0800 passes tack panels from the Niantic River Draw-bridge on its way to Bridge St. when the Mass Bay RRE visited the museum. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



We are your Crew fo rthe Day – Please and ride our train! L to R – Paul Shamonis III, Rolf Johnson, Tom Schubert, and Rich Cizik. Crew waits for Mass Bay RRE passengers. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

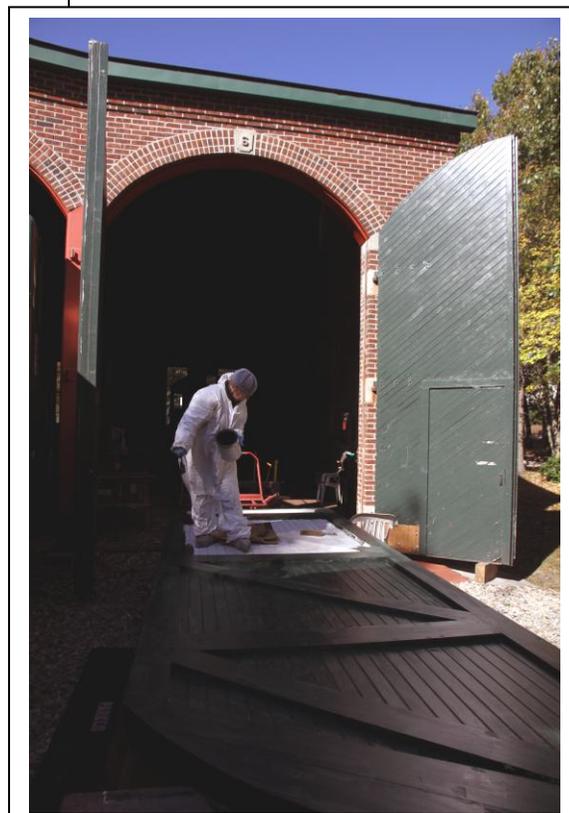
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Member Ton Schubert swings lantern during a photo set-up at the West Crossing with FL9 number 2023 during the Night Photo Session. Lighting provided by Steve Berry – Editor R&R Magazine. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Member Carolyn Stanich puts final coat of paint on new prototype door. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Sat – 10/13/12 Rolf Johnson was engineer of the 25 ton when it met the Mass Bay RRE Willimantic Special at Bridge St. Here he waits to receive orders from conductor before proceeding back to the museum. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



On Sunday 10/14/12 the museum's 44 ton powered the excursion train that met the Mass Bay RRE Willimantic Special at Bridge St. Here the crew waits on the ground as the special arrives. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)