



Tom Nanos Photo

What's New at the Museum

This is where you can find up to date news about what's happened the past month at the Museum, as well as tid-bits about future activities.

Buildings & Restoration

Freight House: Painting continues. Plan to complete west end by the Golden Spike Ceremony

Boy Scouts: Greg Thibodeau is doing his Eagle Project at the museum. He is cleaning brush, organizing track parts and painting the shed behind the roundhouse.

Four more roundhouse windows have been painted inside. Also electricity has been brought into the roundhouse, saving time and increasing safety.

Train Show

The Fall Train & Die Cast Toy Show date has been finalized! The show will take place on Sunday December 7, 2003 from 10am to 3pm. This year it will be at Windham Middle School on 123 Quarry Street in Willimantic, CT. Admission will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for Senior Citizens over 62, \$1 for children from 8-12, and all children under 8 are FREE! Also for kids for 8 and over, we will have a Make & Take Boxcar Clinic, where the kids will put together, and get to keep a boxcar! The cost of this clinic is included in the admission price.

Fall Foliage Excursion

As of the October 5th meeting, there were only 50 seats left on the excursion! If you're planning on joining us, you'd better contact Veronica soon! You can contact her at her place of business (Baseline Graphics) 401-568-6202. If there's nobody there, leave a message she'll get back to you!

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

Rail Fanning at Amtrak's Rensselaer Maintenance Facility

Article and photos by Jack Kreeger

Tom Nanos and I met Bob LaMay at his house at 07:30 on Saturday, March 8, 2003. This was the beginning of what

turned out to be a long day of rail fanning. Bob had made prior arrangements for our visit to the Rensselaer Locomotive Maintenance Facility. We

first went to Selkirk to take some pictures and revisit a popular rail fanning area. This is reported in another article.



This photo shows just a couple of the latest locomotives serviced at Rensselaer.

We arrived at Rensselaer at about 11:30. First order of business was to go into the shop and meet with Mr. Jim Shelgren, General Foreman - Mechanical. Jim was off premises and was due back shortly. In the meantime we met with Mr. Tom Bridgeford, one of the shop engineers. Since Bob had been here on numerous occasions, he had no problem in granting permission. Tom then took us to the safety crib and introduced us and got us set up with safety helmets. After this he turned us loose to photograph anything we wanted to.

On our way out to the yard we were briefed on yard safety by Bob and then we were on our own. I saw one of the two rebuilt Turbo trains over to the left and headed in that direction. Bob and Tom headed off in the direction of something that caught their eye and we were off and running. After getting my photos of the outside of the Turbo Liner, I climbed up inside through an open door in the power car and got some interior shots of the control console as well as the interiors of other cars in the trains consist. It appears that each train is made up the same way. The train has five cars and is symmetrical about the center car. This is the café car. The focal

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The Golden Spike Ceremony



The Details

Sunday October 26, 2003

Article by Tom Nanos

Here we are, now a scant few days away from our Golden Spike Ceremony, and we're about ready to go!

By now you should have received a phone call from one of the Golden Spike Committee members, and hopefully you can lend a hand on the 26th. Even if you can't, it would be great to see some of you down at the museum to help us celebrate this historic event - the joining of the rails from inside the museum to Bridge Street!

The day will feature not only the joining of the rails from Bridge Street to the already established main within the museum fence, but will also include a host of activities, displays and demonstrations. Here's what's planned for the afternoon:

- * Constant guided museum tours
- * Museum volunteers will be stationed, in era costume, at certain pre-determined points around the museum to give a more historic view of railroad operations as they were.
- * All of our locomotives and rolling stock will be on display.
- * The Model T&A Club will have their Model T's and Model A's on display. They will also be offering rides in these fine antique vehicles!
- * Mountain Dairy will have their antique Milk Delivery Truck on display

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Golden Spike Ceremony Continued

- * Photos in the cabs of our locomotives will be available (at a small additional charge).
- * The United States Postal Service will be cancelling a limited number of First Day Cover postcards with a commemorative Golden Spike Ceremony stamp.

Also, the first 100 paid entrants through the gate will receive a free golden spike! Speaking of paid admissions, the admission price is only \$5 for adults, and \$1 for children under 12. Gates open at 12:00 PM and the festivities continue all afternoon until 4:00 PM. The specific schedule of events will be available on the day of the event.

Now for the details that weren't in last month, specifically order and timing of the events.

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| 12:00 Noon | Gates Open |
| 1:30 PM | Golden Spike Ceremony |
| 2:30 PM | Spiking Demonstration |
| 3:00 PM | Coupling and Switching Demonstration |
| 3:30 PM | Spiking Demonstration |
| 4:00 PM | Museum Closes |

Guided tours will be starting in front of Gift Shop at 12:15PM, 12:45PM, 2:15PM, 2:45PM, and 3:15PM.

Thank you and we hope to see you all down at the Museum at the Ceremony on October 26th!

Museum Visitors Thanks

The Hartford Division of The Railroad Enthusiasts had their picnic at the museum on July 18th. Here's an excerpt of the rave review in their newsletter:

"We defied the rain, which held off, and assembled at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum in Willimantic on July 18 for our annual picnic. We climbed aboard a variety of locomotives and coaches, inspected the roundhouse and wore off excess energy pumping the hand truck...Several museum members were present to see that things went smoothly and to serve as guides around the collection. This was our first visit to the museum but we expect to return."

Calendar of Events

- Oct 10-12 Walking Weekend
- Oct 11 CV Historical Society visits Museum
- Oct 15 Natchaug School's Field Trip
- Oct 18 Fall Foliage Excursion
- Oct 19 Membership Meeting
- Oct 26 *Our Golden Spike Ceremony*
- Nov 2 Business Meeting
- Nov 14 Goods & Services Auction.
- Nov 16 Membership Meeting
- Dec 7 CERM Train Show

Natchaug School Field Trip Help Needed!

Wednesday October 15th, the Natchaug School will be visiting the Museum on a Field Trip (this will be their 3rd year!). We are expecting 40 to

50 escorted children on that day. What we need is some members to come down to help out with guiding the children around on tours. Each tour group will be about 12 children with 3-4 adult chaperones from the school. The group will be at the museum at about 9:30 am. If you can help out, contact Mark Granville at 860-456-3956

Entertainment Book Sales For Museum Fundraising

To help out with the museum finances, we will be selling the Entertainment Coupon Books as a fundraiser.

What is the Entertainment Book? For each book sold by members of the museum, the museum will get to keep a portion of the sales price. We will primarily be selling the Hartford region book, which includes coupons for restaurants, supermarkets, museums, and many other area businesses! These make great gifts for friends and family, or keep it for yourself! Books for other areas of not only Connecticut, but the whole country are available - just ask!

Contact Bob Hassett at 860-742-1640 for more details and how to start selling the Entertainment Book!

M.O.W Story Continued

point of this car is a stainless steel counter in the center on one side that takes up about one third of the available space of this car. It appears by looking at the overhead menu displayed that they serve various fast food items and both cool and warm non-alcoholic drinks. The rest of the car is seating in a 2-2 arrangement. The next adjacent cars on either end are standard coaches, with 2 - 2 seating separated by a center aisle. Next and at each end are the



View of the control console of Turbo Train power car #2135

power cars. The control area and drive train take up almost half of the car. The rest is Business Class seating with 2 - 1 across seating and a noticeably wider aisle and more room between seats. All seats have a fold-up shelf built into the seat in front to hold a lap top computer, reading material or food items.

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, Oct. 19th @ 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!

After my introduction to the Turbo Liner I went off looking for more to photograph.

In the yard were many different types of motive power of which I photographed. This ranged from MP15's, used as yard switches to the latest Genesis P42-DC road locomotives used on the crack Empire Corridor trains and overnight through trains between New York, Boston and Chicago. Also stored and serviced there is various M.O.W. equipment.

We were there now for over an hour and I had lost contact with both Bob and Tom, so went looking for them. They were still together and told me that they had already covered most of the complex and were going to meet with Jim Shelgren in his office. As we passed through the shop I was impressed at how friendly everyone was. Most greeted us with a Hi, and had something pleasant to say. He asked if we were getting everything we wanted to record and told us

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M.O.W Story Continued

to let him know if we needed something moved to assist in composing a photograph.



View of seating at rear of Power Car #2135

Back down on the shop floor I was impressed by the size of the building.

There were three tracks that went through the building and each track could hold about four large locomotives with room between to move equipment around. At least one of these tracks had a pit running full length of that bay for servicing the running gear and under train appliances. These tracks were set up on pedestals to allow a man to get both under and along side of the running gear. Saturday being a catch up day it appeared that just minor repairs and thawing of undercarriages was being done both to engines and cars. This service area occupies the right side of this combination of buildings. To the right is a wash rack. While we were there a couple of engines were washed and set aside to dry off in the forty degree temperatures of that afternoon.

The left side of this same building, is isolated by a heavy fire wall, is the parts storage area. Stored here are parts and accessories used on both locomotives and cars. Stacked floor to ceiling were rack upon rack of anything from air compressors, refrigeration units, pallet after pallet of brake shoes and so on. You name it, it was there. Outside was a long loading ramp with a couple of Amtrak material handling cars loaded with parts coming in from a central parts warehouse to be unloaded.

While at Rensselaer, We got a chance to talk to some of the employees. They were a friendly group and welcomed us to their workplace. One thing comes to mind while writing this article. That is the interaction of rail fanning and trespassing. This is even more important now with 911 in the past and the constant terrorist threat we live with today. Remember at the beginning of this article I mentioned that Bob through his contacts got permission for us to enter and tour this installation.

I always make it a point to let the railroad personnel know that I will be taking pictures out on the platform or in the area photographing. I have never been refused access.

Photos From Around The Museum

Community Volunteers At The Museum



This photo shows members of Troop 1440 of Willimantic fulfilling some merit badge requirements. They first put a primer on the tool shed and then painted it bright red.

R.A. LaMay Photo

19 students from Eastern Connecticut State University came down to the museum.

Each student is to perform 8 hours of work for a non-profit entity within the City of Willimantic. Here the group carry shoulder tie plates to a location closer to the current track requirements.

R.A. LaMay Photo



Museum & Chapter Contact Information

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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

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Golden Spike Ceremony

Sunday, October 26, 2003 - 12:00 to 4:00 PM
 \$5 Admission - \$1 Under 12

First 100 In The Gate Get
A Free Golden Spike!

"Connecting The Past With The Future"



Our S-4 showing her "true colors" as the old K&L Feeds paint is stripped off by Cliff Lund, revealing the original CV noodle logo!

-Tom Nanos Photo

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum &
 Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
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