



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.

Announcements:

- * The chapter received a donation of *Trains* and *Model Railroader* magazines (1994-2000 complete) from Bill Mahanlin.
- * The chapter also received pictures of the 'Bridge Street Gallows' signal from John Ingham.
- * Windham Mills Corporation has agreed to donate 1000 ft. of track with the provision that an amicable agreement can be reached between the museum and the Rails to Trails folks.
- * The Museum announced that it will hold a Golden Spike Ceremony on October 26, 2003. This special event will run from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The day will have a special admission charge and feature numerous railroad activities. The actual ceremony will take place at 1:30pm. See the Golden Spike article for more info.
- * Veronica Trudeau sent information that the observation car for the fall excursion has been sold out, and that ticket sales are picking up.
- * A reminder from Ray Axelrod that the museum will be participating in Walking Weekend on October 12th.

Acquisitions Committee - Bill Robinson, Chairman

- * Contact was made with NECR to receive ties that are being replaced near the museum.
- * Rich Cizik is still pursuing acquiring the Conrail equipment located in Cedar Hill.
- * Dick Arnold and Ken Sigfridson are pursuing the acquisition of two cabooses located in North Canaan.
- * Dick Arnold is continuing to pursue leads for a low-boy dolly to help facilitate equipment moves.

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What's New Continued

Public Relations Committee - Bob LaMay, Chairman

- * Sent photos of tamper to Railpace magazine.
- * NERAIL Photo Archive has many photos of museum.

Mechanical Department - Bob Hassett

- * Rich Cizik announced that the ballast tamper's initial problems seem to be resolved. The motor is now running. He also called Fairmont and they are sending operating and parts manuals for the tamper.
- * Rich also conveyed that member Chad Bailey has a wrecker with a hydraulic boom and winch. Bob Hassett and Rich will follow up.
- * The electricians have made much progress with the Groton freight house electrical work.

Buildings and Restoration - Duke York

- * Dick Arnold is leading the effort of painting on the inside of the Roundhouse windows. Dick is also caulking the outside of the windows. *Much help is needed.* Discussion about window plaques followed.
- * Grade crossing timbers were laid and Adrian said that we will need additional fill.
- * Duke said that the west end of the Groton Freight House is almost done.

Miscellaneous Business

- * Tom Nanos added pictures and the Roundhouse Paver Order form to the website.
- * The 2004 calendars went to the printer.

The M.O.W.

The Member's Own Words

Parts, Parts, and More Parts

Photos and article by Robert A. LaMay

Conn. Eastern Railroad Museum received its Metro-North SPV 2000 #293 early in 2003. Originally built in 1981 the car was one of ten ordered by Metro-North Commuter Railroad. It was used primarily on commuter lines in Eastern New York; however, they did see some service in Western Conn.

Metro-North pulled the cars from service early 1993 and immediately sent them to a deadline yard at Croton-on-Hudson which lies about a mile north of Harmon, NY. It was sometimes during this period when Conn. Dept. of

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The Golden Spike Ceremony



"Connecting The Past With The Future"

Sunday October 26, 2003

Article by Tom Nanos

We are rapidly approaching one of our largest milestones in the Museum's development - the connection of the track from the village to the existing track leading to the Bridge Street area! And to celebrate the connection of this track, we are planning a gala event - the Golden Spike Ceremony! An entire day of activities centered around the actual driving of the last Golden Spike is planned.

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 cos-

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Golden Spike Ceremony Continued

tume, 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
- * 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.

Also, we need as many members as possible to come down and help out not only getting ready for the Ceremony, but also to help staff the Museum the day of the Golden Spike Ceremony. For getting ready, we've put aside two Sundays as All Member Work Days specifically to get ready for the Ceremony. These Sundays are September 21 and September 28. Come on down to the Museum and pitch in! Don't worry if you can't physically do any heavy work like tracklaying and ballast tamping - there's plenty of light work to do around the museum. From painting to picking up trash to mowing grass, there's plenty of light duty to go around.

Also, we'll need a full contingent of members at the museum to staff a variety of positions from tour guides, to merchandise sellers and much more. If you would like to help out with staffing the day of the Ceremony, contact Bill Robinson at 860-456-4903 and let him know that you want to help out. He'll fill you in on all the details.

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

CERRM At The Hebron Fair



People visit our booth at the Hebron Harvest Fair on 9/5/03
R.A. LaMay Photo

Walking Weekend 2003

Calendar of Events	
Sept 21	Work Day at the Museum Prep for Golden Spike Ceremony
Sep 21	Membership Meeting
Sep 28	Work Day at the Museum Prep for Golden Spike Ceremony
Oct 5	Buisness Meeting
Oct 10-12	Walking Weekend
Oct 11	CV Historical Society visits Museum
Oct 18	Fall Foliage Excursion
Oct 19	Membership Meeting
Oct 26	Our Golden Spike Ceremony
Nov 14	Goods & Services Auction.

Sunday October 12, 2003 will be the day that the Museum will have displays and activities to participate in Walking Weekend. Walks will be at 11am and 2pm with displays and activities by Museum members. Also, the Willimantic Fire Department will have a display of some of their fire trucks, as well as a safety trailer.

For more information on the event, or how you can help out, contact Ray Axelrod at 860-228-3197.

2003 Goods and Services Auction

We will be co-sponsoring the 2003 Goods and

Services auction with the Connecticut Textile Museum and the Windham Historical Society again this year. The auction will take place on November 14, 2003, and we are starting to look for donations from area businesses.

This event is a great fundraiser for the Museum, so any help, whether it's in gathering donations or helping out at the auction, will be appreciated.

If you know of any possible businesses, or would like to help out, please contact Ray Axelrod at 860-228-3197 with the name and location of the business. Ray can also be contacted for more information if you have any questions.

M.O.W Story Continued

Transportation - Office of Rail decided to purchase these cars for eventual rebuild into cab cars and coaches.



Museum Volunteers Bob Hassett and Dick Arnold looking over SPV parts at CDOT facility in New Haven, Conn.

When the car arrived at New Haven sometime in 1994, it had already been stripped of most of its key parts. The remaining 9 cars continued to deteriorate in yard, back in New York. They were scheduled to be scrapped and were put up for bid. The New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway won the bid. As of this writing, the cars are still in the storage yard, however, they've been made ready to travel. They should be moved to its new owner sometime in the next 60 days.

Since we received our car I've, been spending numerous hours trying to make contact with the right people so we can start getting

the parts we need. Finally, I hit pay dirt when I received the names of two key contacts. The first contact, Delaware Car Company located in Wilmington, DE. Delaware Car Company did the refurbishment for Metro-North in 1988 when MNR started having trouble operating these cars. Delaware Car Company also purchased the inventory of spare parts when the Budd Company folded. Currently, we are in contact with DCC to see what inventory items may become available.

The second key contact is the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway. They were the ones who purchased the remaining nine SPV cars from ConnDot via Metro-North early in 2003. Once the cars are moved to the new

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M.O.W Story Continued

owner will assess to see if any parts can be made available to us. Currently we are in contact with the NYS&W on an on-going basis.



This photo shows the 9 MNR SPV 2000 cars on deadline. These are due to be shipped to the NYS&W Ry.

A couple trips took place recently; one to New York to photograph various key parts missing on our SPV. Bob LaMay and Rich Cizik made the trip. A second trip was made to New Haven, Conn. to look at parts that became available from Conn. Dept. of Transportation - Office of Rail. Some key SPV parts were retrieved that day. The remaining parts will be retrieved at a later date. Bob LaMay, Bob Hassett, and Dick Arnold took this trip.

So as you can see from this article, a lot of activity takes place away from the museum grounds that makes it possible for all to see and become involved with the restoration process. The end goal is to restore a piece of equipment to its original condition.

How do I get my story in the Members Own Words section?

Well, it's quite simple! Just put together a story about anything railroad related, and send it to Tom Nanos or Bob LaMay (info below). Then we'll be sure to put it in a future issue!

Photos From Around The Museum

Getting Ready for the Golden Spike Ceremony Doing Some Trackwork



Chapter President Mark Granville working on the West Crossing
Tom Nanos Photo



Volunteer Chad Bailey spikes down some newly laid rail
R.A. LaMay Photo



Bill Nickerson adds needed pressure as Art Hall uses the air spiker along the Air Line. Walt Dumas adds his assistance as needed.
R.A. LaMay Photo



Volunteers Chad Bailey, Jeff Laverdy and Walter Dumas change a railroad tie
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

Golden Spike Volunteers Needed!

We will need as many volunteers as possible to help out with the Golden Spike Ceremony on October 26, 2003. Contact Golden Spike Ceremony Chairperson Bill Robinson if you can help out!

Also, September 21st & 28th are All Member Work Days to prepare for the Golden Spike Ceremony. There's plenty of work to do, both light and heavy, so come on down & lend a hand!



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!



We Need Volunteers For The Golden Spike Ceremony!

To help make this day a success, we need as many members to come down to the museum and help out with everything from leading tours, to selling merchandise, and much more! If you are interested in lending a hand on October 26th, contact the Golden Spike Ceremony Committee Chairman Bill Robinson at brobinson3@earthlink.net or 860-456-4903

Also September 21st and 28th are work days in preparation for the Golden Spike Ceremony. Come down & help out!

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum &
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