

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



The Farrel Railroad Crane was dismantled and moved to the museum on 1/3/07. Shown here members of the museum with the help of Ken Sigfridson and Fran Minarik prepare the crane to be taken down at Middletown, CT. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



The museum's RMC McWilliams Spot Tamper works along a new section rail under the guidance of Rich Cizik. After a long period of repairs and major part replacement the tamper worked successfully one tie at a time on 1/13/07. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 2/18/07 - Monthly Membership Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM - Formation of 2007 Committees TBA.
- 3/4/07 - Business Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 3/18/07 - Business Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM - Jeff Alson will show latest railroad related videos.
- 4/22/07 - Spring Train Show - Windham High School - 10:00AM - 3:00PM
- 5/5/07 - Museum Opens for 2007 Season - Come to Heritage MetaFest 9AM - 5PM

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

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## Annual Banquet

The Conn. Eastern annual banquet was held on Sunday January 21, 2007 at Laventi's Restaurant located in Columbia, CT. Forty-one individuals attended to what turned out to be a very interested meal and some excellent entertainment.

The meal was a sit-down, served family style. Each person had a choice of prime rib, baked stuff chicken breast, or broiled sea scallops.

After dinner, we were treated to a very interesting and excellent presentation presented by John Mrasik from Dudley, MA. He gave us a lot of historical information regarding the museum's turntable bridge. An excellent and well narrated slide show was presented by David Jodoin, a member of the P&W Fan Club. Mark Granville presented his '2006 A Year in Review' which showed many of the projects the museum worked on.



John Mrasik gave us numerous interesting facts and showed many interesting slides about the museum's turntable history. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



David Jodoin was our second guest speaker at the banquet. He presented some excellent color slides of the early New Haven RR in Eastern Conn. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

## **Turntable Bearing Assembly and Rocker Assembly assembled on Turntable Bridge.**

The year 2007 started off on a very high note at the Columbia Junction Roundhouse now that the turntable bridge bearing assembly and the rocker assembly have been installed on the bridge. Also the turntable was turned so that it is now aligned with Pit #1.



**Success at Last!!!**

All lined up and almost ready for track – (Mark Granville Photo)

Don't Forget – The Museum Opens May 5, 2007. Also the Heritage Metal Fest will be in full swing starting at 10AM!!

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be at the Windham Community Memorial Hospital located at 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT on

**Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007 @ 7:00 PM**

**Please note – monthly business meeting will be held on Mar. 4, 2007 at the same location at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.**



At the Amherst Train Show I noticed a beautifully detailed model of the museum's Chaplin Station. It was in the layout run by The Connecticut Society of Ferroequinologists and Model Railway Engineers out of Manchester, CT. (RA LaMay Photo)

## **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	Andrew Fischer 860-343-1906
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National Director	Ray Axelrod 860-228-3197
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The museum once again had a display at the 2007 Amherst Railway Soc. 'BIG' Train Show held 1/27 & 1/28/2007. (RA LaMay Photo)

## Smithy's Rule the Rails in Boston

Rich Cizik e-mailed me an article he found published by Mac Daniel, Staff Writer for the Boston Globe. Here are some excerpts from that article....

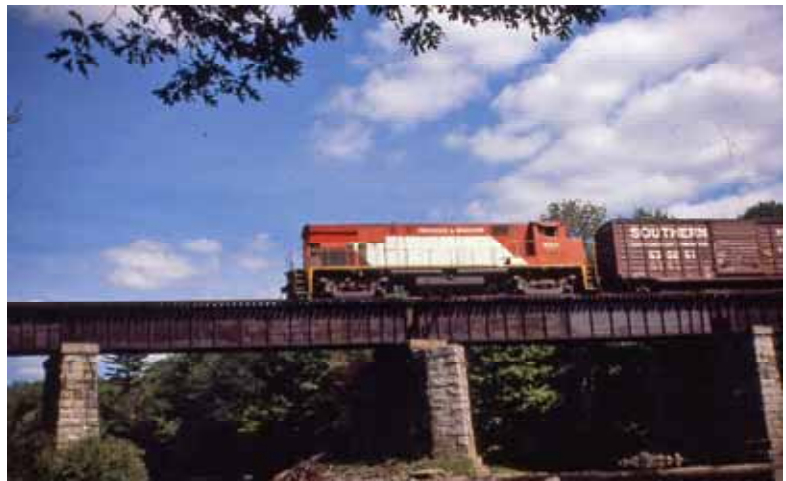
'Working amid roaring furnaces and rusty anvils at the MBTA's Everett, MA. facility, blacksmiths forge hot steel into switch stands, pole clamps, shepherd sticks, and other spare parts that long ago stopped being manufactured. These individuals are the MBTA's six blacksmiths, all working harder than ever to keep Boston's aging trains, trolleys, and buses running.

History tells that the MBTA got rid of its blacksmiths while trying to save costs. Over the following five years, however, they were hired back, their jobs too important to the health of the 110 year old system.

They continue to use equipment that hasn't changed much in centuries. Their desks are blast furnaces that can reach 2,300 degrees. The shops air-power hammer, which can flatten hot steel, dates from the 1950's.

The T blacksmiths are members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, who in the mid 1980's represented 33,850 workers. But much of that work has gone overseas. At the 2001 convention that number was down to 1,800. These craftsmen are still in use today and are referred to as 'Metal Draftsmen.'

Winter 2007



P&W MLW units leads eastbound local across the Willimantic River on its way to Willimantic, CT when it first started operating in this area. In the early 1980's. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Twenty-five years later on 1/25/07 another P&W train arrives at Willimantic, CT. This time in the form of a two locomotive test train. Willimantic should once again hear the sounds of another railroad coming to town. (Photo by Thomas Nanos)

## The Blacksmith's Are Coming

Don't forget May 5, 2007, when we will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Heritage Metal Fest. Featuring regional demonstrators of various metalworking techniques including: Blacksmithing, Pewtersmithing, Engraving, etc. from 9AM to 5PM. Check website for details.

## Membership Renewals

Renewals were mailed out in December. If you didn't receive your packet, call Bill Robinson at 860-456-4903. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please do so soon. Also please don't forget that Special donation to the Chapter this year.

## Committee Groups for 2007

Committees and work groups are the lifeblood of our organization. Please consider joining one or more of these groups listed below. A general sign-up will take place at the February 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. If you can't attend, but want to sign up, please call Mark Granville at 860-456-3956.

**Acquisitions** – responsible for searching out new equipment, buildings, or items that would help portray the railroad story to visitors and arrange for transportation to the museum and for keeping records of what we own.

**Membership Services** – will be responsible for directing a program that will help with obtaining and welcoming new members to the Chapter. Assist members with questions or problems they may have, and provide services for the good and welfare of the membership.

**Museum Operations and Activities** - will be responsible for developing a program to welcome visitors to the museum. Also provide tour guides and develop special programs and activities with the goal of attracting new visitors.

**Rail Operations** - will be responsible for designing programs that will provide safe operation of railroad equipment. This will be done in order to provide for the safety of the workers and the visitors to the museum.

Ad hoc groups to be formed as needed for events such as; train show, concert series, night photo shoot, turntable dedication, grant writing, etc.

### **Night Photo Shoot – 6/9/07**

With all the new track this year's shoot should for many more interesting angles to get great images in and around the Columbia Junction Village. Many volunteers will be needed – more details to follow.



Museum members move the turntable rocker assembly across the turntable bridge via home built tracks. The bearing has already been installed and the last piece to go in was the rocker assembly. Once this was completed the bridge was turned to align it with Pit #1. See photo page 2 of this GTJ. Next step installation of ties and ring rail and some pit work. Watch for information on a turntable dedication ceremony in future issues of Ghost Train Journals. (Photo by R.A. LaMay)



Trackwork continues at Columbia Junction. This view shows the track going to the right goes over to the turntable area, while the one on the left will connect to the Air Line. This is a key piece of track as it will allow us access via the turntable to all six tracks inside the Columbia Junction Roundhouse. Photo taken Jan. 13, 2007. ( R.A. LaMay Photo)